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## PRESS RELEASE

### London *inspire* Programme announces inaugural Black Health Inequalities Summit to be held in London

This March, the London *inspire* Programme is pleased to convene in excess of 300 people for a Summit centred on improving the health of Black Londoners. The first of its kind, the Black Health Inequalities Summit is scheduled to hold on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024**, at the **Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 0AE** between **9:30am – 4:30pm**.

The London *inspire* Programme (LiP) is a health initiative aimed at mobilising people of Black Caribbean and African heritage across the capital to take greater ownership of their health. The summit will bring together key stakeholders from the world of health, facilitating critical discussions and workshops on the theme of **'From Recognition to Action: *Community and Systems Collaboration Approaches to Improving the Health of Black Londoners*'**.

The London *inspire* Programme is co-chaired by Juliet Amoa, Associate Director in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion for Community Health and Engagement in the Borough of Lambeth and Cedi Frederick, Independent Chair at the London Legacy and Health Equity Partnership (LHEP) Oversight Group. The LiP is funded by the NHS and driven by a steering group, with the Caribbean & African Health Network (CAHN) acting as the delivery partner. London *inspire* operates within and across local authorities, Integrated Care Boards and other statutory bodies to tackle health inequalities disadvantaging Black Londoners.

Co-chairs Juliet Amoa and Cedi Frederick released a joint statement ahead of the event, saying: **"The Black Health Inequalities Summit is perfect timing for London and an opportunity to bring key colleagues and communities together to explore best practice for prioritising the health of Black Londoners. The *inspire* programme has the support of the London-wide system and the communities that we serve. We are really excited to be able to engage with such a wide audience on how we address health inequalities in the Black community, with the aim of London being the healthiest global city."**

Keynote speakers confirmed to address delegates at the summit include: Professor Bola Owolabi, Director of the Healthcare Inequalities Improvement Programme at NHS England; Professor Kevin Fenton CBE, Regional Director for London in the Department of Health and Social Care's Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID); Dr Habib Naqvi OBE, Chief Executive of the NHS Race & Health Observatory; Dr Margaret Ikpoh, Vice Chair for Professional Development & Standards at the Royal College of General Practitioners. Numerous other health leaders will also play a major role in proceedings.

Professor Kevin Fenton CBE states: **"The Black Health Inequalities Summit not only presents an opportunity to address health disparities within Black communities, it provides a space for the system to explore challenges and solutions and pledge their support to improve health outcomes in their local areas. The ground-breaking London *inspire* Programme was specifically developed for this purpose and I am pleased that I will be joined by renowned speakers and colleagues who continually advocate for health equity in London and beyond."**

With the cumulative wealth of knowledge amassed by these experts, central stakeholders in the NHS strategy to redress health inequalities, the Black Health Inequalities Summit will be a unique occasion for health workers to together explore community-based approaches to the provision of optimal healthcare. Furthermore, the conference will present opportunities to examine how health systems can potentially collaborate to contribute to sustained health improvement.

Representatives from Greater London Authority, London's Integrated Care Boards, NHS England, NHS London, the Legacy and Health Equity Partnership (LHEP) and VCSE organisations will be present at the much-anticipated summit. The Black Health Inequalities Summit will invite participants to reflect on practices which have proved effective in improving health outcomes, with a view to promoting the health of Black people in London.

Charles Kwaku-Odoi DL, Chief Executive of the Caribbean & African Health Network, states: **“CAHN’s vision is to eradicate health inequalities and wider disparities for Black people across the UK. The London *inspire* Programme has provided a great opportunity to work across the capital, which has the largest Black population in the country, mobilising the community towards awareness and self-care.**

**“This summit shifts the conversation from awareness-raising of historic health inequalities to the co-creation of solutions and highlighting of best practices aimed at improving the health of Black people. Furthermore, the call to action (individual and organisational pledges) marks a start in making practical steps to reducing health inequalities.”**

The organisers of this unique event seek to leave nothing on the table, but to instigate a call to action which is founded on inclusive leadership. The summit will give particular focus to the voices of stalwart figures in the Black Caribbean and African community, including healthcare providers, community and faith leaders, researchers and those with lived experience of health disparities.

In capturing this diversity of perspectives, stakeholders at the London *inspire* Programme, CAHN and other collaborative entities aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities linked to reducing health inequalities, both systemically and on a community-based level.

As well as keynote addresses and interactive workshops, the summit will feature panel discussions, breakout conversations, opportunities to network and will even give attendees the chance to share their work innovatively through poster presentations.

Registration for the Black Health Inequalities Summit has now closed; but those interested in receiving updates about the event may still lodge their interest by completing this online form:

<https://portal.cahn.org.uk/blackhealthsummit>.

Relevant information regarding the summit will then be sent after the conference, enabling those unable to be physically present to benefit from the discussions held on the day.

**-ENDS-**

For further information or collaboration opportunities, please contact: [info@cahn.org.uk](mailto:info@cahn.org.uk) or Natacha Pires (Marketing & Media Manager) on 07493849910.

#### **London *inspire* Website and Social Handles**

**Website:** <https://www.inspireblackhealth.london/>

**X:** [LDNinspire](#)

**Facebook:** [LDNInspireProgramme](#)

**Instagram:** [LDNinspire](#)

**LinkedIn:** [LDN inspire](#)

## **About CAHN**

CAHN is a Black-led organisation set up to address health inequalities affecting people of Caribbean and African descent in the UK. Working with community groups, faith networks and cross-sector organisations, CAHN leads on strategic engagement to ensure that the voices and experiences of Black people are placed at the heart of public policy and practice.

CAHN's **vision** is to eradicate health inequalities within a generation by building community resilience and a social movement.

Our **mission** is to ensure that strategic and operational actions of service providers across health and cross-sector agencies and commissioners, lead to racial and social justice for Black people.

## **CAHN Website and Social Handles**

Website: [www.cahn.org.uk](http://www.cahn.org.uk)

X: [@cahn\\_uk](https://twitter.com/cahn_uk)

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