



## UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF YOUNG BLACK AND MINORITY ETHNIC YOUNG CARERS IN EUROPE

*"Young Black and Minority Ethnic Carers": Barriers and Opportunities for Employment and Education" pan-European Research Launch*

Despite being under the radar of research and both educational and justice policies, young carers from Black and minority ethnic (BME) backgrounds remain one of the most marginalised communities in Europe experiencing emotional, social and economic constraints that have long term impact on their personal and professional development.

However, caring at a young age can also prove to be a positive experience that helps young people develop strong interpersonal and practical skills including empathy, sensitivity, responsibility and self-confidence. Strengths that if nurtured and managed well, can lead young carers to live successful and fulfilling lives. Innovation, cross-sectoral cooperation, exchange of experience and best practice, in addition to awareness among youth professionals, employers, young people and society of the positive impact of caring, are essential drivers of improving the reality of young BME carers across Europe.

These are among the key conclusions of the report entitled "Young Black and Minority Ethnic Carers": Barriers and Opportunities for Employment and Education" that was released today in the framework of the landmark Erasmus+ KA2 funded, pan-European project entitled "Care 2 Work". **The report will officially be launched at an international Conference entitled "Barriers Understood"- Young BME Carers in Europe on Wednesday 10th February in Carpi, Italy, hosted by Anziani e Non Solo.** The report was produced following in depth youth-led qualitative research with young BME carers and youth professionals in four European partner countries. The findings will guide the second phase of the project that aims to develop capacity building youth-led training for young carers and youth workers.

**Theo Gavrielides** – IARS Director and C2W Project Lead said: *"This report represents our first attempt to create an evidence base before we proceed with the designing and piloting of the tools that will empower our target audiences for C2W. Through this report, we confirm the timeliness and pertinence of our project. We do hope that this project will make a difference in young carers lives."*

Care 2 Work aims to break the cycle of poverty and multiple disadvantage that BME young carers face and is delivered in partnership with 3 European partners Anziani e Non Solo (Italy), Linnaeus University (Sweden) and the Family and Children Care Centre (Greece), under the leadership of the IARS International Institute.

**The project has its own dedicated website [WWW.CARE2WORK.ORG](http://WWW.CARE2WORK.ORG)**

**Stephen Greene** – Founder of RockCorps and National Citizen Service Trust Chair: *"Care2Work begins to show us the way forward to unlocking the potential of young BME carers. First the respect – we must build awareness of the challenges faced by BME carers. Then, the tools to improve their future, such as peer support groups and increased capacity at NGOs focused in this area. Finally, provide them with opportunities to enter employment, education or training".*

## NOTES TO EDITORS

- o The full report “Young Black and Minority Ethnic Carers”: Barriers and Opportunities for Employment and Education will be available here <http://www.care2work.org/reports-e-book/>
- o Download the UK report “Barriers and Needs of Young Carers in the UK” here <http://www.care2work.org/reports-e-book/>
- o Each country has produced a national report in their native languages that takes into consideration cultural, societal, financial and institutional contexts (with Executive Summaries of all being available in English).
- o To find out more about the Care2Work Programme and to get involved in the activities please follow the link or contact the EU project lead Dr. Theo Gavrielides [T.Gavrielides@iars.org.uk](mailto:T.Gavrielides@iars.org.uk)
- o Care2Work is co-funded by Erasmus+ under the Agreement 2014-2-UK01-KA205-011967
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The IARS International Institute is user-led and user-focused charity with a mission to give everyone a chance to forge a safer, fairer and more inclusive society.

Over the last 10 years, the Institute has been providing world-class and cutting-edge educational, research, policy and networking services of local, national and international significance. We are focused on empowering the most marginalised communities through direct service delivery, while enabling organizations to achieve, measure and improve their social impact. IARS is an international expert in criminal justice, restorative justice, human rights and inclusion citizenship, public service and user-led research.

To find out more about the IARS International Institute please follow the link [www.iars.org.uk](http://www.iars.org.uk)



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