



THE FORUM NEWSLETTER
ISSUE NO.6

AFRICAN VOICES FORUM

Empowering People of African Descent

SPRING EDITION

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Inside This Issue

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

page 2-3

PENINAH IN CONVERSATION WITH THE NEW
CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION OF RACIAL
EQUALITY

page 4-8

FORWARD'S REFLECTION ON EQUAL RIGHTS...

page 9

GHANA'S 65TH INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION

page 10-12

KENYA LEADS THE WAY ON BRISTOL
COMMONWEALTH DAY 2022

page 13-14

AN UPDATE INTO THE GLOBAL GOALS CENTRE

page 15-16

CAB UPDATE

page 17

UNHEARD VOICES - AVF YOUTH PROGRAMME

page 18

MEMBERSHIP EVENTS- Co-POWER RESEARCH
PROJECT

page 19-20

ABOUT AVF

page 21



EDITORS MESSAGE...

**DEAR
MEMBERS,
STAKEHOLDERS
& PARTNERS**

**I AM DELIGHTED TO
BRING TO YOU ALL
THE SPRING '22
EDITION OF OUR
FORUM
NEWSLETTER.
THE THEME FOR
THIS EDITION IS
'RESILIENT
COMMUNITIES'**



Why is resilient communities important? Communities are increasingly complex and so are the challenges they face. Human caused and natural disasters are more frequent and costly. Factors like climate change, globalization, and increased urbanization can bring disaster related risk to greater numbers of people. Addressing these threats calls for an approach that combines what we know about preparing for disasters with what we know about actions that strengthen communities every day. We should focus on enhancing the day to day health and well-being of our various communities in order to reduce the negative impacts of disasters, loneliness, isolation and mental illnesses. We have to work hard to identify and promote best practice and approaches that will create strong and closely coordinated partnership and collaboration between our communities. We have to engage in different ways to build resilient communities.

In this edition we cover a conversation with the new chair of the commission of racial equality in Bristol with the aim of understanding how the role of the commission will impact on our communities, issues of accountability and visibility are at the centre of theme. As we come to terms with the impact of war and refugees across the globe it gives us an opportunity to review how equal access to services such as migration are exercised when it comes to our afrikan communities who are fleeing from war and conflict. Our resilience is forever tested as we encounter deep inequalities that shape our day to day experience of Afriphobia

The commemoration of Ghana's independence in spite of the challenges that the country has faced does not go unrecognised, Afrika is a young continent, whilst we pay homage to those who fought for independence, we also recognise that the journey is still long. Our Pan Afrikan leaders had a great vision of what they felt was needed in Afrika but we are still grappling with the impact of the intrusion and trafficking of afrikan people, the impact of colonialism and neo-colonialism.

Our focus is also on the projects that our collaborators are delivering, we value our partnership with the various organisations as we see the parallel aims and areas of common interest. Finally, we must invest in our young people and create platforms that will increase their resilience – AVF will be embarking on a youth programme that seeks to empower and support their development – they are our future and will be the leaders of tomorrow.

The AVF leadership team continues to foster and strengthen our membership, by advocating, promoting, engaging and empowering the people of African Descent. This is manifested in our vision: One Voice and strength to our membership and our in our mission of “Building the Capacity Of Our Membership Through Representation and support”.

Once more, I want to thank you all for your unflinching support. Have a wonderful spring reading and we look forward to your continued feedback.

DAVID DRAVIE JOHN.
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

PENINAH IN CONVERSATION WITH THE NEW CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION OF RACIAL EQUALITY (CORE) ON THE SUBJECT OF COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

WHO IS MUSEJI AHMED TAKOLIA CBE?

I was born in the week that my grandfather's brother died in South Afrika so I was named after him – **Musa.**

My parents came from India in 1954 and settled in Coventry, my father was a labourer and my mother joined him 4 years later with my four children. My other three siblings were born here including myself. Both my mother and father died before I reached the age of 10. The school I went to had a great impact on me, it had a (socially) normalising effect on what might otherwise have been chaotic. School made me feel valued, this inspired me to take be like my teachers and attracted me to take a degree in Education.

