



National Ambulance  
BME Forum

**National Ambulance  
BME Forum**

**Conference  
Speakers**

**London- The Royal  
National Hotel  
20 June 2024**

## Meet our speakers

### Tasnim Ali

Business Manager, Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust,  
National Ambulance BME Forum Chair

Speaker  
Workshop Facilitator

Tasnim is a Business Manager within the Operations Directorate at Yorkshire Ambulance Service and joined the service in 2010. She is an experienced nurse and NHS Manager who has worked in the acute sector, primary care and community services and has over 30 years' experience.

Tasnim is hugely passionate about delivering high quality patient care and driving forward the Race equality agenda in the ambulance sector and wider health economy. She is keen to support staff and encourage development and find opportunities for people.

Tasnim was elected to the role of Chair of the National Ambulance Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Forum in November 2017. She is committed to using this position to help share and embed learning and good practice across UK NHS ambulance Trusts via the forum.

She is a chair of Governors at a local primary school where she is committed to supporting the leaders in the school to deliver high quality teaching. Her family and faith are very important to her. She also has a love of plants and nature.



### Daren Mochrie

Chief Executive, North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust,  
Chairman of Association of the Ambulance Chief Executives.

Speaker

Daren Mochrie, QAM, is Chief Executive of North West Ambulance Service and also Chair of the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives; a membership body for all UK Ambulance Services and Crown Overseas Territories. With over 35 years' experience in the NHS, 32 years in the Ambulance Sector, Daren is a registered Paramedic, holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from Napier University, a Diploma in Immediate Medical Care from the Royal College of Surgeons, and an Honorary Doctorate in Health Care.

Daren has been an inspection Chair and Specialist Advisor with the Care Quality Commission, and Trustee of a Charity Air Ambulance and has worked in a number of UK Ambulance Services at Executive Director/ CEO level. He has led transformational change in several Ambulance Services and improved their CQC ratings and continues to champion nationally the voice of the Ambulance Sector.

Over the past three years as AACE Chair he has led the sector through the COVID 19 pandemic, the most challenging winter in the NHS in 2022 and recent industrial action. In 2013 he was awarded the Queens Ambulance Medal for distinguished service.



## Kulvinder Hira

Head of Equality Diversity and Inclusion, London Ambulance

Speaker

Kulvinder is currently the Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at London Ambulance Service. She is an experienced practitioner and leader in the EDI field, with over 25 years' knowledge and expertise in reducing inequalities and is a passionate advocate for social justice and human rights.

As a senior leader in the NHS, Kulvinder has delivered sustainable transformational change programmes, leading to fairer, more inclusive, positive outcomes and experiences for patients, service users and staff. Kulvinder has previously worked across diverse sectors as an EDI Consultant, leading programmes of work in Local Authorities, with Commissioners, Acute, and Mental Health bodies, Higher Education institutions and the third sector where she started her career. Kulvinder was the first female vice chair of a local charity in the Dudley borough that promoted EDI.

She is a specialist Advisor on Governance and EDI for the Care Quality Commission, ensuring inspections at hospitals are well led and effective. Influencing and operating at a national and regional level, Kulvinder is the co-chair of the National Ambulance EDI Forum and leads at a regional level across broader EDI work streams.



In parallel to this, Kulvinder has set up and manages the family business with her husband which is still going strong after 9 years, surviving the adverse impacts of the pandemic! From a Hindu Punjabi background, family, friends and a sense of community and strong values focused around humanity and fairness are of utmost importance. She is a mother of four and has lived experience of cultural and institutional barriers and has worked hard to remove these for herself, experiences and learning which she uses in all aspects of work and life to support others.

## Professor Habib Naqvi, MBE FFPH

Chief Executive of the NHS Race and Health Observatory

Keynote Speaker

Professor Habib Naqvi is Chief Executive of the NHS Race and Health Observatory which works nationally and internationally to tackle ethnic inequalities in healthcare by facilitating research, making health policy recommendations, and enabling long-term transformational change. He has been instrumental in forging partnerships with major organisations and bodies including the UK Faculty of Public Health, and the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention in the US.

