

## Press Release

### **All-Party Parliamentary Group for Black Health welcomes Department of Health and Social Care's refreshed Women's Health Strategy.**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Black Health welcomes the Department of Health and Social Care's [Renewed Women's Health Strategy for England](#).

The APPG particularly notes the Strategy's emphasis on Fibroids, partnership with community organisations for implementation and the amplification of lived experience to improve outcomes. The APPG for Black Health continues to prioritise addressing health inequalities faced by Black African and Caribbean women in the UK through our work.

The APPG for Black Health considers the refreshed Strategy as an opportunity to improve health outcomes for Black women and move the previously stated ambitions to impactful endeavours.

The APPG makes the following recommendations to Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England, ICBs:

- Ensure implementation strategies specifically tackling the inequalities experienced by Black women in access, experience and outcomes.
- Prioritise sustainable and equitable partnership working with community organisations to amplify the voices of Black women with lived experience.
- Champion increasing the volume and representation of data on menstrual health conditions, such as Fibroids, to encourage improvement in care, treatment and experience.
- Ensure accountability for measuring the tackling of health inequalities faced by Black women.

We, as the APPG for Black Health are keen to continue influencing policy and practice to achieve health equity. We are proud to have been able to influence through the following actions:

- Publish 'Breaking the Silence: Fibroids, Black Women, Time for Change' report with interim analysis of 350+ responses from Black women with lived experience.
- 'Breaking the Silence' report featured in The Guardian highlighting the stark inequalities faced by Black women with Fibroids.
- Met with Baroness Merron (Minister of State for Women's Health and Mental Health) to discuss the findings of the report and key recommendations.
- Attended the Department for Health and Social Care's roundtable on menstrual health conditions representing our communities.

**Quotes:**

***Professor Faye Ruddock, Chair of Caribbean African Health Network stated:***

“The Caribbean & African Health Network (CAHN) warmly welcomes the renewed Women’s Health Strategy and is encouraged by its clear commitment to tackling the deep-rooted inequalities that continue to affect women’s health, particularly for Black women and other marginalised groups. As the Secretariat of the APPG for Black Health, where reproductive health and fibroids sit at the heart of our first work stream, we know how much this moment matters.

The recognition of key women’s health concerns such as fibroids, menstrual health, and menopause inequalities, alongside the focus on community voice, co-production, and culturally responsive care, reflects meaningful listening and genuine intent.

We look forward to working closely with DHSC, NHS England, ICBs, and key stakeholders to ensure that implementation is grounded in the lived experiences of the women most affected, and that community organisations like CAHN are empowered to play a central role in shaping and delivering change. This strategy represents an important step toward a fairer, more responsive health system for all women, and CAHN is proud to support it.”

***Dr Paulette Hamilton MP, Chair APPG on Black Health added:***

“Fibroids are a silent crisis disproportionately affecting Black women, with far too many facing years of pain, delayed diagnosis and inadequate care.

I welcome the inclusion of the APPG for Black Health’s recommendations in the refreshed Women’s Health Strategy; this reflects the voices of hundreds of women who shared their experiences.

Now we must move from recognition to action, ensuring timely diagnosis, better treatment options and truly equitable care for all.”

***Jo Bibby, Director of Health at the Health Foundation, said:***

“We’re pleased to have supported CAHN’s important work with the APPG, helping to strengthen the national focus on women’s health.

This marks a meaningful step toward improving outcomes and ensuring women across England receive the understanding, attention, and quality of care they deserve.”

**Links to relevant information:**

- [Renewed Women’s Health Strategy for England](#)
- [APPG for Black Health report: 'Breaking the Silence: Fibroids, Black Women, Time for Change'](#)
- [The Guardian Article on APPG for Black Health 'Breaking the Silence' report](#)
- [Women's voices to be at the heart of renewed health strategy](#)



**All-Party Parliamentary Group on  
Black Health**

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**About APPG on Black Health:**

The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Black Health is a cross-party parliamentary group committed to Informing Policy and Practice to Achieve Equity in Healthcare.

Secretariat provided by the Caribbean & African Health Network (CAHN).

**For information about the organisation, please contact:** [appg@cahn.org.uk](mailto:appg@cahn.org.uk)

**About CAHN:**

The Caribbean & African Health Network (CAHN) is a Black-led organisation on a mission to eradicate health inequalities and wider disparities for Black Caribbean and African people in the UK.

**For information about the organisation, please visit** <https://www.cahn.org.uk/>