Afrikindness Conference .org

THEME:

Beyond Assumptions 2.0: Reimagining Parenting, Youth Voice & Professional Practice

apic 2026

Afrikindness Parenting & Inclusion Conference

LEEDS

Empowering families. Building inclusion. Shaping Futures.

Sponsors

COMMUNITY FUND

IT STARTS WITH COMMUNITY.

www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk

NUDGE EDUCATION | FOR A LIFE WORTH LIVING

NUDGE EDUCATION 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

ERADICATING CHRONIC DISENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION — FOR A LIFE WORTH LIVING.

www.nudgeeducation.co.uk

CONTENTS

Welcome to APIC2026

Key Announcements/Plan Your Day

Foreword from the CEO

Parent Conference Programme

Youth Employability Workshop Programme

Foreword from the CEO

A Message from our Headline Sponsor

About Afrikindness & About APIC2026

Our Learning Journey – Community Reports & Insights

Theory of change

Speakers and Professionals

Youth employability spotlight

Exhibition and Local Business Roadshow

Online Neurodiversity Parent Summit

From Conversation to Impact / APIC2026 Impact Report

Funders, Sponsors & Partners

Funding Appeal

Looking ahead to APIC2027

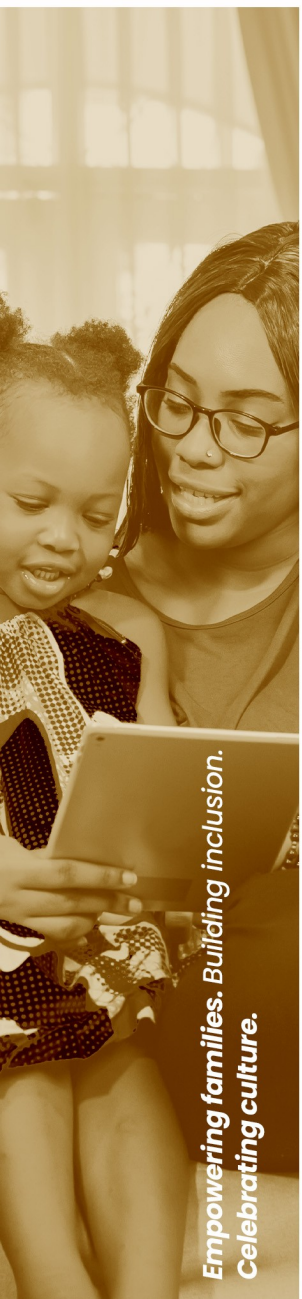
APIC2026
Stronger Families

Welcome to APIC2026

We are delighted to welcome you to the **Afrikindness Parenting & Inclusion Conference 2026 (APIC2026)** — a three-part programme bringing together parents, carers, young people, educators, professionals, community and faith leaders, service providers and organisations committed to improving outcomes for children, young people and families.

This year's theme, Beyond Assumptions 2.0: Reimagining Parenting, Youth Voice & Professional Practice, invites us to look beyond labels, challenge assumptions and listen more closely to the lived experiences of families and young people.

Across the programme, APIC2026 will create space for learning, reflection, practical support and meaningful connection through:



24 October – Parent Conference & Youth Employability Workshop

A full day of conversations on parenting, safeguarding, neurodiversity, mental health, education, inclusion and youth development, alongside a dedicated employability programme for young people aged 15–21.

28 October – Exhibition & Local Business Roadshow

An opportunity for families to meet organisations, access one-to-one support, discover local services and engage with community businesses, family activities and cultural experiences.

7 November – Online Neurodiversity Summit

A virtual summit bringing together global voices, professional expertise and lived experience to explore autism, ADHD, stigma, support pathways and practical strategies for families and professionals.

SCAN THE QR CODES TO
REGISTER FOR THE EVENTS.

APIC2026 is about more than attending an event. It is about bringing voices together, strengthening understanding and creating better connections between families, communities and the professionals who support them.

We are pleased to have you with us and invite you to listen, contribute, connect and be part of the change.

ANNOUNCEMENT PAGE

apic Live! 2026

Afrikindness Parenting & Inclusion Conference

Welcome to the Information Zone – your go-to space for guidance, resources, and support during the conference.

Our Afrikindness volunteers (in branded T-shirts) and ushers (in white shirts) are here to help. If you have any questions or need assistance, please speak to one of them – they'll be happy to support you. We have lots of resources for parents and young people, as well as engaging activities to explore.

To find out more about Afrikindness and our services.
Simply scan the QR code with your mobile phone camera to visit our website. We're here to make your day enjoyable, supportive, and inclusive.

APIC2026 OFFICIAL HASHTAGS

Join the conversation online and share your APIC2026 experience using our official hashtags:

#APIC2026 #AfrikindnessConference2026
tag us in your posts, photos and reflections throughout the day.

Accessibility & Additional Support

We want everyone attending APIC2026 to feel welcome, comfortable and supported.

