



**UK BME ANTI-
SLAVERY NETWORK**

Press Release

20 May 2024

BASNET Holds Second Residential Capacity Building Programme in Manchester To Empower Ethnic Anti-Trafficking Innovators

BASNET - The UK BME Anti-Slavery Network will hold its second residential capacity-building programme for UK Black and Ethnic anti-trafficking innovators in Manchester from 21 to 23 May 2024 to equip 14 participants with essential organisational skills to effectively address modern slavery issues within their communities.

BASNET, a project of AFRUCA Safeguarding Children - a leading UK charity combating modern slavery and child trafficking in Black communities nationwide, is spearheading this programme with funding from Esmee Fairbairn Foundation.

The first BASNET residential capacity building programme was held in 2022 with funding from the Churchill Foundation Activate Fund and attracted 14 participants focusing on different aspects of modern slavery as part of their work drawn from across England. An independent evaluation of the programme concluded: "The marked increase in skills and confidence demonstrated by the participants both post-course and after 9 months indicates the areas where the training has been most effective and...has given them the tools and opportunity to portray the impact of their work and to become effective voices in representing the multitude of issues organisations face working in safeguarding and anti-trafficking."

This year's residential programme aims to replicate the achievements of the 2022 programme with 14 participants from across the UK and Nigeria. Over three days, participants will engage with sector experts to undergo comprehensive training on essential organisational skills, including grant fundraising essentials, theory of change development, impact evaluation, strategic planning, and communication strategies. The programme will also provide space and opportunities for reflection, networking and partnership building among participants. By extending participation to a BASNET Associate member in Nigeria, BASNET also aims to explore the potential to expand the capacity building residential programme outside the UK to help meet the needs of anti-trafficking organisations in other countries.

Debbie Ariyo OBE, Chair of BASNET remarked, *"I am really delighted we are able to deliver this second residential capacity building programme for BASNET members. This demonstrates our full commitment at AFRUCA-BASNET to ensure the effective tackling of modern slavery and human trafficking in our communities"*.

Programme delegates expressed their enthusiasm and motivation for participating:

Mackenzie Lunga, Founder and CEO of Masheba CIC, Leeds: "I am eager to actively learn, engage, and contribute to the BASNET vision, working in collaboration and partnership with all stakeholders to support our marginalised communities."

Angela Nduka, Founder and CEO of The Economic Forum for Family Empowerment Scotland: *"I am over excited to attend BASNET Residential Capacity Building programme for Anti-Trafficking Innovators. It's going to be a very great opportunity for me to better understand what Modern slavery encompasses - sexual exploitation, forced labour, child slavery, forced criminality, domestic servitude, forced marriage, organ harvesting, and human trafficking and how to end Modern-day slavery."*

Moyo Opeyibi, Founder and CEO of Noble Arise CIC, Manchester: "I am looking forward to being a part of BASNET Residential Capacity Building Programme because it will better position me and my organisation to develop our skills and expertise in this area of work and also be able to connect with like-minded people."

Note to Editors: AFRUCA – Safeguarding Children advocates for the well-being and protection of children and families in Black and Ethnic communities across the UK. The UK BME Anti-Slavery Network (BASNET) operates under AFRUCA – Safeguarding Children and champions race equality, diversity, and inclusion in the UK modern slavery and human trafficking sector. The BASNET Residential Capacity Building Programme is funded by Esmee Fairbairn Foundation

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