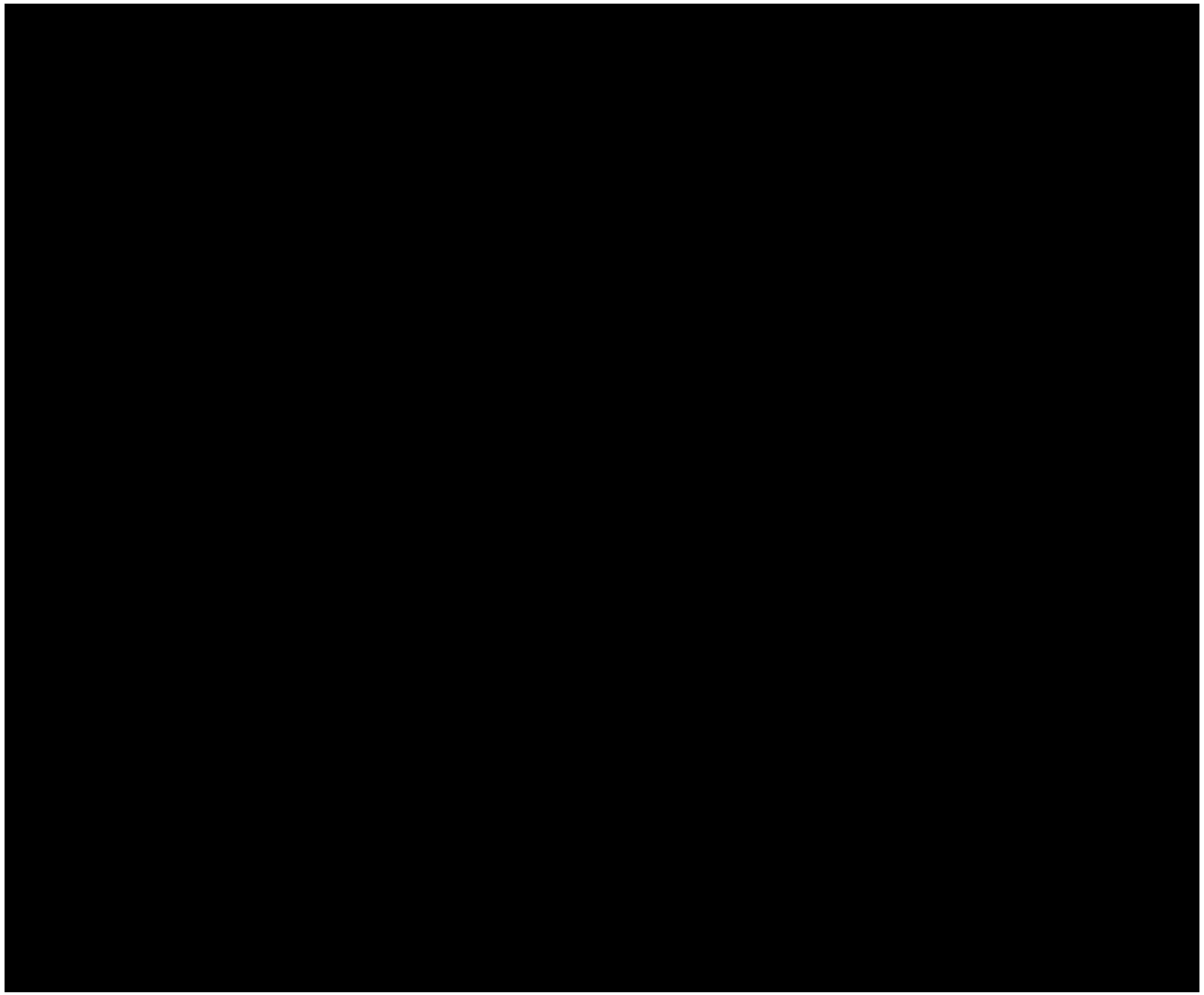
UK Research and Innovation

Our staff networks: a celebration and a thank you!



