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Black Maternal Health Conference UK 2023

Bridging the gap between
the community, service
providers and industries



#BMHCUK

Impact
on **Urban**
Health



**Leigh
Day**



The Motherhood Group, coordinator of Black Maternal Health Conference UK, bridging the gap between Community, Service providers and Industries.

An award-winning social enterprise that supports the Black maternal experience by delivering trusted community-based events, insightful training workshops, safe peer-to-peer support, national campaigns (coordinators of Black Maternal Mental Health Week UK), and culturally sensitive programmes for Black mothers. We have over 20K+ social media followers, 8K+ newsletter subscribers, delivered programmes with 4K+ mums in attendance and trained over 772 professionals on Black Maternal Health through lived-experience and commissioned reports.

Partnering with reputable organisations such as MBRRACE-UK, NHS E&I, Sands, Impact on Urban Health, Mental Health Foundation, Centre for Mental Health, Royal College of Midwives, Nike Women, Dove, King's College London and many more.

Our core values

Supporting & Advocating

Educating & Training

Trusted & Safe

Bridging The Gap

Our role: Black mothers are more likely to have postnatal depression than white women, and are the least likely to access support, or have follow-up treatment. Our role in the solution includes *supporting rebuilding the broken trust between the community and service providers*, de-stigmatising mental health so mothers can ask for help and highlighting what unconscious bias looks like, how this impacts mothers, and dismantling racism within the healthcare system.

Black women are 3.7x more likely to die than white women (previously 5 x more likely) and experience both disparities and inequalities throughout the healthcare system.

We support HCP to take a more proactive, understanding and curious approach to Black women's maternity care throughout their pregnancy and beyond.

Leigh Day

Leigh Day are recognised as specialists in medical negligence and ranked tier 1 by the two foremost legal directories, Chambers & Partners and The Legal 500. They are praised for having extensive experience and expertise in dealing with complex and catastrophic injuries on behalf of patients and their families. Many of our lawyers have medical backgrounds and have been instrumental in the development of the law in medical negligence cases.

Leigh Day's medical negligence team helps those who have been injured as a result of substandard care by a medical professional. This can include claims arising from birth injuries, cerebral palsy, stillbirth and wrongful birth.

Leigh Day have a number of long-standing charity relationships and support campaigns focused on patient safety such as, The Patients Association, Baby Lifeline, The MASIC Foundation and Birthrights. They are also panel members of Action against Medical Accidents (AvMA).



Speakers



Professor Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent OBE

The first person to be appointed to the new role of Chief Midwifery Officer. She is the most senior midwife in England, providing professional, strategic and clinical leadership.



Kadra Abdinasir

Kadra Abdinasir is Associate Director for Children and Young People's Mental Health at Centre for Mental Health. She leads the Centre's research and policy in this areamental health charity Beyond, a Trustee for FORWARD UK.



Sandra Igwe

Sandra Igwe is a Black maternal health advocate, TedX speaker, and is the Founder of The Motherhood Group, a social enterprise that supports the Black maternal experience.



MP Bell Ribeiro-Addy

Bell Ribeiro-Addy is the Labour MP for Streatham, and has been an MP continuously since 12 December 2019. Solidly on the left, considering herself a "life long socialist" & feminist.



Dr. Karen Joash

Dr Karen Joash is one of London's leading and most dedicated Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist. She is known for her empathy, communication and personal approach to her patients.



Mars Lord

Mars is a Certified Life Coach and birth activist. A multi award-winning doula, mentor, and educator. She is on the RCOG Race Equality Taskforce and on the Birthrights Legal inquiry into Black Maternal Health panel.



Anna Horn

Anna Horn is a doctoral researcher in anthropology at the Centre for Maternal and Child Health Research (City, University of London) where her research investigates Black women's experiences of group antenatal care in the UK.

Speakers



Jayde Edwards

Jayde Edwards - Project Manager Young Mums Connect at The Mental Health Foundation.



Stacy Moore

Stacy is an experienced chartered psychologist, clinical supervisor, mother of two boys and professional speaker with a gift for connecting with audiences on an authentically human level.



Jenny Okolo

Jenny Okolo is a clinical therapist, a TEDx speaker, and the founder of SASA - a company dedicated to supporting neurodiversity and well-being in the workplace.



Alicia Burnett

Midwife and Co-Founder of Black Baby Loss Awareness Week. She has been featured in the RCM's Midwives magazine and written blog posts for the Council of Deans of Health, the Student Leadership Programme and All4Maternity.



Dr. Ria Clarke

Dr Ria Clarke is an obstetrics and gynaecology registrar in the South of England. Dedicating herself to learning how to amplify the voices of the individuals and families she cares for.



Carol King-Stephens

Carol King-Stephens started her NHS career in 1990, qualifying as a Midwife in 1995. In March 2022 she was appointed as Equality Diversity & Inclusion Lead Midwife at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust.

