

## PRESS RELEASE: The IARS International Institute receives EU funding to support BAME young carers

[The IARS International Institute](#) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded Erasmus+ (KA2) funding to develop and deliver an innovative, youth-led 2 year programme entitled [Care 2 Work](#). The programme will target one of the most marginalized communities in Europe, that of the Black and Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) young carers with a view to break the cycle of poverty and multiple disadvantage that they face, and to support them to achieve a successful transition from caring to adulthood.

The programme will be delivered in partnership with 3 European partners with long standing experience in engaging with marginalized and disadvantaged young people namely [Anziani e Non Solo](#) (Italy), [Linnaeus University](#) (Sweden) and the [Family and Children Care Centre](#) (Greece), under the leadership of the [IARS International Institute](#).

[Dr. Theo Gavrielides](#), IARS' Founder and Director, said: "This funding comes at a critical point in time when the European vision of unity and equality under the notion of a Union is being challenged. We know that young people have been affected the most by the recent economic and political restructures. This reality is even harsher for those belonging to marginalised communities such as BAME carers. Over the next two years, our Institute and its three partners will work hard to help bring some balance to issues of race and gender equality across Europe".

Only in the UK, it is estimated that there are 1.5 million of young people under the age of 35 who provide care for relatives who may have significant mental or physical disability; furthermore, young people from BAME communities are twice as likely to be young carers. This reality has significant impact on young carers' lives and can further compromise equal opportunities in education and employment.

Utilising the Institute's ten year experience of engaging and supporting marginalised communities through user-led approaches, the programme will aim to transform the lives of thousands of young carers across Europe by providing them with a range of accredited training and volunteering opportunities that will aim at their smooth transition from caring to adulthood. Furthermore, to ensure the sustainability of the programme, accredited training will be developed and delivered to service providers and organisations that are working with BAME young carers.

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)