

Summary
Reflection
Celebration

AUGUST 2020 – DECEMBER 2021

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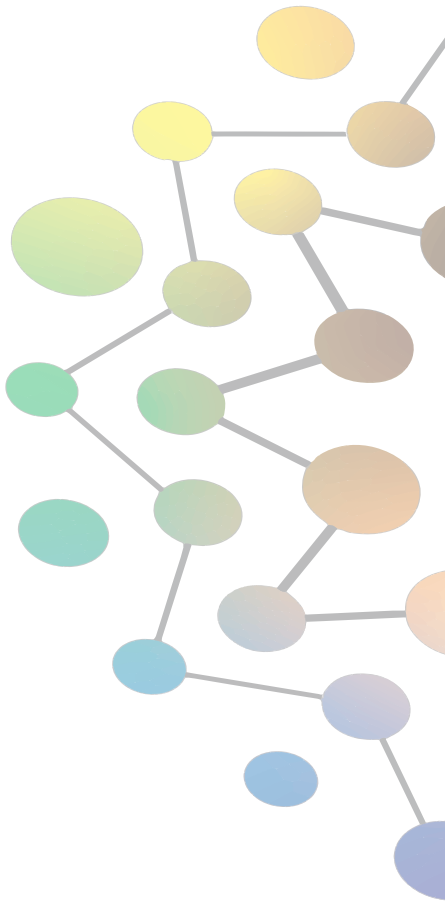
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WHO ARE WE?

Race Equality Network (REN) is a registered charity and infrastructure organisation that provides support to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME*) led Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations across Bradford and district.



OUR MISSION

"To build a strong network of organisations and individuals that work together to diversify and strengthen the voluntary sector and work towards achieving equitable outcomes for all communities"

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To promote equality and inclusion
- To unify communities
- To celebrate diversity
- To foster and promote good community relations.

REN champions race equality at a grass roots and strategic level to ensure that services such as education, employment, health and social care, housing, training and volunteering are inclusive and accessible to everyone in Bradford and district. We are membership-based organisation with a current membership of over 60 diverse organisations and individuals. We support our members with a range of services including funding, training, co-delivering projects and organising events.

We're a small team and work best in partnership.

Over the past year we've worked with Bradford Council, Public Health England, NHS, Bradford Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust, West Yorkshire & Harrogate Health and Care Partnership and the Bradford District VCS Assembly Steering Group. Many of our greatest achievements would not have been possible without the collaborative approaches with our partner organisations - and for this we thank you!

*The acronym 'BAME' refers to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic. These communities are also referred to as minority ethnic, minoritised, global majority and marginalised (to name a few !) REN always aims to be as specific as possible when referring to communities, but occasionally will use 'BAME' when referring to the sector or to the work we do with ALL communities who experience racism or are marginalised due to their race.

COVID-19 PREVENTION PROJECT

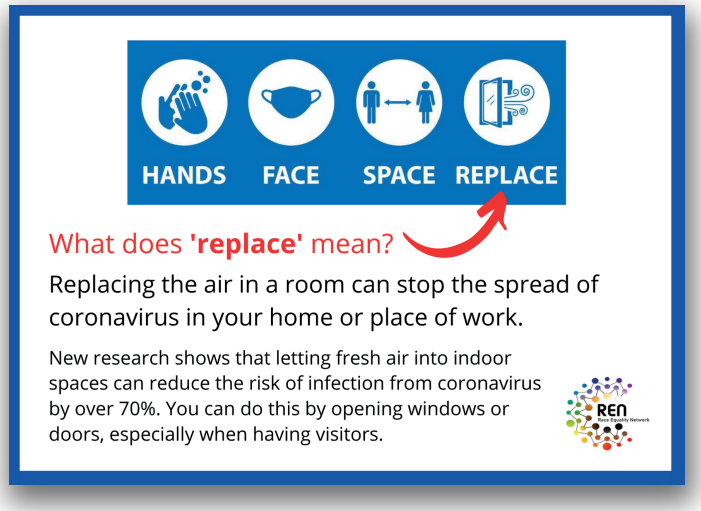
During the COVID-19 pandemic, the health inequalities faced by many Black, Asian and other minoritised communities became very apparent. The vulnerability of these groups was highlighted not only in the Public Health England Review ('Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19') but repeatedly through research, surveys, newspaper articles and media debates. Following major concerns about the disproportionate impact of the virus on these communities, it quickly became apparent that specific, tailored support was required to tackle this inequality.





