



## Peer Researcher Role Description

*“There's really no such thing as the 'voiceless'. There are only the deliberately silenced, or the preferably unheard.”*

— Arundhati Roy

### What is Race Alliance Wales?

Race Alliance Wales (RAW) is a self-directed, collaborative network of racialised<sup>1</sup> individuals and organisations working towards greater race equality in Wales. We (Jami, Leila and Assia – hi!) are working towards developing the Alliance and its work, including producing evidence papers across four themes - [Racism in Education](#), [Racism in Employment](#), [Racialised Young People’s Experiences of the Police in Wales](#) and [Racialised Representation in Public and Political Life](#). Race Alliance Wales is a new coalition, initiated early 2018 and launched in December 2019, and it’s an exciting time to develop this new, collaborative way of working to benefit our communities in Wales.

We are currently looking to recruit **up to 6 volunteer<sup>2</sup> peer researchers** to actively research racialised experiences with the police which may include stop and search, use of force, lack of racialised representation in the police etc. Peer researchers will put together their own research design and collect racialised people’s experiences and stories. The data collected will be used as a basis for RAW’s evidence paper on **Racialised Young People’s Experiences of the Police in Wales**, co-owned by you and our members!

*“Teamwork is the secret that makes common people achieve uncommon results.”*

- Ifeanyi Onuoha

<sup>1</sup> We use the term ‘racialised’ not as means of self or community-identification but as a socio-political categorisation formed by White-led systems and society, applied to people based on individual differences and characteristics such as skin colour, hair type, name, dress, religion, nationality, migration status or ethnic heritage, to justify our oppression.

<sup>2</sup> All peer researchers will be inducted as volunteers under Ethnic Minorities & Youth Support Team Wales (EYST) volunteer framework. Race Alliance Wales is an informal un-constituted body and is therefore hosted in operational terms by EYST. For this reason we must adhere to EYST Policy and Procedures.



## Peer Researcher Role

Peer research is a participatory research method in which people with lived experience of the issues being studied take part in directing and conducting the research<sup>3</sup>.

To be a peer researcher, you can use your lived experiences of race to influence, design and conduct research in your community. This research opportunity is a way to positively pose questions and challenge dominant narratives – which can be inaccurate, whitewashed and at times damaging - in a constructive way.

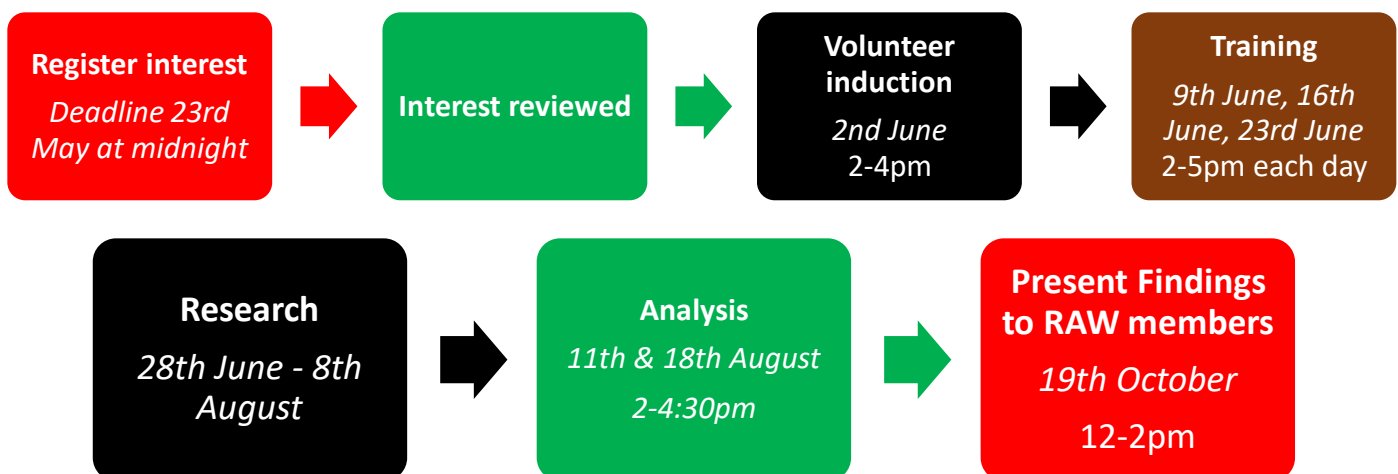
*“Not everything that is faced can be changed; but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”*

*- James Baldwin*

By volunteering as a peer researcher you can actively design, collect and analyse data, hopefully with a **lasting impact**. We are aiming to contribute to the evidence base of issues facing racialised people in Wales (which is really under researched) and contribute forward-thinking recommendations for Government and other bodies to implement.