At university in the early 80's I became active in the anti-apartheid movement which had a great impact on me. My connections with South Afrika is through my extended family who live in an area called Parts on the old Transvaal/Free State border. For a long time I had ignored the need to go but out of curiosity I went and met them. Many had settled in the area segregated by the apartheid state known as 'Lenasia' (translated from Afrikaans to land of the Asians).



It was on this first trip that I went to Soweto jumped the wall of Winnie Mandela's house to say "I'm from England" She, smiled, referred to me as Comrade and the rest as they say, is history. There before me were Walter Sisulu, Nelson Mandela. I had **15 minutes with MANDELA**

and I felt that my life did not matter I was with someone who defined the essence of my existence to the core.

Education is important to me, I thrived, went from Homerton College, Cambridge to Bristol to do a Master's degree. This was followed by a mod-career executive programme at Princeton University in the USA. My career started off in social policy, but I always did things outside of my professional role. I'd say I'm a strong advocate of lay people, I went on to serve on the board of large organisations starting with CEED here in Bristol where I was the chair for many years.

I had arrived in the city at the age of **27** to set up the first race equality unit at the city council I spent 3 years there, made connections with local organisations. It is here that I came to realise that I am interested in public and current affairs but cherishes my independence. I do to this day.

Hashi Mohamed is a Somali who has written a book called **"People Like Us"**. It touches profoundly on aspects of his personal life and lessons we draw about social mobility. He uses a phrase that captures the debate beautifully when he says we are...

"A Constellation of Identities"

This resonates with me because that is who we are, but society ascribes characteristics on us that sadly start and end with the pigment of our skin! But we are so much more, are we not?



I have always been politically interested, I like to learn from others' views and to get involved in things that make a difference to the ordinary person and this is what towards the end of career has brought me full circle back to Bristol. I am genuinely inspired by the leadership of Marvin and Asher, I want to make a difference to things that are important to them like making Bristol a great city.

The last two years have been very challenging for our black and Afrikan communities in Bristol (and the wider world) and the pandemic has presented new challenges as well as opportunities.



It is why I took on the challenge to lead

CORE.

Though a voluntary unpaid role I went through a competitive process. There is a purpose to serve here that for all of us is bigger than our CVs. All commissioners are here because we care about the city. The work I started when I was 27, I am still passionate about. I see my role as shouldering some responsibility that Marvin and Asher carry, we have all got to play our part.

The commissioners want to meet the community more, make better connections, we want to earn the trust of the community, I am committed operating with openness and transparency and greater sense of connection to the communities. We want to have meetings that have a public session, when we talk about issues such as Schools where we are inviting the Director of Education, we want to hold them to account, we want the public to be part of those sessions, to ask questions.

Increasing the visibility of CORE is central to this. Every person I meet and every meeting I go to I let my commissioners know what I have been doing on behalf of CORE so people can see what we are doing, I report back. We have Jendayi Serwah who brings good challenge, the challenge I used to encounter a long time ago, she has good energy and passion on behalf of the community and long may she continue to have that energy and passion for making sure the voice of the community remains centred and keeps us alert.

I am a bit of a **technocrat...**

I like to work in the background too making sure the dots are joined up and changes have a lasting impact, I want the change to be sustainable. Putting together a way of working on a set of key policy issues, looking at how we address disparity i.e., in Education for example – around attainment and exclusions. We need to monitor and track improvements year by year and hold leaders to account. It is the same with public health post- covid etc. The conversation with health bodies can be focused on the racism that staff face. Economy and skills, we want the economy to grow and wealth to be spread equally. The recent report on Disproportionality was released in February by Desmond Brown which was focusing on the outcomes of the David Lammy Recommendations following his review in 2017. Desmond has been chairing Avon and Somerset Monitoring Board to see what progress had been made by the agencies involved however, two weeks later we were still waiting to hear about what will be done to address its findings. Hence my focus on accountability - there is going to be a public session in March where it will be presented and I am interested in the implementation of those recommendations, to be sure that they are followed through and someone is holding those agencies to account.

