



# Migrant Centre NI

## The Global Majority Fund – Phase III

### Small grants for new and emerging BAME and Global Majority communities in Northern Ireland

#### **GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS**

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Migrant Centre NI is delighted to be able to make fifth 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 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024.

Deadline for expression of interest forms is Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at midnight.

Five grants will be made for amounts up to a maximum of £4,000 per new and emerging community group / community which needs to be spent by end of October 2025.

The funding is aimed at supporting the development of the new and emerging BAME and global majority communities in Northern Ireland.

The funding is also aimed at supporting the capacity of these groups to have a stronger voice and representation within the increasing diversity of Northern Ireland and representatives of the grantee organisations will be expected to participate in a number of training sessions as part of the conditions of accepting the grant.

## **Priority areas**

We would like to support groups which will be:

- Supporting the emergence of Newcomer of Asylum Seekers and Refugee communities
- Supporting work with young Newcomers from BAME and Global Majority backgrounds which can support integration.
- Supporting women from BAME and Global Majority backgrounds particularly those particularly vulnerable to domestic abuse.

The funds can be used for activities designed to:

- Expand the reach of the group and identify and bring together members of the groups for social, networking or peer support purposes.
- Expand upon some work which the group has already identified as a need although this cannot be a direct replication of the same work with the same group of individuals
- Develop a pilot project to address a new need which they have identified within the community because of reaching out to community members (we will ask for some form of evidence on how this need has been identified).

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 immediately.

Groups may only submit one application.

## **THE APPLICATION PROCESS**

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

The can be completed by hand or digitally. If you are finding this difficult, please contact our Grants Administrator 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.

### **Step 2: Interview**

Successful groups will be invited to a ZOOM/TEAMS or face-to-face meeting to discuss their expression of interest form. The interview (ZOOM / TEAMS 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 conduct all interviews by end of September. Depending on the number of applicants this process might take a few weeks to complete.

Successful groups will be informed of the decision as soon as possible.

## **WHO CAN APPLY?**

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The beneficiaries of this small grant funding should be relatively new BAME and Global Majority Communities who may or may not be constituted as community organisation or charities and is targeted at smaller and less established communities which could be particularly vulnerable by way of immigration status, gender, age or unfamiliarity with the region.

The grants will primarily be available to BAME and Global Majority Groups of people in constituted community groups which have been meeting on a regular basis to address a community need including addressing social isolation. However, we understand that small groups of new communities or individuals are emerging and are being supported in their development by larger community organisations and are open to applications from these informal groups if the financial distribution is managed by the third-party larger organisation. However, the BAME or Global Majority informal group members **MUST** be the only beneficiaries of the activities.

Note: to be regarded as a BAME-led organisation for the purposes of this grant you need to have at least 75% 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.

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.

## **WHAT CAN WE FUND?**

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

- Running / Core costs
- Project activity costs

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. 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 or for which a need has been identified which is currently not funded.
2. Applications cannot be for work which is already funded by someone else or which has already taken place by the time of the application
3. 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;
- × 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 also accept videos, photos, statements ... the more creative the better!

## **WORKSHOPS, INFORMATION SESSIONS AND BUILDING THE ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY OF GRANTEES**

Migrant Centre NI will be in contact with the granted groups throughout the process and we will invite groups to attend meetings and information sessions (some of which will be mandatory to attend and linked to grant payments) 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.

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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;