

NEWSLETTER



HELP US TO TACKLE ISLAMOPHOBIA

November is Islamophobia Awareness Month and, here at HDN, we'll be working with our partners and members as we try to find solutions to at least some of the problems experienced by Muslims in the face of bigotry and racial discrimination.

Nobody should be targeted because of their beliefs, but a total lack of understanding on the part of the prejudiced means that our Muslim population gets more than its fair share of negative attention. Social media is under the microscope again as a Facebook whistleblower currently speaks to our government, explaining how algorithms used by the social media giant are making hate worse. Former employee Frances Haugen has told MPs, at a meeting of the joint committee on the draft Online Safety Bill, that the algorithms help to 'prioritise extreme content.'

And some people don't need much encouragement. Members of a Labour Group in Wakefield have recently received anonymous post which warned of a 'Muslim takeover' and described Islam as 'dangerous'. One of the letters said, 'as a devout Christian, we cannot allow Muslims to take over'.

Get your head around that if you can!

Afzal Khan MP will be opening a Westminster Hall debate on Islamophobia Awareness Month on Tuesday 2nd November:

[Islamophobia Awareness Month - House of Commons Library \(parliament.uk\)](https://www.parliament.uk/library/subject/subjects/islamophobia-awareness-month)

And on the same day our friend and associate Kaushar Tai is running HDN's 'Challenging Islamophobia' workshop (see events section below). Some people blame Islam for terrorist attacks but, in truth, the terrorists have extreme beliefs which have little or nothing in common with Muslim beliefs. But bad news sells newspapers, and Kaushar says that every time there is a terrorist incident, Muslims around the world say, 'oh no...not again.'

BME BOARD MEMBERS NETWORK

HDN is setting up a Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Board Members Network to help new and existing board members share experience, advice and encouragement with others. We are keen that board members have the chance to make informal connections.



We envisage that each meeting will focus on a topical boardroom issue, and we will ensure directors with experience in that area are present, as well as experts in governance.

The objectives of the Network are to be agreed by members, but at heart we hope the meetings will help to improve understanding of equality, diversity and inclusion in the sector as well as improving the number of BME leaders and profiling the diverse range of BME leaders currently delivering housing solutions.

In order to facilitate discussion we will be limiting numbers to members of HDN.

If you want to be part of this network or want to more email us at info@housingdiversitynetwork.co.uk

AUTUMN CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



What a day we had at the Clayton Hotel in Birmingham on Monday, a great venue with excellent facilities and a star line-up of speakers. Our afternoon key note speaker Lara Oyedele, the incoming Vice President of the CIH, inspired us all to be **agents of change**, while our morning key-note speech was delivered with candid openness by Andy George, the President of the Black Police Association, as he told of his experiences of racism, growing up in Northern Ireland, and his career in the police force.

One of the most vibrant panel sessions you are ever likely to witness was brought to life by Barrington Billings, Leona Menville and Aloze Ohuonu as they each gave their razor sharp insight into the impact of Black Lives Matter in the housing sector.

For more highlights take a look at our Conference blog here
[Thank you to all our friends... - Housing Diversity Network](#)

EVENTS



Challenging Islamophobia

Our guest speaker Kaushar Tai will be delivering a workshop on Islamophobia and what can be done to combat anti-Muslim prejudice

[More Info](#)



Action Against Intolerance

Our guest speakers will be discussing anti-trans prejudice, and what can be done to promote tolerance over hate

[More Info](#)



The Refugee Crisis

Join us as our panel discuss the obstacles faced by asylum seekers trying to resettle in the UK after fleeing persecution or conflict

[More Info](#)

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

NEW MEMBERS

NOW HIRING



Chief Information Officer

NHG is particularly keen to see applications from individuals from Black, Asian, Mixed Heritage and other Ethnicminority backgrounds, and from women, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and those with disabilities, in order to address under-representation at the senior levels of our organisation.

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 THE TEAM'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

We're a (relatively) fit bunch here at HDN and so our newest team member, Michael, has proposed we do a run to raise awareness and monetary support for Afghanistan refugees.

The plight of the Afghans, both here and in their homeland, is horrific and we want to do our bit to help in any way we can. So we'll be pounding the roads and the treadmills over the coming weeks while Michael finds a winter event for us to participate in.

If any of our friends out there want to join us then just watch this space!

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30 Manor Row, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1 4QE, GB
www.housingdiversitynetwork.co.uk

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