

## The unequal impact of Climate Change

Just over 18 months ago (it seems a long time now) news came out from Wuhan that a virus had spread rapidly in the city; the ninth largest in China, and the alien concept of a 'lockdown' hit our television screens.

COVID-19, or coronavirus as we first knew it, was a five minute feature on the news and it skidded across social media, as the western world collectively wondered what might be ahead. At the time the news was dominated by the aftermath of the 2016 Brexit vote, deal-making and deal-mashing between the UK and Brussels, Boris Johnson's landslide victory over a hopelessly split opposition and climate change continued to cover lengthy column inches.

Well, the pandemic and the government's (mis)handling of it have hogged the headlines ever since, but over the past two weeks we have had a timely reminder of the danger that unchecked carbon emissions pose to our planet. Floods in central Europe and wildfire raging across North America have made us sit up and take notice again, mainly because the disasters have destroyed lives and livelihoods in western civilisation.



So what does that all have to do with us here at the Housing Diversity you ask? Well, we're all about equality, diversity and inclusion and climate change deals anything but a series of 'equal' blows.

The UN's Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres has recently warned that climate change and conflict are both a consequence and a driver of poverty and income inequality, and the effects are multiplied when you throw COVID into the mix. As the world's habitable space reduces, mass migration will inevitably increase and, in turn, poverty. And the effects of climate change are certainly not gender neutral. Women form a disproportionately large share of the poor in developing countries all over the world, and when they work in rural areas, dependent on natural resources, this put's them at greater risk from drought and erratic rainfall patterns.

We're a UK based network but, unlike some in high office, we'll keep looking outwards for inspiration and to see where we can help.

## Wellbeing Network is up and running



HDN's **Health and Wellbeing Network** had an excellent first meeting on Thursday, chaired by Fran Stulberg from Riverside Group, where our members came together to discuss how to make best use of this new forum to tackle the many wellbeing issues faced by both staff and residents in housing organisations across the country.

The fantastic turn-out meant that we were a little pushed for time as there were so many ideas and issues to discuss. It was clear that everyone felt the need for a platform on which ideas, best practices and resources can be shared, and data and performance on wellbeing issues can be benchmarked.

We've already started planning the next steps, including a draft agenda for our next meeting which will be informed by Wellbeing Network member input, and setting up a virtual space for members to discuss their thoughts and ideas and plan for future meetings.

If you were unable to attend the meeting but still wish to be involved, please reach out to [Josh](mailto:josh@housingdiversitynetwork.co.uk) at Housing Diversity Network ([josh@housingdiversitynetwork.co.uk](mailto:josh@housingdiversitynetwork.co.uk)).

The date for the next meeting will confirmed in the coming weeks.

## HDN Events

### Information session for mentors

Thursday 12th August  
10:00 to 11:30 am

**Are you interested in becoming a mentor?** Then this session is an ideal opportunity to attend a virtual information session to find out more about HDN's mentoring programmes and how you can get involved. Hear from HDN's Programmes Manager and HDN current Mentors.

### Another date for your diaries:

Monday 18th October

Our EDI Conference will be held in Birmingham.

(Booking details will follow shortly)

[Book FREE here](#)

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



### Welcome our new members

Hastoe Housing Association



### Jobs

[Board Members](#) - Irwell Valley Homes  
[Board Members](#) - Paradigm Housing Group  
[Trustees](#) - Inspire Group North  
[Group Chair Designate](#) - Incommunities

## 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?

As you can guess, following a passionate lead from Carla, and some sobering facts and predictions from Josh, we've been talking about climate change. It isn't a subject we've concentrated on previously; but as it affects us all, and some more than others, you can expect more.

And then; one for horror fans, Josh went to see 'A Quiet Place 2' a chiller of a film which follows a family trying to escape the attention of a colony of blind and killer aliens. Thoroughly recommended unless, like some on our team, you're easily scared!

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