

Viewpoints



Race and Racism in Primary Care

The *Black Lives Matter* campaign has highlighted issues of race and racism which are present in all parts of our communities and organisations. BJGP Open is inviting Viewpoints to document experiences of racism in primary care as a patient, practitioner, trainee, or researcher.

This initiative sits outside the usual BJGP Open framework for research and commentary, and has been created as a rapid access format for sharing information.

What is your full name?

Dr Hisham Nobeebaccus

What is your role?

GP, Director for Yorkshire Health Partners, LMC Vice chair Hull and East Riding, Interim Director of Primary Care for the Hull York Medical School

Please describe the experience of race and/or racism that you would like to share

"I want to see a white doctor" was not an unfamiliar statement I heard during my training. This statement had the power to make me feel insignificant. Was it the way I looked? The way I spoke? The way I dressed? My religion? Why was I not good enough? Was I an inferior doctor? What surprised me the most was not the overt display of racism from the patient but the tolerance of the statement from those around me. There would never be a warning issued and there would be a lack of zero tolerance policy. My non-BAME senior colleagues would often shrug their shoulders and make a comment saying it was wrong but then would not take it no further. While with my senior BAME colleagues I sensed frustration and depression, there was often a shrug of the shoulders and a look of resignation.

As I have become more experienced, the phrase now seems to have changed to "I want to see an English doctor". This statement is different but the sentiment is the same. I am an English born second generation BAME doctor and this statement does not mean me.

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