

PRESS RELEASE

STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL: 11.30am on Tuesday 16th February 2021

The UK's first and largest survey of its kind documenting the lives of ethnic and religious minority people during Covid-19 launches today

The UK's first and largest survey of its kind to document the impact of Covid-19, and the lockdowns, on the lives of 17,000 ethnic and religious minority people will be announced at a virtual press conference today (**Tuesday 16th February 2021**).

The Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS) aims to transform the policy landscape, inform work and campaigns for racial justice, and create a data legacy by providing robust evidence on a comprehensive range of issues facing ethnic and religious minority people during the pandemic. Among the topics to be surveyed are employment, finance, education, economic wellbeing, health, housing, policing, identity and experiences of discrimination and racism.

Led by the Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE) in partnership with the University of Manchester, the University of St Andrews and the University of Sussex, EVENS is being conducted by Ipsos MORI and has been translated into 13 languages. The 30-minute survey will target the full range of ethnic and religious minority groups, including Gypsy, Traveller and Roma people and Jewish communities, across England, Scotland and Wales, and will run for three months until May 2021.

Dr Nissa Finney, EVENS' Lead and Reader in Human Geography at the University of St Andrews, said: "Disadvantages of ethnic and religious minority people have been highlighted and exacerbated by the period of austerity, followed by the Covid-19 pandemic, meaning there is an urgent need to act to mitigate growing inequalities. EVENS will give us a unique and authentic representation of the lives of ethnic and religious minority people in Britain during the current crisis."

Professor James Nazroo, Deputy Director of CoDE and EVENS' Co-Lead, said: "This ground-breaking survey will help shift the narrative on ethnic and religious inequalities in modern Britain. We will be asking how your life has been affected by the pandemic. We will ask about work and health, caring and housing. We will ask about experiences of racism and discrimination. There is an urgency as practitioners and policymakers are crying out for robust and comprehensive scientific evidence that they can use to understand and address the inequalities faced by ethnic and religious minority people. EVENS will provide that evidence."

EVENS is partnering with a diverse range of Voluntary and Community Sector organisations, including Operation Black Vote (OBV), the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), The Ubele Initiative, the Stuart Hall Foundation, EYST (Wales), Migrants' Rights Network, BEMIS (Scotland), the Race Equality Foundation and Business in the Community, who will assist with the recruitment drive.

Zara Mohammed, the new Elected Secretary General, MCB, said: "EVENS will benefit society as a whole because it will be a snapshot of people's experiences and point out where something needs to be done. It also aims to reach out to Muslim respondents to a far greater degree and with a wider range of questions affecting their daily lives than other social surveys. Even before the Covid crisis, the MCB was highlighting poorer health among elderly Muslim women, and for some time now, we have been collecting evidence of Islamophobia. EVENS will provide comprehensive, evidence-based and up to date information to better highlight and address such inequalities and forms of discrimination."

Ellie Rogers, CEO of Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Exchange (Leeds GATE), said: "Gypsies and Travellers have some very important cultural practices that we could all learn from. Especially when it comes to the ways in which communities turn up for each other and the respect they show, especially in death and mourning. During Covid, I have seen some dehumanising responses to people who are in a very vulnerable place due to losing a loved one. Instead of valuing the communities' assets and working with them, they have been demonised and made out to be criminals. Through the survey, I want people's experiences to be seen, heard and respected."

Dr Nissa Finney added: "When published, EVENS will help place ethnic inequalities and racism firmly on the political and policy agenda in an enduring manner. The data will be freely available and can be used by anyone, from our VCSE partners, activists and politicians to policymakers, campaigners, NGOs and Experts by Experience in the UK. As well as showing us what the key problems of disadvantage and inequality are for particular groups, we want people to be able to evidence the inequalities and how they should be addressed."

Guest speakers at the virtual press launch on Tuesday 16th February 2021, which will be chaired by award-winning journalist, writer and academic Professor Gary Younge, include Molly Rosenberg, Director, the Royal Society of Literature, Sir Simon Woolley, Director, OBV, Claire Rice, Community Engagement Worker, GATEHerts and Dr Dharmi Kapdia, Lead Researcher, CoDE alongside Zara Mohammed, Professor James Nazroo and Dr Nissa Finney.

