



30<sup>th</sup> April 2020

**Dear Dame Julia Goodfellow (Chair, Public Health England)**

**cc Duncan Selbie (Chief Executive, Public Health England)**

c/o Rachel Scott, Board Secretary, Public Health England [rachel.scott@phe.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.scott@phe.gov.uk)

***Statement RE: Trevor Phillips' involvement in the review to examine the disproportionate number of COVID-19 deaths within BAME communities***

Public Health England's announcement, that the welcomed review into the disproportionate numbers of deaths within BAME communities resulting from the Coronavirus, will have the prominent involvement of Trevor Phillips, is being met with much concern within BAME communities.

Key to a successful review will be the need to address the significant lack of confidence within BAME communities in government related enquiry processes. This issue is of such importance that it is absolutely vital that the process of selecting someone for this important position should have been considered within the context of a genuine partnership with BAME communities, and not a unilaterally imposed decision taken by government or government agencies.

The planned review needs to enjoy the highest possible level of confidence and whilst we do not wish to make this concern personal, it is well known that there have been statements made by Mr. Phillips which has caused concern amongst human rights bodies, Muslim groups, BAME led organisations and communities as a whole. We call upon Public Health England to urgently suspend and review this decision and to engage in discussions with BAME community organisations about the requirements for this particular role.

We fear that in the absence of doing the above, this review will be doomed from the very beginning and could be completely undermined by such an arbitrary and imposed process.

CORE (the Coalition of Race Equality Organisations) is comprised of leading organisations within the UK Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) voluntary and community sector. The following CORE members endorse the above statement:

David Weaver (Independent Chair, CORE)  
Sado Jirde (Black South West Network)  
Jabeer Butt (Race Equality Foundation)  
Lord Simon Woolley (Operation Black Vote)

Mushtaq Khan (BME National)  
Charles Kwaku-Odoi (Caribbean & African Health Network)  
Sarah Mann (Friends, Families, and Travellers)  
Jeremy Crook (BTEG)  
Kahiye Alim (Council of Somali Organisations)  
Fizza Qureshi (Migrants' Rights Network)  
Patricia Stapleton (The Traveller Movement)  
Andrew Brown (Croydon BME Forum)  
Sainga Tony (OLMEC)  
Atiha Chaudry (Manchester BME Network)

The following Non-Core bodies also endorse this statement:

Marion Wadibia (NAZ)  
Viv Ahmun (Blaksox)  
Susan Cueva (Kanlungan Filipino Consortium)  
Shaista Iqbal (RAPAR)