

## Call for Tenders

**Project Title:** Mapping the activities of Black and Minority Ethnic Groups in Milton Keynes

**Project Promotor:** Milton Keynes Intercultural Forum, c/o The MK Community Foundation

**Description of the Project:** Milton Keynes is one of the UK's most diverse towns and cities. According to Milton Keynes intelligence (MKi) Observatory, "26.1% of the population in 2011 were from Black and Minority Ethnic groups. This compares to 13.2% in 2001, and 20.2% for England as a whole". The results show almost double of BME population from 13.2% to 26.1% in 10 years, thus forming the basis of our comparison. There is little doubt that the 2021 census will reveal an increase in the Black and Minority Ethnic population in Milton Keynes in the intervening period. In terms of religiosity, in the 2011 census, 77,939 residents of Milton Keynes stated that they had no religion, and 16,438 did not state their religion. Of the 154,444 who stated that they had a religion, 131,353 were Christians; 1,246 Buddhists; 6,918 Hindu; 427 Jewish; 11,913 Muslims; 1,372 Sikhs and 1,216 other religions. There is anecdotal evidence to suggest that the BME communities have set up many organisations and community groups. Still, a lot needs to be done to understand what these groups do, the challenges they face, and how they are engaging and collaborating with service providers.

The Milton Keynes Intercultural Forum (MKIF) is an emerging organisation. It seeks to connect the BME groups among themselves and with the service providers, enhance the visibility of their activities, and ensure that the concerns of all the BME communities, including those considered hard-to-reach, are addressed by service providers. In this context, the Milton Keynes Intercultural Forum is commissioning a mapping exercise to get a picture of the BME groups' infrastructure in Milton Keynes.

**Project Design:** The Milton Keynes Intercultural Forum (MKIF) is aware that a wide range of BME Organisations are active in Milton Keynes. Several organisations will have information that will help at the beginning of the scoping exercise. These include The MK Community Foundation, Community Action:MK, Citizens:MK, MK Council, Thames Valley Police – Milton Keynes, MK Council of Faiths, The Arts and Heritage Alliance Milton Keynes (AHA-MK), InterFaith MK, The Parks Trust, and the Centre for Voluntary Sector Leadership (at The Open University). The successful Community Researcher will start the Scoping Project with engagement with these Organisations and, through snowballing, reach out to other BME groups to create a "live" Directory of BME groups in Milton Keynes. The Milton Keynes Intercultural Forum is aware that some BME groups are transient and not necessarily set up to become permanent institutions.

**Participants in the Project:** In addition to the MKIF and the other stakeholders outlined above, it is expected that the Project will involve BME leaders, including Faith Leaders, Leaders of Supplementary Schools, Leaders of Home Country Associations, Leaders of Support Groups, Leaders of Women Groups, Leaders of Youth Groups, etc.

**Expected Outcome from the Project:** A Directory of BME groups outlining their objectives and activities, and a Report exploring how the BME groups are engaging

and collaborating with service providers, the challenges they face, and the unmet needs MKIF should consider working on, these may include race and discrimination, health inequalities, employment or employment, social care, education, culture and intercultural communications, crimes and policing leadership, and capacity building.

**Methodology:** Desk research will be the primary method for gathering the information. There may be opportunities for outreach depending on the situation with the COVID-19 Pandemic. Outreach may involve, for example, attending Meetings, joining Community Walks, and attending Workshops and Conferences.

**Management of the Project:** The Project will be managed by the Working Group of the Milton Keynes Intercultural Forum supported by MK Community Foundation and Community Action:MK. The fee for the work will be £2000, and MK Community Foundation will administer the payments. The payments will be in three instalments: 30% upon signing the Contract; 30% upon submission and approval of an Interim Report; and 40% upon submission and acceptance of the Directory and Final Report. The Project is expected to take the equivalent of 12 working days for the Community Researcher.

**Ethical Considerations:** The Project will make every effort to comply with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) and adhere to the 2016 UK Economic and Social Research Council's (ESRC) six fundamental research ethical principles and the 2013 five Guiding Ethical Principles of the UK Academy of Social Sciences (AcSS).

**Community Researcher:** MKIF invites tenders from individuals and/or organisations with excellent research and communications skills. In addition, the candidate should have strong interpersonal skills and be interculturally competent. IT skills, including familiarity with Microsoft Office applications, is required. Fluency in English is a requirement, and additional languages will be an advantage.

**Project Budget:** £2,000 (all-inclusive)

**Project Duration:** 3 months (January to March 2022)