

# BASHH Racially Minoritised Communities Special Interest Group

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### 1.0 Background

Lived experience and robust data has highlighted unequal access and receipt of care, with specific groups being significantly more disadvantaged than others. Evidence describes that current models of healthcare provision, access and delivery are less impactful within Black, Asian and other racially minoritised communities and that this has significant repercussions on life expectancy, quality of life outcomes and healthy life years. The British Association of Sexual Health & HIV (BASHH) continues to strive to reduce inequality of access and improve the sexual health of the people of all nations within the United Kingdom.

The Racially Minoritised Communities Special Interest Group is focussed on the sexual health needs, experiences and outcomes of people with an ethnic minority background. The group will improve the care this cohort of patients receive, educate those within the field, seek out and utilise existing evidence available, as well as create further meaningful data that identifies examples of high-quality care models, highlight racial health inequalities within the sector, and develop new methods and interventions with BASHH to assist in the promotion of equal care across all racialised communities. The group intends to distribute the best knowledge and share already used methods and techniques to support racially minoritised groups to accessing improved care that serves and supports their needs.

### 2.0 Title:

‘The British Association of Sexual Health & HIV – Racially Minoritised Communities Special Interest Group’

Others known as: Racially Minoritised Communities SIG or RMC SIG

(Previously known as: ‘BAME SIG’ and ‘Racially Minoritised SIG’)

At time of writing this name has been agreed by the committee members of the RMC SIG, by means of a vote.

Please note: the name of the SIG may change over time as language changes and evolves. Should the name be required to change to keep in line with societal viewpoints, this shall be decided by the committee members followed by a vote.

### 3.0 Our Aims

- Promote best clinical practice in sexual reproductive health for racially minoritised communities at a strategic/policy level including: access to information, education, health promotion, prevention, treatment and care.
- Review evidence based guidelines and comment on local and national consultations in the area of racially minoritised populations on behalf of BASHH
- Contribute to the development of guidelines and ensure targets and commitments are met through national and local audits

- Engage and collaborate with BASHH SIGs and related community organisations to prioritise sexual health and recommend approaches for successfully executing this work among racially minoritised communities
- Support health professionals to deliver culturally sensitive practice including cultural competence and humility in their practice.
- Influence and encourage specific research within certain racially minoritised communities and disseminating to groups who would benefit from findings.

#### 4.0 Membership

A chair will be appointed by the existing SIG membership committee (otherwise known as the Steering Committee) with the support of the BASHH Officers/Board. In addition, a number of identified interested stakeholders, both individuals and groups will be invited to join the RMC SIG. We hope to encourage a multidisciplinary panel whose agenda will be set by the committee. We will develop an action plan and work collectively to achieve goals set by the committee. Future membership of the RMC SIG will be through open application and selection by the existing Steering Committee. All members of the RMC SIG should be BASHH members, at the discretion of the chair, members can be co-opted from other specialties/disciplines, as applicable to the group.

Membership is open to all and new members will be recruited ad-hoc as vacancies arise. Should anyone wish to become a member they should liaise with the secretary directly to apply. Vacancies for membership will be advertised via the BASHH newsletter and website.

Membership to the steering committee will be for three years, thereafter renewable annually. Members will be representative of the multidisciplinary team, including but not limited to: Doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and community organisations. Members must have knowledge and skills relevant to the racially minoritised population in sexual health. The members of the RMC SIG will be required to provide advice on and develop educational materials/events for racially minoritised populations, to those in education, the public and other health professionals.

#### 4.1 Roles

The position(s) of the chair will be aimed to be held in position initially for three years once elected. The process of change will be down to an election and vote by the steering committee.

The steering committee will elect a honorary treasurer, honorary secretary and webmaster. Additional roles can be assigned as required by the steering group. The role of treasurer, secretary and webmaster will be aimed to be a minimum of three years.

The chair and honorary treasurer will provide an annual business plan for the SIG, proved by the education committee. And, the chair and honorary secretary will produce an annual report. The webmaster will be responsible for ensuring the RMC SIG website is up to date.

#### 4.2 Conflicts of Interest

Members must declare any conflicts of interest to the Chair directly within 30 days of joining the SIG or when becoming aware of said conflict.

#### 5.0 Governance

The RMC SIG will adhere to the governance structure of BASHH SIGs as described in the BASHH articles. Submission of meetings, minutes and actions, outcomes and documents relating to the work of the RMC SIG to the BASHH education committee will meet BASHH governance standards. The group will meet triannually (every four months). This work will commence via virtual meetings and the sharing of documents and work via email prior. Future meetings may take place in person as per the decision of the SIG membership.

## 6.0 Conduct of business

Meetings shall be convened by an officer or the chair and shall be arranged by the Secretary. At least one month's notice will be given of any meeting and Committee members will be notified by email. The Secretary will forward a agenda and minutes of the last meeting prior to the meeting plus any relevant reading materials.

Minutes of the meetings of the Committee will be recorded. After the meetings these will be circulated by the Secretary for comments and will be approved by the chair by email within six weeks of the Committee meeting. After approval the Minutes will be posted on the BASHH website under the "Racially Minoritised SIG". It will be requested that an additional 'Private content' section is created within the Racially Minoritised SIG area on the BASHH website with access for all current Racially Minoritised SIG members.

Any committee member has the right to request an addition to the meeting agenda via the Secretary, with a minimum of three weeks' notice before any meeting. However it is within the right of the Officers (chair/secretary) to decline an addition or request a delay to the addition. Notification will be sent to the committee member including reason for declining or delaying.

A minimum of three meetings a year will take place with additional email updates to all RMC SIG members. Should less than two thirds of the RMC SIG are unable to attend a meeting, any important decisions will be deferred, pending at least two thirds of committee members being present. All Committee members will be required to attend at least 2 (two) of the 3 (three) meetings per year. Attendance is likely to be virtually (eg. ZOOM / Teams) to support high attendance, but hybrid meetings will be considered in future. If either unable to attend then the committee member will be asked to send their apologies to the Secretary, in advance. Decisions of the committee will be reached by a simple majority vote of those present.

## 6.1 Finance

At this time, there will be no demand for routine budget. Any work recommended or required by the RMC SIG incurring expense will be requested and escalated through BASHH and Board via the appointed treasurer, if required. Alternatively, we will procure sponsorship (as required) through the events and/or by donation to generate income that an appointed treasurer will manage.

## 6.2 Communication

All communications should be directed to the Secretary who will discuss with the Chair for approval (if required). All inter-SIG communication will be via e-mail, unless alternative methods are deemed more appropriate.

## 7.0 Events

The RMC SIG will hold a minimum of two educational events every three years to support the work that the SIG is doing and ensure this follows on the aims and objectives.

## 8.0 Links to external organisations

The RMC SIG will work in partnership with external organisations with breadth of knowledge to support and work collaboratively. Partnerships can include representatives being members of the RMC SIG committee.

## 9.0 Objectives

The RMC SIG objectives will be review on an annual basis (at a minimum) and agreed upon by the steering committee. With the appointed chair providing final approval.