

## COVID and Discrimination

### The pandemic continues to fuel inequality

'We're all in it together' was the mantra, back in March, when Rishi Sunak tried to bring the country together in the face of an unknown threat.

The Chancellor unveiled a mammoth fiscal package designed to keep the nation, its people and the economy on their feet. But our experience over the past six months has taught us that some of us are more 'in it' than others, and COVID-19 has turned out not to be a leveller, but a virus which can fuel inequality.

As always with this pandemic, the picture is moving rapidly and yesterday's SAGE communication indicated that we all face more challenges ahead. But the challenges are far from equally distributed.



#### Food for thought...

- The return of children to school in September did nothing to ease the pressure on women, who, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies, were far more likely to be furloughed or lose their jobs.
- Figures published by the Office for National Statistics found that black people have been four times as likely to die of COVID-19 as white people of the same age.
- Research in the UK has found that two-thirds of people with visual impairments feel less independent since the outbreak of the virus.

## HDN needs You - as a Mentor

2020-2021 Staff Mentoring Programme



We continue to receive a bumper number of mentee applications for our 2020-21 programme and that means **we need more managers and specialists to apply to be HDN mentors** - especially for the London and SE, Midlands and East regions.

**Please email:** [mentoring@housingdiversitynetwork.co.uk](mailto:mentoring@housingdiversitynetwork.co.uk) for more information and an application form.



## Inspire North needs You - on the Board

Trustees Head Office in Leeds

Do you have a passion for making a difference in the lives of others? Inspire North is looking for people who are excited by its work in the health and social care sector, people who share its values that everyone matters, and who will play an active part in the work of the Board.

Inspire North is looking for candidates from a range of backgrounds, including finance, social housing, family support, addiction services, anti-poverty and community activism.

You will need to be able to commit around three half days per quarter to help to plan the strategic future of Inspire North and associated companies.

**We value people of all ages and abilities, from any background.**

For an initial discussion please email Ruth Kettle, Chief Executive at [ruth.kettle@inspirenorth.co.uk](mailto:ruth.kettle@inspirenorth.co.uk)

## What We Do at HDN Contact us to see if we can help

We are currently working with organisations on a range of equality, diversity and inclusion issues. These include management and leadership training, board and executive team discussions on Black Lives Matter and/or the pandemic, and reviewing and helping on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plans and Strategies.

Contact [Mushtaq Khan](#) for further details.

## Upcoming Events - October (free to HDN members)

**Webinar: Building inclusive models of governance in the housing sector**

**Date and time: Wednesday 7th October 2020; 2pm to 3:30pm**

The first of HDN's new season of webinars is open for bookings when we partner with Pennington Manches Cooper LLP to present an interactive, virtual seminar covering the vital role inclusive governance plays within the social housing sector.

During the session we will cover subjects including:

- the latest draft NHF Code of Governance and its requirements around equality, diversity and inclusion
- barriers to building inclusive governance models
- the importance of collaboration to change mind-sets, and
- key actions for attendees to take back to their organisation

HDN webinars are **free** to book for member organisations, click [here](#) to reserve your place.

**Webinar: Black Lives Matter Part 2**

**Date and time: Tuesday 13th October 2020; 2pm to 3:30pm**

In this follow up to our sold-out summer event, BLM, discrimination and the pandemic will be revisited by our panel of housing experts.

Within the interactive session we will provoke discussion, and hear from speakers and participants about real life successes and challenges.

Speakers will be confirmed soon and you can reserve your place by clicking [here](#).

**Plus**, we have a roundtable on **Collecting and Using Diversity Data**, and webinars on **Working with the Gypsy and Traveller Community** and **Hate Crime** in October coming up as well. Keep an eye out for our next newsletter or our [twitter](#) feed to be the first to know.

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