

# The Sands **Listening Project**

Learning from the experiences of  
black and Asian bereaved parents



## What is the Listening Project?

**We know that listening to parents can save babies lives.** This Listening Project will make sure that we hear from bereaved parents from black and Asian communities. With this knowledge we can support safer and more positive pregnancy experiences, and reduce pregnancy loss and baby deaths.

We want to hear about black and Asian bereaved parents' experiences of maternity and neonatal care since 2017. We will do this through interviews and focus groups.

## Why is this needed?

**There is a national programme (called MBRRACE) that collects hospital data about baby deaths in the UK to help improve care for mothers and babies.** Their reports show that stillbirth and neonatal death rates are higher among black and Asian babies compared to the white population, and that rates of baby deaths are higher in areas of social deprivation.

An MBRRACE confidential enquiry is due to be published in December 2023. This enquiry is looking at the clinical care of mothers and

babies from black and Asian backgrounds to learn lessons to improve care.

Sands' report from this Listening Project will be published at the same time as the national enquiry. This will ensure that the voices of bereaved parents are heard alongside learning from clinical care.

Combined, the two reports will provide powerful evidence of where improvements are needed.

# Who will you be listening to, and how?

**We want to hear about the experiences of black and Asian bereaved parents who received NHS maternity care from 2017 onwards.**

Between April and May 2023, we will be running a series of focus groups and interviews in a range of settings – in person, online and via telephone.

So that this project can add to the findings of the MBRRACE-UK confidential enquiry, we will be asking about parents' experiences of care leading up to the death of their baby.

## **We will discuss topics including:**

- ▶ Your experiences of maternity and neonatal care
- ▶ How ethnicity or culture might have affected your care experiences
- ▶ How care could be improved
- ▶ What was good about your care

Focus groups and interviews will be recorded so we can have notes of what is said.

The discussions and interviews will be completely confidential, and any information that might identify who you are will be removed or will not be published in any reports.

We know that it can be hard to talk about the time around your baby's death. Support will be available during and after the focus groups and interviews, and you can stop at any point.

## **How will this work help make positive change?**

Our findings will be shared with a wide audience, including policy makers and maternity professionals. They will feed into Sands' training and campaigning work, and updated guidance for parents.

We will make sure its key messages are heard by those with the power to make change. In this way, we will support safer and more positive pregnancy experiences, and reduce pregnancy loss and baby deaths.

Anyone who takes part in the project will also have the opportunity to join a network of parents from black and Asian communities who can help shape future research supported by Sands.



## **How do I get involved?**

If you would like to take part in an interview or focus group, please scan the QR code or visit the webpage below. You can also email us at [research@sands.org.uk](mailto:research@sands.org.uk) to find out more. We look forward to hearing from you.

[www.sands.org.uk/listening](http://www.sands.org.uk/listening)



Saving babies' lives.  
Supporting bereaved families.