

## Message to professional networks for practitioners working in formal and informal societal systems

In calling for [cultural competency across all children's services](#), VCF is offering a practical and effective tool for professionals interacting with Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) families or unaccompanied migrant children, to assess and address any safeguarding concerns.

In a diverse society, the recent demographic changes nationally mean that for all practitioners - at work, in schools or within the community - the **cultural competency training** can be applied and used in practice.

With the developments of the Department for Education (DfE) national action plan on abuse linked to faith or beliefs, the 'Cultural Competency' training **promotes best outcomes and effective assessments** of faith-based abuse or harm within a wider safeguarding remit. It also helps to **deal with issues of race relations in Britain**.

Currently, **the learning sits with the individual** through an 'online and interactive' session to begin the journey to cultural competence at operational level and systemically.

**Delegates shared positive feedback** from our pilot training and have already taken steps towards change.

Whilst issues of discrimination and, more broadly, aspects of culture and faith have largely been overlooked in **learning from child safeguarding practice reviews**, no one should be complacent about the need to include and embed a 'multiple cultures' approach within child protection, in the context of children and family rights.

We encourage you to consider this accredited training for professionals and practitioners, in your own settings, to begin the important work of **building culturally competent teams**.

Let history not repeat itself, or be ignored...

Do contact us for further information: [training@vcf-uk.org](mailto:training@vcf-uk.org)

*Who should join our workshops?*

- Anyone interacting with children and families to provide early help, support or protection
- Anyone interacting with newly-arrived migrant families or unaccompanied asylum-seeking children
- Anyone who has oversight for child and family related work in formal or informal societal systems
- Academics and researchers