Ends

Media contact

Joy Francis, Words of Colour Productions

Email: joy@wordsofcolour.co.uk **Tel:** 0203 176 5646 **Mobile:** 07985 159 232

Official hashtag: #EVENSurvey

Press Pack: You can access the press assets here: (<http://bit.ly/evenspresspack>)

Media interviews:

If you would like to interview any of the EVENS research team or guest speakers, before or after the launch, contact Joy Francis.

Notes to the Editor

The Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS) is under strict embargo until its official press launch at 11.30am-12.45pm on Tuesday 16th February 2021 on Zoom.

Confirmed speakers at the press launch are:

Chair: Professor Gary Younge, University of Manchester

Guest speakers: Professor James Nazroo (Deputy Director, CoDE), Dr Nissa Finney (EVENS' Lead), Dr Dharmi Kapadia (Lead Researcher, CoDE), Molly Rosenberg (Director, Royal Society of Literature), Sir Simon Woolley (Director, Operation Black Vote), Zara Mohammed (Elected Secretary General, Muslim Council of Britain) and Claire Rice (Community Engagement Worker, GATEHerts).

The event will have BSL interpreters.

If you would like to attend, please email Joy Francis (joy@wordsofcolour.co.uk) to be sent the link.

About the Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS) | ethnicity.ac.uk/evensurvey

EVENS is being undertaken by CoDE researchers at the University of Manchester, the University of St Andrews and the University of Sussex in collaboration with Ipsos MORI. Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, the survey will run from February to May 2021 and aims to recruit 20,000 participants, including 17,000 from ethnic and religious minority groups. EVENS will provide comprehensive and robust documentation of how the Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdowns are affecting ethnic and religious minority people in England, Scotland and Wales.

About the Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE) | ethnicity.ac.uk

CoDE is the UK's leading research centre (led at the University of Manchester) pioneering theoretically informed, empirically grounded and policy relevant research on ethnic inequalities in the UK. The Centre brings together expertise from a range of disciplines including sociology, demography, economics, history, geography, political science and cultural studies, and seeks to communicate the research to a wide range of audiences.

Information on how to participate in EVENS: (The link is under embargo and will not be live until 11.30am on Tuesday 16th February 2021)

Take part in the online survey here: bit.ly/evensurvey

To participate via telephone

To take part or to ask for further information via the telephone you can call a freephone number: **0808 1296800** (a voicemail retrieval service, you can leave your contact details and you will be called back with help to answer your query or to conduct the registration survey to see if you are eligible for the main survey).

To participate in a language other than English

Participants can take part in EVENS online or via telephone in the following 13 non-English languages: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Gujarati, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi: Gurmukhi, Punjabi: Urdu, Romanian, Somali, Turkish, Urdu, Welsh.

For full details about participation, visit the survey information page: evenssurveyinfo.ipsos-mori.com.

Participants who complete the survey in full will receive a gift voucher.

EVENS will cover the following subjects:

1. **Demographic characteristics.** Including age, gender, sexual orientation, household composition, tenure and type of accommodation, marital status.
2. **Socioeconomic characteristics.** Including current economic activity, number of hours worked, employment characteristics related to Covid-19 (such as being a key worker), personal and household income, use of benefits, training and education, and financial worries.
3. **Ethnicity and migration.** Including ethnic and religious identity, country of birth, year of arrival to UK, nationality, feelings of belonging to England/Scotland/Wales.

4. **Racism and discrimination.** Including experiences of racism and discrimination, anticipation of discrimination, and coping mechanisms.
5. **Health.** Including general health, long-term illnesses, mental health, social isolation, Covid-19 related symptoms, Covid-19 vaccination and experiences accessing the NHS.
6. **Black Lives Matter.** Including participation in protests, support of movement, and opinion of the impact of BLM on society.
7. **Caring and volunteering.** Including caring activities not related to Covid-19, Covid-19 related caring, volunteering in the community, and receipt of care.
8. **Social cohesion.** Including feelings of belonging to neighbourhood and to local area.
9. **Attitudes towards the police.** Including confidence and trust in the police, experience of stop and search, being stopped in relation to lockdown, and overall sense of police activity in the community.
10. **Political participation.** Including trust in government and politicians, political interest, and political affiliation.