There are other things that are we can also do such as intervening in matters that are linked to racism for instance in sports. The cricket issue where the Pakistani heritage Azeem Rafiq shared his experience has exposed a national scandal in our game. CORE has written to all cricket clubs in Bristol to understand how they are addressing issues of racism. We will be taking evidence from those in the game and holding leaders to account. These are some of the ways the commission can make a difference.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE **KEY CHALLENGES** FOR BLACK, ASIAN AND MIXED HERITAGE COMMUNITIES IN BRISTOL?

We need to get better at collating and using evidence/data to hold leaders to account. I want CORE to strengthen that accountability by creating that platform, through our open meetings. What matters is also impact which must lead to change?

We have to shine that light in a way that enables the work to continue after the time of Marvin and Asher, as these challenges will not be solved in two and a half years. The leadership community in Bristol have listened and follow the lead that Marvin has set; I give them credit for participating in a process that creates sustainable change. Bristol is further ahead in terms of the structures through which this can continue.

I am working on the bits that can sustain it. For example, I am working hard to ensure that data is agreed, evidence based, doing presentations to all political groups. I am meeting community organizations and business group leaders. I have talked to them about the role of the commission. Our challenge is to lock this into their plans, ensuring they are priorities in those plans that run over decades to ensure continuity.

Marvin and Asher have also set up programmes like Stepping Up to nurture more younger people to see them taking part in public life and leadership. I have seen people come through speaking with confidence, having a voice.

We have to support them to tread the path that other people have tread. Marvin and Asher and others in high profile roles in the city provide hope and inspiration. So, I am quite excited but I don't underestimate the challenges. Investment in organisations like Black South West Network, Babbassa will continue onwards so they can continue to be part of the architecture in city's governance and leadership.

WHAT **CHANGES** DO YOU WANT TO SEE HAPPEN TO MAKE COMMUNITIES MORE RESILIENT, AND WHAT SUPPORT IS NEEDED FROM COMMUNITIES TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN?

We can do this by counting and measuring and demonstrating that things are improving, that we are a more resilient community – more people in jobs, fewer people on benefits, able to live in comfortable homes, educational opportunities and progression for young people. Over time we must demonstrate our capacity to be part of the city, to grow with the city and to thrive beyond resilience. We want to feel our community has moved on.

The data will be telling the story. I am a scientist by nature. We have to lock this in through accountability and get this embedded in institutions. We are facing different struggles, structural racism and am trying to take some of that heat out by letting the data speak for itself in addressing racism, fighting inequalities.

We also need philanthropy and other people to take an interest in our work, including the corporate and our universities. All of whom are beginning to put support in for people who are disadvantaged. These are developments that have happened relatively recently but should be welcomed. Engagement with communities and organisations like AVF will keep me on my toes, I want to have regular conversations, to enhance our visibility.



WHAT WILL YOUR **LEGACY** BE WHEN YOU COMPLETE YOUR TERM IN CORE?

I think Asher expresses this privately to me. I take things very seriously, I work **hard**, I plan **strategically**.

I hope people will say to you that I worked them hard in the process of leading some changes in Bristol. I want there to be discipline in what we are doing because I care about race equality very much. I do understand that our Bristol community has all those people and my job is to make the right music, a bit like an orchestra conductor. And if I do that in the way that I know how, by defining success and measuring it, and if you don't succeed you hold people to account for that.

By the standards I have defined myself, I will put into place the tools to which that can be done on the issue of racial equality in Bristol. I have made no secret of that, when I go to meetings, I expect people to be as prepared as I am. I am doing this as a **volunteer** for the love of the city of Bristol.



FORWARD'S REFLECTION ON EQUAL RIGHTS...

EQUAL ACCESS FOR REFUGEES IN CONFLICT AND WAR

The unfolding tragedy in Ukraine is painful. With wall-to-wall war on our TV screen. Even some of us watching from afar, its painful moment by painful moment. Homes being razed down in seconds, children separated from their loved ones, families torn apart. People, majority children, women and the elderly forced to leave Ukraine to seek sanctuary in Europe including here in the UK. Every day we witness a bee line of people crossing into Poland, Romania, other EU countries or going to a refugee camp. The scenes, a friend of mine who support people in the refugee camp says its heartrending.

