



## Disability Sheffield

Centre for Independent Living

Written evidence submitted by **Disability Sheffield**

### **Summary**

This evidence is being submitted on behalf the organisation Disability Sheffield because we feel that it is important to highlight the experiences of BAME disabled people.

### **About Disability Sheffield**

We are a user led disabled peoples charity, this means that we are run and controlled by disabled people. We offer a range of services, each of which promotes independent living for disabled people living in Sheffield. By independent living we mean that disabled people have the same freedom and rights to exercise choice and control over their own lives as any other person. Our services and projects span each of the six areas the Commission is looking at.

#### Part of the Solution Project

In June 2020, in response to the Black Lives Matter movement, we made a commitment to being part of the solution. At present we are carrying out a review in order to identify racism and inequality within our organisation. We are reviewing our services and projects in order to identify whether BAME people are aware of the availability of our services and accessing them effectively. We are also undertaking an internal review of our staff, volunteers and Trustee Board to identify what positive steps can be taken to make us a more diverse organisation, and to ensure that BAME people are properly represented.

#### Recommendations

We recommend that the Commission addresses the experiences of BAME disabled people and the multi-layered discrimination they face.

We recommend the report Over-looked Communities, Over-due Change which examines the experiences and needs of BAME disabled people: <https://www.obv.org.uk/sites/default/files/images/news-2012-05-17-BME%20full%20report.pdf>

We recommend that the Commission takes into account the #BlackDisabledLivesMatter movement which came about due to Black disabled

people feeling their experiences were erased within the Black Lives Matter Movement.

We recommend the Commission works with SACMHA: <http://sacmha.org.uk/>, a local charity who support BAME people with a range of impairments and mental health needs who can provide expertise in this area.

Over the coming year we envision that the Part of the Solution Project will be able to provide evidence on the unique inequalities and exclusion BAME disabled people in Sheffield face and what changes they are asking for.

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