

The Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights



Apply Now
Deadline 12th
December
2019

Influencing Scottish Politics
from a Race Equality Perspective



What is the BME Political Shadowing Scheme?

The Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights (CRER) recognises that Black and minority ethnic (BME) groups are severely under-represented in elected office and the wider political arena in Scotland. This scheme addresses and challenges this under-representation by providing politically-interested BME individuals with the opportunity to learn more about and become engaged in Scottish politics.

Through this programme, participants are given bespoke training on Scottish and UK politics, equalities, campaigning and lobbying, and the media. Informative visits to the Scottish Parliament and Glasgow City Chambers are also offered.

Training is followed by shadowing a Member of the Scottish Parliament or a city councillor. Previous participants have drafted parliamentary motions and questions, researched relevant local and national issues, attended debates and surgeries, and compiled press briefings.

There has never been a BME woman elected to the Scottish Parliament

"I am delighted to offer my support to CRER's BME Political Shadowing Scheme. The Scottish Parliament - and Scottish politics - is in need of greater equality and diversity to truly represent the people of Scotland. This Scheme helps to connect BME individuals with political mentors and take that step into the world of politics" Fulton MacGregor MSP, Convener of the Cross Party Group on Racial Equality

Who should apply?

This scheme is aimed at BME individuals who want to gain political experience, further their understanding of Scottish politics, advocate race equality issues, and address the under-representation of BME groups in elected office.

You do not need to be a member of a political party to apply, but a keen interest in politics and a potential political career, a willingness to learn, and a commitment to this scheme are essential.

The time commitment for this scheme is approximately two days per month over a six month period.

How can I apply?

The deadline for submitting the expression of interest form is 12th December 2019.

If you would like to apply for this scheme, simply complete the attached form and return it to address given.

If you would like to request this form in a different format or if you have further questions, please contact Annabelle Njenga at annabelle@crer.org.uk or 0141 4180 6530.

There should be 5 BME MSPs; there are 2 (1.6%)

There should be 2 BME Scottish MPs; there are none. (0%)

Just 8 of the 32 local authorities have at least one BME councillor

"It is undoubtedly one of the best opportunities I've taken in my burgeoning career. I learned a lot and was given enough responsibility to feel like I was contributing to an MSP's work load. The support and training from CRER was amazing and they were able to provide further opportunities for me after the scheme ended. Even if you don't think a career in politics is for you I would beg you to reconsider - this scheme proves that."

Noor Abdel-Razik, 2016-2017 participant

Important Dates

- 12th December - Deadline for Expression of Interest Form
- 16th January - Interviews
- 30th January - Induction Meeting
- 6th February - Scottish Politics Training
- 20th February - Equalities Training
- 12th March - Media Training

Dates for the visits to the Scottish Parliament and Glasgow City Chambers are still to be determined.

Following the training, six days of shadowing will take place from April to June.

There should be 49 BME councillors; there are 17.



BME Political Shadowing Scheme 2019 – 2020
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

If you would like to apply for this scheme please complete this form electronically or using a blue or black pen and return to CRER by 12th December 2019. Late forms will not be accepted.

Personal Details

Name:

Address:

Contact Number:

Email:

Are you in employment or education?

If so, please provide details.

Which Scottish political party closest aligns with your political views? Please select or tick.

- Scottish Conservative Party
- Scottish Green Party
- Scottish Labour Party
- Scottish Liberal Democrats
- Scottish National Party
- Other (please specify)
- None

Ethnicity and Under-representation

As permitted by Section 158 of the Equality Act 2010, in order to address the under-representation of Black and minority ethnic individuals in elected office and political life, this scheme is only open to people from a Black and minority ethnic background. Please complete these two questions on ethnicity and under-representation.

What is your ethnicity?

Do you think people from your ethnic group are under-represented in Scottish politics? Why do you think this is? Do you have any data to support your arguments?

Please briefly describe your interest in politics.

Have you had any political experience to date? If so, please provide details.

Submit Your Application

- A. Print this form and complete in pen then return to the address shown below. OR
- B. Complete electronically and print this form then return to the address shown below. OR
- C. Complete electronically and automatically submit via email by clicking Submit Form button at top. OR
- D. Save the completed form to your device and share as email attachment.

By clicking submit form, the information entered will be sent to us as an automatically generated email via the email app on your device or via your web-based email.

BME Political Shadowing Scheme Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights 8 John Street Glasgow G1 1JQ



For further information please contact us:
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Website: www.crer.scot
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