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fertilitynetworkuk

Fertility Network responds to HFEA's 2023 Ethnic Diversity in Fertility Treatment Report

Dr Catherine Hill, Fertility Network UK's head of policy & public affairs, said: 'This is a shocking and shaming report. UK reproductive care should not be discriminatory – timely access to appropriate fertility treatment should be equitable for all clinically eligible individuals. Yet, this second Ethnic diversity in fertility treatment report from the fertility regulator reveals continued biases within reproductive care with distressing outcomes for women of colour, including lower birth rates and only receiving treatment at an older age, when time is of the essence with IVF. Major systemic change is needed now to correct course and ensure all fertility patients, irrespective of ethnicity, receive the information, support and treatment they need on their fertility journey.'

Jenny Okona-Mensah, Fertility Network UK's ethnic minorities project worker, said: 'Women from global majority backgrounds face unfair inequities in fertility treatment and provision. The HFEA's updated report on Ethnic diversity in fertility treatment shows there is still much progress to be made to improve these ethnic health inequalities. Ensuring equitable access to fertility treatment is essential to closing the gaps in fertility treatment provision for people from racially minoritized communities.'

'Fertility Network UK welcomes the HFEA's call to action recommending the key priorities for reducing these inequalities and implementing change. Through our ethnic minorities' communities project, Fertility Network UK is committed to working with global majority communities to empower and support those who are disproportionately affected by structural factors and other social and environmental determinants of health. Starting from the board room to the front line and within the ethnically diverse communities we serve, we support the HFEA in turning these recommendations into tangible actions and lasting change.'

Notes to editors:

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1. Fertility Network UK provides practical and emotional support, information and advice for anyone experiencing fertility issues. The charity works to raise the profile and understanding of fertility issues and to push for timely and equitable provision of fertility treatment throughout the UK. www.fertilitynetworkuk.org
2. Fertility Network UK provides a free and impartial Support Line open from 10am to 4pm.

Mon, Wed and Fri: 0121 323 5025, support@fertilitynetworkuk.org

Tues and Thurs: 07816 086694, janet@fertilitynetworkuk.org

3. Fertility Network UK supports people. We rely on voluntary donations to continue our vital work. You can donate now via text; text FNUK plus the donation amount to 70085. Or you can donate by visiting www.justgiving.com/fertilitynetwork