ACCESSIBILITY

The venue is fully accessible for wheelchair users and people with mobility needs, with step-free access at entrances, accessible toilets and accessible parking close to the hall.

QUIET SPACES

We understand that large conferences and some conversations can feel overwhelming. A designated quiet space will be available for anyone who needs a break from the noise or activity. Please approach an Afrikindness volunteer if you need support.

SAFEGUARDING SUPPORT

If you feel distressed, have a safeguarding concern, or need confidential support during the conference, please speak to an Afrikindness volunteer and ask to see the Afrikindness designated safeguarding team.

BEVERAGES

Tea and coffee will be available within the Parent Conference and Youth Employability Workshop areas.

Accessibility & Additional Support

We want everyone attending APIC2026 to feel welcome, comfortable and supported.

PHOTOGRAPHY/ VIDEOGRAPHY

Photography and filming may take place during APIC2026. Please speak to the registration team if you do not wish to be photographed or recorded.

INTERPRETATION

To help ensure language is not a barrier, **free interpretation support in Arabic** and Soninke will be available during the conference. Please speak to the registration team or an Afrikindness volunteer if you require assistance.

CHILDCARE

Free childcare will be available during the Parent Conference, provided by **Honey Bee Nursery**. Parents must register their child in advance, as spaces are limited. For safeguarding purposes, **parents and carers must remain at the conference venue for the entire period their child is in childcare and must not leave the site**. If a parent or carer leaves the venue, childcare provision for their child may need to be withdrawn, as the responsible adult must remain accessible in case of an emergency, safeguarding concern or other need.

Our team is committed to creating an **inclusive and positive experience for everyone**. If you require any additional assistance or support during the day, please let us know and we will do our best to meet your needs. We look forward to welcoming you to APIC2026.

Catering & Allergen Information

Morning session

Enjoy **complimentary breakfast from 8:30–9:30am**, with a range of food options available throughout the day from our official caterers, including halal, African, continental and child-friendly choices.

Afternoon session

Three caterers will be available onsite, offering a variety of **African, continental, halal, vegetarian and child-friendly options.**

- Tuntos Aroma brings the warmth, flavour and vibrancy of Afro-fusion cuisine to Leeds - Smokey Jollof rice, Plantain, Creamy pasta salad and much more.
- Bakellys brings 100% halal food and warmth of Senegalese cuisine together with the elegance of French patisserie - Vegetarian Senegalese Vermicelli, Signature Baobites and much more
- ChefLoys Kitchen brings freshly prepared African and continental finger foods – Leaf Moi-Moi, Puff Puff, African finger chops and much more.

Full menus, including available allergen information, can be viewed on the APIC2026 website. We strongly encourage attendees with allergies or specific dietary requirements to check the menu in advance and speak directly with the caterer before purchasing or consuming food.

Scan the QR code to view menus and allergen information.

View APIC2026 Catering Menu Here
https://afrikindnessconference.org/plan-your-visit-catering/

Programme of Event

PARENT CONFERENCE

Theme: Beyond Assumptions 2.0: Reimagining Parenting, Youth Voice & Professional Practice

Date: Saturday 24th October 2026 | Time: 9am – 4pm
Venue: - Bridge Community Conference Hall

TIME	ACTIVITY	TOPIC	SPEAKER
08.30 - 09:30	Registration and Refreshments		
09:30 - 09:40	Welcome by the Host	Special welcome by our Host	**Sile Sibanda** Host APIC2026 Poet, Facilitator & BBC Radio presenter
09:40 - 09:50	Welcome Speech	Beyond Assumptions 2.0: Reimagining Parenting, Youth Voice & Professional Practice	**Councillor Stephen Holroyd** 132nd Lord Mayor of Leeds
09:50 - 10:00	Headline Sponsors Address	Sponsors Address by Nudge Education Limited	**Diego Melo** Co-founder and CEO Nudge Education Limited
10:00 - 10:50	Panel Discussion – Safeguarding & Child Protection	Safeguarding & Child Protection Unpacked: Insights from Professionals	**Adwina Smith**, Parent Empowerment Lead Afrikindness **Ann Marie Christian,** International Safeguarding Consultant **Dr Folasade Rotimi**, Consultant Community Paediatrician Leeds Community Healthcare NHS trust **Dr Temitope Ademosu**, Director of Communities, Environment, Housing and Health, Leeds City Council. **Chijioke John Ojukwu**, Strategic leader in Public Policy, Community and Youth Development **Lidia Persidia Holea,** Founder and Director Ame for Roma
10:50 - 11:00	Keynote address	Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: The Future of Inclusion Through Trust, Disruption, and Collaboration.	**Richard Burgon MP** Member of Parliament Leeds East