Habib joined the NHS in 2001 and spent several years working at the UK's Department of Health and Social Care where he led national policy. From 2013, Habib directed the development and implementation of national health equity programmes for the National Health Service (NHS) and has given evidence to the UK's House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee.

Habib was awarded an MBE in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours for services to equality and diversity in the NHS; he received a Fellowship through distinction at the Faculty of Public Health in 2023 and was awarded the title of Honorary Visiting Professor of Health Equity at the Queen's Institute for Medicine, University of Bolton. Habib is listed in the Health Service Journal's '100 most influential people in health'.



## Felicia Kwaku, OBE

Associate Director of Nursing, Kings College Hospital, London

## Keynote Speaker

Felicia has been an Associate Director of Nursing since 2017 at Kings College Hospital, NHS Foundation Trust and holds a national position as the Chair of the Chief Nursing Officer & Chief Midwifery Officer's Black Minority Ethnic Strategic Advisory Group (CNO & CMidO BME SAG), NHS England. She has over 34 years nursing experience, specialised in general Intensive Care/Cardiac nursing. Trained at University College London Hospitals.

She holds an MSc in Human physiology and has always been interested/keen on Education & Development. Felicia has held various roles e.g. research nurse, practice educator, lecturer Practitioner post and has been a senior nurse including Director of Nursing for several years. She has a passion for clinical practice ensuring that patients as well as staff are at the centre of our care, if the workforce is not highly valued then this is reflected in poor care delivery.

Felicia still performs clinical duties and is highly visible both in and out of uniform.

Covid-19 pandemic has been the most challenging of times in the nursing and midwifery profession globally. Felicia led the CNO & CMidO BME SAG to raise the alarm nationally on the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on BME staff and the group engaged thousands of staff during the pandemic.



She sits on several national committees/forums and Charities.

- Black Asian Minority Ethnic consortium (36 Diaspora/International Nursing and Midwifery associations)
- Commonwealth Nursing and Midwifery Federation UK diaspora group
- International Committee: Royal College of Nursing (RCN)
- International Nurses Associations Diaspora Group, NHS England
- London Race Equality Steering Group, NHS London
- National Community Nursing Plan - Stakeholder Advisory Panel - NHS England
- NHS Race and Health Observatory's Stakeholder Engagement Group
- Nigerian Nurses Charitable Association UK - Director for Nursing Education & Training:
- Professional Standards Advisory Group Nursing and Midwifery Council (Nursing Midwifery Council -UK)
- Prevention of Nursing and Midwifery Suicide Oversight Group – NHS England
- Save a Heart Nigeria foundation (Charity) - Nursing Education lead:
- UK Commission on Covid Commemoration, commissioner Dept of Health

Felicia was awarded an OBE for services to Nursing during the COVID-19 pandemic on 9th October 2020 in Queen Elizabeth's birthday honours list.

Felicia is also an ICN Global Nurse Leadership Initiative scholar 2023.

'Nursing and Midwifery needs to work strategically to ensure that we are at the centre of global health initiatives. We need to have sufficient numbers of nurses across the globe who are healthy, well and practice to the top of their licence. We need to be in positions of power and influence to steer the necessary agendas and policy. We also need to think, develop and support innovative practice that benefits individuals and holds world leaders/policy makers to account in line with the SDGs.'

Farah is the Managing Director of Farah Hussain Training & Coaching. As an experienced trainer and coach, she has dedicated her thirty-year career to empowering individuals and fostering inclusive work environments in both public and private sector organisations. Her passion lies in creating spaces in which everyone can thrive, regardless of their background or abilities.

