**SMF webinar - decolonising midwifery education**

**Panel biographies**

**Toyin Adeyinka**

I'm a mum to a 10 year old boy. I chair Lewisham's maternity voices partnership and lead on the Nova Network - which is a peer support group for MVP chairs and service user reps who are Black, Asian and those that identify with other Ethnic minority groups. I have a strong belief that if we improve maternity care for those that are deemed as vulnerable then all that use maternity will benefit. We have started, working alongside women and staff to get a better understanding of what's needed to improve care for now and the future.

**Chelsea Beckford-Procyk**

Chelsea is a final year student midwife at the University of Bedfordshire, hypnobirthing practitioner and anti-racism educator She passionate about continuity of carer, the use of hypnobirthing during pregnancy and childbirth and is an advocate for maternal health inequality reduction. In the future, Chelsea hopes to be a force for change in improving the maternal mortality rates that disproportionately affect Black, Asian and ethnic minority women and birthing people in the UK. She believes the decolonisation of midwifery education would benefit not only student midwives and birthing people, but also society as a whole.

**Natalie Goodyear**

Newly qualified midwife, mother of four and grandmother. Student researcher at Kings College London. Author of the Midwifes’ Pledge. Student midwife advocate. Reading midwifery at degree level illuminated to me that a polarised Eurocentric lens is utilised which centres the anatomical features of white European bodies excluding Black and brown bodies.Reluctance to create inclusive physiology modules and unlearn biased attitudes and care Is also axiomatic to the complex issues Black and Asian birthing people face when receiving maternity care in the UK.

This inspired my writing the midwifes pledge which urges midwives to take affirmative action in their anti-racism efforts, providing an ethical and moral template which has been reproduced and utilised by midwives and birth workers. During my studies I have undertaken roles in two research projects, the latest of which interrogated the undergraduate attainment gaps which exist between different student groups within KCL.

**Edward Lampart:**

Birthing And Maternity Education (BAME) Birthing With Colour is an initiative that highlights maternity issues facing diverse communities. The programme is led by Helen Knower, Director of Midwifery, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust and organised by UK registered charity The Brun Bear Foundation which is headed by Edwin Lampert.

BAME Birthing With Colour’s programme of courses, webinars, podcasts, live and on-demand video lectures, documentaries and events drive better maternity outcomes for all women, babies and their

families and especially those that come from communities which experienced poor outcomes relative to the majority population. Community membership funds bursaries, research, education,

equipment, innovation, and the publishing of essential information in different languages in support of our core mission: better maternity outcomes for all women, babies and their families.

The BAME Birthing With Colour Annual Bursary is a £1000 award funded out of the proceeds of the annual BAME Birthing With Colour Conference. The purpose of this bursary is to enable the award

winner to plan, develop, implement and review a project aimed at benefitting vulnerable women/families in Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust’s care. We are looking to bring the bursary -

and the tremendous opportunity it represents - to as wide an audience as possible.

**Kelly Mitchell**

I’m a mum of three and I’ve been a midwife for over eight years, a vocation i hold dearly to my heart. When Eni approached me with the invite to speak about this topic I was honoured. Coming from a mixed background I feel very comfortable talking about the inequalities and lack of diversity within the teaching and system. Although I believe most are aware of this as a problem I also see there is little understanding into why. I’m lucky to work in London which has such a rich diverse population but this is not always reflected in practice.

The NHS has commissioned numerous investigations into aspects of this and we’re all aware of the spotlight being held over the BAME community recently with both positive and negative outcomes. I personally feel if we all hold ourselves accountable and are present change will happen. A lot of untruths need to be unlearned and difficult discussions need to be had and not avoided, However we have to first agree this is a problem which unbelievably is not always the case.