TIME	ACTIVITY	TOPIC	SPEAKER
11:00 - 11:30	Question Time with Leaders	Ask your Leaders	Ask your Leaders
11:30 - 11:45	COFFEE BREAK	Coffee & Tea – Network with other parents, professionals, carers, service providers	
11:45 – 12:20	Life story – Neurodiversity	Fireside Chat in Conversation with Parents with Neurodivergent Children and Professional	**Dr. Vivian Okoye**, Neurodiversity & Inclusion Lead Afrikindness **Pete Hughes,** CEO Leeds Autism Services
12:20 – 12:45	Presentation – Neurodiversity	Navigating SEND in schools	**Alice Crawford** Education psychologist and Autism Assessor
12:45 – 13:00	Mindfulness in Practise	Mental Health & Wellbeing: Navigating Behaviour, Self-Care & Resilient Parenting	**Dr Terrence Isaacs**, Mental Health Lead Afrikindness & CAMHS specialist **Winnie Ebunobi,** Founder Phoenix Africa Group
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break A selection of food vendors will be available offering meals at discounted prices		Scan the QR Code to view menu options
14:00 - 14:40	Panel Discussion – Parenting	Disruptive Conversation on Parenting in Diverse Context	**Prof Udy Archibong MBE**, Pro Vice Chancellor [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion] and Professor of Diversity University of Bradford. **Cllr Fozia Shaheen**, Deputy Lord Mayor of Bradford, 2025/26 **Peace George**, Founder & CEO Fierce Moms Conexus CIC **Chioma Fanawopo**, Founder, Purposeful Parenting in the Digital Age Summit **Pastor Adeyinka Olaniyan**, Resident Pastor, Winners Chapel International Leeds
14:40 – 15:00	Parent Conversation starter	Cultural toolkit – conversation starter	**Sile Sibanda** Host APIC2026 Poet, Facilitator & BBC Radio presenter

TIME	ACTIVITY	TOPIC	SPEAKER
15:00 - 15:45	Plenary Session	Introduction to Plenary session	**Dominique Burley,** Senior Development worker, Forum Central **Dorcas Fakile**, APIC2026 Planning team
		Complex Parenting & Youth Voice & Immigration	**Prof. Engobo Emeseh** **Adeyinka Olayinka** **Tolu Owolabi** **Engr Jayes Kolawole**
		Safeguarding	**Lanre Oyedokun** **Lola Olaniyan Alabi**
		Neurodiversity	**Coura Mar Mbaye** **Winnie Ebunobi**
		Men Connect Group – MEN ONLY	**Dr Terrence Isaacs** **Modestus Okonkwo** **Emmanuel Nwoke** **Lamin Kinteh**
		NHS research project group	**Kemi Oseni** **Abimbola Wilson** **Hon Toyosi Lala** **Imam Yussuf Kofoworola Alade** **Rasheed Gbadamosi** **Alhaji Abdulrafiu Oladipupo Akamo** **Theresa Ugalahi**
15:45 – 16:00	Closing Keynote	Beyond the Struggle: Raising Hope, Raising Children, Raising the Future	**Dr Lara Rose** Multidisciplinary Cultural artist
16:00	Announcement of Raffle draw winners	RAFFLE DRAW! RAFFLE DRAW!! RAFFLE DRAW	

apic Live! 2026

Programme of Event
YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY WORKSHOP

Date: Saturday 24th October 2026 | Time: 9am – 4pm
Venue: - Bridge Community Conference Hall – Opposite the Main Conference Hall

TIME	ACTIVITY	TOPIC	SPEAKER
08.30 - 09:30	Registration and Welcome		
09:30 – 10:00	Personal Branding	Complete MBTIs, Reflective Practice and Self-Awareness, Strengths and weaknesses exploration	**Dr Sandra Obiora** Employability training and Talent development Lead, Afrikindness. **Mariama Sillah** Founder Building Capacity and Bridges **Ebrima Jabang (Karl),** Community & Youth Development
10:00 – 11:15	LinkedIn Optimisation Workshop	A practical session helping young people build a strong professional online presence by creating and optimising LinkedIn profiles	
11:15 – 11:30	COFFEE BREAK – Networking	Coffee & Tea – Network with other young people and professionals	
11:30 - 11:45	Keynote Speech	Aspire Higher: Building the confidence, Resilience and Leadership to Create Your Future	**Mati Kaim** Executive coach, Leadership consultant, Fractional Chief learning officer
11:45 – 13:00	Youth Panel conversation	**Panel Speakers** - Leadership with Mati Kaim, Executive & Leadership Coach - STEM opportunities with Titi Oliyide, Award-winning Engineer & Youth Mentor - Apprenticeship & Youth Opportunities with Fathiat Olawuwo, Co-founder Blossoming Beyond Boarders - Employability skills with Dr Sandra Obiora, Employability training and Talent development Lead - Civic responsibility & community service with MPs and Councillors - Mentoring & Youth Leadership with John Sephula, Youth Mentor **Youth Speakers** - Temi Owolabi - Pearl Amoruwa - Mame Narou	