Another story of migration, people on the move because of war. Across Europe and elsewhere, including here in the UK there is a huge positive response by many thousands of people from diverse communities wanting to welcome Ukrainian refugees. Such kindness amid war needs to be applauded. This is pleasing and encouraging to hear.

But we must promote equal access to all refugees. It's not helpful some politicians and the western media portray Ukrainians to be more "civilized" than refugees hailing from Middle Eastern or African countries and that Ukrainians "look like us."

Brazilian cartoonist Carlos Latuff illustrated the double standards: the EU lamenting what Russia was doing in Ukraine and welcoming its refugees while barring the entry of African and Middle Eastern asylum seekers.

Forward Maisokwadzo.



(Brazilian cartoonist Carlos Latuff illustrated the EU's double standards)

**NEWS FROM OUR
MEMBERS, PARTNERS
& COLLABORATORS.**

GHANA'S 65TH INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION



(The six great men who laid their lives down for true emancipation of Ghana)

6TH MARCH 2022

was a sacred day in the calendar of Ghanaians and the rest of the world when Ghana celebrated her 65th birthday of independence from British colonial rule.

The theme for this year's independence celebration was "Working Together and Bouncing Back Better"

This theme creates a platform for sober reflection of our past and what has been achieved as a nation from our founding fathers namely Dr Kwame Nkrumah- the first prime minister of Ghana and his political leadership; Dr. Ebenezer Ako Adjei, Dr. Akuffo-Addo, Dr. Joseph Boakye Danquah, Mr. Emmanuel Obetsebi-Lamptey and Dr William Ofori -Atta who laid their lives down during the independence struggle .



(The night on 6th March 1957 when it was announced that Ghana is free for ever)



Handover from Gold Coast to Ghana following Ghana's Independence on 6th March 1957. This year, the Ghanaian Community in Bristol were privileged to meet face to face to celebrate with the great community of people from Bristol and its environs after two years of COVID lockdown and restriction. We were privileged to have our brothers and sisters from AVF to grace the occasion and enjoy the Ghanaian food and dance

Ghana was a British Crown Colony on the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa from 1821 to 6th March, 1957. The country was called Gold Coast until the name was changed to present Ghana on in the evening of 6th March 1957 after 136 years of British colonial rule.



We believe that as Ghanaians, we are blessed with great natural resources and very talented young population and so by forgetting our cultural differences and coming together as one people, we can transform Ghana and the rest of the African continent into a destination for business and investment for the rest of the world.

The joy of independence celebration is not meant to be limited to the place of the official celebrations in Ghana, but should be celebrated by all Ghanaians and friends wherever they are.

I will end here by saying that, I consider it a privilege and an honour to be part of this important milestone of Ghana and I welcome you all again next year to come and celebrate with us again.

Samuel Annan.
Chairperson, Ghana
Community Bristol.

KENYA LEADS THE WAY IN WINNING THE COVETED COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP ON BRISTOL COMMONWEALTH DAY 2022



Commonwealth Day 2022 was celebrated on Monday 14 March 2022, with a service held at Westminster Abbey. The theme for Commonwealth Day 2022 centred around the theme for the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting – 'Delivering a Common Future' – which highlights how the 54 member countries in the Commonwealth family are 'innovating, connecting and transforming' to help achieve goals like fighting climate change, promoting good governance and boosting trade.





In Bristol glorious sunshine welcomed faith, community leaders and all those who watched George Tsitati from Kenya raise the Commonwealth flag on 14th March. George, who is studying for a Master's degree in Climate Change Science and Policy at the University of Bristol, was awarded a coveted Commonwealth scholarship and last year was selected as student representative for the COP 26 summit.

Once the flag had been raised, Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Robert Bourns, read the Queen's message to the Commonwealth which this year highlighted the connected and vibrant family of 54 nations across the globe.

Also present were Lord Mayor, Cllr Steve Smith, who read the Affirmation and Mayor of Bristol, Marvin Rees who, as an Executive Committee member of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, is particularly invested in Commonwealth affairs.

