



ETHNIC MINORITY
NATIONAL RESILIENCE NETWORK

BEMIS
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

**NATIONAL MEMBERS MEETING OF THE ETHNIC MINORITY
NATIONAL RESILIENCE NETWORK**

9TH OF DECEMBER 2021 – 09:45 am – 12pm (ZOOM)

Topic: Ethnic Minority National Resilience Network 9th December

Time: Dec 9, 2021 09:45 AM Scotland

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86291142582?pwd=eENhTFIxNFNFVkk0b1UxdINVL28wQT09>

Meeting ID: 862 9114 2582

Passcode: 031317

AGENDA

- **09:45:** Sign in with music
- **10:00:** Welcome BEMIS CEO Rami Ousta / Agenda overview
Danny Boyle
- **10:05:** National Clinical Director for Scotland, Professor Jason Leitch - Latest clinical update on CV19 including OMICRON Variant
- **10:15:** Open floor Q+A
- **10:45:** Frankie McLean – Head of Race Equality Policy Unit (Race Equality summary and next steps)

Joseph McKeown (Human Rights Bill Team – ‘Lived Experience Advisory Board’)

- **11:05:** Open Floor Q+A
- **11:30:** Dr. Josephine Adekola (Research into Vaccine Hesitancy and Experience within African, Caribbean and Black communities)
- **11:40:** Open Floor Q+A
- **11:50:** AOB
- **11:55:** Summary and next steps
- **12:00:** Meeting ends

Attendees

NAME	ORGANISATION
Christine Membi	
Sue Barnes	BEMIS Scotland
Meriem	International Womens Group
Margaret Lance	Waverly Care
Dr. Josephine Adekola	Glasgow University
Yaa- Hwupenyu (Yaa)	Hwupenyu
BEMIS Scotland	rami.ousta@bemis.org.uk
Rakiya Suleiman	NHS Lothian
Allison Mathews	Inspiring Scotland
Jenni Keenan (PKAVS) (PKAVS)	PKAVS
Alan# Forth Valley Migrant Support	Forth Valley Migrant Support Network
Michelle Ritchie	Police Scotland
Kieron Achara	Frog Communications
Dr Charmaine Blaize (She/Her)	UNISON Black Workers Ctte
Tanveer Parnez	BEMIS Scotland
Trishna Singh OBE	Sikh Sanjog
Shasta Ali	Corra Foundation
Ann Pike	Carers of West Lothian
Joseph McKeown	Scottish Government
Madalena	
Kim Somerside	Voluntary Health Scotland
Ephraim Borowski	Scottish Council of Jewish Communities
Rajnish Singh (Scotland)	Scottish India Arts Forum
Toni Bruce (Project Coordinator)	Friends of Romano Lav
Frances Hume	Interfaith Scotland

Lynne Tammi	Aye Write Scottish Travellers
Yaser Mohsen	
Jason Leitch	National Clinical Director – Scottish Government
Georgia Waters	
Martin Hayward	EHRC
Cath McGee	Refugee Survival Trust
Michelle King	Aberlour
Shruti Jain	Public Health Scotland
Ross Mackay	GREC
Noelia Martinez	Just Right Scotland
Sarah Robinson Galloway	Youthlink Scotland
Charlie Goodwin-Smith	Scottish Government
Aqeel Ahmed SG	Scottish Government
Eman Hani	CSREC
Women of Colour - Scotland	
Kerri Ramsay-Collins	Scottish Government
Unyimeobong Matthew	Inspiring Families in Scotland
Magda Czarnecka	FENIKS
Hongmei Nalci	Dumfries and Galloway Multicultural Centre

Meeting Note

Prof. Jason Leitch

- National Clinical Director Jason Leitch provided an up-to-date assessment of the omicron challenge.
- Omicron is and will spread at a significantly higher rate than previous variants.
- Presently we are monitoring the affects of Omicron. We do not have a clear picture on that yet
- We must be cautious. Even if symptoms are less severe the sheer number of expected cases will put significant strain on the health service.
- Vaccination remains our strongest line of defence against severe symptoms and hospitalisation.
- First Minister will provide an update to parliament soon on SG response and people should continue to follow guidelines in coming period.

Frankie McLean Head of Race Equality Unit + Joseph McKeown (Human Rights Bill Team)

- Frankie was unable to join us on the day due to personal reasons. Charlie Goodwin Smith of the Race Equality Unit joined the meeting on SG's behalf.
- Charlie provided an overview of the Scottish Governments immediate priorities plan and the Race Equality Review.
- Joseph McKeown provided an overview of the Human Rights Bill engagement plan to date. In addition, that further consultation on the development of the bill will be available and welcomed by the SG.

Open floor Q+A

- Attendees were unaware of the race equality review.
- No attendees have participated in the race equality review.

- There was unanimous agreement to seek further information from the Scottish Government Race Equality Unit about the race equality review and how communities and rights holders will be respected and listened to within this process.
- Enthusiasm to participate in the Human Rights Bill consultation with further information requested on how people will be able to take part.

Dr. Josephine Adekola:

Dr. Adekola introduced members to the research commissioned by BEMIS / EMNRN into the vaccine experience of African, Caribbean and Black citizens.

The research aims to quantify the following questions informed by meetings of the EMNRN subgroup on Inclusive Vaccinations.

- “1. What is the extent of vaccine uptake amongst Afro-Caribbean communities in Scotland?
2. Despite emerging science and evidence, what factors are responsible for vaccine hesitancy amongst those who have refused to take up the COVID-19 vaccine?
3. What factors are responsible for hesitancy post-first and post-second COVID-19 vaccine uptake?
4. Was the vaccine experience at access (ie. Appointment booking), 1st, 2nd or 3rd dose able to respond to your needs? For example, language, travel or access to information or any other experiences that made vaccination easier or harder?”

The survey link will be shared with members in coming days and consultation dates shared in Spring 2022.

Actions:

- BEMIS to invite SG to provide further updates on the race equality review. Ascertain how the review has been conducted, who has been consulted, what actions have been progressed, how communities have or can participate and how communities will be engaged in the review and outcomes in the coming period. - **Ongoing**
- BEMIS to facilitate Human Rights Bill consultations in Spring / Summer 2022 once the consultation process has been developed and launched. – **Ongoing**
- BEMIS / ACB subgroup to share research information and consultations / survey link in January 2022 – May 2022 – **Ongoing**