

The regional BME network is an independent platform led and directed by BME and equality focused organisations.

## About One East Midlands

One East Midlands is a registered charity, working with the voluntary and community and wider third sector.

One East Midlands brings together organisations that support voluntary and community groups across the region to influence and shape policy, improve services and provide a single point of contact at a regional level for all stakeholders.

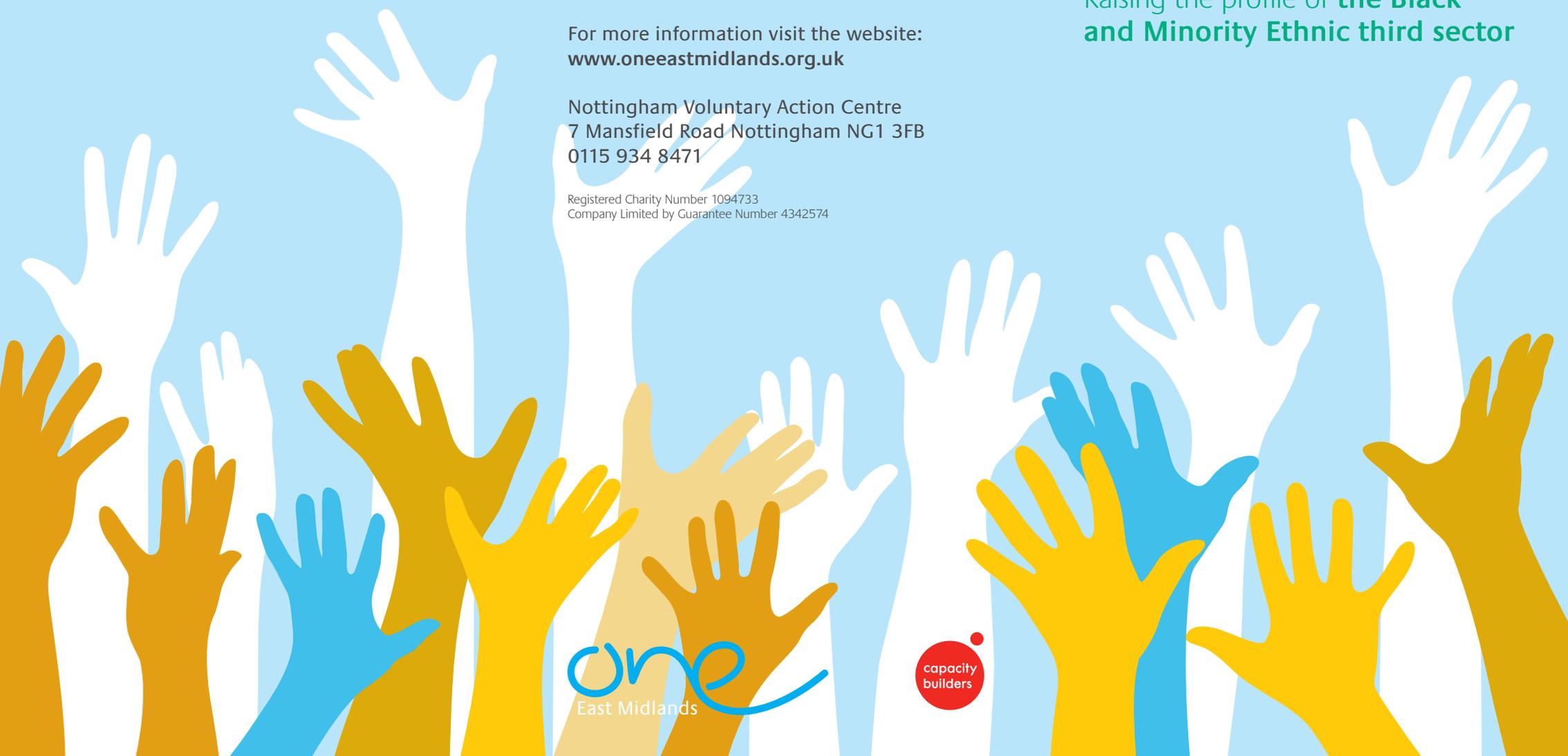
For more information visit the website:  
[www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk](http://www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk)

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# BME Network in the East Midlands

Raising the profile of the **Black and Minority Ethnic** third sector



## The network aims to

- Identify the gaps and priorities in BME service delivery and policy influence
- Provide support and accountability to BME representation within key regional strategic networks
- Provide tailored information to the BME sector about opportunities, resources, policy changes and other issues which impact on the sector in the region

### The Third Sector

'Third sector' refers to the range of organisations and structures that occupy the space between the state and private sector. These include small local voluntary and community organisations (VCOs), registered charities both large and small, foundations, trusts and the growing number of social enterprises and cooperatives.

### BME

BME – Black and Minority Ethnic – is a term in widespread usage and has been for many years but we recognise its shortcomings including its lack of reference to Asian groups, refugees, new communities and white ethnic groups. The fact is all labels are unsatisfactory and tend to be used as a matter of convenience.\* We will seek to ensure the network is as inclusive of all groups as possible.

\*Source: The Pied Piper, Afridi and Warrington, BRAP 2009.

## Engagement

**It is essential for the network to have engagement from a broad and diverse membership base from within the BME sector. The network will:**

- work to remove barriers to participation
- link with the existing expertise and skills within the region
- use a mixture of formal and informal consultation & engagement
- engage with current campaigns and existing projects to improve the network's influence and increase engagement

## Development

**Tackling the challenges facing the BME third sector in the region can best be achieved through an informed, engaged and skilled network. The network will:**

- provide research on specific challenges and opportunities for the BME sector
- identify capacity building opportunities for the network
- provide briefings on relevant regional and national policy developments
- develop on-line resources for the network
- disseminate relevant information to the network via a monthly e-bulletin
- provide opportunities for the BME third sector to make connections with other groups across the region

## Focus

The network is supporting the development of specialist knowledge and interest groups in the following areas:

Elders and Later Life  
Funding and Resources  
New Communities  
Young People & Children  
Women and Gender  
Health Inequalities  
Social Enterprise & Business  
Asylum Seekers & Refugees  
Education & Skills

## How to get involved?

If you would like to get involved in any of the interest groups or in the wider work of the network please get in touch.

**Sign up to the e-bulletin**

Visit: [www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk](http://www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk)

**Join the network**

Email: [policy@one-em.org.uk](mailto:policy@one-em.org.uk)

**Tell us what you think**

Contact us on 0115 934 8471