

## Rebecca speaks to us all on HDN's Podcast Two

Thanks to everyone who listened to Moreen's take on the Black Lives Matter movement in our first podcast published two weeks ago, and for your kind and welcome feedback. If you haven't yet heard it, why not take half an hour to listen to Moreen's insight into what BLM means to us here in the UK.



Next up we're delighted to speak to Rebecca Clarke, formerly of the Chartered Institute of Housing and now the head of customer experience at Wolverhampton Homes, as she shares her perspective on the plight of LGBTQ+ people during the pandemic, and reviews Channel 4's groundbreaking series, 'It's a Sin'.

The second in our new series is going live today, and will be available to listen to on Spotify, iTunes, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Stitcher and TuneIn over the next few days.

If you enjoy either or both of our two opening podcasts, please leave us a review and get in touch if you know anyone we should speak to, or any subject you'd like to hear us chat about.

## The SMP Virtual Event is just over a month away

**Virtual Mentoring Celebration - 10th June, 10am to 1:30pm  
via REMO**

You are invited to join us at our **free** Virtual Celebration to mark the close of the **2020-2021 Staff Mentoring Programme**, toast our mentees and acknowledge the hard work of our mentors, associates, member representatives and staff.

For the second year running the conference will be virtual and you can still book your place for the 10th. We'll see you there!

Get in touch for more information or to book: [mentoring@housingdiversitynetwork.co.uk](mailto:mentoring@housingdiversitynetwork.co.uk)

## Action Learning Members speak out



The HDN **BME Action Learning initiative** was set up this year to create a safe space where BME staff can receive support to help them navigate daily micro-aggressions, build self-esteem and thrive in the workplace.

It has 11 members, representing eight housing organisations from across the country, including SW, NW, Midlands and London & SE.

*“Two members of the group have been under the bright lights so far and the case studies they have shared have been upsetting, angering and simply racist. The saddest part about it is the ripples of nodding faces we see across the group, in recognition of shared experiences. Each story that has been shared resembles experiences everyone in the group has faced.*

*“Language that is too common, ignorance that is accepted, blind eyes turned and voices unheard continue to waste talent and damage individual's confidence.*

*“Well now is time for change, the group is developing mechanisms to challenge, question and support each other and not accept that racism is just part of society. We will build a voice and the sector will listen to these stories, make proactive change and stand by the side of the group as a supporter.”*

BME Action Learning Set Members – May 2021

## Weaver Vale needs you...

Weaver Vale Housing Trust (WVHT) is looking for Board Members who can make a real, lasting difference to our communities and be part of building back a better and fairer society post COVID 19.

The award winning Cheshire & Warrington based Housing Association is committed to increasing the opportunities for customers and communities and is looking for at least three like-minded people, who share a passion for community improvement, to join the Board.

The time commitment is a minimum of one to two days per month and meetings will be either virtual or face to face at the Head Office in Northwich.

Remuneration is currently £4,135 per annum (under market review) plus reasonable expenses. If you are interested in joining the Board and being part of their ambitious plans, please download the [recruitment pack](#) for further details.

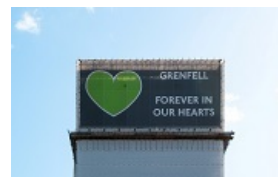
For further information about WVHT please visit their website [here](#)

**The closing date for applications is 10:00am Monday 17th May 2021**

## Upcoming Online Events

### Webinar: Grenfell Tower, four years on 19th May 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Join our expert panel which looks four years on from the Grenfell Tower fire and whether the housing sector has learned from this seismic moment which highlighted the gaps in society and the residual role of social housing in an increasingly affluent area.



[Tickets Here](#)

[For details of ALL our events CLICK HERE](#)

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

We work 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.

## What's the team been talking about?

The world of sport (in the UK) carried out a social media boycott over the bank holiday weekend to raise compassionate voices, determined to defeat online hate shared by the big social media platforms. It was quite a sacrifice for some, particularly during a wet and cold bank holiday, but hopefully some progress has been made in the quest to persuade the social media giants to take online hate seriously.

We won't hold our breath...this could take a while.

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