**Professional Background:**

- **Empowerment training:** Farah has designed and delivered customised empowerment programmes for minority ethnic and women employees. These sessions focus on building confidence, resilience, and leadership skills. She believes that empowered individuals contribute to stronger teams and organisations. Through her workshops and one-on-one sessions, she has equipped individuals with practical tools that help them reframe past experiences. She has enabled them to use proven science-backed techniques to manage their emotional state and to stay motivated, positive and future-focused.
- **Inclusion advocacy:** as an inclusion advocate, Farah is passionate about promoting diversity and creating a sense of belonging. She has facilitated workshops on unconscious bias, cultural competence, and allyship.
- **Positive work environments:** Farah has collaborated with public sector teams to cultivate positive work environments. By emphasising open communication, respect, and empathy, her clients have seen growth in productivity, increases in employee satisfaction, and improvements in overall staff well-being.

**Key Achievements:**

- **Inclusive leadership:** She has trained leaders to embrace inclusive practices, ensuring that all voices are heard and reflected through engagement, ownership and systemic change.
- **Strengths-based coaching:** She has helped individuals recognise and leverage their unique strengths. By focusing on what makes each person unique, she has helped organisations to create more cohesive and effective teams.
- **Community engagement:** Through outreach and mentoring programmes, Farah has connected organisations with local communities. 'Together, we've built bridges, broken down barriers, and created lasting partnerships.'

**Vision:**

Farah's vision is a public sector in which inclusion isn't a sound bite - it's woven into the fabric of every decision and practice. It's reflected in greater visibility of underrepresented people across all levels.



## Dawn Whelan

Business and Partnerships Lead ,East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust , Chair of National Ambulance Disability Network

Workshop  
Facilitator

Dawn is a dedicated Healthcare professional with over 20 years' experience, in Emergency Care and the Ambulance Sector. Dawn is a Fellow of the Society for Education and Training and has a passion for Education, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. She is reading for a Professional Doctorate at Edge Hill University investigating the links between organisational culture and support for employees with disabilities.

Dawn has lived experience of disability and caring for others and is a founder and Chair of the award-winning National Ambulance Disability Network and works with the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives National Ambulance Diversity & Inclusion Forum, responsible for shaping inclusive policies and practices across the NHS. She is also a member of the NHS England Disability Transformation Group Committee.



## Loveness Scott

Positive Action Officer , North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust, Deputy Chair of the National Ambulance BME Forum

Workshop  
Participant

Loveness is an award winning Positive action lead from the North East ambulance service. She works with local communities to tackle health inequalities through raising awareness of the ambulance service and teaching CPR and how to use a defibrillator.

In 2021, she was diagnosed with retinal vasculitis and psoriatic arthritis which are auto immune conditions that have thrown some real life challenges at work and at home.

She has recently become the Deputy chair of the National Ambulance BME Forum and is keen to help the shape the national conversation on race inequalities.



## Sarah Marshall

Disability Services Advocacy Manager for Scotland | Department for Work and Pensions | Work and Health Services Group

Workshop Participant

Sarah Marshall is a Disability Services Advocacy Manager for the Department for Work and pensions. In her team, she is the single point of contact for Access to Work and covers the area of Scotland for anything Disability Services related.

Her team deliver awareness presentations to stakeholders on Personal Independent Payment, Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit, Disability Living allowance and Access to Work.



## Daniel Elkeles

Chief Executive, London Ambulance Service NHS Trust and Chair of the National Ambulance Diversity & Inclusion Forum

Speaker

Daniel has been an NHS Manager for almost 30 years joining the management training scheme in 1995 and has worked in acute, community, regional and commissioning roles. He has been an accountable officer for over 10 years first for 5 Clinical Commissioning Groups in NW London, then CEO for Epsom and St Helier Hospitals NHS Trust where he secured the funding to build a new hospital.

Since September 2021 he has been CEO at London Ambulance Service NHS Trust. Daniel is passionate about improving culture and inclusivity in the workplace. LAS has just received its best ever staff survey results with big improvements in all of the People Promise domains and with 68% staff completing the survey.





## Charmine De-Leon

Vehicle Resource Coordinator, London Ambulance Service NHS Trust

## Performer

Charmine is currently a Vehicle Resource Coordinator at the London Ambulance Service; however, she joined the service as a Recruitment Coordinator in December 2021. She had been awarded recruitment coordinator of the year in 2022 for her outstanding accomplishments in the recruitment team. She also had the opportunity to represent London Ambulance Service international recruitment campaign in Melbourne, Australia in 2023.