In August 2020, REN was commissioned by Bradford Council to coordinate a project which would support disproportionately affected communities by:

- reducing the impact of COVID-19
- preventing the spread of infection
- providing clear information, guidance and meaningful support on infection control, Test & Trace and outbreak management.



Race Equality Network funded 26 VCS organisations to co-deliver this project who were selected for their specialist reach within these communities and decades of experience working effectively at a grass-roots level.

We are overwhelmed by the solidarity, innovation and resilience that has been shown throughout the project. We are inspired by the creative ways our partners have provided tailored and meaningful support to their communities.

During the project, our delivery partners have covered everything from...

CREATING INFORMATION VIDEOS IN COMMUNITY LANGUAGES

These videos were created by members of the community who work with REN across our projects. They include information on Hands Face Space, Vaccination and how to stay safe

YouTube









PROVIDING PPE

Partners have distributed masks and hand sanitisers to families and businesses in their local area.

Left: New Libya Society supports Arabic-speaking communities with info and PPE.



MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELLING

Culturally sensitive counselling and therapy has been essential, delivered by phone or Zoom when unable to meet in person.

Roshni Ghar is a mental health charity supporting South Asian women in Keighley.

MENTORING AND BEFRIENDING

Online mentoring and befriending phone calls have been delivered across Bradford, for both children and adults.

ACAP provide mentoring, counselling and tuition for African Caribbean young people in Bradford.





TUITION AND ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Activity packs, free books, and online lessons have supported education when schools closed.

Left: Bangladeshi Youth Organisation distribute free children's books in Manningham and beyond.

FOOD PARCEL DELIVERY

An incredible amount of food has been donated, packaged and delivered to families, elderly and vulnerable households in Bradford.

Right: KAWACC preparing for food delivery to their local community.



FITNESS AND WELLBEING CLASSES

Sport has been essential to keep communities healthy and happy. Our partners have organised yoga, boxing, walking, gym sessions, dance and football to name a few.

Below: Unity Boxing Academy, NAFS and 2TSHIRTGANG have ensured communities have stayed active during the pandemic.





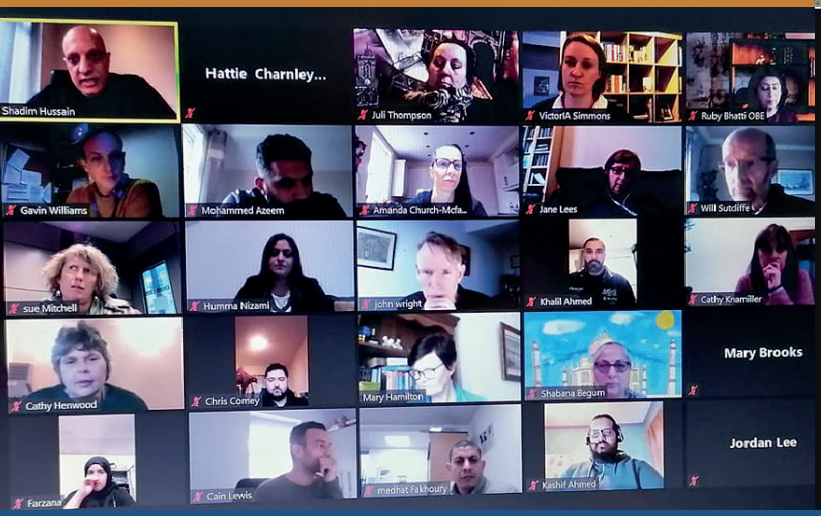


REDUCING ISOLATION AND LONELINESS

COVID-19 has been a lonely time, but every phone call, house visit or outdoor gathering has allowed people to stay in touch.



Connecting Roma support local Roma communities across Bradford.





....AND LOTS OF ZOOM CALLS!

OUR COVID-19 PREVENTION PROJECT PARTNERS

This project would not have been possible without the grass roots organisations we have worked with since September 2020.

BEAP Community Partnership

Grange Interlink Community Centre

Sangat Centre

Karmand Community Centre



Mary Magdalene CiC

Bangladeshi Youth Organisation

Windrush Generations

QED Foundation

Unity Boxing

MAPA

New Libya Society

KAWACC

2TSHIRTGANG

Hindu Cultural Society of Bradford

NAFS

The Laisterdyke Hub

Connecting Roma

KaskoSan

Meri Yaadain

Bradford Hate Crime Alliance

Muslim Women's Council

Bradford Foundation Trust

Roshni Ghar

West Bowling Activity Group

African Caribbean Achievement Project

Highfield Food Co-operative

#TeamBradford

We extend our huge thanks to all of you.

