



ETHNIC MINORITY NATIONAL RESILIENCE NETWORK

THEMATIC SUBGROUP MEETING NOTES

Group	Collaboration and Sustainable Support
Chairperson / Organisation	Nina Munday
Date of meeting	19/08/20

Attendees

Nina Munday – Fife Centre for Equalities
Tanveer Parnez – BEMIS
Ahashan Abib – Aberdeen Multicultural Centre
Rukhsana – Milan Senior Welfare Organisation
Kimi Jolly – ESAS
Sarah Kwan – ESAS
Margaret Lance – Women in Action
Asma Abdallah – Empower Women for Change
Patricia Iredia – African Caribbean Women’s Organisation

Meeting Notes

- Introductions from group members and background about our organisations and the work we are doing individually and together.

Question proposed to the groups:

1) *What are your priorities and how do we respond to them?*

- Funding is a major issue. Particularly acute as we move into potential more lockdowns
- Communities pick up the broken pieces of systems strained by pandemic
- ESAS concerns are that people from these communities have been targeted for their appearance. ESA people running businesses are vulnerable to racism and targeting of their businesses.
- ESAS working to set up formal structures such as business banking to respond to community issues from a community base
- Mental health issues accelerating

- Clients who attend services have multiple issues. They may attend a session with a single issue but once trust is developed issues increase significantly.
- EWFC were supporting up to 500 families over the period March – July
- Core funding is an issue as communities cannot be responded to coherently via the existent funding structures. National or regional organisations like BEMIS, GREC and others all have a role to play however they cannot respond to every single EM issue in Scotland.
- Race Equality needs prioritised in national and local authority budgets to ensure all local partners can be responded to. Aberdeen Multicultural Centre in Aberdeen local authority is an example. They respond to a particular dynamic of Aberdeen minority ethnic communities but don't have appropriate local authority support
- Important to remember our intersectionality's with other protected characteristics. We are not just ethnic minorities but minorities with different sexualities, religions and other characteristics.
- Urgent responses are required to ensure we have capacity to respond to the issues in relation to the pandemic

Actions

- Mapping of pre-existing support services in victim support and welfare support
- Identify community issues and respond to them directly. Hate crime – Police. Mental Health – Public Health Scotland. ESA
- **Priority Action:** Write to 32 local authorities and ascertain how they will prioritise race equality in response to the pandemic. The letter will ask how they are engaging with communities. How they will make sure these communities have funding support and how they intend to mitigate further or continuing lockdown restrictions in respect of Minority Ethnic communities.

Date of next meeting: Wed 23RD of September – 2PM