## How much time will it take?

The duration of the research project is **5 months** – from registering your interest to presenting and sharing research findings with the RAW membership. The maximum time commitment will be **no more than 50 volunteer hours**, within which we need applicants to be able to commit to the specific training and induction dates below – all of which will take place online (of course!).



<sup>3</sup> Lushey, C. (2017). ‘Peer Research Methodology: Challenges and Solutions’ [online]. SAGE Research Methods Cases. <https://dx-doi-org.ezproxy.is.ed.ac.uk/10.4135/9781473994614>.



## How do I know if I can apply?

We are welcoming interest from those who match the points below:

- Aged 18-25.
- Are racialised.
- Able to commit to volunteer for up to 50 hours over the next 6 months.
- Keen interest in the research area.

***We welcome applications from individuals with disabilities, people who identify as LGBTQI+, who do not have English as a first language, and from across Wales. If you require any support in registering your interest please do not hesitate to get in touch.***

## Why get involved – what’s in it for me?

- **Develop** – personally benefit from training around race issues, social research methods, research design and analysis.
- **Impact** – Amplifying voices that may have been ‘unheard’ by contributing to a lack of evidence around BAME inequalities in Wales.
- **Connect** – Meeting new people and expanding your network for future prospects and opportunities.
- **Recognition** - You will be credited as a researcher on an evidence paper specifically exploring BAME inequalities in Wales. You can also use RAW as a reference for any future opportunities.

We value volunteers and are conscious that you are giving up your time for free to undertake this role. We have had many discussions around valuing your time while not being able to pay you, for operational reasons and reasons connected to researcher bias. Therefore, in addition to the benefits laid out above, including training, experience, networks and recognition, we are happy to be able to offer the following (in line with volunteer expenses and finance policies):

- *Contribute to costs of data usage*
- *A take-away meal delivered to your house on your active days of volunteering*
- *Support to access software to undertake the role should you need it*
- *Access to support should you experience any vicarious/reinvigorated trauma due to the topic you will be researching*

## Next steps ...

- Any questions please drop us an email on [info@racealliance.wales](mailto:info@racealliance.wales)
- To apply, register your interest here: <https://bit.ly/35Z7o6f> by **Sunday 23rd May midnight.**



## Testimonials from previous peer researchers



**Andrea Ibarra**

#ShowUsYouCare 

It was an interesting experience. Some things were surprising, others were expected, but I think that's what makes this journey so intriguing, you never know exactly what kind of stories are waiting to be told.

Unfortunately, the results of this research were mostly negative. It is sad to see in how many ways the system is failing to people who want nothing but to be able to live peacefully without being judged or targeted just for the way they look.

For the educational system to change, they first have to want to do so. They got to be serious about the situation: pay attention, care and take action.



**Ema Begum**

#ShowUsYouCare 

During my time as a peer researcher, I was able to expand my knowledge and gain a better understanding on Racism in Education. From carrying out interviews, I discovered that there were multiple individuals from BAME backgrounds who have also experienced some form of Racism during their time in Education.

This highlighted to me the sheer scale of the issue at hand, as all participants have experienced some form, be it indirect or passive racism within the education environment.

On the whole, this research project has allowed me to meet new individuals across Wales. Importantly, I have been able to use this opportunity to work cohesively alongside peers to produce and report our findings on a topic where research to date is limited.



**Nirushan Sudarsan**

#ShowUsYouCare 

To have the opportunity to be involved in the Peer Research into Racism in Education was a privilege in speaking to BAME young people across Wales and better understand the issues of their experiences in Education.

We were able to see that many young people felt that we needed to have an inclusive curriculum which reflects the diversity of Wales, better support and reporting systems when dealing with racism in schools and having more teachers from BAME backgrounds, and in senior positions as well.

If we are to move towards an Anti-Racist Wales, we need to ensure our Educational Institutions listen to these experiences and take proactive steps to address the inequalities facing BAME young people.



**Saadia Abubaker**

#ShowUsYouCare 

Taking part in this peer research project has been such a rewarding experience. Not only was I able to explore a topic that is very important but, I was able to build my skills and confidence as a peer researcher.

The findings of this research form a great foundation of all the work that needs to be done to ensure that education is more equal.