REASONS TO BE PROUD

Through working collaboratively on the COVID-19 Prevention Project, we have touched the lives of so many people. Since the start of the project we have...





SUPPORTED

67,161

INDIVIDUALS

RECRUITED

306

VOLUNTEERS







VISITED

3,153

HOUSEHOLDS

TRAINED

95

FRONTLINE STAFF

AND VOLUNTEERS

ON COVID-19 SAFETY





This project is summarised in our short film, **'REN: One Year of Lockdown'** on our YouTube channel. REN was also mentioned in the **Government's Covid-19 Vaccine Uptake Plan, 13th February 2021,** highlighting the successful community partnership work which removed barriers to vaccination across the District.

REN COVID-19 HELPLINE

In December 2020, REN set up a helpline to support individuals who required information about COVID-19 in languages other than English. It also supported those who could not access information in written or digital formats.

We selected seven trusted community partners to provide this telephone service – initially during the day through the week, but was later extended with additional funding to include evenings and weekends.

For the delivery of this project and the continuing support for communities via telephone helplines, huge thanks are extended to Hindu Cultural Society of Bradford, Grange Interlink Community Centre, BEAP Community Partnership, New Libya Society, WomenZone, Connecting Roma, and Muslim Women's Council.

Across the seven Helpline providers, we were able to provide information, support and signposting in thirteen languages: English, Urdu, Punjabi, Arabic, Hindi, Gujarati, Romani, Polish, Czech, Slovak, Sylheti and Pashto.

Hindu Cultural Society of Bradford

Race Equality Network COVID-19 Helpline is here to support communities with guidance and information in multiple languages.

Mon-Friday: 10am-6pm **Sat-Sun:** 10am -2pm

Hindu Cultural Society of Bradford:
07927 288600 हिंदी (Hindi)
07927 288677 ગુજરાતી (Gujarati)

Grange Interlink Centre:
English, اُردُو (Urdu), ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi)
01274 423194

BEAP: English, বাংলা (Bangla), সিলেটি (Sylheti)
01274 731020

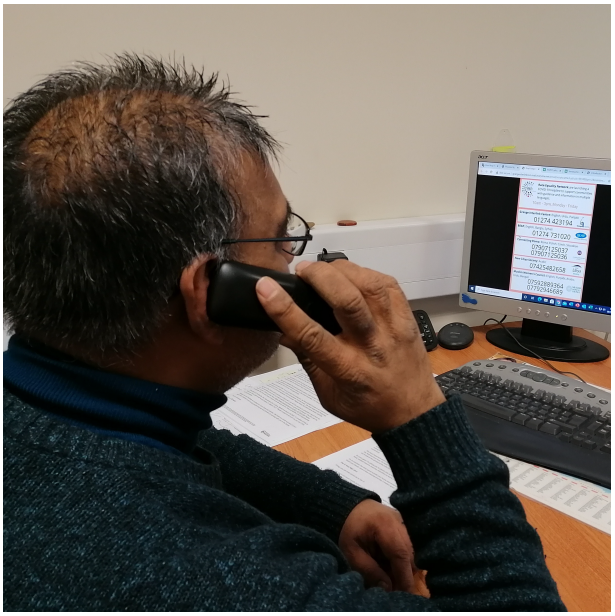
New Libya Society:
عربي (Arabic)
07425 482658

Womenzone: English, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi), اُردُو (Urdu), پښتو (Pashto)
01274 665270
07966 239147 ગુજરાતી (Gujarati)

Connecting Roma: Romani, Polskie (Polish), čeština (Czech), Slovensky (Slovak)
07907 125037
01274 495970

Muslim Women's Council: English, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi), عربي (Arabic), اُردُو (Urdu), , বাংলা (Bangla)
07592 889364
07792 946689





COVID-19 COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS PROJECT

Once the COVID-19 vaccination was approved and first administered in the UK in December 2020, communities required clear, concise and reliable information in an accessible format.

In April 2020, REN were once again funded by Bradford Council to deliver the COVID-19 Community Champions Project in collaboration with Equality Together and Bradford for Everyone. The aim of the project was reducing inequality in accessing the COVID-19 vaccine and tackling the misinformation and lack of trust.

