

BSMN

Working for race equality

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



April 2017 - March 2018

A society in which inequality and discrimination on the basis of racial or ethnic categorisation is wholly and completely absent.

Our mission is to be a driving force for racial equality in the South West and nationally through releasing the agency and voice of BAME people such that they can utilise robust research, lived experiences, and innate knowledge to influence decision-making, increase their economic and social capital, and construct a more equitable and prosperous society for BAME people everywhere.

Our Values

- 1** Equity
- 2** Inclusivity
- 3** Justice
- 4** Fairness
- 5** Honesty
- 6** Accountability

FROM OUR CHAIR

Dr Marie-Annick Gournet



At the end of my 2nd year as a trustee and Interim Chair, I look back with an overall sense of satisfaction and pride for what we have achieved. This year has seen us continue to develop our mission of giving only the best possible service to our communities. As you will read in the Director's and Treasurer's reports we considerably increased our revenue in comparison to the previous year and this has enabled us to carry out some focused developmental work in the area of economic inclusion. This in turn has generated a wealth of information to better support BAME businesses in the city. An example of immediate concrete outcome, aside from the research documents and frameworks, is the creation of the Bristol Urban, Enterprise and Innovation Network. As you will read in the this report, much has happened during this past year in our four strategic areas (Cultural Inclusion, Economic inclusion, Research & Intelligence and Voice & Influence) and I am happy to announce that the BSWN is developing in leaps and bounds and continue to influence practice and policies locally, nationally and internationally.

On the Governance front, we were undoubtedly short of key roles on the board in the previous year. Since taking on the role of interim chair last year, we have increased the board membership with four new trustees which puts the board in a much stronger position.

I wish to conclude by thanking the BSWN fantastic duo: the Director – Sado Jirde and the Project Coordinator Mina Drobna – not many people would be aware of the sacrifices you have made in the interest of the organisation, you are a great team and it has been a pleasure working with you. I also want to thank the volunteers for all their hard work during 2018. Finally, I wish to thank my fellow trustees, our officers and associate members; by giving your time and engaging with BSWN you are not only performing your social responsibilities but you are also taking serious action to lighten the burden of others and contribute towards making Bristol and the wider region a better and more inclusive place.

Looking forward, BSWN's next challenge is the setting up of an Enterprise Hub and continue to deliver on all four of its strategic ambition. I am confident that with more capacity, BSWN will rise up to the challenge and deliver this much needed BAME business support. As you know I will not be part of this journey as the Chair as I have decided to resign at this AGM, however I will continue to work alongside the team, in one capacity or another.

I would like to end my report with an invitation to join the Board! BSWN, would particularly welcome BAME individuals with fundraising and strong governance skills.

900

Community members reached through newsletters



53

New partners



21,6000

Twitter impressions in October 2017

21

New members



44

Volunteers trained and equipped

Event attendees

849

New followers **389**



Strategic meetings attended

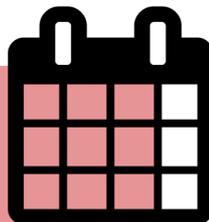
92

2,635

Website visitors

21

Events organised



Cultural Inclusion

Our cultural inclusions work focuses on the relationships between heritage of race, identity, and belonging for the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) community in Bristol. Recent local and national events have thrust into the spotlight the complicated nature of race and racism, nation, citizenship, inequality, and belonging in the UK, and at the centre of many of these debates are the BAME community. Our projects aid in developing and delivering arts and heritage projects in partnership with the BAME communities, BAME led arts organisations, and mainstream arts and heritage organisations.



#ThereIsBlackInTheUnionJack Project - Heritage Lottery Funded project, focused on the relationships between **heritage of race, identity, and belonging** for the Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) community in Bristol.

5 Events

24 Speakers

19 Volunteers

329 Attendees

185 Documentary views

Bristol Somali Festival 2017 (BSF2017) - an annual sister to the week-long Somali Festival in London. 3rd year running, the 2017 festival focused on the concept on **identity, belonging** and **role of culture** within the diaspora community.

3 Events

20 Speakers

21 Volunteers

220 Attendees

Through our Cultural Inclusion projects, we were able to engage **816** community members, organisations and public sector figures in the South West.

Policy, Research & Community Consultations

BSWN is research and data-driven and we seek to utilise robust and academically sound information collected through strong ties with academic institutions, think tanks and funders to highlight the issues that BAME communities face. The consultation and research that we do provides a flow of information that allows marginalised voices the opportunity to be heard and influence the decision and policy making process in the city.

BSWN also works in partnership with key city institutions and structures such as City Office - One City Plan, Strategic City Funds, as well as attending key strategic meetings to inform public policy. In addition, working with national partners BSWN has been able to also contribute to national policy through participation in CORE - Coalition of Race Equality organisations working together to address racial inequality.



Between April 2017 and March 2018, BSWN facilitated and participated in the following events and consultations:

- 24/04/17** BSWN Consultation for Bristol's Targeted Youth Services
- 02/06/17** Community Round Table Meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) Sue Mountstevens
- 20/09/17** 'A discussion with the Muslim community - developing community led approach to issues facing the community'
- 28/09/17** Taking Action on Race Inequality round table event
- 05/12/17** 'Race Disparity Audit: So what's new?'
- 17/01/18** BSWN gives evidence at the Westminster to house of Commons Women's & Equalities Committee
- 21/03/18** 'Race Roundtable: How Fair is Britain?'

