**Civil Society Media’s State of the Sector Seminar Bursary Scheme**

Civil Society Media is committed to supporting the charity sector to become more reflective of the diverse communities it serves. We know from our own and others’ research that people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds are under-represented in senior positions in the sector, in both executive and board-level roles.

We believe this is partly due to the fact that people of colour are not always afforded the same training and development opportunities as their white counterparts, and because specialist BAME organisations receive a fraction of the funding of mainstream organisations. In a bid to try to redress these imbalances, Civil Society Media is offering five bursary places to people of colour and/or representatives of specialist BAME charities at our next State of the Sector event, Race to the Top, the theme of which is “Dismantling racism in the charity sector”.

CSM’s State of the Sector events are half-day seminars on a topic of importance in the charity sector.  Previous topics have included Diversity and Safeguarding.

Race to the Top will be chaired by **Derek Bardowell** and will feature speakers including, **Wanda Wyporska**, executive director at the Equality Trust, **Alex Russell,** joint-chief executive at the Westway Trust and **Fatima Iftikar**, campaign leader, #charitysowhite. It will take place on the morning of 13 February at the QEII Conference Centre in London. You can find the full programme [**here**](https://www.civilsociety.co.uk/events/state-of-the-sector-race-to-the-top.html).

**Applications**

To apply for a bursary place, you must be a person of colour who is employed by or volunteers as a trustee for a charity, or be an employee or trustee of a small, specialist charity in the BAME sector.

We are particularly interested in hearing from people who have never been to a Civil Society Media event before, and who wouldn’t ordinarily be able to go.

Alternatively, early bird discounts are available until 17 January and you can book these directly on our [website](https://www.civilsociety.co.uk/events/state-of-the-sector-race-to-the-top.html).

To submit your application for a bursary place, please email your application to events@civilsociety.co.uk with the title “BAME Bursary Application” by 6 January and include the following details:

Your name

Job title (or trusteeship)

Organisation

Organisation income

Brief description of what your organisation does

Your phone number

Your email

Your career stage (eg student, first job, middle management, senior management, trustee)

Applications must be received by 6 January.

**Selection process**

Copies of the applications excluding the name of the applicant will be provided to a panel of Civil Society Media editorial staff. The panel will decide which applications should receive a bursary. The panel’s decision is final.

Civil Society Media will contact all applicants by email confirming the outcome of their application within 5 working days after the application deadline, outlining the next steps.

**Note**

Bursaries are awarded to individuals booking to attend the Race to the Top seminar; bursaries are only transferable to other individuals or within an organisation with the consent of Civil Society Media. The bursary must be repaid in full if the applicant does not attend the seminar.