

Voluntary Sector Studies Network (VSSN) Day Conference  
The Bond, Birmingham

**Diversity in the spotlight: Where are diversity and inequalities in voluntary sector debates and research?**

Thursday 22 November 2018

**Black youth and loss of trust: How can black women community activists create a platform for change?**

Palmela Witter MSc  
Independent Researcher  
pewriter@yahoo.co.uk

# Introduction

- \* MSc
- \* BME mental health voluntary organisations
- \* Mainstream services
- \* Sustainability
- \* Exploitation
- \* Marginalisation
- \* Invisibility
- \* Voice

# Changing Landscape

15,300 to 17,460 (Voice4Change, 2007)

- \* Distinctiveness
- \* Uniqueness
- \* Richness
- \* Resilience
- \* Strength

# A Crisis

- \* UK Knife and gun crime
- \* 'Raw' Voices of Black Women, Mothers, Sisters – The 'Lived' Experience
- \* Community Collective Activism in Black Communities

# A Call for Collective Activism

- \* Black women in the voluntary community sector
- \* Leadership
- \* Advocacy
- \* Strategies
- \* Networks

# On My Door Step !

- \* 15 year old boy died from stab wounds
- \* Local community meetings
- \* Public demonstrations
- \* Parent support and advice
- \* Community engagement with young people, police, schools health services, wider community
- \* Ideas, suggestions

# What is the answer?

---

- \* More Youth Provision?
- \* Funding?
- \* Creative and Innovative Strategies?

# Older Black Women !

“ ..... Black women’s desire to voice their experience and collectively organise themselves is articulated through .... motherhood and family, education, employment and community activism .....”

(Etienne 2016, p46)



# References

- Etienne J. (2016) Learning in Womanist Ways. Narratives of first-generation African Caribbean Women. Trentham Books. IOE Press
- Ware P. (2013) "Very small, very quiet, a whisper ..." Black and Minority Ethnic Groups: voice and influence'. Working Paper 103, TSRC, Birmingham
- Witter P. (2017) Marginalizing diverse voices? Working with minority interests against the tide of mainstreaming. In Civil Society Organizations in Turbulent Times. A gilded web? Milbourne L and Murray U. Trentham Books. IOE Press