

# WORKING WITH COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

## Why do we want to encourage collaboration between researchers and community organisations?

We encourage researchers to collaborate with community organisations to address health inequalities in diabetes care. By partnering with these organisations, you can engage a broader range of voices, particularly from underserved groups, making your research more inclusive and impactful. Collaboration can improve patient and public involvement and help tailor interventions to the specific needs of diverse populations.

Reaching out to community organisations offers valuable insights and access to underrepresented groups, enhancing the relevance and effectiveness of research. Together, we can work towards a more equitable system for everyone affected by diabetes.

## How should you partner with community organisations?

We have spoken to the organisations below, who said they are happy to be contacted by researchers as potential collaborators or co-applicants on applications. We encourage researchers to contact these organisations as early as possible during the application process to ensure time for relationship-building and meaningful involvement. The bios below should help researchers to understand where collaboration is appropriate and reach out to the listed contacts in this case.

We encourage all researchers to adhere to the ‘**Principles of Engagement**’ set out by **Equality Health**, found [here](#). We are keen for community organisations to act as equal partners in the research process and should therefore be consulted throughout the application process.

## Organisations That Are Happy to Be Contacted



**South Asian Health Action (SAHA)** is a growing charity based in **Leicester**, UK. The organisation seeks to engage with, educate and empower the **South Asian community** on health challenges facing the community. Its future goal is to become the UK’s leading patient and community-led healthcare charity, facilitating awareness and change amongst the South Asian community.

**Website:** <https://www.sahauk.org/>

**Contact:** [support@sahauk.org](mailto:support@sahauk.org)



**Cysters** is a grassroots, community-led charity committed to enhancing the health, education, and wellbeing of individuals experiencing menstrual, maternal, menopausal and mental health challenges, particularly those from marginalised or culturally diverse backgrounds. Their work is grounded in centring intersectional lived experiences and the principles of decolonisation.

Cysters carries out and supports academics in community-based research highlighting the **health inequalities experienced by women of colour** while also contributing to the growing body of

scientific research highlighting the serious impact of these inequalities. They equip individuals with the knowledge and resources needed to make informed decisions about their treatment options and are also involved in cultural advocacy to dismantle the cultural misogyny surrounding menstrual, maternal, and mental health issues, as well as chronic illnesses.

**Website:** <https://cysters.org/>

**Contact:** [smile@cysters.org](mailto:smile@cysters.org)



**The Caribbean and African Health Network (CAHN)**, is a national Black-led organisation founded in 2017 to tackle health inequalities in **Black Caribbean and African communities**. CAHN partners with the NHS, academia, statutory organisations and community groups **throughout the UK** to influence policy and improve services through research. By engaging Black communities, CAHN ensures their voices shape public policy and health outcomes. Their goal is to achieve health equity and social justice for Black people in the UK within a generation.

**Website:** <https://www.cahn.org.uk/>

**Contact:** [research@cahn.org.uk](mailto:research@cahn.org.uk)



**The Welcoming Association** is a **Scottish** charity, that supports asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants in **Edinburgh**, offering services to over 1,600 individuals from 80+ countries (including people from Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria, China, Spain and Sudan). Their programs include English language classes, employability support, and community integration activities, targeting marginalized and minority ethnic communities. They are also keen to partner with local academic institutions, collaborating with the communities they work with, which are often affected by health inequalities in their diabetes care.

**Website:** <https://www.thewelcoming.org/>

**Contact:** [gordon.hill@gcu.ac.uk](mailto:gordon.hill@gcu.ac.uk)



**360° Lifestyle Support Network (360LSN)** was founded in 2021 by siblings Leon Thomson and Francine Daley and aims to make healthcare more accessible for **Black African and Black Caribbean communities**. Focusing on diabetes, obesity, hypertension, stress, and mental health, 360LSN offers holistic health resources alongside mainstream care. They host weekly workshops with health professionals in **South-East London** educating and empowering individuals to improve their well-being while supporting research that benefits their community.

**Website:** <https://360lsn.co.uk/>

**Contact:** [360lsn@gmail.com](mailto:360lsn@gmail.com)



**The Bromley by Bow Centre** is a pioneering charity in **East London** focused on health, education, and community development. The Centre integrates healthcare with social support, offering a wide range of services, including health clinics, skills training, and community activities. It's known for its holistic approach, addressing not just medical needs but also the social determinants of health. The Centre actively engages in research to improve services and outcomes for disadvantaged communities, aiming to create healthier, more resilient neighbourhoods.

**Website:** <https://www.bbhc.org.uk/>

**Contact:** [connect@bbhc.org.uk](mailto:connect@bbhc.org.uk)

### **Other Community Organisations**

If other community organisations are interested in contributing to research focussed on addressing health inequalities in diabetes and are happy to be contacted by researchers regarding this project, please reach out to [drsgs@diabetes.org.uk](mailto:drsgs@diabetes.org.uk).

In your email, please include a bio, similar to the ones above and contact details. We will then reach out to have a conversation and add your organisation to the list above where appropriate.