



Est. 1972

People in Harmony

Annual Report 2021

Making Mixed Race Matter

People in Harmony ♦ 20-22 Wenlock Road ♦ London ♦ N1 7GU ♦ Tel no 0845 468 0755*
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Charity reg. no. 1045356 Company limited by guarantee reg. no. 2424930 in England
*calls cost 5p per minute plus your phone company's access charge

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About the Charity

People in Harmony (PIH), a charity and a company limited by guarantee, was established in 1972 to offer support, information and advice for, and about, mixed race people, couples and families. Also, to raise awareness of, and try to address, experiences of prejudice and isolation. The organisation has developed and grown in many ways since those early days. Over the years attitudes to and experiences of mixed race living has changed, but the need for support is as important as ever. Statistical information from the 2011 Census showed that mixed race is one of the fastest growing ethnic minority groups and there is now a greater acceptance that mixed race issues cannot be swept under the carpet or subsumed into the 'black' or 'other' designations. It requires investigation and services that are more sensitively appropriate for mixed race people and families.

The charity's mission statement is '*making mixed race matter*' and its main aim is to raise awareness of mixed race issues and support for mixed race people and families by working to influence and improve ways in which public services such as education, health, social care and criminal justice are delivered to the mixed race population through discussion and debate, research, campaigns and the arts. PIH continues to contribute to debates and to respond to media requests for information and discussion. It also offers support to those experiencing problems, for example within the education system and social care. This has been an important aspect of charity's work over the decades, as has been the encouragement offered to people seeking to examine their social experiences. The newsletter, website, Facebook and Twitter accounts offer ample opportunities for such activity.

The trustees confirm PIH has complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission. The service that the charity provides to its members, the public, voluntary and statutory organisations and researchers, as well as the media, includes support and information on a range of mixed race issues. PIH is able to assist with finding people among its members who are willing to be interviewed by the media, to support and participate in research projects, to link up with other members and to facilitate, or speak, at conferences and seminars. PIH also sells a range of resources including conference reports and books.

These services are all part of the core work of the charity that meet its objectives to promote good race relations and the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of race and to encourage equality of opportunity for persons of different racial groups. Also, to advance the education of the public in matters pertaining to the promotion and achievement of equality of opportunity for persons of different racial groups.

**Making
Mixed
Race
Matter**

RESEARCH NETWORK

October 16th 2021 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Workshop with Studies

Mala McFarlane - Multi Ethnic Couples' Lives
Dr Lucy Bland - Mixed Race G.I. War Babies

PEOPLE IN HARMONY

Charity no. 194056
Company Ltd by guarantee reg. no. 2024719 in England

Committee activity

- The Trustees have continued to work with the aims and objectives when planning for the future of the organisation and have maintained a consistent approach in staying up to date with research and topics for and about mixed race for the work carried out. Two magazines per year continue to be produced and published in full colour and were distributed by post and email. They promote PIH well and have been positively received by members and supporters.
- The administration of the charity has been carried out by the trustees during the year. Trustee and volunteer vacancies have been advertised using our magazine, web and social media and Reach volunteering.
- The Independent Examiner continued their role to examine the charity accounts.
- Joint work with other organisations has been considered in the planning of future activities including conferences and other events. It is essential that PIH continues to offer relevant events and activities to younger people of mixed race and young mixed families enabling it to grow and expand its influence.
- Trustee/Volunteer recruitment continued during lockdown using Reach Volunteering, adverts in PIH magazine, the web, social media and personal contacts. A volunteer was recruited via Reach as an Assistant Finance Officer and two new trustees Katherine Williams and Camille Angol were recruited during that period.
- The work on updating the charity website continued with its migration to a WordPress Platform hosted by New Information Paradigms. The website continues to provide information about the work of the charity, events, new research, and reports and books which relate to mixed race issues. It also includes personal articles and poetry and provides a platform for discussion with insights into the lives of mixed race people and families. The PIH Facebook page and Twitter account continue to be well populated with relevant current issues and links to useful websites. Members also continued to usefully access and contribute to the PIH WhatsApp group. The membership and subscription forms can be now completed online, which together with our programme of activities, has increased our membership.
- Monthly CHAT Zooms, started during Lockdown, brought members and supporters together across the country and abroad to share their experiences and focus on topics of specific interest for our members.
- A photo shoot took place in Bedford with a recruited PIH volunteer photographer. This produced high quality images for our magazine, web and social media.
- A successful application was made to CLINKS for free consultancy. CLINKS is an organisation, that supports, promotes and represents the voluntary work in the criminal justice system The consultancy was provided by BTEG, a Black Training and Enterprise group, to support and improve the work and engagement being carried out by PIH.
- A successful Research Network Meeting was held online during the covid pandemic.
- An application to the National Lottery Community Fund resulted in an award £2,500 for an event bringing the mixed race community together post pandemic. This was planned for an event in Bedford to improve communication, engagement and effects of isolation following the pandemic lockdown and restrictions. Due to ongoing concerns and an increase in COVID-19 infections the Bedford event was postponed. This resulted in the National Lottery Community funds awarded needing to be repurposed. This was done by allocating the funds to be used for children's Art workshop, licenses for Zoom Pro, Shutterstock images, Theatre Tickets and Social Media engagement with some of the work completed early in 2022.
- A successful collaboration with 'Comedy Winner in Print' and founder Helen Lederer, comedian, writer, actress, and Black Girl Writers for the CWIP's Comedy Cringe Flash Competition 2021.
- A PIH Report "The Mixed Race Community and COVID-19" was published following a successful collaboration with students from Queen Mary College, University of London. The report is available to download on our website.

