



# Migrant Centre NI

## The Global Majority Fund

### **GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS**

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Migrant Centre NI is delighted to be able to make third round of grants available to support communities experiencing racial inequality across Northern Ireland. The Global Majority Fund aims to help diverse communities disproportionately impacted by Covid-19 in the UK.

Migrant Centre NI is a registered Charity and a limited company. The organisation was initially established as the Belfast Migrant Centre in 2010 and officially recognised as a charity in March 2012. In 2014, to reflect the work of the organisation the name was changed to the current Migrant Centre NI.

Our overall aim is to tackle racism and eliminate barriers against new and settled migrant communities across Northern Ireland.

MCNI was established to protect the rights of migrant workers in NI, tackle racism, eliminate barriers against migrant workers, advance education and raise public awareness about their rights. MCNI has 3 offices across NI, in Belfast, Lurgan and Derry~Londonderry.

### **HOW DOES THIS FUND WORK?**

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Fund opens on **Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021**.

Deadline for expression of interest forms is **Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 5pm GMT**.

You can apply for a minimum grant of £5,000 up to a maximum amount of £15,000 for a project continuation or £20,000 for a new project.

The groups will get 50% of the money applied for upfront and once claimed further amounts will become available. Projects should be able to start in October 2021. Grants will be awarded for 12 months.

Groups may only submit one application and can only have one successful application funded at any time. Groups funded in previous rounds of BAME COVID-19 Recovery Fund are eligible to apply but priority might be given to groups that have not been funded before.

### **THE APPLICATION PROCESS**

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#### **Step 1: Expression of interest form**

This form is available here online: [Expression of Interest Form](#)

It should be filled in online. If you are finding this difficult, please contact our grants team to discuss alternative arrangements.

The expression of interest should give us an idea of what project you would like to deliver or continue. We will also need to know how much you would like to apply for and what that money will be spent on.

Please note you will not be able to save & return to the form so we have prepared this document to help you prepare the answers: [Questions you will need to answer](#).

We strongly recommend saving a copy of your answers.

## **Step 2: Interview**

Successful groups will be invited to a ZOOM or face-to-face interview to discuss their expression of interest form. The interview (ZOOM meeting) is a conversation about your project. Instead of filling in a traditional application form we will give you a chance to talk about your project and then ask you a few additional questions about the community, organisation and management.

Invitations will be emailed to groups after the closing date and once all expressions of interest have been reviewed. We aim to start the interviews week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> September however depending on a number of applicants this process might take a few weeks to complete.

Successful groups will be informed of the decision in mid-October 2021.

## **WHO CAN APPLY?**

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Constituted Community and Voluntary Sector organisations that are led by representatives of communities experiencing racial inequality or BAME-led and focused on the needs within BAME communities in Northern Ireland.

Unconstituted groups might also be able to apply for this funding but they need to contact the Migrant Centre NI prior to making the application.

The expectation is that the groups applying for this funding have the trust of the communities they work with and an understanding of the needs. We will not fund one off events or conferences but rather focus on the sustainability of the organisations or longer-term impact that can bring about change for the community.

Note: to be regarded as a BAME-led organisation you need to have at least 51% of staff, Board and volunteers being from BAME background themselves. You must also be serving BAME communities with at least 75% of your service users being BAME.

If you would like to apply in partnership with a non BAME-led organisation they cannot be the lead partner.

We do understand the issues around the term 'BAME' and fully appreciate that this is not a homogenous group. When we talk about communities experiencing racial inequality, we refer to individuals and communities which are usually defined as 'Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic' (BAME), a term widely used by government departments, public bodies, the media and others when referring to ethnic minority groups. The acronym 'BAME' may be seen as problematic as it strips away individual identities and assumes we all share the same experiences, challenges and barriers to representation.

## **HOW WILL DECISIONS BE MADE?**

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Migrant Centre NI may not be able to fund all projects as there may be more applications than there is funding available. However, all applications will be considered carefully. They will be looked at and assessed by a panel and feedback will be provided where requested.

As this funding targets those most marginalised we will be happy to work with the groups to make sure the application process is not deterring them from making an application.

For those community groups that are not constituted and have no or little experience of grant making Migrant Centre NI might put them in touch with bigger organisations who will be able to support them through the process or provide them with a bank account should the group not have one. We will also require our granted partner groups to attend capacity building meetings and/or training where we believe this would be beneficial.

## **WHAT CAN WE FUND?**

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We will fund projects that mainly focus on:

- Domestic abuse
- Hate Crime and community safety
- Poor or worsening mental or physical health
- Interrupted or limited access to advice and services
- Homelessness and insecure shelter
- The increasingly hostile environment faced by migrants, undocumented groups, people seeking asylum and refugees
- Communities with no recourse to public funds

This list is not exhaustive, and we encourage applicants to share with us the context and issues specific communities are facing as a result of Covid-19 in their application.