UK Research and Innovation


Coffee catch-ups and drop-ins across all networks
Support & information
Listening to build employee voice
Creating connection



Achieved

Carer Confident Level 1

An Employers for Carers benchmarking scheme

Carers Network

Member voices

“Belonging to this group has generally helped me through a difficult time and colleagues on this group have made me feel very welcome.”

“The group provides much needed support from those who truly understand what its like to juggle working / caring responsibilities.”

“It doesn't matter what the question is, there is always someone in the group who can help.”

RISE online Coffee Catch-ups



- How we **celebrate different cultural events and traditions**
- How we make the best of the weather for **rest, relaxation and outdoor activities**.
- How **networking, training and volunteering** can help support development



Cross network events

Including:

- Exploring intersectionality
- Queer Parenting
- Equal Parenting Week
- National Inclusion Week

Women and Gender Equity Network

Carers Network

MultiFaith Network

Pride Network

Parenting and mobile phone use

Managing menstrual health at work

How to be an ally in the workplace

Over 65 network led webinars

Brain-based parenting

Power, position and intersectionality

ECN

Parenting Network



Racial Inclusion and Striving for Equity Staff Network

Disability Matters Staff Network

Engagement

Supporting employee voice through:

Surveying and asking for member views

Contributing case studies

Providing insight to areas such as UKRI policies, values refresh and hybrid working

Piloting initiatives

Peer support sub-groups

- Caring for adults
- Caring for children
- Parents of young children
- Single parents
- New parents

- Parents of teens
- Mothers
- Fathers
- Parents of children with special needs
- Fertility journeys
- Prematurity

- Job sharing
- ADHD
- Chronic fatigue and other chronic conditions
- Physical disabilities
- Mental Health
- Menstrual Health conditions
- OCD







Member voices

“I feel far less alone.”

“The support, compassion and guidance I have received from other members has been invaluable during a really difficult time."

“The network makes us visible and gives us a voice.”



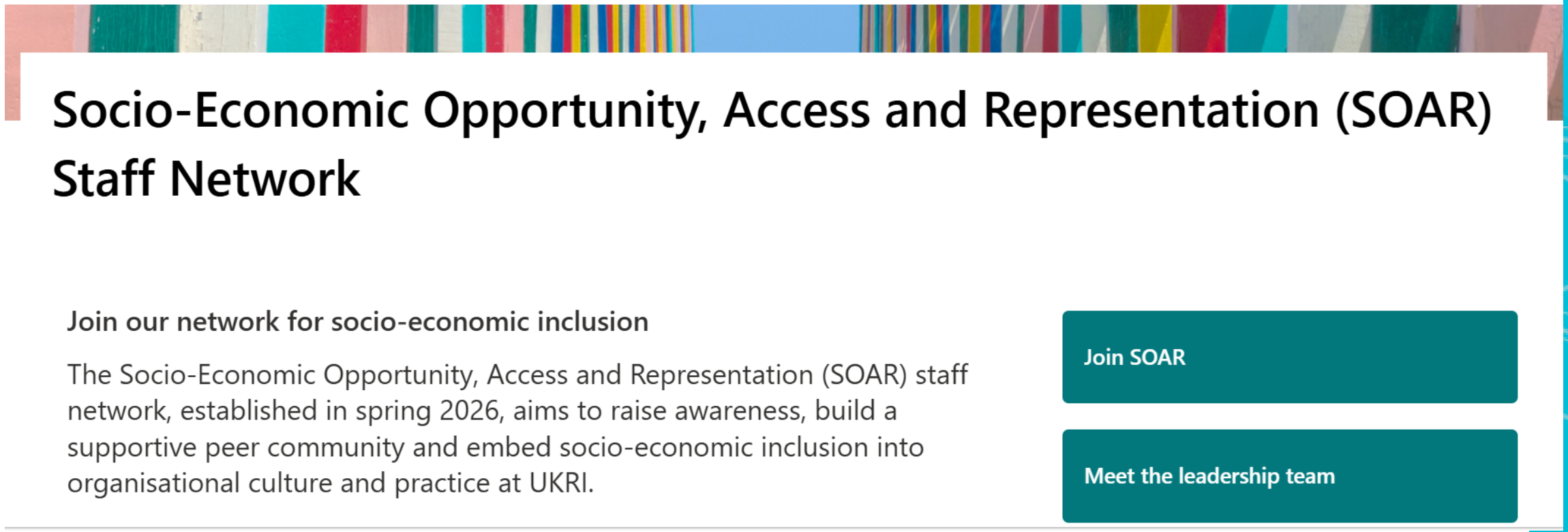
“Teams channels have been a great source for sharing experiences and getting advice from others.’

