

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020

## **Press Release in relation to solidarity protests following the death of George Floyd on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

The protests in the United States are understandable but of grave concerns considering we are still in the COVID-19 pandemic. Media images of large protests in London and gathering in Manchester's St Ann's Square clearly show it is difficult to maintain social/physical distance.

Charles Kwaku-Odoi, Chief Officer says 'As the Caribbean & African Health Network Greater Manchester, we are concerned about any protests of solidarity in Greater Manchester mainly because we know that Black people are more likely to have worse outcomes when they contract the Coronavirus. According to the Office of National Statistics, Black males are 4.2 times more likely to die from COVID-19 than White males, while Black females are 4.3 times more likely to die from COVID-19 than White females. We therefore encourage our Black community to be mindful of the infection rate (R) which is currently just under 1 and avoid joining solidarity protests as that could spread Coronavirus and possibly result in more deaths.'

Dr Erinma Bell MBE, CEO of CARISMA Services says 'while we need to stand in solidarity with our Black community around the world, we are living in unprecedented times when we know Coronavirus has killed many Black people. We are privileged to have a different Policing system in the UK, and in Greater Manchester our community continues to develop a good working relationship with Greater Manchester Police. I call on the Black community to avoid solidarity protests and engage positively with the Independent Advisory Group for the Force HQ, which I Chair.'

Signed: *Charles Kwaku-Odoi*  
Charles Kwaku-Odoi

*Erinma Bell*  
Dr Erinma Bell MBE DL

### Note to editors:

1. The Caribbean & African Health Network Greater Manchester CIC is a non-profit organisation with a mission of reducing health inequalities in a generation for the Caribbean & African community. We recognise there are structural inequalities in our society and working with cross sector partners to influence policy and practice. More information – [www.cahn.org.uk](http://www.cahn.org.uk) Please forward any enquiries to [mediaenquiries@cahn.org.uk](mailto:mediaenquiries@cahn.org.uk) or call 07575 579377
2. Dr Erinma Bell MBE DL is Chair of the Greater Manchester Police Independent Advisory Group and Deputy Lieutenant for County of Greater Manchester.

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