

# BAME Britons write to PM to demand full public inquiry

11 May 2020

More than 70 BAME British figures have united to call for an independent public inquiry into the disproportionate deaths from COVID-19 amongst Britons from minority backgrounds.

The broad coalition of signatories from across society includes industry experts and people in public life such as; Phil Wang, Kwame Kwei-Armah, Saloum N'jie, Bonnie Greer OBE, Farooq Chaudhry OBE, Matt Henry MBE, Shaun Escoffery and Jermaine Jackman.

The letter calls for the inquiry to be broadened to include a focus on the levels of exposure BAME staff are facing, and whether employers are fulfilling their duty of care.

“Covid-19 is clearly now one of the biggest issues in post-war history, directing a spotlight on race and health inequalities.”

Proud to sign with others calling for @BorisJohnson to launch a public inquiry into the disproportionate impact of covid-19 on BAME communities  
[pic.twitter.com/Ks7ODoMxiR](https://pic.twitter.com/Ks7ODoMxiR)

— JermainJackman(@JermainJackman) May 10, 2020

The letter also asks whether Government emergency planning fulfilled the Public Sector Equalities Duty by factoring in the needs of BAME communities.

Faith leaders including Harun Khan, the Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain, and the Very Reverend Rodgers Govender, Dean of Manchester Cathedral, have signed the letter.

## On race and health inequalities the letter says:

“COVID-19 is clearly now one of the biggest issues in post-war history, directing a spotlight on race and health inequalities.”

A “transparent process” would “restore public confidence”, the letter says:



“By instigating such an inquiry, the government will provide an opportunity for a range of stakeholders to submit evidence through a transparent process.

“This would help to restore public confidence amongst the UK’s BAME community.

“An inquiry will provide key findings and offer clear recommendations for systemic or transformational change around the role of the public sector and race equality in Britain.”

**“ @BorisJohnson**

**"We are a broad coalition of individuals united on this vitally important issue @WeNeed\_Answers**

**"Please support us with an independent public inquiry into the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on the UK’s BAME communities.#WeNeedAnswers  
pic.twitter.com/0HkYI3Wvrt**

**— Rehana Azam (@RehanaAzam) May 10, 2020**