Speakers



Stacy Gacheru

Stacy Gacheru is a sought after practitioner, counsellor, speaker and mentor, with over 10 years of clinical experience working with those with Mental Disorders, Young Children and Families.



Jennifer Ogunyemi

Jennifer is passionate about representation, religious diversity & Inclusion. After a 10 year career at the NHS working with diverse and vulnerable communities, Jennifer decided to step away.



Marley Hall

Marley is a UK registered, award winning midwife, educator and author from Surrey. She is also a mother of 5. Since qualifying in 2009, she worked extensively within the NHS, caring for women from all backgrounds.



Caroline Bazambanza

Caroline Bazambanza is a PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the London School of Economics (LSE). Her project asks how black women's experiences of pregnancy, birth & motherhood are shaped at the intersection of race in London.



Afua Hagan

Afua Hagan - TV & Radio Presenter, regularly appears on ITV, BBC, LBC, Times Radio and TalkTV, CTV, NBC and is a Keynote Speaker, Diversity and Inclusion Speaker, Event Host, Moderator, Royal Commentator.



Dr. Natalie Darko

Dr Natalie Darko, Associate Professor at the University of Leicester and Director of Inclusion at the Leicester NIHR Biomedical Research Centre.

Schedule

9:00	Doors open, Registration & Networking with Refreshments
10:00	Welcome & Opening Remarks Sandra Igwe, Host & Founder of The Motherhood Group Professor Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent OBE, Midwife to the Duchess of Cambridge
10:10	Moving from Black Lives Matter to Equality for Black Women. Afua Hagan, Journalist & Broadcaster
10:30	Q&A
10:40	Addressing inequalities affecting ethnic minority women in pregnancy care - access, effective intervention, appropriate support and information, and improving pregnancy outcomes Carol King-Stephens, Equality Diversity Inclusion Lead Midwife, Walsall Healthcare
11:10	Systemic racism, human rights and structural change - what the issue is and what needs to be done to support Black mothers Mars Lord, Life Coach and Birth Activist
11:40	It's not just Black women: How defensiveness amongst health professionals may be harming outcomes and experiences Marley Hall, Midwife
12:00	Q&A Session
12:10	30 Mins Lunch Break
12:40	MP Bell Riberero: Keynote speaker - Opening Remarks
12:50	Moving from maternity mortality and morbidity disparities, to equity for Black mothers Dr Karen Joash, Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
13:10	Q&A Session
13:20	Faith, Mental Health, and Black Motherhood - what services need to know Stacy Gacheru, Counsellor
13:40	PANEL DISCUSSION: The truth about Inequalities for Black Maternal Health, Rebuilding Trust in the Community and Research that matters Caroline Bazambanza, PHD Candidate at LSE Anna Horn, Doctoral Researcher Dr Ria Clarke, Obstetrics & Gynaecology Reg
14:10	Spotlight session: Pregnancy Loss & Support Alicia Burnett, Midwife, Tommy's
14:20	Q&A - for everyone on stage
14:40	20 Mins Tea Break
15:00	Let's Talk: Black Maternal Mental Health - stigma, communication, barriers. Stacey Moore, Chartered Psychologist
15:20	Engaging minority ethnic groups in health research. Are black mums hard to reach? Dr Natalie Darko, Associate Professor & Director of Inclusion
15:30	PANEL DISCUSSION: Culture, traditions, Maternity services and bridging the gap with the community Jennifer Ogunyemi, Maternity & Neonatal Engagement Lead Mariya Kalgo, Obstetrics / Fetal Medical Consultant Jayde Edwards, Project Manager, Young Mums Connect at The Mental Health Foundation
16:00	Research & policy, improving the lives of Black children and young people Kadra Abdinasir, Associate Director for CYP Mental Health
16:10	Closing Remarks Sandra Igwe, Host & Founder of The Motherhood Group
17:00	Close

Exhibitors & Goody Bag Sponsors

Tommy's

Together, for every baby

Tommy's is a pregnancy charity made up of caring and committed people who refuse to accept that losing a baby in pregnancy is 'just one of those things'.

Right now, 1 in 4 pregnancies end in miscarriage, stillbirth or premature birth. Across the UK our dedicated researchers, doctors, nurses and midwives are finding causes and treatments to save lives.

We also provide free trusted information and support for everyone before, during and after pregnancy. We are supported by our community. Together, we work to break the silence around loss, support each other and prevent future heartbreak.

As Black and Brown women and birthing people are more likely to suffer from pregnancy complications or loss we are committed to supporting these groups in particular. That's why we've set up the Specialist Support Service, a helpline staffed by midwives that is dedicated to supporting Black and Black Mixed Heritage women through their pregnancy journeys.



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