



## Above Difference Black History Month Webinar

Thursday 21 October

Being a Black Female Leader in the Public Sector (The Hills We Climb)

### Speaker Biographies



**Cindy Butts**

**Chair, Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket  
Independent Member, House of Commons Speaker's Committee  
Independent Member, House of Lords Conduct Committee**

Cindy has over 20 years of experience improving access to justice, tackling inequality and complaints handling. She currently has a portfolio career which includes being a Lay Member of the House of Commons Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, a Lay Member of the House of Lords Conduct Committee and also serves as an Independent member of the Press Recognition Panel's Nominations Committee. In March 2021 Cindy was appointed by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to Chair the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket (ICEC).

Cindy also has extensive experience in senior public sector recruitment; assisting Government Ministers in appointing Non-Executive Directors to a range of Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

She previously held a Crown appointment as a Commissioner at the Criminal Cases Review Commission and formerly served as a Commissioner at the Independent Police Complaints Commission. Prior to this she was the Deputy Chair of the Metropolitan Police Authority where she had responsibility for setting the strategic direction of the Metropolitan Police Service and chaired a range of inquiries most notably into race and faith, gun and Knife crime and co-chaired the Domestic Violence Board alongside Baroness Helena Kennedy.

Cindy has advised various international Governments on police oversight and citizen engagement, most recently advising the South African Government on legislative reforms to police oversight.

She is a Trustee of the charity Kick it Out which is striving to eradicate all forms of discrimination in football and is a Visiting Fellow of BPP University.



**Tracie Jolliff**

**Head of Inclusive System Development at NHS England  
Visiting Professor  
Executive Coach**

Tracie strategically leads the inclusion portfolio of work for the People Directorate in Leadership and Life-long Learning (LLL) as part of her portfolio within the EDI function. Tracie crafted the knowledge enhancing work of Building Leadership For Inclusion (BLFI), that has influenced a suite of interventions for the NHS - to raise the level of ambition on inclusion, quicken the pace of change, and ensure that leadership is equipped to achieve and leave a sustainable legacy on inclusion.

Tracie is also the designer and host of the Racial Justice Seminar Series, the first of its kind for the NHS as part of the Executive Suite of offers for LLL.

Best known for her inspiration and insight in relation to progressing social justice and inclusion across systems; Tracie is a leadership development and OD practitioner who designs and implements effective and ethical leadership strategies, which have at their heart justice, inclusion and sustainability. She's an experienced executive coach and a Visiting Professor who has spoken and lectured on leadership and inclusion nationally, working with government representatives and other bodies to address these themes across the public sector. As a contributing author, she sees herself as a positive disrupter of the status quo and a global citizen.

Tracie believes that she must 'preach what she practices' and courageously holds herself and others to account for the values they espouse; playing her part in supporting and nurturing the development of inclusive, effective, creative, insightful and connected leadership across the NHS system and beyond.



**Joan Myers OBE QN**

**Director & Trustee, Florence Nightingale Foundation  
Queens Nurse  
Royal College of Nursing Council**

Joan has over 35 years' experience as a strategic nurse leader, consultant and educator in community children's nursing services across London. She has worked as an advisor to the Chief Nursing Officer for England in the NHS for over 10 years including being the Chair of the CNO BME Strategic Advisory Group for 5 years up until 2017.

Joan 2018 received a Florence Nightingale Foundation Leadership Scholarship and travelled to the Netherlands to learn more about the Buurtzorg model. In 2019 she became a Trustee and Director with the Florence Nightingale Foundation.

Joan is an inspirational keynote speaker and is passionate about motivating and challenging people to excel and do well in their careers. Her Independent consultancy company offers mentorship, coaching and career support.

Joan is a multi-award winning nurse and has received an OBE for services to children and nursing in the Queens' Birthday honors' list in 2013, she is a Queen's nurse & has a honorary doctorate from Middlesex University. Joan was voted one of the top 50 most influential BAME figures in the NHS by the HSJ in 2020 & 2021.

Joan has a children's charity providing education and support for over 25 vulnerable children & their families in Nakuru, Kenya



**Wendy Olayiwola BEM FRSA MSc Public Health, BA (Hons), RN, BSc (Hons), RM, ILM.**

**National Maternity Lead for Equality NHS England and NHS Improvement.  
Professional Midwifery Advocate in a large NHS trust.  
President of Nigerian Nurses Charitable Association UK**

Wendy Olayiwola has strong self-belief values, personal development, philanthropy, mentoring, supporting others, just as passionately promoting and advocacy for equalities among black and minority ethnic groups. Wendy is a registered nurse and midwife with more than two decades of active, fruitful and broadened years of service in the community and public health. The recognition and influence of her abilities reach, influence and touch several spheres within and outside the United Kingdom.

Wendy is well seasoned in articulating and participating in diverse roles involving the hospital, community, private health, and well-being. She is very passionate about supporting and empowering nurses and midwives to provide culturally sensitive and holistic care for women and their families.

Wendy received her academic Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Nursing from Buckinghamshire Chiltern University UK; BSc (Hons.) Midwifery City University London with further studies, she obtained a merited diploma in Management and Leadership Studies (DMS) and postgraduate (MSc) degree in Public Health at the University of East London. She is an honorary lecturer at universities on Public health topics and a motivational speaker.

Wendy has co-authored articles in professional midwifery journals, including Talking to men about FGM and Reducing the incidence of Stillbirths in Black women. Wendy is a member of Nursing and Midwifery Council Equality Diversity and Inclusion Research Advisory Group. She is the Lead midwife/co-chair of CNO CMiDO BME Strategic Advisory Group NHS England and uses this role to advise and provide guidance on the issues facing patients and staff from minority ethnic groups. She is President of Nigerian Nurses Charitable Association UK.

Wendy has championed numerous project and initiatives beyond the UK's borders, stretching from Europe to African countries. She is a founding member of Better Health for Africa UK, an expert and resource group for shaping African healthcare. Her project participation stretched her to being a member of the Diaspora Healthcare Initiative steering group. She is the proud convener of NHS @70 Nigerian Healthcare Professionals UK Awards 2019. She is also the founder of National BAME Health and Care Awards and Society of African and Caribbean Midwives (SoAC) UK.

Wendy has received numerous accolades within the span of her praiseworthy career. The most recent, she was awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) for service to the NHS and Equality during the COVID-19 response in the 2021 New year's Honour list. She was listed in the 2020 year of the nurse and midwife GlobalWHO/UN/WGH 100 outstanding women nurse and midwife leader. She is the winner of the NHS@70 women leaders Award 2018.