Between April and September 2021, REN funded 31 grass roots organisations and faith partners to deliver this project. In total, 267 champions were recruited and trained, out of which 160 were from REN partners. These champions dedicated themselves to creating translated videos, visiting families, hosting support sessions and events, and much more.

On the 15th September 2021, the Community Champions Project was published as a case study by Public Health England and Local Government Association demonstrating success in increasing knowledge and awareness around COVID-19 in local Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) and Central and Eastern European (CEE) communities. This case study will also form part of the UK Government's Learning Exchange programme.

THE COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS PROJECT IS CHANGING ...

With 88% of UK adults (over 12) having had the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine (356,290 in Bradford), the Community Champions Project aims are changing.



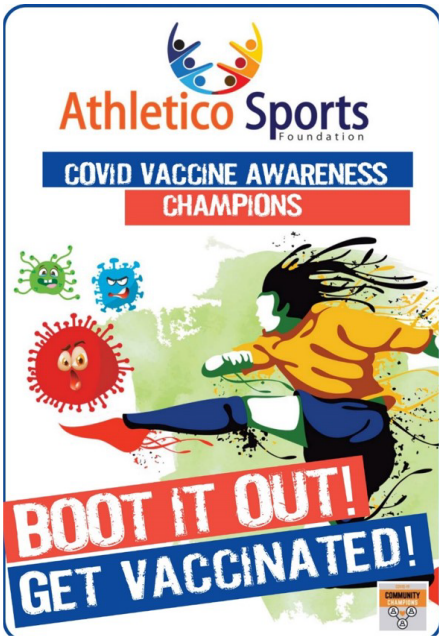


















Although REN will still support the provision of COVID-19 and vaccination information, this project will now be focusing on health and wellbeing, including exercise, fitness, mental health and healthy living.

Keep an eye on our website for more information.

The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly brought unprecedented challenges for people across Bradford and district, especially for communities who were disproportionately impacted due to health inequalities and unequal access to services.

Although restrictions have eased, we remain committed to working with our grass roots delivery partners to ensure ongoing support around COVID-19 is provided to all communities through clear guidance and information in a range of community languages and in various formats that surrounded it.

We would like to thank the following partners for their support on both the COVID-19 Prevention Project and the COVID-19 Community Champions Project:

All our grass root delivery partners for their outstanding efforts in being at the forefront of service delivery without whom this project would have not been successful.

Bradford Metropolitan Council for funding these projects and also the council's Public Health team for their continuous support and guidance.

REN Board of Trustees and Chair, Yusuf Karolia, for their ongoing support to the REN staff team.

LOOKING AHEAD....

As we approach 2022, we hope to channel all our energy in to developing new services and strengthening existing ones in order to build the capacity of the BAME-led VCS sector, improve representation within decision-making, and continue to amplify the voices of the diverse communities across Bradford and district.

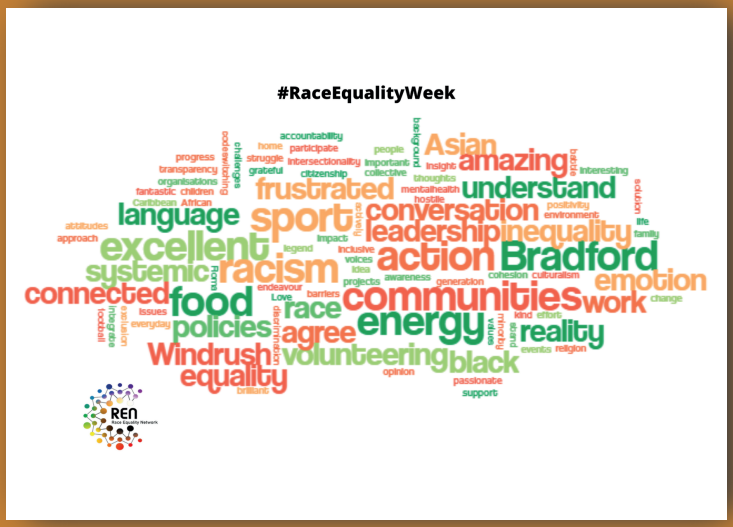
As an anti-racist organisation with aims and values spanning far wider than the inequalities within COVID-19, REN has many other projects in the works alongside our projects mentioned above. From events to campaigns to training, we've got all bases covered.

Here is a snapshot of some of the other work we have delivered this year..

