

JEWISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION UK

This email is different from the usual communications you receive from the Jewish Medical Association (UK)!

**PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO READ IT
AND HOPEFULLY TAKE ACTION YOURSELF!**

Recently the BMA has launched a Racism in Medicine survey to document how racism is experienced by doctors from different ethnic backgrounds in their workplace.

The survey is open to all doctors from all ethnic groups and backgrounds. We would like to gather views from doctors of all ethnic groups on the impact of racial discrimination on the medical workforce and their wellbeing.

The BMA Chair, Dr Chaand Nagpaul has written a blog to explain the importance he attaches to this.

[READ THE BLOG HERE](#)

We want to encourage you to complete this anonymous Survey – [Click here](#) – it will take only a few minutes! There is no doubt that many Jewish Medical Association (UK) members will be tempted: **“click delete!”**

There are many reasons for doing so – not a BMA member, aversion to the BMA and its activities, dislike of the BMJ, cynicism about the history of the BMA with regard to Jews in 1930s – to name a few.

PLEASE THINK AGAIN THIS TIME.

Basically, now, in 2021, there is a case that Jews – and indeed Judaism – can be / are subjected to antisemitism, a form of racist prejudice that seems particularly persistent. Doctors are not immune, whether as perpetrators or victims.

By failing to reflect and report on this are we acquiescing in perpetuating this form of racism?

To combat this the BMA have stated that “the survey and research form part of the BMA’s programme of work to better understand the disparities and diversity of experiences of doctors on the basis of their race. The results will be published in 2022, with recommendations to set the foundation

to end racism in medicine. And what else can one do? The BMA is in parallel running focus groups about barriers against ethnic minority doctors. If you can spare the time it is important to sign up to participate in these as well. [Click here to take this survey](#)

It is interesting that for these groups it is quite difficult to work out where Jews “fit” into the minority categories!

BACKGROUND TO THE BMA SURVEY

If you are still in doubt, here are a few some additional items that may help to persuade you to complete the Survey

- In 2019 the NHS Staff Survey (anonymous) showed that ~30% of the ~900 Jews included had been subjected to discrimination on the grounds of their identity (the only group who reported a higher percentage were Muslims). It would be surprising if this did not include / affect doctors.... so needs to be called out?
- The General Medical Council (GMC) has taken a lead by including Jews in the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Forum. However, thus far only 680 Jews have included a faith identification within their GMC registration. Why? Unaware of this option? Anxiety about potential use of the data for discrimination? If so, this anxiety should be reported in the survey?
- Why did the GMC include Jews? Well, basically the GMC heard that when the Government (DoH) asked the minority ethnic medical groups in general why they do not trust promises (before Covid – 19!) the response was “Grenfell. Windrush”. To which the GMC accepted that for many Jews that list included “Corbyn”.
- Earlier in 2021 there was a great deal of media talk on inequalities. There were several occasions where Jews were omitted. Perhaps the most bizarre was when we were told by Government that “institutional racism” was not a serious issue. Sure – if you ignore antisemitism as a form of racism?
- The BMA was also on occasion at fault for ignoring this – which is why the Association met with their officers, and the outcome can be found in full on the Jewish Association UK website ([Click here](#) – for BMA, Racism and Antisemitism statement) This is BMA core policy now, and in this survey they are asking for any more information about the problems – which we continue to provide when brought to our notice in individual cases, but which need to be supported widely in this survey.
- There were two forms of particular prejudice against Jewish doctors which arose in the UK in May 2021: (i) a letter published in the BMJ at the time of the Gaza conflict which primarily presented a biased political history rather than addressing valid medical questions – to which the Association responded, as did some senior Israeli medical personnel; and (ii) online abuse of Jewish doctors by other UK licensed doctors – which the Association reported to the GMC, and to date one such case is being taken further by them.

SO PARTICIPATION IN THIS SURVEY IS IMPORTANT!

When Jewish issues are marginalised or ignored next time, it would be very disappointing if there is no documentation available to draw upon from this survey.

**THE DEADLINE TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY IS 30TH NOVEMBER 2021:
CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY**