

WELCOME TO
THE BLACK WOMEN RISING
CANCER SUPPORT PROJECT

BLACK
WOMEN
RISING



LEANNE PERO

CEO, THE LEANNE PERO FOUNDATION

- Diagnosed with breast cancer in 2016
- Aged 30
- 8 rounds of chemo
- 16 herceptin injections
- Double mastectomy and reconstruction
- 6 months after mother diagnosed for the second time
- No family BRCA gene

BACKGROUND

The Leanne Pero Foundation aims to address the gaps in care for POC with cancer. After her own battle with Cancer, Leanne realised that mainstream cancer services were not inclusive enough and did not provide adequate support tailored to the black and ethnic community. Similarly, the community was not engaging with medical services to gather the much-needed data to make the changes.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

BI YEARLY
MAGAZINE

MONTHLY FACE
TO FACE
COFFEE
MORNINGS IN
KINGS CROSS

MONTHLY
ONLINE
SUPPORT
GROUPS

NURSE
SUPPORT LINES
9 AM - 5PM
EVERY
THURSDAY

MONTHLY
INSTAGRAM
LIVES

A MONTHLY
SUPPORT
GROUP FOR
LOVED ONES

PORTRAIT
EXHIBITION

YEARLY
PODCAST
SERIES

SELF CARE
GOODYBOXES
FOR ALL OUR
MEMBERS

**WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE MAIN
HEALTH CHALLENGES
DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTING
BLACK WOMEN IN THE UK?**

DID YOU **KNOW**?

Black African and Black Caribbean women are twice as likely to be diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer compared to their white counterparts.

SOURCE: PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND, 2016



DID YOU **KNOW**?

Black women are less likely than White women to go for a mammogram when invited by the NHS.

SOURCE: PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND, 2016



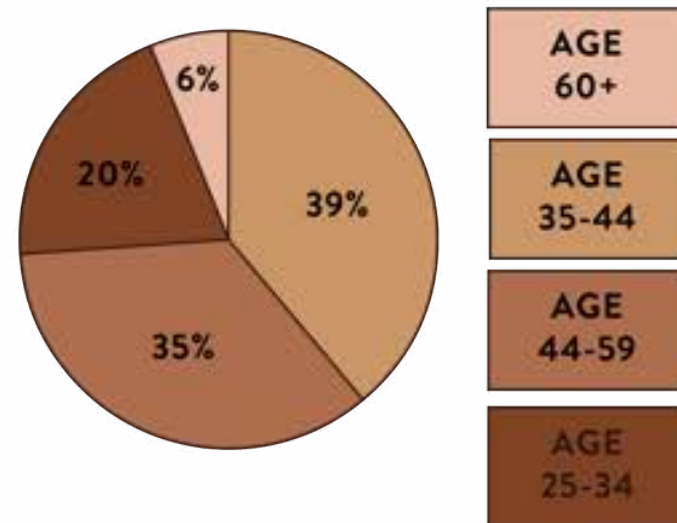
100 WOMEN SURVEY

INITIAL SYMPTOMS

85%

of respondents reported that they found a lump before being initially diagnosed.

AGE WHEN FIRST DIAGNOSED



UNHELPFUL THINGS PEOPLE SAID

The following statements were made to respondents by people around them once they were diagnosed:

"Stress has caused your cancer" **56/100** People

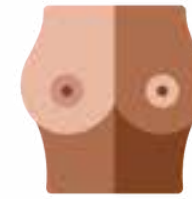
46/100 People "Don't take the chemo, it will kill you"

"You're too young to be diagnosed with cancer" **46/100** People

WIGS/PROSTHETICS



Four in ten (41%) of those who lost their hair reported that they were not offered a free wig and **over three quarters (78%)** of those reported that there was no suitable option for them.



74% of those who use a softie, prosthetic breast or nipple were not offered one to match their skin tone.

HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

46%



were told "I don't think it's cancer" by healthcare professionals.

REPRESENTATION



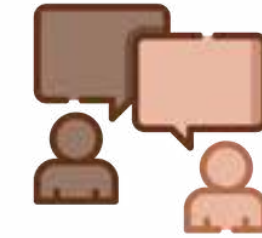
Only **31%** of respondents were able to find women of colour to relate to **ONCE DIAGNOSED**.

96% of respondents reported that they do not see women of colour represented enough in the media talking about breast cancer.

MENTAL HEALTH

46%

of respondents were not offered any counselling or therapy by their healthcare team.



81%

reported that they have struggled with their mental health after treatment.

POST TREATMENT

87%

of respondents who have completed their treatment reported suffering long-term side effects. The most common one being fatigue, along with achy joints and skin pigmentation.

SEX & INTIMACY



61% of respondents said that they struggled with sex & intimacy after treatment

100 Women Survey

46% of the women were told by their consultant in their initial consultation that despite having symptoms, they did not believe that they had cancer.

SOURCE: BLACK WOMEN RISING UK, 2021

100 Women Survey

74% of those who use a softie, prosthetic breast or nipple were not offered one to match their skin tone.

SOURCE: BLACK WOMEN RISING UK, 2021

100 Women Survey

41% of those who lost their hair reported that they were not offered a free wig and **78%** of those reported that there was no suitable option for them.

SOURCE: BLACK WOMEN RISING UK, 2021

100 Women Survey

96% of respondents reported that they do not see women of colour represented enough in the media talking about breast cancer.

SOURCE: BLACK WOMEN RISING UK, 2021

100

Women Survey

THE CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

UNHELPFUL COMMENTS

Don't take chemo **44%**

God will cure cancer **36%**

Go vegan **38%**

Stress has caused your cancer **47%**

You're too young **40%**

**MORE THAN A THIRD (34%)
OF CAMDEN'S POPULATION
ARE FROM BLACK, ASIAN
AND OTHER COMMUNITIES**

SOURCE: Camden's Equality Profile 2021

BLACK
WOMEN
RISING

WHAT WE AIM TO DO

There are no quick wins or one size fits all when it comes to the complexities of dealing with cancer and POC.

Our aims as an organisation are to influence changes that see :

- An increase in positive health outcomes for people of colour with cancer across-the-board
- More POC seeking medical intervention and advice at the earliest opportunity
- More POC accessing suitable cancer support services and not feeling excluded
- POC included in the narrative around cancer awareness campaigns and literature
- POC being able to navigate their cancer journey and feel empowered, supported and free from shame
- Social taboos and misconceptions of cancer are greatly reduced as more POC become educated about cancer in their communities

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

BLACK
WOMEN
RISING

ACTION POINTS

- Help us to place our bi-yearly magazine in doctors and hospital waiting rooms
- Help us inform health professionals and signpost link worker of our monthly online support groups, coffee mornings and other vital services so they can recommend them to their patients.
- Equality and Diversity training and education for all cancer medical professionals using real-time data
- POC being believed and their concerns not dismissed when seeking medical advice
- Media campaigns and articles that educate not just POC but everyone about the importance of change in this area
- More government-backed research into cancer within the black community with a true and up-to-date picture of where we are and with clear recommendations
- Keep inviting us to meetings like this.

CONTACT FURTHER



blackwomenrising.org



foundation@leannepero.com



[@blackwomenrisinguk](https://www.instagram.com/blackwomenrisinguk)