Afterwards guests joined a special Cathedral service in the presence of HRH Duke of Kent, The Lord Lieutenant and the Bishop of Bristol. The celebration included a moving adaptation of Labi Siffre's "Something Inside So Strong" from The Bristol Cathedral Choir School and a truly spectacular performance of Bhangra drumming from the Johnny Kalsi Dhol Foundation which was sponsored by the Bristol Commonwealth Society.

Gina Smith.
Branch Manager.
(TBCS)



AFRIKAN LIBERATION AWARENESS MONTH

During the month of May AVF will erect a platform that will be exploring issues of Afriphobia and the impact it has on the afrikan diaspora communities with various stakeholders within the context of young people's exchange programme that will be focused on a "people to people exchange of thoughts, ideas and knowledge transfer" virtual platform. Discussion with key organisations on the role they can play to tackle the impact of afriphobia and the opportunities for collective action.

- **HOW DO WE STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY ACTION TO DEVELOP A FORCEFUL PLATFORM THAT GUARANTEES OUR QUEST FOR JUSTICE;**

- **HOW CAN WE SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITIES TO TACKLE AFRIPHOBIA MORE EFFECTIVELY AND TO ENSURE THAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE DEVELOP A GREATER PRIDE OF THEIR AFRIKAN ROOTS AND CULTURE IN CREATING UNITY?**

- **WHAT ARE THE TANGIBLE DELIVERABLES THAT ADDRESS THE DIFFERENT FORMS OF AFRIPHOBIA AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THAT ENSURES THAT COMPREHENSIVE MEASURES ARE TAKEN TO SELF-REPAIR AGAINST THE MANIFESTATION THAT FEED INTO AFRIPHOBIA REFLECTED IN GLOBAL PATTERNS OF POVERTY, INEQUALITY, AND RACISM?**

MAIN COMPONENTS

Series of Activities with Key Constituents in Bristol from Different Lenses...

- **COLLABORATION WITH UWE ON ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS FROM A AFRIKAN LENS**
- **YOUTH – GLOBAL EXCHANGE ON THE THEME OF AFRIPHOBIA**
- **WORKSHOP ON AFRIPHOBIA THE ROLE OF ORGANISATIONS IN BRISTOL IN TACKLING AFRIPHOBIA**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Activities will be taking place:
13 May / 21 May / 28 May
UWE, 7-9pm

AN UPDATE INTO THE GLOBAL GOALS CENTRE

1. THREADS : SUSTAINABLE FASHION ONLINE GAME

We're delighted that Threads - the online game that explores the social and environmental impacts of our clothing - is live (and has had nearly 500 plays already!).

The fashion industry produces 10% of global CO2 emissions and uses 1.5 trillion litres of water annually. Poor working conditions in garment factories are widespread. Plastic-based fabrics release millions of microfibres into our oceans on every wash. But there are solutions! We have delivered 8 schools workshops delivered, and the free education resources are free to download from our website.

Play the game (not compatible on mobiles) and download the resources here :
<https://globalgoalscentre.org/project/threads/>

The feedback from students and teachers has been really positive...

“I'D NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT USING CLOTHES AS A WAY TO TALK ABOUT CLIMATE, GLOBAL TRADE INEQUALITY. THIS SESSION WAS GREAT AND I'LL BE USING THESE IDEAS AGAIN” - HOTWELLS PRIMARY TEACHER

2. REFUGEE VOICES

This project aims to change the narrative around migration to understand why people become refugees and celebrating what they bring to our city – very pertinent to the current Ukraine situation! We have completed the filming of 5 refugee creatives sharing skills with Year 6 in Victoria Park Primary, so the editing has begun!

One of the children described the day as...

**"THE BEST
SCHOOL DAY OF
MY LIFE!"**

We hope to create an installation using this film material that will run in Bristol Refugee Festival.



