

Inquiry on racial injustice in maternity care

How we will use and protect your data

We have designed the call for evidence to make sure women, birthing people and healthcare professionals can safely share evidence with us. This document explains how we will meet our data protection duties and enable people to share experiences in a safe, secure and meaningful way.

How will you use the stories and evidence collected?

We will review each response to identify the key issues raised in relation to human rights and systemic racism, and specific examples of good or poor practice. We will collate and summarise this information in one database so that we can analyse themes that will shape the inquiry findings and recommendations for change. This collated data will not include any personal or identifiable details, to protect people's sensitive information.

Initial findings and themes will be shared with [the expert panel](#), made up of people with lived experience, maternity professionals, lawyers and other experts. We will also talk about themes and experiences in our media, communications and the final report.

Can I stay anonymous?

Yes. The first question in the survey for both individuals and healthcare professionals is whether you'd like to be anonymous. You don't have to share any personal information or contact details if you don't want to. We will still include your experiences in the inquiry. We may quote phrases or words anonymously in the final report, but we would take care to ensure this is not identifiable in any way e.g. removing any reference to location or time.

Why do you ask if you can follow up with me?

If you feel comfortable, we might wish to have a further discussion to understand more about your experiences. We could invite you to participate in a more in depth interview or explore whether you would like to give verbal evidence to the expert panel.

Case studies and quotes are a powerful way to show what's happening now and what needs to change, so we could follow up to ask your permission to include your story in our final report or communications activity including on social media. If you have given contact details we will always seek your explicit consent before quoting or reporting your story. You always have the right to say no and we won't question this. We may also ask if you would be interested in talking to a journalist so we can raise awareness in the media of the issues Black, Brown and Mixed Ethnicity people face in maternity care. Even if you share your name and contact details there is no obligation to do any of these activities.

How will you keep my data safe?

The individual submissions are stored securely in the Survey Monkey platform which is password protected - you can [read their privacy policy](#) for more information. A small team of staff from Birthrights and Leigh Day (a law firm that is supporting the inquiry) will review individual submissions to collate and analyse the information. We will keep personal information separate from this analysis to ensure people are not identifiable. We will not share any files via email, but via our secure DropBox cloud system. [Birthrights has a full privacy policy](#) if you would like further information.

Why do you ask about my ethnicity, where and when I gave birth?

This information helps us understand patterns and trends in the evidence. For example, we might see that one NHS Trust has a high volume of negative experiences, or that

certain ethnic communities more often report particular types of racism or human rights issues. We also might want to compare whether things appear to be getting better or worse over time. It's important that we can describe the specific experiences of different ethnicities too, as often people are grouped together as "BAME" which masks differences in how they are treated. We will only use this demographic and geographical information for analysis and description, and to inform further investigation by us or the expert panel. None of these questions are mandatory, so you can skip them if you don't want to answer.

If you would like to find out more, please contact inquiry@birthrights.org.uk