TIME	ACTIVITY	TOPIC	SPEAKER
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break A selection of food vendors will be available offering meals at discounted prices		Scan the QR Code to view menu options
14:00 – 15:30	CV & Cover Letter Workshop (2)	Practical – Build your Professional CV, Write strong cover letters, Responsible AI use for job search	**Dr Sandra Obiora** Employability training and Talent development Lead, Afrikindness
15:30 – 15:40	Certificate Presentation		
15:40 – 16:00	Safety & Motivational Talk – Q & A		**Cllr Luke Fawley** Labour Councilor & Chief Whip, Burmantofts and Richmond Hill ward **Cllr Nkele Manaka** Deputy Executive Member, Burmantofts and Richmond Hill ward **Cllr Asghar Khan** Executive Member for Housing and Hubs, Burmantofts and Richmond Hill ward
16:00	RAFFLE DRAW! RAFFLE DRAW!! RAFFLE DRAW		

Foreward

APIC2025 began with a simple question: **What happens when we look beyond our assumtions?**

That question came from what we were seeing and hearing through our work with parents, children, young people and professionals. Families were trying to navigate systems they did not always understand. Professionals were trying to support families whose culture, experiences and expectations might be very different from their own. Parents were sometimes being described as difficult, disengaged or resistant when underneath there could be fear, uncertainty, language barriers or simply a different understanding of what was expected.

And children and young people were often standing somewhere in the middle.

That is why **Beyond Assumptions** became more than the theme of a conference. It became a challenge to all of us.

Can we pause before we label?
Can we become curious before we become certain?
Can we ask what sits behind a behaviour, a silence, a disagreement or a parent who appears not to engage?

Through Afrikindness, I have learnt that two people can sit in the same room, speak the same language and still leave with completely different understandings. Culture shapes how we think about parenting, discipline, independence, disability, mental health, respect, education and even what it means to be a "good parent". The answer is not to lower safeguarding or professional standards. It is to make sure that we understand the family in front of us well enough to make better decisions.

Sometimes what looks like resistance is fear. Sometimes what looks like poor parenting is a parent who needs information and support. Sometimes what adults describe as challenging behaviour is a young person trying to communicate something they do not yet have the words to explain.

And sometimes, as parents, we also have assumptions of our own that need to be challenged.

That brings us to **APIC2026 – Beyond Assumptions 2.0: Reimagining Parenting, Youth Voice & Professional Practice.**

This year, we are going further. We are bringing the voices of young people more intentionally into the room. We are creating deeper conversations around safeguarding, neurodiversity, mental health, SEND, parenting, education, identity and inclusion. And importantly, we are creating opportunities for parents and professionals not simply to hear from one another, but to **talk with one another.**

Because better outcomes for children rarely come from one person, one profession or one organisation working alone.

They come when parents feel able to ask questions. When young people feel heard. When professionals feel confident enough to listen as well as advise. When communities understand the systems around them. And when services understand the communities they are trying to reach.
For me, APIC is therefore not simply a conference.

It is a meeting place. A place where lived experience meets professional expertise; where community knowledge meets systems and services; and where difficult conversations can happen with curiosity, respect and a shared desire to do better for children and families.

On behalf of the Afrikindness Board of Trustees, I want to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who has made APIC2026 possible.

To our speakers and panellists who have given their time and expertise; to our young people who are bringing their voices and perspectives; to our volunteers and planning team who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes; to our community champions, exhibitors, strategic partners and professionals who have opened doors and helped us reach families; and to our **headline sponsors, The National Lottery Community Fund and Nudge Education**, Leeds Community Foundation and all those who have supported this vision — thank you.

And most importantly, to every parent, carer, child and young person who has trusted us with their experiences, questions and stories: **thank you for allowing us to learn alongside you.**

APIC2026 belongs to all of us.

I hope that as you move through these three events, you will not simply collect information.

I hope you will meet someone you would not normally speak to, ask a question you have been afraid to ask, challenge an assumption you did not realise you held, and leave with at least one connection or insight that changes what you do next.

Because ultimately, this is community.

Listening differently. Understanding more deeply. And working together so that every child, young person and family has a better chance to thrive.

Welcome to **APIC2026**.

With gratitude



Bunmi Owolabi

Founder &
CEO Afrikindness

A Message from the Convener

This conference is grounded in a simple yet powerful belief that meaningful change begins when we are willing to question what we think we know, listen to perspectives different from our own and recognise the humanity behind every experience. Too often, stereotypes, unconscious biases, cultural misconceptions and preconceived notions shape how we understand families and communities. These perceptions create barriers to trust, limit meaningful engagement and widen the gap between families and the services designed to support them.

Beyond Assumptions 2.0 invites us to challenge these barriers and rethink how we work together to create more inclusive, responsive and compassionate systems of care.

