

NOVEMBER. 2020

KEYBOARD TRUST ANNUAL REPORT 2020



By: **Carmen Carrol**
Keyboard Networker



COVID - 19 & BLACK ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITY



BLACK LIVES MATTER



EMPOWERMENT MEETINGS



THE CHURCH & RACIAL INJUSTICE - SEPT REPORT



NEW KEYBOARD WEB PAGE

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By: Carmen Carrol – Keyboard Networker

At the start of every year, we enter into it full of expectation and hope for a improved life, to fulfil a longing desire and also the long list of new year's resolutions for ourselves and our families. So just as we were settling in and making plans; in a moment our plans took second place – we became informed about the Corona virus was pandemic, and had taken the world as hostages and we are still looking at ways to be free. Our new normal has begun and it will never be the same.

Some of you may have had experienced the loss of friends or relatives; like I have to this infectious disease, and that members from the BAME communities are more lightly to be affected by it, due to a lot of social ills; like income inequality, key workers on the frontline in NHS and lack of key resources. You've felt the pain and the sadness. Your faith may be wavering, so what do we do, we keep moving forward, we continue to walk by faith so that we can see our desires for a changed and a healed world. In 2 Corinthians 4v8-9 were reminded that:

⁸We are hard pressed on all sides, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹[persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.](https://biblehub.com/2_corinthians/4-9.htm)
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In this report it will cover:

- Covid-19 Pandemic & Black & Ethnic Minority Community
- Black Lives Matter Campaign
- Empowerment Meeting
- The Church & Racial Injustice – Sept Report

You can also find the full report, online by visiting the Keyboard Trust web page – <https://www.together4bristol.org.uk/> – (listed under Churches)



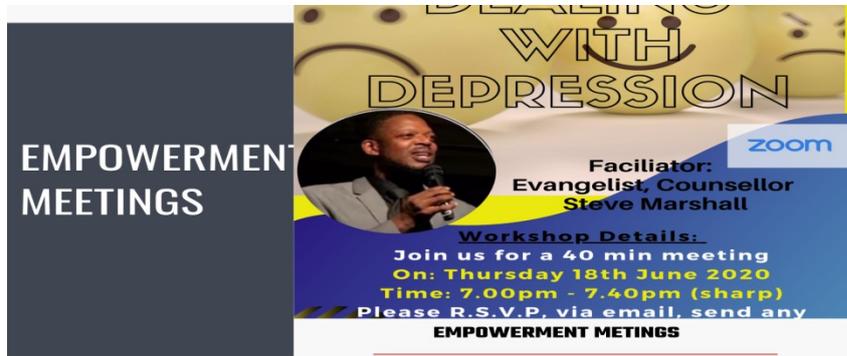
Source: Black South West Network & Institute for Public Policy Research and Runnymede Trust.

The Covid-19 case numbers have been rising rapidly across the UK and the government has therefore had now introduced a second lockdown to control the spread of the virus. We would like to thank all dedicated key workers and local community organisations who continue to support their local communities, families and vulnerable neighbours.

It has been highlighted that the racial divide of the pandemic has brought to the forefront many of societies social ills, particularly the ever-increasing class divisions – which highlights racial imbalance. According to a [recent report](#) by two leading think tanks – the Institute for Public Policy Research and Runnymede Trust – 58,000 more deaths involving coronavirus could have occurred in England and Wales if white communities faced the same risks as black communities.

It highlights these issues relating to **income inequality** and **overcrowded housing** which can ultimately be traced to racism, embedded in our structures and institutions through the legacies of colonialism and slavery. You can read the [full report here](#).

The **Black South West Network** (BSWN), has also produced several reports on the disparities. Which research highlights that cash flow and liquidity as the biggest challenges for BAME business owners and the self-employed. Find the full report [click here](#).



The Keyboard Trust exists to:

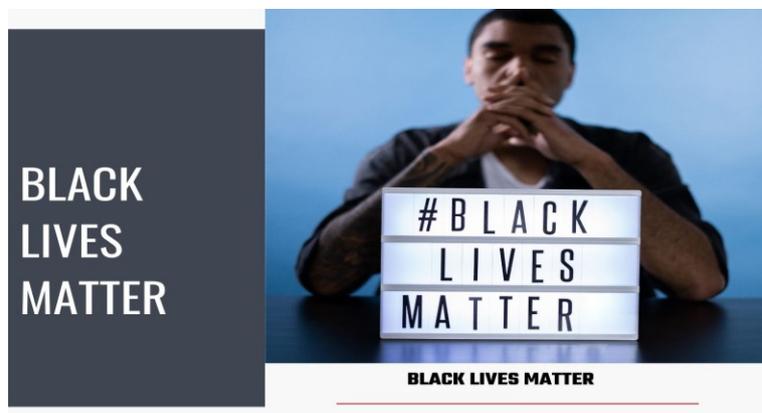
1. Build unity between the black and white led churches in Bristol.
2. It seeks to encourage a culture of engagement and collaboration in the life of all our churches and between churches that fully values and represents the racial and ethnic diversity within our communities.
3. Help transform society.
4. It works to challenge churches to work together in practical and measurable ways towards the creation of communities in which people are treated with justice and offered equal opportunity regardless of their ethnic or racial background.

