

## The UK can get better and safer

Polarised opinions are never particularly useful, not least because those who hold them can only usually convince themselves, and the like-minded, of their virtue. But blinkered views can also lead to unnecessary antagonism and sometimes conflict.



The 2016 EU referendum held in the UK is a classic example, a close vote which resulted in just over half the country (those who cared enough to vote) getting their wish and just under half who didn't. But what followed, and still lingers, was an unedifying avalanche of insults, name-calling and unfair caricatures levelled by the more passionate on either side towards the people of the opposite opinion, who they simply dismissed as 'wrong'.

My point is that we can surely direct our passion towards causes that are less nuanced and less prone to disagreement, and those which need action more urgently, not because we live in a bad country... but because we live in a country which can get better.

## Black History Month

The momentum gathered by the Black Lives Matter events of 2020 inspired the theme of the 2021 Black History Month UK campaign, which is called, '**Proud To Be**'. It invites black people to share what they are proud of, be it black, black and LGBTQ+ or simply Proud To Be Me. The plan is to make the month more tailored to the individual, while continuing to celebrate the many black women and men who have contributed so much to British society over the past two centuries.

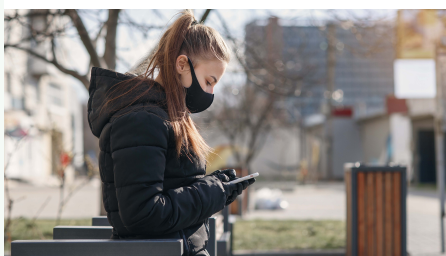


Lilian Bader, born in Liverpool in 1918, was one of the first black women to join the British army. She started as a canteen assistant at a barracks in Yorkshire before progressing to becoming a leading aircraftwoman. When she left the army she retrained as a teacher, but Lilian remains an iconic figure for the armed forces, and was the first of three generations of her family to serve.

More recently, Johnson Beharry, born in Grenada and now 42 years old, served in Kosovo, Northern Ireland and Iraq, and he has been awarded the highest award for gallantry for extreme heroism in 2004, as one of only five living recipients of the Victoria Cross.

Read more here: [‘Proud To Be’: Black History Month - Housing Diversity Network](#)

## Safe streets for women



As the Black Lives Matter movement highlighted gross inequalities and unfairness in 2020, the UK was rocked by the killing of Sarah Everard by a serving police officer. The murder sent shock waves through the force, while re-igniting anger that, in 2021, the streets of our big cities are still not safe for women after dark.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has launched an attack on the police force, calling its failure to take violence against women and girls seriously enough ‘infuriating’.

While the police will say that there are ‘a few bad apples in every barrel’ this isn’t good enough. The casual sexism which allegedly creeps around too many stations only serves to embolden the ‘bad apple’ and then there is a big price to pay.

## HDN Events



### HDN Autumn Conference, Leading the Change

Andy George, President of the National Black Police Association is speaking at our conference, and he’ll have plenty to say about institutional racism, as well as the problems the force has to face up to in terms of keeping



### Black History Month: Heritage and Community

Join us to see what housing organisations have been doing this month to celebrate black history, and why it matters for communities today

[More Info](#)



### Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Train the Trainer Session (Online Session)

A training session hosted by HDN associate Anne-Marie Train the Trainer session Understanding the power of inclusive language

women safe.

[More Info](#)

[More Info](#)

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



### Welcome our new members

[Hexagon Housing Association](#)

[Salvation Army Housing Association](#)



### Career Opportunities

[WISH](#) are looking for a home-based Managing Director, to find out more or how to apply [here](#)

[Arawak Walton Housing Association](#) are looking for an Operations Director based in Manchester, to find out more or how to apply [here](#)

Check out some more opportunities here [HDN Jobs](#)

## 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?

What's everyone been talking about this week? Petrol for one thing! Supplies are back and forecourts are no longer packed out, throughout most of the country. London still has problems but, as Moreen points out, the city dwellers are more environmentally conscious anyway and public transport is better in the capital J.

So if you need the fuel, we hope you got it, unless of course you were one of the people trying to fill ice cream tubs and carrier bags with diesel!

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