Some examples of what your funding might support (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Support the ongoing needs of communities who have elevated risk factors which increase their vulnerability to Covid-19;
- Support activities that relieve pressure on local statutory services, particularly emergency or health and social care provision, or compliment their response;
- Groups and activities that support people who are self-isolating (older people, people with pre-existing medical conditions...etc.);
- Immediate response interventions such as foodbanks or other hardship funds caused by Covid-19;
- Volunteer costs for new and existing organisations responding to the effect of the crisis;
- Additional costs of working remotely and adapting services delivered in the wider community;
- Additional support as required for emotional support, mental health and bereavement support.

We intend to prioritise the provision of services to those in high risk groups:

- Experiencing or at risk of domestic abuse
- Experiencing poor or worsening mental health (compulsion, addiction, depression, isolation, self-harm, suicide, eating disorder)
- Experiencing poor or worsening physical health
- Experiencing poor or interrupted access to advice and services
- Experiencing or at risk of homelessness
- Living with conditions and/or a disability that increases their risk-related risks to COVID-19
- In poverty or at risk of poverty
- Refugees, asylum seekers and those who have no recourse to public funds
- Bereavement

- Children and young people receiving low quality education or access to education
- Other vulnerabilities
  - Organisations in support of activities that relieve pressure on local statutory services, particularly emergency or health and social care provision, or compliment their response
  - Groups and activities that support vulnerable people self-isolating (the elderly, people with pre-existing medical conditions etc)
  - Support for food banks and organisations working to combat hardship caused by the pandemic including child hunger
  - Community response coordination
  - Organisations or informal groups that have been specifically established to respond to the crisis
  - Volunteer costs for new and existing organisations responding to the effect of the crisis
  - Additional costs of working remotely and adapting services delivered in the wider community
  - Additional support as required for emotional support, mental health and bereavement support
  - Support for organisations that provide support for vulnerable groups to counter the loss of income and fundraising which can be directly linked to the pandemic

Please note we limit the number of mobile devices, computers, laptops and tablets to 2 per application. We cannot fund equipment to give out to service users.

Grants can be used for project and/or activity costs or core costs.

1. Project costs should be to support the BAME communities in Northern Ireland through the impact of COVID-19. Applications can be for new projects which applicants are well placed to deliver, or to expand existing projects, or to fund existing work applicants are doing which is currently not funded. Applications cannot be for work which is already funded by someone else.
2. Core costs: may include rent, salaries, electricity bills, IT costs etc.

## **INELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE**

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The following costs are Ineligible Expenditure therefore we will NOT fund:

- × Funding that supports lobbying or activity intended to influence or attempt to influence Parliament, Government or political parties, or attempting to influence the awarding or renewal of contracts and grants, or attempting to influence legislative or regulatory action. <sup>1</sup>
- × Using grant funding to petition for additional funding;
- × Input VAT reclaimable by Intermediaries from HMRC;

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<sup>1</sup> Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, we recognise the importance of an independent civil society sector. We, therefore, recognise that Our Funded Partners are entitled to campaign within the law, in order to advance their aims, and that a reasonable portion of Funding given to Our Funded Partners may be used in this way;

- × Payments for activities of a political or exclusively religious nature;
- × Payments reimbursed or to be reimbursed by other public or private sector grants;
- × Contributions in kind (i.e. a contribution in goods or services, as opposed to money);
- × Interest payments (including service charge payments for finance leases);
- × Gifts to individuals other than promotional items with a value of no more than £25 a year to any one individual; We cannot fund equipment for service users;
- × Entertaining (entertaining for this purpose means anything that would be a taxable benefit to the person being entertained, according to current UK tax regulations);
- × Statutory fines, criminal fines or penalties;
- × Liabilities incurred before the issue of this funding agreement;
- × Use in respect of costs reimbursed or to be reimbursed by funding from any other source; and
- × Use to purchase buildings or land.

If applicants operate in more than one area in the UK (i.e. national organisations applying to NI fund), we will need to ensure that there are no concerns or duplication of funding. Our focus is on grassroots locally based groups.

## **THE REPORTING PROCESS**

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Grant funded partner organisations must report to Migrant Centre NI on the progress of the project. This will include sending us reports of progress with activities, as well as financial reports on use of the grant money. We will communicate with grantees about reporting timelines at the contract signing stage. Progress reports will include some statistical data that the groups will be informed upfront of what needs to be collected but we will work with groups on creative ways of reporting and documenting change. We might accept videos, photos, statements ... the more creative the better!

Migrant Centre NI will be in contact with the granted groups throughout the process and we will invite groups to attend networking meetings to share the ideas, talk about concerns and needs and build capacity within the groups. As we understand the nature of the work might be fully on a voluntary basis, we will make sure that meetings are scheduled to suit the availability and not to be a burden.

If social distancing rules allow us, we will visit the projects / organisations to see the activities in progress at some point in the project. If this is not possible, we will work with the groups on other ways of meaningful connection.

## **Questions?**

Email: [grants@migrantcentreni.org](mailto:grants@migrantcentreni.org)