Throughout the year we have facilitated several online workshops; since February – September that would inform, support and create spaces for further engagement for Pastors and their leadership team across the city, we have focussed on the following topics:

- Strategy Planning Meeting – Pastors of Black Churches - March
- Faith Manifesto Launch - March
- Furlough & Employers Legal rights - July
- Dealing with Depression – Part I & II - Aug
- The Church & Racial Injustice – Debate - Sept

We have also supported other churches and organisations with networking, attending their events or providing marketing support for their events via our fortnightly E-news and posting it on our social media pages on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).





Seven months ago in the month of May, the world witnessed the brutal judgement and murder of a black man named George Floyd – whilst in police custody. Three of four police officers restrained him face down on the floor, whilst one white police officer knelt on his neck for 8 minutes 46 seconds. We watched in horror whilst his life left his body. The cry for justice rang out loudly across the globe and sparked protests on our streets amidst the Covid-19 pandemic; for the racial inequalities and police brutality. It highlighted the renewed pledge from organisations and community groups across this city to take the knee, and fight racism where ever it raises its ugly head. The cry may have gone faint, but it still rings loud in the lives of the many Black and Ethnic community who face discrimination daily.

Some people may not be aware that the Black Lives Matter, campaign is not a new movement; it has been around since 2013 and has meant different things to different people. Several faith communities across the city in Bristol and the world stood together in the unity of love; against the racial injustice's. We've seen the pulling down of statues that were 125 years old or more, that represented the dark past of slavery across the world; Question: Has much changed? Isn't it the high things hidden in the heart and minds that need to be pulled down, to bring about the change that we can all benefit from?

So, during this time the voice the church needed to be heard, we sent out the call and gathered statements **16 Church** leaders unified their voices and provided a resounding **No** to the expression of the racial injustice we've seen. You can read the statements here from [Pastors of Black-led churches](#) and from [Pastors of White Churches](#).

It was a well-needed expression of support and outward expression that was needed to be seen and heard. Since that time the cry has gone silent, but the zeal for justice we walk in it every day. The cry for justice will never be silent; the church should never be silent we should stand where others are treated less than human, for the colour of their skin. WE stand and WE won't seat down and be silent.

Photos credit =
Chris
Dobson





The Keyboard Trust, response to race and injustice was to create an opportunity for honest dialogue; we facilitated an online meeting our “The Church & Racial Injustice” on 7th Sept 2020. That had a number of key individuals from the faith community, from politics and those who are activities for racial justice.

Contributors: -

- **Carmen Carrol** - Keyboard Networker – Bristol.
- **Rev. Chris Dobson** - Ecumenical Adviser For The Diocese of Bristol – Keyboard Trust Committee Member.
- **Cllr Carole Johnson** - Deputy Lord Mayor of Bristol.
- **Bishop Ray Veira** – House of Praise Church, Bristol/ Keyboard Trust Committee member.
- **Rev. Dr Catherine Okoronkwo** - Bishop Advisor on Racial Justice, Bristol.
- **Silas Crawley** - Founding Pastor of Hope Chapel, Bristol.
- **Pastor David Mitchell** – Woodlands Church Bristol.
- **Bishop Joe Aldred** – Churches Together England/Pentecostal and Multicultural Relations, Aldridge.
- **Dr R. David Muir** - Co-Chair The National Church Leaders Forum, London.

We had 70 people who attended the meeting from across the city. The meeting was held on the premise, that we know that systemic racism is in our institutions, police force, education system, churches and community. That has placed invisible walls of access for members from the Black community. The debate brought to the surface years of history, deep emotions and experiences; and feelings of despondency where the church is concerned.

It equally has provided some key solutions on moving forward. We now have a 24-page report which has been collated, and the Keyboard Trust steering committee will be reviewing it and taking it into a wider conversation on how we might change church culture in a changing world. The report will be available on our website:

<https://www.together4bristol.org.uk/>

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