

ACCM(UK) wins funding to promote organ donation in the African, Caribbean and South Asian Communities

ACCM(UK) is joining the campaign to address the urgent need for more lifesaving organ donors from the BAME community.

It successfully bid for funding to carry out a project to break down myths and increase support for donation, and ensure that people know that the law in England is changing next spring and understand their choices.

ACCM(UK) is among 26 faith and community-based organisations to have secured funding to educate communities about donation after death through the BAME Community Investment Scheme led by NHS Blood and Transplant.

The scheme is part of a Government-funded campaign to address the critical shortage of organ donors from black, Asian, mixed race and minority ethnic backgrounds.

Through presentations, talks and workshops, we aim to raise awareness about organ donation and the change in the law and what it means for donors, recipients and their families. The whole of the project will be tailored to the needs of the targeted community, addressing faith, culture and taking into account the language barriers faced by the community.

“Let’s bring honour to the ‘end of life stage’ by donating organs and giving the gift of life to others”.

As well as promoting donation, the project will have an important role to play in building awareness and understanding of the upcoming law change as well as ensuring that people make their donation decision upon the facts.

From spring 2020 all adults in England will be considered as having agreed to donate their organs when they die unless they record a decision not to donate, known as ‘opt out’, or are in one of the groups not covered by the new law.

An opt out system for organ donation was introduced in Wales in December 2015 and in Jersey in July 2019 and will also be introduced in Scotland in autumn 2020. Families will still always be involved in organ donation, so it is vital that they know your choice.

The Community Investment Scheme was open to any faith or community-based organisation working within black, Asian, mixed race and minority ethnic communities in England and Wales.

Organisations were invited to bid by outlining how their project could positively engage their community in organ donation. All applications were reviewed by an independent judging panel. This is the second round of the scheme.

Millie Banerjee, Chairman of NHS Blood and Transplant, said: “We know that trusted, community-led or local organisations can make a real difference in dispelling myths, overcoming barriers and changing attitudes to organ donation.

“The projects from **ACCM(UK)** and other organisations funded under this round of the scheme will build on the inspiring work of the round one projects, bringing a positive organ donation message to an even broader spectrum of faiths and communities.

“This passion for saving lives will, I hope, encourage more people from black, Asian, mixed race and minority ethnic backgrounds to decide they want to be an organ donor and share that decision with their families.”

*A total of £204,892.73 was awarded to 26 projects. This was funded by the Department of Health and Social Care. A total of 66 funding applications were received. Projects were given the options of completion by June 2020, October 2020 or March 2021.



ACCM(UK) Organ Donation Project Team

- For additional information about the project please contact **Sat Paul** at **ACCM(UK)**
- For additional information about the BAME Community Investment Scheme please contact Rachel Newton at the NHS Blood and Transplant press office on 01923 367600 or email rachel.newton@nhsbt.nhs.uk