



10 Downing St,

Westminster,

London,

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23 April 2020

CC: The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP (Home Secretary); The Rt Hon Matt Hancock (Secretary of State for Health and Social Care); The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick (Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government); The Rt Hon Gavin Williams (Secretary of State for Education)

RE: UK SOMALIS RESPONSE TO COVID19

Dear Prime Minister,

CSO is a second tier organisation set up for the Somali Voluntary and Community Sectors to assist as an umbrella organisation. It aims to provide a collective voice for the Somali Community in the UK in areas of Health & Wellbeing, Criminal Justice, Education Poverty Reduction and Economic empowerment.

The Somali Community understands and shares that this is a time of crisis and that the government has a large number of urgent and pressing issues. Viruses know no borders, as COVID-19 has proven. The only way out of this pandemic is by working together and ensuring that we tackle the long term effect and impact. At the same time some people are at greater

risk, both in terms of the direct health impact and in terms of the wider social and economic consequences.

We are concerned about the short-term health impacts of Covid19, the deeper causes of these outcomes, and the longer-term consequences on the Somali communities in the UK.

The organisations that make up CSO are on the frontline of dealing with the Covid-19 outbreak and facing disproportionate impacts that we fear are not being adequately considered in the decisions being made by government and civil society leaders.

Today we launch our member organisation, Anti-Tribal Movement's [urgent briefing for policy-makers on the impact of Covid-19 on the British-Somali community](#). The report is backed by the support of leading charities working with Somali communities across the UK. The policy briefing presents the heightened inequalities that the Somali community face in education, employment, health, and housing as they cope with this pandemic.

The briefing features a number of achievable recommendations for statutory agencies. We hope this briefing serves as a benchmark for an improved understanding of how the pandemic has impacted this community and to inform future frameworks to respond to the challenges presented. This pandemic is shared experience across all communities and societies- we hope this report offers a fresh perspective on one of the biggest challenges of our time.

Yours sincerely,

Kahiye
Kahiye Alim
Director

Council of Somali Organisations

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