Our conference theme, Reimagining Parenting, Youth Voice & Professional Practice, reflects our collective responsibility to ensure that the experiences, needs and perspectives of families inform the decisions, policies and practices that affect their lives. Young people must not simply be the subjects of conversations and decisions made by adults; they must be recognised as active contributors whose voices and insights help shape more effective and inclusive approaches to support. Equally, parents and caregivers deserve to be understood within the context of their intersecting identities, cultures, relationships and circumstances, rather than through deficit-based narratives.

The APIC 2026 agenda has been carefully crafted to bring together professionals, community leaders, parents, young people, researchers and community members in a collaborative space for reflection, learning and action. Our intention is to create an environment where we are not simply passive recipients of information, but active participants in generating the knowledge, understanding and solutions that emerge throughout the conference.

Through our five key focus areas - parenting, mental health, neurodiversity, safeguarding and youth voice - we will explore the challenges, opportunities and practical changes needed to strengthen relationships between families, communities, and the professionals who support them. These discussions will encourage us to examine established practices, confront assumptions and consider how services can become more accessible, culturally responsive, inclusive and relatable to the communities they serve.

A Message from the Convener

At the heart of this conference is a commitment to empowering our communities while encouraging professional services to reflect critically on their responsibilities and remain accountable for the support they provide. Inclusion must extend beyond words and intentions; it must be evident in how services listen, communicate, respond and adapt to the diverse needs of the people they serve. Building trust requires genuine partnership, shared responsibility and a willingness to learn from those whose experiences are too often overlooked.

I encourage every delegate to engage fully and thoughtfully in the discussions, workshops and activities taking place. Ask questions, challenge perspectives respectfully and remain open to learning from others. Take the opportunity to network, build meaningful connections, exchange ideas and identify opportunities for collaboration beyond the conference itself. Every contribution matters, and each of us has a role to play in shaping the knowledge and actions that emerge from this gathering.

As Convenor, my hope is that APIC 2026 will inspire more than dialogue. I hope it will lead to stronger partnerships, more reflective professional practice and tangible improvements in the experiences of children, young people, parents and communities.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to bringing this conference to life. Together, let us move beyond assumptions, strengthen trust, amplify voices and build communities where every child, young person and family feels seen, heard, valued and supported.

Let us listen with openness, learn with humility and lead with purpose because meaningful change happens when we choose partnership over presumption and collaboration over assumption.

I warmly welcome you to APIC 2026 and look forward to the conversations, connections and lasting impact we will create together.



Dorcas Fakile

Convener
APIC2026

*Empowering families. Building inclusion. **Celebrating culture.***

A Message from Our Headline Sponsor



Diego Melo

Co-founder and CEO of Nudge Education

NUDGE EDUCATION | FOR A LIFE WORTH LIVING

NUDGE EDUCATION 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Moving beyond assumptions starts with listening to young people and their families.

Childhood and a child's future are at stake when a child becomes disengaged from education.

This is not a good thing. We need to understand and empathise with their experiences and the barriers they face, and together figure out what would help them feel safe enough to engage again.
This is the human thing to do.

At Nudge Education, our mission is to eradicate severe persistent absenteeism and ensure no child is left behind. We provide individualised, relationship-led interventions for young people who are severely absent, missing from education or chronically disengaged. Our practitioners work with families, schools and local authorities to rebuild trust and create a sustainable pathway back to learning.

Over the past 10 years, we have worked with more than 105 local authorities and hundreds of schools, learning what it takes to engage, educate and empower those who are secluded, excluded or finding it hard to connect.

Together, we helped thousands of young people re-engage with education and life in the last academic year. Our Yorkshire team is part of that national effort, and we are proud to partner with Afrikindness in Leeds and Bradford. We believe this is a collective effort.

Our work has taught us to stay curious, respect families' experiences, cultures and circumstances, and listen to young people's voices. Individualised or bespoke support, whatever we call it, requires wholehearted commitment and hard work to meet each child's needs.

APIC2026 brings parents, young people and professionals together around that shared responsibility. The value lies in what we do afterwards: understanding each other better, agreeing practical next steps and helping more young people feel that they belong, that they can learn and that their future matters.

About Afrikindness

People, and families around racial identity, inclusion, safeguarding, neurodiversity, mental health, and educational inequalities. Through education, advocacy, early intervention, and community engagement, Afrikindness works to create safer, kinder, and more inclusive environments where every child can thrive.

Our mission is to foster positive racial identity development in children and young people by partnering with parents, schools, professionals, and communities to build understanding, strengthen belonging, and improve outcomes for future generations.

Afrikindness delivers training, conferences, research, youth-led initiatives, community programmes, and awareness campaigns that support families while influencing professional practice and systems change. Our work spans schools, communities, and organisations across the UK and Africa.

Since our inception, Afrikindness has focused on three key objectives:

Empower Children and Young People

To help children and young people develop positive racial identities, confidence, resilience, and a strong sense of belonging.

Equip Parents, Professionals and Communities

To provide the knowledge, tools, and support needed to navigate parenting, neurodiversity, safeguarding, mental health, and inclusion through culturally responsive approaches.