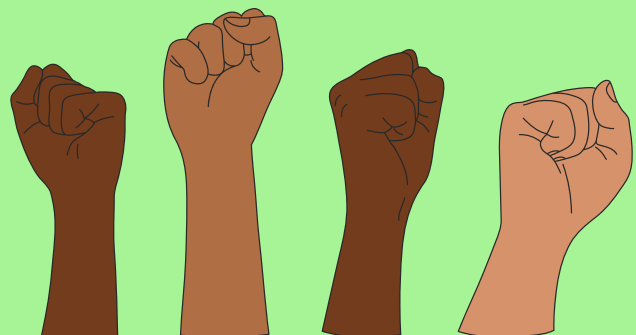
3. YOUNG SDG HEROES

Many young people are passionate about climate and social justice issues, but often feel powerless to change anything. We aim to inspire and equip more young people to take actions in their school, college and locality to help meet the Global Goals, through a competition and creative action pack. This is developing our Bristol 17 campaign we ran last year. We are planning to celebrate their projects at an Awards ceremony on 30th June in the Beacon, and spread their messages to the city through a poster campaign. If you know a youth group or school that we can invite to take part, please email us!

4. SDG RESOURCE HUB

Our SDG Resource Hub for businesses, educators and students is being well used and we are keen to add more content and develop this resource. Do check it out.

For more details on any of our projects visit : <https://globalgoalscentre.org/>





CAB UPDATE



Common Ambition Bristol is officially going from strength to strength!! AVF are official community partner of the project and we are pleased to say that CAB has now reached the stage where it will be providing many services over the coming months. Starting with the launch of the brand-new website mid-April, to a regular walk in HIV and STI testing clinic at Charlotte Keel Health Centre on the last Thursday afternoon of each month. As well as being a regular presence at local wellbeing events, a local barbershop outreach programme and various activities as the summer rolls in. If you would like to learn more about the project, then head to their social media channels for regular updates:

Instagram and Facebook:

@COMMONAMBITIONBRISTOL

Twitter:

@BRISTOLCOMMON

If you are interested in giving back to the community and contributing to tackling health inequalities by volunteering with this incredible project then email Aisha...

AISHANAMURACH@BRIGSTOWE.ORG

or whatsapp the project line on...

07709714799

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Meet The Funders
20 May

UNHEARD VOICES AVF YOUTH PROGRAMME



AVF SECURED £125K TO DELIVER THE YOUTH PROGRAMME PROJECT THAT AIMS TO CENTRE THE VOICES OF YOUNG DIASPORAN AFRIKANS INTO THE MAINSTREAM. THE KEY DELIVERABLES ARE CENTRED ON THE FOLLOWING:-

- 1.** Increasing the capacity of African communities, particularly young people, to effectively engage with stakeholders and through these links, enable community voices to be heard by:-
- 2.** Building African young people's sense of belonging to positively transform their lived experiences in education, health, social, civic and economic development circles to make it more equitable by ensuring that they have a voice and feel empowered to lead and respond to issues that affect them.
- 3.** Creating A Youth Bureau which offers youth and community development programmes and develops a network of confident, digitally skilled and empowered young leaders
- 4.** Strengthening and growing community bonds by bridging inter-generational links using digital skills and knowledge exchanges across generations and in collaborations between group members

MEMBERSHIP EVENTS

CO-POWER RESEARCH PROJECT

The Co-POWeR research project is a study of the combined impacts of COVID-19 and racial discrimination on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Families and Communities (BAMEFC). Survivors face ongoing damage to wellbeing and resilience, in terms of physical and mental health as well as social, cultural, and economic (non-medical) consequences. Systemic deficiencies have stimulated BAMEFC agency, producing solidarity under emergency, yet BAMEFC vulnerability remains, requiring official support.

Please see the website for more information.

[https://co\[1\]power.leeds.ac.uk/about/](https://co[1]power.leeds.ac.uk/about/)

We are aiming to work with diverse groups, families, and individuals across the U.K. We are inviting members of AVF and any associated Groups to engage with Co-POWeR on some of the themes for discussions in the first instance. As a follow on from the discussions, some participants can choose to take part in the creation of artworks such as Video Diaries and a documentary film.

Some of the topics/themes include...

(Please see the website for more themes/topics)

1. EMERGENCY POWERS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

This topic includes things like travel bans, wearing face masks, social distancing, working from home, policing, etc. How did these Emergency Powers affect people's wellbeing and resilience?

