PRIME
Protecting Minority Ethnic Communities Online

REPHRAIN All Hands Meeting
19-20 January 2023
RACIALISED INEQUALITIES, ONLINE HARM AND DIGITALISATION OF SERVICES

- Systematic racism, marginalisation and discrimination experienced by minority ethnic communities in the UK (Healing a Divided Britain, Equality and Human Rights Commission)
- Increasing awareness of the potential for ‘online harms’ including harms that people may experience through engaging with online services.
- The Online Harms White Paper 2020 (now the Online Safety Bill).
  - Harms identified in the White Paper included abuse/bullying, undermining of civil discourse.
- Rapid digitalisation of services – a lack of research regarding whether existing inequalities in service provision may be reproduced or exacerbated by digitalisation.
PRIME will deepen understanding of online harm, including those which may arise from a lack of equitable experiences and outcomes of key public services, focusing on three deeply interconnected areas of **health, housing and energy**.

- PRIME will:
  - Work with REPHRAIN to create safer spaces for ME communities.
  - Lead and build **policy, research and practitioner capacity** by connecting research with impact.
  - Develop a Citizen-led Race Equality Living Lab (CREL) to co-create systems and tools which bring about **transformative and sustainable change**.

- Multidisciplinary project: social sciences, applied linguistics, human computer interaction, data mining and cyber security.
Conceptual Advances
• PRIME will provide a transdisciplinary intersectional conceptual framework which increases understanding of the nature of the harms that ME communities and organisations are exposed to.

Empirical Contribution
• PRIME will provide:
  • An evidence-based understanding of the biases, triggers and different types of harms that ME individuals are exposed to.
  • Knowledge of the ways in which digital, linguistic and cultural literacy intersect to contribute to harm.
  • An examination of the impact of harms.
  • An assessment of existing harm mitigation tools and processes.
• An evidence-based Online Map of the Adversarial and Threat Landscape against ME communities
• An Online ME Policy, Social and Technical Harm Reduction Toolkit
  • Policy Guidance
  • Educational Resources and Training
  • Explainable AI
  • Privacy Enhancing Tools
THANK YOU

Follow the project updates at www.primecommunities.online