A new staff network!

Focusing on socio-economic experience

Approved in March 2026

Watch this space for the launch of SOAR in early May!



Disability Matters peer support group reflections



- Much needed, regular support and validation
- Inclusive and safe space
- Informal and member-led approach is welcome
- Accessible with little pressure
- A really useful way to share experiences and helpful resources



UKRI Parenting Network



Word cloud generated at Parenting Network AGM

*"**I feel less alone** in trying to balance work and parenting duties."*

*"The network has made me feel that **the parent part of me is more welcome here at UKRI** "*

Quotes from 2024 Member survey

400 members

Parenting Network



Disability Matters Staff Network

Carers Network



Women and Gender Equity Network

SOAR launching in May 2026

Focus on socio-economic experience)

Pride Network

MultiFaith Network

Racial Inclusion and Striving for Equity Staff Network

ENC

Opening of the Polaris House Multifaith and Contemplation Room

MultiFaith Network



Improving experiences

Reasonable
Adjustments
Champion
introduced at STFC

Disability Matters
Staff Network



- Supporting colleagues of all faiths and none
- Building connection through Teams channels and monthly online coffee chats
- General channels for multifaith conversation
- Plus channels for each faith to provide spaces of connection

MultiFaith Network



ECN Conference 2025

Transforming Tomorrow Together

[redacted]

[redacted]

Over 300 delegates

Menopause Special Interest Group



Aims of the group

- To provide a non-judgmental space/forum and peer support for staff affected by (peri)menopause to network and discuss matters that are of interest to them, such as sharing good practice and ideas.
- To raise awareness with colleagues and managers of (peri)menopause-related issues at work.
- To share experiences with the Culture, Inclusion and Learning team to help inform on (peri)menopause in the workplace.

‘What’s my name’ campaign

Racial Inclusion and Striving for Equity Staff Network

[redacted]

[redacted]



Ottoline Leyser

Ottoline Leyser, UKRI Chief Executive

Polaris House Parenting Room

“It’s a really great facility and has made the choice to express much simpler. I also really appreciate that there is a fridge in there *as I have been leaving my milk for the day, rather than having to store it next to people’s sandwiches.”*



MultiFaith Network

Regularly publishing articles featuring information about significant dates and events for different faiths



Hindu: Onam: Kerala's Vibrant Festival of Culture, Tradition and Unity



Multifaith Staff Network: Lammas



Islam: Eid-ul-Adha



Pagan: Midsummer – A Pagan Perspective



Christianity: The Feast of Corpus Christi



Christianity: Pentecost



Pagan: The celebration of Beltane



Christianity: Divine Mercy Sunday

Disability Matters
Staff Network

Opening of the Polaris House Wellbeing Room











Network strategies, plans and objectives









Raising awareness of important dates

Including:

- Equal Parenting Week
- International day of Women and Girls in Science
- Baby Loss Awareness Week
- International Women’s Day
- International Non-Binary People's Day
- Faith and belief observances
- National Inclusion Week

A visit to Number 10 for multifaith

Multifaith attended Number 10, and House of Commons All-Party Parliamentary Group to discuss faith in the workplace