- How did these Powers make people feel? For example, were people afraid? How did people cope?
- How were families affected? We want to find out people's opinions and personal experiences on issues around bereavement, isolation, support, friendships. Did the Emergency Powers change how people socialised during the height of the pandemic? And to what extent have things changed since some of the restrictions were lifted? We want to collect and understand the actual lived experiences of the pandemic on People from BAME Communities.

WHAT WILL PARTICIPANTS EXPECT TO DO?

This will be discussions in the form of a Community Testimony Day (CTD) - online (or face-to-face is preferred) - where Participants share their experiences, opinions on Covid-19 restrictions, and their physical and mental health care during lockdown. The CTD will be approximately 1.5 hours long and we will offer refreshments to all attendees. We can send you some of the questions which we will use for the discussions.




DISCUSSIONS WILL NOT BE FILMED, ONLY AUDIO RECORDINGS. EVERYONE'S ANONYMITY IS GUARANTEED.


DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AVF Membership Testimonial Evening
29 April
7-9PM


Professor Florence Ayisi
WP5 Lead



Dr Wendy Booth
WP5 Researcher




Emyr Jenkins
WP5 Researcher



Co-POWeR


What we want to achieve?

We want to hear about your experiences of living through the Covid-19 pandemic. We aim to show how Covid-19 has affected people's lives and how you have coped during the tough times.



Why is this important?


Your participation will help to shine a light on key issues and the resources and services needed to support ethnic minority communities in the future. This will help the government to focus on what matters to people.



How we want to achieve this


We invite you to be part of making documentary films about your stories of Covid-19: the good, the bad and the ugly. E.g. how lockdown affected you; the impact on children and youth; caring for others, and physical activity and nutrition. Do you want your voice to be heard? We encourage you to take part to make a difference.

For more information, contact:
 florence.ayisi@southwales.ac.uk Tel: 07401508008
 wendy.booth2@southwales.ac.uk Tel: 07958675756
 emyr.jenkins@southwales.ac.uk



Economic and Social Research Council

Co-POWeR: Consortium on Practices of Wellbeing and Resilience in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Families and Communities



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

ABOUT AVF

African Voices Forum (AVF) is a Bristol-based network of African and African-Caribbean community associations/organisations, other community organisations working to empower Africans and African-Caribbean's to take active part in policies and initiatives that concern them, as well as other organisations that share and support the forum's values, principles, and objectives.

PRINCIPLES & BELIEFS

The African Voices Forum mission is informed by the following beliefs:

- In the power of community development as a process which gives people confidence and skills to exercise greater power in their everyday lives.
- In working in partnership with other organisations that share similar beliefs in order to maximise resources and influence.
- That properly constituted community organisations can help empower individuals and make them contribute towards a a cohesive and vibrant society.
- That racial, religious and cultural diversity adds value to our society, and that everyone has the right to equality of opportunity.
- In the unique role of the African and African-Caribbean community sector as part of the broader voluntary and community sector.

OUR MEMBERSHIP

- Afrika Eye
- African Initiatives
- Association of Uganda
- Bristol Zimbabwean Association
- Cameroonian Association
- Gambian Hidden Talent
- Senegambia Association
- Ghana Community Bristol (GBC)
- Full Circle
- Kenya Association
- Kombo Sillah Association
- Nigerian Association Bristol (NAB)
- Pax Productions Ltd
- Savannah Development Foundation
- Sierra Leone Bristol Association (SLEBA)
- Sierra Women's Independent Group (SWIG)
- Tan Teddy Folk Group
- Women in Serious Endeavour



EDITORIAL TEAM

EBRIMA JANNEH - CONTENTS EDITOR

JIMMY TAYLOR - DISTRIBUTION EDITOR

FORWARD MAISOKWADZO - REVIEW EDITOR

TAYLOR A-MCLESTER - DESIGN EDITOR

PENINAH ACHIENG-KINDBERG - DESIGN/ CONTENT EDITOR

DAVID DRAVIE-JOHN - EDITOR IN CHIEF

CONTACT US



David Dravie-John 07982720131

Peninah A-Kindberg 07862729407



africanvoicesforum@yahoo.co.uk



<http://www.africanvoicesforum.org.uk>



[@AVoicesForum](https://twitter.com/AVoicesForum)



<http://www.facebook.com/avoicesforum>