Influence Systems and Create Lasting Change

To strengthen collaboration between communities and services, amplify lived experiences, and influence policies and practices that improve outcomes for children, young people, and families.

Today, Afrikindness is recognised for its award-winning work in community engagement, education, neurodiversity awareness, safeguarding, and racial harmony, bringing together families, professionals, researchers, local authorities, and community leaders to create meaningful and lasting impact.











Empowering families. Building inclusion. Celebrating culture.

About Afrikindness Parenting and Inclusion Conference (APIC)

The Afrikindness Parenting & Inclusion Conference (APIC) was launched in 2025 to address a growing need for more inclusive, culturally responsive conversations around parenting, neurodiversity, safeguarding, education, mental health, and child development. As communities become increasingly diverse, many families continue to face barriers in accessing support, navigating services, and having their voices heard.

APIC was created to bridge that gap.

More than a conference, APIC is a platform for collaboration, bringing together parents, young people, educators, professionals, community leaders, local authorities, researchers, faith leaders, and organisations to share knowledge, challenge assumptions, and explore practical solutions to some of the most pressing issues affecting children and families today.

The inaugural APIC 2025 conference marked the beginning of a powerful movement for inclusion and community dialogue. Through keynote addresses, lived experiences, workshops, exhibitions, and plenary discussions, delegates engaged in meaningful conversations around neurodiversity, safeguarding, mental health, parenting, cultural identity, SEND education, speech and language development, digital inclusion, and faith and neurodiversity.

The conference created a safe space for honest reflection, learning, and collective action.

Building on this success, **APIC 2026** returns with the theme **"Beyond Assumptions 2.0: Reimagining Parenting, Youth Voice & Professional Practice."**

This year, the conference will place a stronger focus on youth voice, belonging, identity, and inclusive professional practice, while continuing to explore the intersection of culture, neurodiversity, safeguarding, education, and wellbeing.

APIC 2026 will bring together families, young people, professionals, policymakers, and community leaders to challenge stereotypes, confront cultural misconceptions, and rethink how services and communities can work together to improve outcomes for every child and family.

From APIC2025 to APIC2026

APIC2025 Theme – "Beyond Assumptions 1.0: Rethinking Parenting, Culture & Professional Care" challenged us to look beyond labels, stereotypes and first impressions when supporting parents, children and families. It created space for honest conversations, shared learning and stronger connections between parents, professionals and communities.

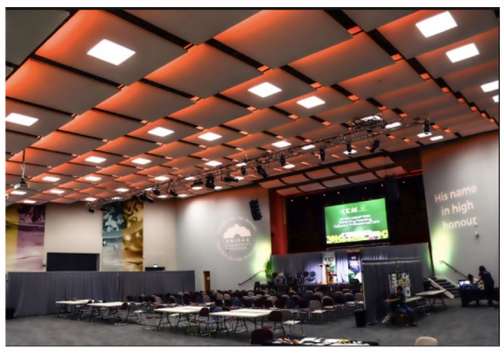
APIC2026 Theme – "Beyond Assumptions 2.0: Reimagining Parenting, Youth Voice & Professional Practice" builds on that foundation - placing greater emphasis on youth voice, safeguarding, neurodiversity, mental health, inclusion and professional practice, while strengthening the links between families, services and community support.

2025 opened the conversation. 2026 deepens it — moving from awareness to better understanding, stronger connections and more responsive support.



*Empowering families. Building inclusion. **Celebrating culture.***

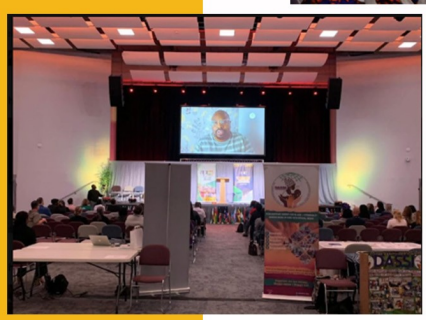
APIC2025 in pictures











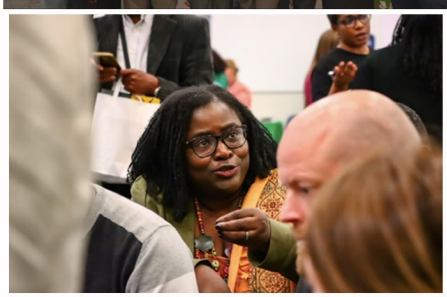














Empowering families. *Building inclusion.* ***Celebrating culture.***

Our Learning Journey – From Community Insight to APIC

Over the years, Afrikindness has worked alongside parents, young people, professionals and community partners, listening carefully to lived experiences and exploring the barriers families face across areas such as mental health, safeguarding, digital inclusion, identity and access to support. These conversations have informed a growing collection of community reports and insights that help us understand where gaps exist, what families are telling us, and where stronger connections between communities and services are needed.

This learning is one of the reasons APIC exists: to bring those experiences into the same space as professional expertise, challenge assumptions, strengthen understanding and move from isolated conversations towards more joined-up support.

