

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**4<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

### **DEBBIE ARIYO OBE, FOUNDER OF AFRUCA/BASNET, AWARDED 'ACTIVATE FUND' GRANT TO DEVELOP RESIDENTIAL CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR BME ANTI-TRAFFICKING INNOVATORS**

AFRUCA – Safeguarding Children has received a major grant from the Churchill Fellowship to design and implement a three-day residential capacity-building programme for Black and Minority Ethnic Anti-Trafficking Innovators who are members of the UK BME Anti-Slavery Network (BASNET).

Debbie Ariyo OBE, Founder and CEO of AFRUCA and Founder and Chair of the UK BME Anti-Slavery Network, was awarded the grant as a follow-up to her 2019 Churchill Fellowship research project on “Community Safety Net in Child Trafficking”, with the funds channelled through AFRUCA.

The almost £20,000 grant will enable AFRUCA to work with 15 Anti-Trafficking Innovators to strengthen their skills and build capacity to expand their anti-trafficking and anti-slavery work in various communities through access to essential learning and development programmes.

In appreciation of the Churchill Fellowship, Debbie Ariyo OBE said:

“I am really pleased to have received this grant which will go a long way to support anti-trafficking practitioners in Black and Ethnic communities to strengthen their organisational capacity and improve safety and safeguarding for victims and survivors”.

The three-day residential programme will enable participants to gain valuable skills in various subjects, including fundraising and writing theory of change, evaluating impact, strategic planning, and communicating to achieve impact, among others. The residential programme will take place in Manchester in November 2022.

#### **Note to Editors**

AFRUCA – Safeguarding Children promotes the well-being and protection of children and families in Black and Ethnic communities across the UK.

The UK BME Anti-Slavery Network (BASNET) is a project of AFRUCA – Safeguarding Children. BASNET is a membership-based network promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in the UK modern slavery and human trafficking space. In 2021, BASNET produced an Action Plan on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion to address racism and discrimination in the UK Modern Slavery sector.

BASNET continues to work with various partners to actualise the recommendations in the Action Plan, which include building capacity within various communities to help improve the prevention of modern slavery and human trafficking, and the provision of support for victims and survivors.

For further information about the AFRUCA Activate Fund grant and the work of BASNET, please contact Naema Ahmed, Network Manager, at [naema@afruca.org](mailto:naema@afruca.org), telephone 0161 205 9274.