

# Exhibit MARED RS1.



14<sup>th</sup> April 2020  
Race Council Cymru  
Arts Wing, Swansea Grand Theatre  
SA1 3QJ

For the Urgent Attention of the Chief Medical Officer of Wales  
Dr Frank Atherton,

Dear, Dr Atherton,

I write to you as Chair of Race Council Cymru to express the concern of the Board of Trustees regarding the widely publicised data on the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus pandemic on Black, Asian or minority ethnic (BAME) communities across the UK. You will be aware of the recent report from Intensive Care National Audit and Research Centre (ICNARC) which suggests that 34% of critical care patients in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are from BAME backgrounds. Perhaps, more worrying is the fact that the first 10 doctors to die of this disease are from BAME groups, and a disproportionate number of nurses and other healthcare workers that have lost their lives have also been from BAME communities.

While any death from Covid-19 (or indeed any other disease) is regrettable, reports that people from BAME backgrounds are disproportionately affected by the current pandemic is particularly disturbing and requires urgent investigation and action. To allay the fears of members of BAME communities in Wales, I would ask the Chief Medical Officer of Wales to consider the following:

1. Publish data on a) the number of BAME Covid-19 patients that are currently on critical care in Wales and the number of BAME patients that have died from this disease, and b) publish data on the numbers and categories of BAME healthcare workers that have contracted this disease and those that have died from it.
2. Confirm whether the Chief Medical Officer of Wales will support the calls for a national investigation into the disproportionate impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on BAME communities and/or whether there will be a Welsh-specific investigation.
3. Inquire into and provide information on whether the high rates of hypertension, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and Vitamin D deficiency within the UK BAME communities have rendered members of these communities more vulnerable to the Covid-19 infection and contributed to the comparatively high mortality rates from this illness.
4. Confirm the measures the office of Chief Medical Officer of Wales will take to reduce the additional worries and anxieties of members of BAME communities in the short-term, and to address the underlying structural issues that increase their vulnerability to diseases and such pandemics in the long-term.

I recognise that the situation is fluid at the moment and that all efforts in Wales are directed at Welsh-wide interventions to defeat this virus. However, given that there is a disproportionate number of people from BAME backgrounds (especially doctors, nurses and other healthcare



workers) at the frontline of this emergency, it is imperative that urgent action is taken to identify and act on the factors that are making them not only particularly susceptible to this virus but that are also making them more likely to die from it.

I can assure the Chief Medical Officer of Wales of the commitment of all at Race Council Cymru to work with the Welsh Government on any initiatives that will help in reducing both the rates of infection and the health outcomes for individuals particularly those from BAME backgrounds who are disproportionately affected by this disease.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Your sincerely,

Personal Data

Judge Ray Singh CBE  
**Chairperson of Race Council Cymru**

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