MultiFaith Network

RISE and STFC Reverse Mentoring Pilot

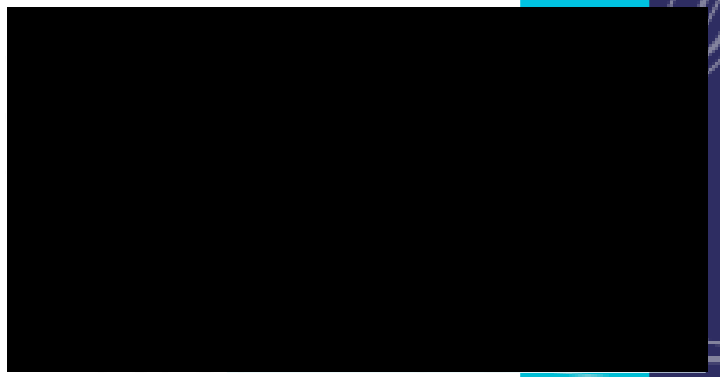
Racial Inclusion and Striving for Equity Staff Network

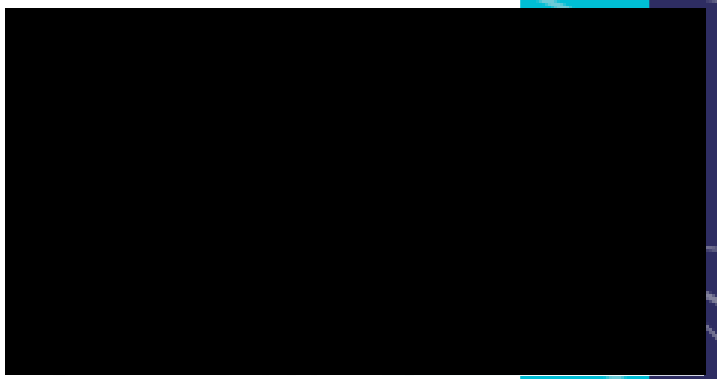












“It was a really unique chance to gain sight of a new area of UKRI outside of my own council”

Developing experience in leading, facilitating and influencing beyond role

Win the chance to shadow senior leaders

Building skills and connections

Increasing organisational awareness

Helping colleagues to have their voices and ideas heard

Hosted two ECN ideas workshops

UK Research and Innovation

ECN Ideas:
Shattering Silos



Promoting networks at events

- AHRC all staff away day
- EPSRC all staff away day
- RAL wellbeing week
- ECN conference



RAL Pride Coffee Morning

Tuesday 7th April
10am to 11am
R22 Coffee Lounge



To encourage conversation and visibility.
Allies are always welcome!
Please bring your own coffee.



Regular in person and online catchups across UKRI sites

Building connection

Encouraging conversation

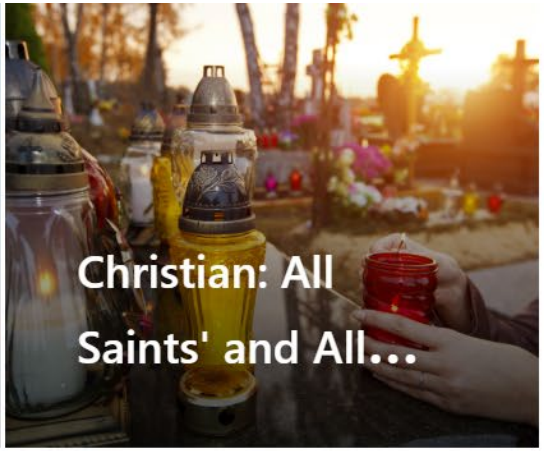
Bringing visibility

Regular faith-based articles authored by UKRI colleagues

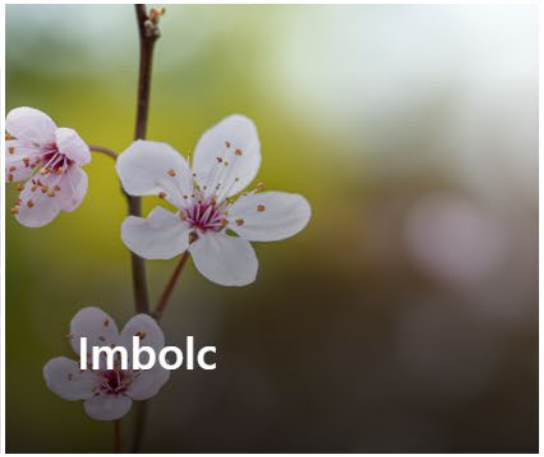
MultiFaith Network



















…and so much more!









Thank you!



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