- Copies of Harmony newsletters from 1972/3 and PIH from 1989-2013, were deposited with Lambeth Archives to be accessed by researchers and the public. Recordings of memories from the Harmony members were made and will form part of the archived material.
- We have a busy and exciting time ahead with the development of increased sources of online communication available with members and the public. We look forward to members' and volunteers' continued involvement and support in the growth of the charity.

Annual General Meeting & Seminar 2021



The AGM/Seminar “Embracing Mixedness” took place via Zoom in July with the seminar talks being recorded.

The speakers provoked a lively discussion on mixed race and cultures. They were Tineka Smith, co-author Mixed Up In Love, Anoushka Nawaz-Khan, who spoke on the complexity of ‘Passing’ and exoticisation, and Stephanie Guy on mixing race and culture

Review of Annual Business and future plans

Our core functions are maintained through fees and small amounts from sales of our literature. The annual subscription is due to be paid on 1st April each year and the increasing number of members paying subscriptions online and BACS assists with the administrative work of the charity. We thank members for their ongoing support.

Our registered office address is: 20-22 Wenlock Road, London N1 7GU. Committee continued to hold meetings online to protect the health and safety of all concerned during the pandemic. The Constitution allows for meetings to take place online and this has been carried out during the extended period of social distancing regulations. Holding meetings by zoom has allowed many more members to take part. Online meetings have been one positive outcome of the covid restrictions. This will continue where appropriate.

Trustees find the support from CVS and Volunteer Services in London, and online, helpful for the ongoing work of charity.

The trustees have committed to considering the following in relation to the future of PIH:

- Continuing to plan and organise future events, including those online, using evaluation of previous events
- Recruitment of new trustees and members from the mixed race community to undertake some of the governing and administration work
- Pursuance of research funding opportunities and application for funds to support the work of the charity
- Continuing to apply for funding to archive and digitalise newsletters published from 1972
- Further collaboration with universities and their students on issues of importance for mixed race matters
- Continue the development of the Research Network on studies of issues affecting the mixed race community.

The attendance, interaction and contribution to our events, the evaluation and feedback we receive, all strongly indicate that the work of the organisation is valued and needed and still has an important role to play in Britain and the world today.

Staffing

The charity has no employed staff and the work of the organisation in providing services to both members and the public has been carried out by the trustees with support from volunteers.

Communication lines by telephone, email and Zoom are kept maintained and available not only for the charity's use but also to offer information and support for families and people under pressure from statutory services.

Volunteers

We thank those who carry out many hours of voluntary work and who have supported the aims and objectives of People in Harmony. We appreciate the web and communication work that continued to be done by Matt Hoskins supported by New Information Paradigm. We would like to record our thanks for the work contributed during the year by volunteers: Jenna Arrindell-Carty; Yvonne Ayo; Cindy Matthews; Rhiannon Richards; Isabel Overton; Reg Mpawulo; Jennifer Moise.

We also thank Pauline Collins, for her work as Independent Examiner of PIH Accounts.

Management Committee 2021

Committee members, who are all members of the charity, are the Trustees of the charity and are Directors for the purpose of company law. Those who served during the year are:

Dr Michelle Balach-Ali; Chairperson; Val Hoskins Vice Chairperson; *Michael Craig Treasurer; Dinah Morley; *Camille Angol; *Katherine Williams

The committee are thanked for the valuable work they carried out, and their dedication and commitment given to their roles.

*Katherine Williams 31.10.21; *Michael Craig 30.11.21; *Camille Angol 30.11.21 dates of resignation from the board.