RACE EQUALITY MATTERS WEBINAR

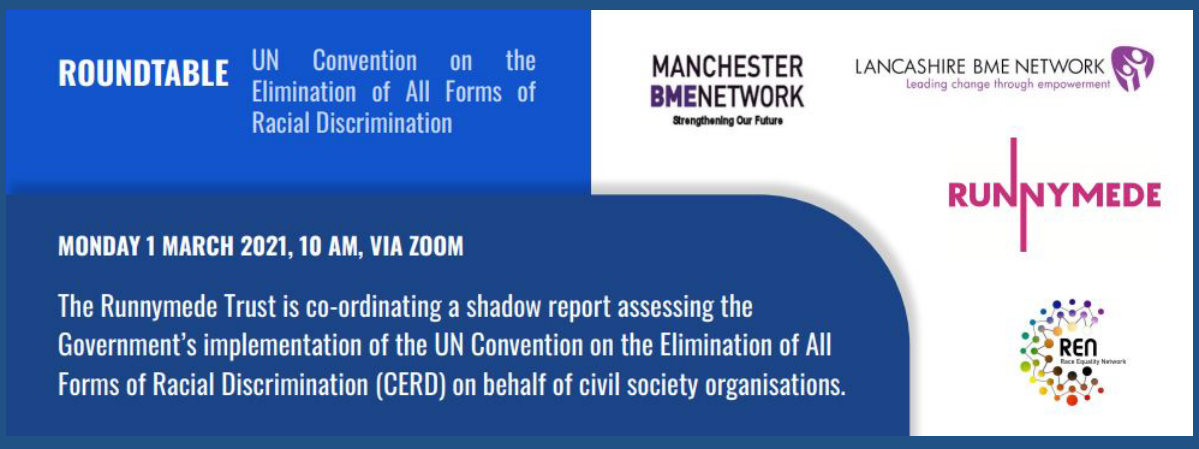
3rd february 2021

During Race Equality Week 2021, REN hosted a webinar via Zoom called 'Race Equality Matters' with panellists tackling the topic of institutional racism.



THE RUNNYMEDE TRUST ROUNDTABLE EVENT

REN were funded by The Runnymede Trust to co-host two virtual roundtable discussions, one in partnership with Lancashire and Manchester BME Networks to gather evidence for the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and another to discuss inequalities in pay and progression faced by women of colour.



ROOT OUT RACISM, LOCAL LAUNCH

23rd August 2021

Since April 2021, REN has been working closely with West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership in the co-design of the Root Out Racism movement. Working closely with Act As One Bradford, we co-ordinated a local launch in Centenary Square on 23rd August which saw hundreds of individuals and organisations make a pledge against racism.







'MAKING ORGANISATIONS MORE INCLUSIVE' EQUALITY TRAINING

March 2021

In March 2021, REN commissioned facilitator Sofia Mahmood of Empowering Minds Consultancy to deliver Equality Training to voluntary sector colleagues. It included topics of unconscious bias and the role language can play within racism and discrimination.



WOMEN LEADING THE WAY

30th September 2021

This year as part of Inclusion Week, REN focused on barriers faced by women, particularly those who have experienced the doubly powerful force of racism and sexism operating together. REN were joined by panel of 13 inspirational women including Dr Halima Begum from The Runnymede Trust for an impactful and honest discussion of the experiences that helped and hindered them achieve their goals.







CULTURAL COMPETENCY AND EQUALITY & DIVERSITY TRAINING

September – October 2021

REN was recently commissioned to deliver Cultural Competency and EDI training for Public Health England's Yorkshire & Humber team. Feedback for the training has been extremely positive and we have more sessions in the pipeline!

CELEBRATING, COMMEMORATING AND RAISING AWARENESS...

Some of the most memorable moments of this year have been during the various 'Awareness' days, weeks and months that take place throughout the year. We have thoroughly enjoyed working closely with partners to organise events for Hate Crime Awareness Week (including the launch of Bradford's Hate Crime Strategy), Black History Month, Refugee Week and Islamophobia Awareness Month.

STAY IN TOUCH AND JOIN THE NETWORK!

REN is a membership organisation, made up of both individuals and organisations. If you're not already a member and want to change that – send us an email or visit the website. We're pretty talkative... stay in touch via our social media, 'News' section on the website and our monthly newsletter.

@raceequalitynetwork

@raceequalitynetwork

@network_race

raceequalitynetwork

info@raceequalitynetwork.org.uk

07979 772098

WWW.RACEEQUALITYNETWORK.ORG.UK

REN
Race Equality Network

Race Equality Network is a registered charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee.
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Company number: 05298722
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