



A grant by Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales (LBFEW) has just been issued through SafeLives to support the H.O.P.E Network, to help improve the response to domestic abuse for survivors from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities.

This grant will support a further round of H.O.P.E national network meetings as a collaborative, networking forum for specialist practitioners, and to collate and provide data in relation to the experiences of domestic abuse of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and the agencies supporting them during C19.

Dr Olumide Adisa and Dr Roxanne Khan from the University of Suffolk and HARM (Honour Abuse Research Matrix) at UCLan respectively will use the data from H.O.P.E meetings to inform a mapping exercise, resulting in a report written in a jargon-free, accessible style about survivor's experiences, and the experiences of the incredible practitioners who are supporting them.

The grant will also be used to enable H.O.P.E to run a series of webinars for organisations covering domestic abuse/sexual violence/abuse from the perspective of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. These sessions will then be linked with the Domestic Abuse Research Network* (DARNet) and developed further into Cultural Competency training sessions for continuous professional development, sharing the learning from the network as far as possible.

Meena, founder of H.O.P.E, says *"I am so grateful to Lloyds Bank Foundation for the grant and to be working with SafeLives to continue a lot of the work I started in 2020. Hearing the voices of minoritised communities is something that is really important to me and something I wish to continue."*

Suzanne Jacob, of SafeLives, says *"We're delighted Lloyds Bank Foundation are supporting Meena and the H.O.P.E network. So many amazing organisations and individual practitioners are part of it. This support means the H.O.P.E network can continue to develop, raising awareness of the experience of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities experiencing domestic abuse."*

Dr Olumide Adisa, founder of DARNet and Head of Centre for Abuse Research says, *"We are delighted that both LBFEW and Safelives are supporting the H.O.P.E network. There is an urgent need to amplify survivors' voices from Black and minoritised communities and to confront perpetration of domestic abuse within these communities. Knowledge exchange is an important thread in our approach to research and evaluation work on domestic abuse at the University of Suffolk, and we look forward to working together with the H.O.P.E network on this important initiative."*

Dr Roxanne Khan, Director of HARM Network says: *"It's both an honour and a pleasure to be involved in this vital project with H.O.P.E and partners. This work should ignite the domestic abuse sector. Our findings should open eyes, change attitudes, and ultimately, lead to better support for minority ethnic victims."*

Notes

* DARNet is based in the Centre for Abuse Research at the University of Suffolk. DARNet was created in 2019 by DrOlumide Adisa to support knowledge exchange events and collaborative research as well as enable practitioners, commissioners, and academics to connect with current issues and research on domestic abuse in the East of England region. The network currently has over 250 members.