When not working, Charmine is actively involved in community outreach activities. She is a Master Guide in the Greenwich Pathfinder club at the Greenwich Seventh day Adventist church. This is a club very similar to the Brownies and scouts group, where she is one of the counsellor's, teaching outdoor life, leadership and organisation skills, healthy living just to name a few activities, to children between ages 10-15. Charmine is also involved in her church's food bank programme where she is involved with the weekly food bank collections and a part of the music committee.

In addition, she loves singing, listening to music and plane spotting.



## Tim Villanueva

Trainee Clinical Psychologist, Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust

## Workshop Facilitator

Tim is in his final year of his Doctorate working as a trainee clinical psychologist at Bangor University. He is currently on placement at the Welsh Ambulance Service Staff Wellbeing Service, under the supervision of Dr Catherine Goodwin.

He has worked and had placements in both physical and mental health settings, including specialist services such as complex rehabilitation and eating disorder services. He has utilised mindfulness personally and in his clinical practice since 2015.



## David Snelders

National Training and Clinical Manager, The Ambulance Staff Charity

Workshop  
Facilitator

David provides support and guidance to improve the mental wellbeing of ambulance staff across the U.K, working with those with suicidal thoughts, complex post-traumatic stress and bereavement.

David has an Advanced Diploma in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, is a Fellow of The Complimentary Medical Association, and is a qualified practitioner in a number of different counselling modalities, as well as the Collaborative Assessment & Management of Suicidality (CAMS).

In his spare time, he enjoys volunteering to support the mental health of armed forces personnel across Europe, the US and Australia. He is part of a major Incident Resilience team and has worked to support victims of the Grenfell Tower disaster and the Manchester Arena bombings as well as other major incidents and disasters.



## Jeannette Jackson

Director, Manchester Stress Institute

Workshop  
Facilitator

Jeannette Jackson is a biochemist and sports scientist and an expert in Burnout, Resilience, Nutrition & Menopause.

She is the Director of the Manchester Stress Institute and works extensively with Emergency Service and NHS staff as a leading authority on burnout, stress management, work-life balance and nutrition; presenting seminars and workshops for SLT, managers and staff.

Contact: [info@manchesterstress.com](mailto:info@manchesterstress.com)

Tel: 0161 312 8382



## Wasim Mir

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (ED&I) Advisor - Corporate Services,  
North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust

Workshop  
Facilitator

Wasim is the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Advisor for the North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust (NWAS) and has been in post since 2021. He leads on, and the focus of his work is on the EDS2022, WRES, WDES, Gender Pay Gap, ED&I Annual Report, Disability Confident Leader, enei Gold TiDE accreditation. He also supported the trust by rolling out and delivering training on the Trust's revised Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) processes. He also led on and designed the Trust's procedure for managing reasonable adjustments and ED&I related policy reviews.

First and foremost, he believes in human centric outcomes and value when delivering on his life and work. He believes in the strength of community and not working in silos or to own agendas, to work together to create a culture where all are welcomed and can bring their whole selves to work and be treated on merit, skill and professionalism and not for example on their ethnicity, race, gender etc.



'I am proud and honoured to be a part of the National Ambulance BME Forum (NABMEF) and look forward to attending this my first NABMEF conference, I sign off with a quick quote, which I hope resonates with you all:

"The beauty and strength of the world lies in the diversity of its people - unknown".

There is much to be done and you are key in driving the organisational change required, by being here today shows your commitment, drive and passion to move the sector to create healthy cultures that in turn deliver high quality outcomes for all that we come across in the communities we serve.'



## With thanks to our supporters

The conference would not have been possible without the support and financial assistance of the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives. The National Ambulance BME Forum Network is very grateful for all the assistance that has been provided.



The National Ambulance BME Forum would like to thank CPDme who have supported the delivery of our conference, issuing attendees with event badges and providing CPD certificates.

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We are grateful to London Ambulance Service for hosting our conference this year, and for their sponsorship.