Honouring Our Communities – Reports & Insights

This Black History Month, Honouring Our Communities means more than celebration — it means listening deeply, recognising lived experience, and ensuring community voices help shape the support, services and conversations that affect them.

The APIC2026 Outcome and Impact Report will also be archived here, creating an ongoing record of what communities have shared, what we have learned and how those insights continue to shape our work.
We listen. We learn. We connect the evidence — and APIC helps carry that learning forward.

Read our community reports and insights here:

APIC2026 Theory of Change – From Listening to Lasting Impact

Why APIC Matters

Families are navigating increasingly complex challenges around parenting, safeguarding, neurodiversity, mental health, education and access to support. At the same time, professionals and services can struggle to reach and engage some communities effectively. APIC brings parents, young people, professionals and community leaders together to close these gaps through listening, learning, connection and practical support.

Stage	What We Do	What This Creates
We Listen	Hear directly from parents, young people, communities and professionals about their experiences, concerns and priorities.	Better understanding of real needs, barriers and lived experiences.
We Connect	Bring families, professionals, services, community organisations and leaders together.	Stronger relationships, better signposting and improved access to support.
We Equip	Provide practical knowledge, tools, training and opportunities for parents and young people.	Greater confidence, informed decision-making and stronger skills.
We Influence	Capture learning, evidence and community voices and share key findings with partners, commissioners and strategic leaders.	Better-informed practice, services and future decision-making.
Families Thrive	Families feel more supported, young people feel more empowered, and communities are better connected.	Improved outcomes for children, young people and families.



Councillor Stephen Holroyd

132nd Lord Mayor of Leeds

We are honoured to welcome **His Worshipful, the 132nd Lord Mayor of Leeds**, as our **Civic Guest of Honour for APIC2026**, delivering the official **Welcome Address** and helping us open a day focused on families, young people, inclusion and community.

The Lord Mayor's presence reflects the city's commitment to inclusion, community empowerment, and shaping a better future for diverse families.

Theme:

Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: The Future of Inclusion Through Trust, Disruption, and Collaboration.



Richard Burgon MP

Member of Parliament Leeds East

We are honoured to welcome **Richard Burgon MP to APIC2026**, where he will deliver a **Keynote Address** on the importance of supporting children, young people and families through stronger communities, inclusive opportunities and joined-up support.

Theme:

Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: The Future of Inclusion Through Trust, Disruption, and Collaboration.

APIC2026 HOST



Silethokuhle Sibanda

Award-winning BBC radio presenter, poet, facilitator

Meet Your Host – Sile

Sile is an award-winning BBC radio presenter, conference and event host, and spoken word artist, with more than 15 years' experience across the arts and entertainment industry.

Known for her curiosity, warmth and ability to bring stories to life, Sile connects audiences through conversation — on stage, on air and through poetry. She presents the Friday evening BBC radio show across Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Humberside and produces a creative programme for care-experienced young people with Site Gallery.

Having hosted conferences in the UK and internationally, Sile brings energy, insight and connection to every room.

We are delighted to welcome Sile as the Host of APIC2026, guiding us through a day of meaningful conversations, reflection and community connection.

Main Conference 2026 Priorities

The themed workshops at the 2026 Conference will include:

- Understanding Neurodiversity: Navigating SEND, Sensory Needs & Inclusion
- Understanding Safeguarding: Culture, Care & Protecting Children
- Mental Health & Wellbeing: Navigating Behaviour, Self-Care & Resilient Parenting
- Parenting in Context: Culture, Identity & Complex Realities in Diverse Communities
- Youth Voice: Bullying, Race & Cultural Identity

These exciting sessions will include theme discussions, panel discussions, keynote addresses, interactive workshops, case studies, plenary discussions, showcases, and Q & A sessions with professionals.

Don't worry if English isn't your first language
We will have interpreters and culturally responsive speakers to support you every step of the way.

Take a look at the 2026 speakers and professionals who will be sharing their expertise, lived experience and practical insights at APIC2026.

APIC2026 Speakers

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Silethokuhle Sibanda
Award-Winning BBC radio presenter
Host, APIC2026



Councillor Stephen Holroyd
132nd Lord Mayor of Leeds
Welcome Address



Richard Burgon MP
Member of Parliament
Leeds East
Keynote Speaker



Mati Kaim
Executive Coach,
Leadership Consultant
Keynote Speaker



Dr Tom Nicholson
Assistant Professor Mental health Nursing Northumbria University
Keynote Speaker, Neurodiversity Parent Summit, APIC2026



Dr Lara Rose
Multidisciplinary Artist & Cultural Curator
Closing Keynote Speaker & Performer APIC2026



Diego Melo
Co-founder and CEO Nudge Education Limited

apic Live! 2026

SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION PANEL SPEAKERS

Safeguarding & Child Protection Unpacked: Insights from Professionals & Community Leaders