7 Events

34 Speakers

155 Attendees

10 Reports produced & submitted

50+ Strategic meetings attended

Economic Inclusion

Despite the great potential and economic growth in the city of Bristol, it is well documented that the wealth is not shared equally across its inhabitants, with BAME groups being disproportionately disadvantaged when it come to access economic opportunities. BSWN working with partners has developed an economic inclusion strategy underpinned by the concept of 'Inclusive Growth' in order to drive economic growth in inner city Bristol. The approach is place based - to build the infrastructure required to help economic activity at a community level. The strategy focusses on enterprise, social enterprise and skills development situated within an innovation and enterprise hub.

Our commitment to Inclusive growth and challenging economic inequality is demonstrated by our facilitation and participation in the following events:

08/11/17 West of England Economic Growth Conference

11/12/2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & 'Inclusive Growth – a mechanism for addressing inequality?'

Furthermore, the first half of 2018 has seen a significant progress in the development of our Economic Inclusion Strategy through commissioned funding by Bristol City Council to undertake research on BAME businesses, provision of policy briefs to the West of England Combined Authority, and consultations and securing project funding from Barrow Cadbury Trust to deliver a project on developing the BAME social enterprise and social investment market.



2

Events

9

Strategic partners

11

Speakers

180

Attendees

Political Participation

In order to effectively challenge racial inequality, BSWN uses its expertise to facilitate dialogues and develop relationships between stakeholders through which progress can be achieved in a manner that ensures adequate voice for the BAME communities. BSWN actively works on strengthening the voice of BAME communities in influencing the development and design of policies and services through engagement with decision makers. This encourages wider participation with the democratic processes in the city.

Our mission to widen political participation was illustrated by organising two West of England Mayoral Election 2017 BAME Roundtable Events, one on the 13th and the other on the 21st April 2017. Organising two events allowed us to engage all 5 candidates for the post of the Metro Mayor, as well as provided two opportunities for community members to engage the candidates of crucial community concerns.

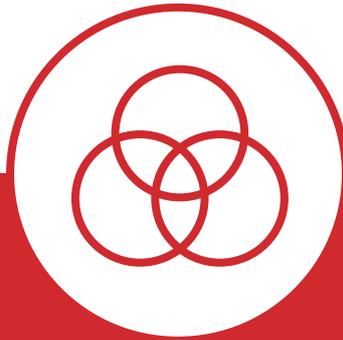
- 2** Events
- 11** Speakers
- 32** Attendees



Focus for the next Three years



Sector Development



**Economic/ Cultural
Inclusion**



Data/research

Over the next 3 years, BSWN aims to;

- 1.** Deliver the Connect Fund project and recommendations of Power to Change BAME VCS sector research report to strengthen the capacity of BAME organisations and social enterprises to be resilient, connected and sustainable in order to deliver change on the ground
- 2.** Build BSWN research capacity to produce robust data on racial inequality to challenge and address negative outcomes for BAME people in education, labour market, health & housing through partnership work academic institutions in the region
- 3.** Test the implementation of BSWN's economic inclusion strategy aimed at driving economic growth through

the development of enterprise, social enterprise and skills development through an innovation hub located in inner city Bristol

- 4.** Produce cultural inclusion programmes on the themes of race, identity, belonging as well the development of BSWN as a leading BAME ICH infrastructure org in line with the HLF Resilience bid BSWN also works in partnership with key city institutions and structures such City Office - One City Plan, Strategic City Funds, as well as attending key strategic meetings to inform public policy. In addition, working with national partners BSWN has been able to also contribute to national policy through participation in CORE - Coalition of Race Equality organisations working together to address racial inequality.

Get Involved

Why?

42% of event attendees hear about our upcoming events and opportunities via our newsletter

42% of attendees found our event and consultation standard excellent, 53% ranked them very good

78% of event attendees found the content of our events very useful

60% round the quality of speakers invited excellent

How?

Membership

At present we do not charge a membership fee. To find out more about our membership and to apply, please click here (link).

Become a Trustee

BSWN is looking to welcome experienced trustees to join us in achieving our mission, so if yourself or anyone you know would be interested in joining our Board of Trustees, please email Mina on mina@bswn.org.uk for an Application Form.

Sign up for our newsletter

Contact us via our website to register your interest in joining our 1000-strong group of newsletter recipients (website contact page link).

“It was well attended, lovely mix of men and women, wonderful atmosphere, programme worked well ! It was wonderful to see so many people from the Somali community coming to M Shed for the first time which hopefully raises awareness that the museum is for everyone, great collaboration between the organisers and fantastic to see Somali leaders in the city working together.” **(Somali Identity attendee)**

“There are already too few Black-led/ equality perspective organisations at strategic tables with influence. BSWN is helping to address this. If BSWN was not there organisations like the LA would find it harder to understand and connect with BME communities in an organised way.” **(Community partner)**

“It is really important BAME communities are connected and organised in order to improve conditions for BAME communities and influence the city. BSWN has a crucial role to play.” **(Community partner)**



www.blacksouthwestnetwork.org



@BlackSWNet