

Race and Justice Network

Clinks has established a Race and Justice Network which consists of organisations that are either led by racially minoritised people or that have a specific focus on supporting those from racially minoritised backgrounds, within the criminal justice sector. Clinks recognises the difficulty, for those smaller organisations in particular, in accessing stakeholders at a strategic level. With the help of the network these barriers can be broken down and racial inequalities and injustices can be challenged. The network gives organisations the opportunity to:

- Influence policy and procedures at both an operational and strategic level
- Receive/deliver training opportunities both across the sector and within the network
- Share best practice with organisations nationally
- Receive consultancy support
- Be regularly updated on policy changes and provide updates to those within the sector that may not specifically have a focus on racial inequality.

Being a member of the network means that you will get quarterly e-bulletins and regular newsletters/blog posts with relevant updates specifically for those supporting racially minoritised people within the sector; organisations are also invited to share news in these publications. The network co-ordinator also facilitates quarterly forums for our network members. The forums exist to address current issues both within the sector and those being specifically faced by members, providing members with sanctuary to share and learn and encouraging peer support. External speakers are also invited to attend forums to advise members of developments within the sector and discuss policy. The forums provide an opportunity to strengthen partnership working as Clinks has the ability to feedback to HM Prison and Probation Service and the Ministry of Justice on the discussions.

To become a member of the network we look at the following criteria:

Organisations need to meet at least one (but may meet more) of these categories:

1. **“Led by racially-minoritised people”** - 50% (or more) of your board and senior staff identifies as being from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background.
2. **“Racially minoritised-specialist voluntary sector organisation”** - Your organisation's mission and purpose is to support Black, Asian or minoritised communities. ‘We are an organisation whose main stated purpose is to provide services for racially minoritised people.’ For example, a service that provides resettlement and family support to racially minoritised people in prison.
3. **“Delivering services designed for racially minoritised people”** – ‘We run a project or service specifically for racially minoritised people as part of the organisation’s broader remit.’ For example, an organisation which provides support for young people leaving custody, and in addition provides specific mentoring support led by and for racially minoritised people.
4. **“Service that supports racially minoritised people”** - If your organisation provides services to/works with racially minoritised people (this is not limited to those that have this as a core focus, but rather all organisations that are supporting racially minoritised).

If you feel you could benefit from being a member of this network but do not fit the above requirements, please speak to the network co-ordinator, kaiya.caines@clinks.org for further guidance.