

PRESS RELEASE

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Groundbreaking Initiative “SHERO” Launched to Champion Sexual and Reproductive Health for Black Heritage Women in Lambeth

The Caribbean & African Health Network (CAHN) and Africa Advocacy Foundation (AAF) are pleased to announce the launch of SHERO, an outreach initiative aimed at advancing knowledge and take up of sexual and reproductive health for Black women in Lambeth. Guided by the rallying slogan “Championing Sexual and Reproductive Health for Black Heritage Women*,” SHERO seeks to empower local communities, reduce health disparities, and create open, inclusive conversations about sexual and reproductive wellness. The initiative is supported by Lambeth Council.

SHERO is opened to engaging the wider Lambeth community with an interest in Black Women’s health and initiatives. With plans to recruit 12 dedicated SHERO Champions, the programme will drive educational workshops, health resources, and community engagement events that focus on health awareness, prevention, and proactive wellness. This initiative is part of the wider and long-term programme of work dedicated to improving the sexual and reproductive health of Black heritage communities**.

We’re excited to announce our second event **Black Women SHERO Day**, a free community event focused on sexual and reproductive health for Black women in Lambeth. Taking place on Saturday, 11th January 2025, from 12 PM to 4 PM at St Matthew’s Church, Brixton, SW2 1J, the event will feature expert discussions, free health checks, wellness activities, and opportunities to connect with others over refreshments. Open to all, this is your chance to learn, network, and celebrate health and wellness in a supportive environment.

Attendees will also learn about SHERO and apply to become a Champion within the programme, contributing directly to empowering their communities.

Charles Kwaku-Odoi, Chief Executive of CAHN, said: “We are immensely proud to bring the SHERO programme to life in Lambeth, a project that reflects our commitment to championing sexual and reproductive health for our community. This programme will provide invaluable support and resources, helping create a safer, more informed community, and marks a significant step toward health equity. We look forward to seeing SHERO grow and positively impact Black women and their families across Lambeth.”

Juddy Otti, Head of HIV services, Africa Advocacy Foundation, says: “This event is a powerful step toward empowering women to take charge of their health and well-being. By addressing health disparities and fostering open, inclusive conversations about sexual and reproductive wellness, we aim to create a community where every woman feels informed, supported, and valued. Together, CAHN and Africa Advocacy can champion a healthier, more equitable future for our communities.”

Bimpe Oki, Director of Public Health (acting) Lambeth Council said: “The SHERO initiative marks an important milestone in our commitment to advancing health equity for women of Black heritage in Lambeth. By addressing, discussing and passing on knowledge about sexual and

reproductive health, this initiative empowers our community with the resources, education, and support we deserve. We are proud to partner with SHERO, which will strengthen community ties and create safer, more inclusive spaces for sexual wellness and reproductive health care. Together with our partners, we're moving closer to a future where all women in Lambeth can access the care they need, when they need it, with our Outreach and community work."

SHERO is one of our latest interventions in our ongoing mission to tackle health inequalities, ensuring that all Black women in Lambeth have access to culturally appropriate care and resources. Together with our partners and funder, we are taking critical strides toward a more equitable healthcare outcome.

SHERO's outreach will extend beyond women - including men and young people, through education and resources tailored to community needs. SHERO will deliver workshops in community spaces; health checks & screenings; health events with informational sessions, fostering open discussions on wellness and empowering Lambeth's Black heritage communities with inclusive health knowledge. Additionally, SHERO will connect the Black community with sexual health services across Lambeth including specialist, GP, Online & Community services

This joint effort by CAHN, the Africa Advocacy Foundation, and Lambeth Council ensures accessible, culturally relevant support for all.

Notes to Editors:

*Black heritage people who identify as women.

** CAHN was recently appointed to deliver targeted Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV prevention Outreach Service for Black African, Black Caribbean, Latin American and other minoritised ethnic groups across the Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham.

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About Caribbean & African Health Network (CAHN) - <https://www.cahn.org.uk/>

The Caribbean & African Health Network (CAHN) is a Black-led charity . CAHN's vision is to end health inequalities and wider disparities for Caribbean and African people in a generation. Our mission is to ensure that the strategic and operational actions of service providers across health and cross-sector agencies and commissioners, lead to racial and social justice for Black people.

About Africa Advocacy Foundation (AAF) - <https://www.africadvocacy.org/>

Africa Advocacy Foundation (AAF) supports and empowers vulnerable and disadvantaged people. We are a community-led initiative that aims to equip diaspora communities and marginalised people with the tools they need to find better health, safety, prosperity, and the opportunity to lead fulfilling and happy lives.

CONTACT

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