Adwina Smith

Parent Empowerment Lead, Afrikindness



Ann Marie Christian

International Safeguarding Consultant



Dr Folasade Rotimi

Consultant community paediatrician, Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust



Dr Temitope Ademosu

Director of Communities, Environment, Housing and Health Leeds city Council



Chijioke John Ojukwu

Strategic leader in Public Policy, Community and Youth Development



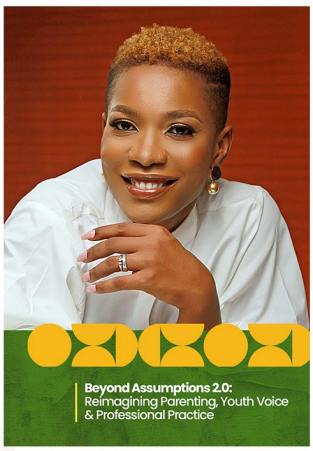
Lidia Persidia Holea

Founder & Director AME for ROMA

APIC2026 Speakers

NEURODIVERSITY PANEL SPEAKERS

Fireside Chat in Conversation with Parents with Neurodivergent Children Navigating SEND in Schools



Dr. Vivian Okoye
Neurodiversity & Inclusion Lead Afrikindness



Pete Hughes
CEO Leeds Autism Services



Alice Crawford
Education psychologist and Autism Assessor



Aisha R. Ndiaye
SEND Family Support Practitioner & Trainer
Founder of MaiPha

PARENTING PANEL SPEAKERS

Disruptive Conversation on Parenting in Diverse Contexts



Peace George
Founder & CEO Fierce Moms Conexus CIC



Pastor Adeyinka Olaniyan
Resident Pastor, Winners Chapel International Leeds



Cllr Fozia Shaheen
Councillor (2023–2026)
Deputy Lord Mayor of Bradford (2025/26)



Chioma Fanawopo
Founder,
Purposeful Parenting in the Digital Age Summit



Prof Udy Archibong MBE
Pro Vice Chancellor Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Professor of Diversity University of Bradford

apic Live! 2026
AfrikindnessConference.org

MENTAL HEALTH SESSION

Mental Health & Wellbeing: Navigating Behaviour, Self-Care & Resilient Parenting



Dr Terrence Isaacs
Mental Health Lead
Afrikindness & CAMHS specialist



Winnie Ebunobi
Founder Phoenix Africa Group

NHS HEALTH TALK BRADFORD PANEL

Mental Health & Wellbeing: Navigating Behaviour, Self-Care & Resilient Parenting



Dr Pedi Obani
Parent Team Lead
Afrikindness



Kemi Oseni
Community Engagement
Afrikindness



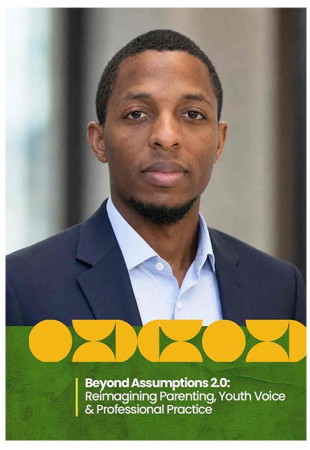
Abimbola Wilson (Abi)
NHS Clinical Research Professional



Hon Toyosi Lala
President of the Nigerian Community Association Bradford (NCAB)



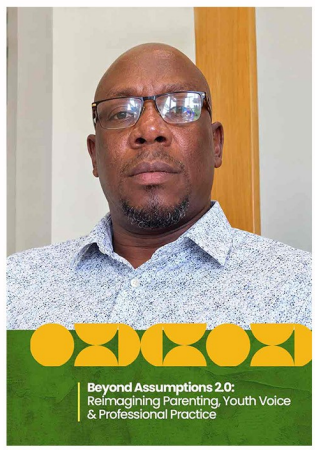
Dr Emmanuel Nwoke
NIHR (ARC Humber and Yorkshire) Research Fellow at the Department of Applied Dementia Studies (DADS), University of Bradford.



Rasheed Gbadamosi
General Secretary
Ona-Alaafia Nigerian Muslims Community Bradford



Imam Yussuf Kofoworola Alade
Imam, Ona-Alaafia Muslim Community Bradford



Alhaji Abdulrafiu Oladipupo Akamo
Chairman
Ona-Alaafia Nigerian Muslims Community Bradford

PLENARY SESSION

Parenting | Safeguarding | Neurodiversity | Men's Mental Health | Immigration



Dominique Burley
Senior Development worker, Forum Central



Dorcas Fakile
Neurodiversity in Faith Communities



Bunmi Owolabi
CEO Afrikindness



Cllr Luke Fawley
Labour Councilor & Chief Whip, Burmantofts and Richmond Hill ward



Cllr Nkele Manaka
Deputy Executive Member, Burmantofts and Richmond Hill ward



Cllr Asghar Khan
Executive Member for Housing and Hubs, Burmantofts and Richmond Hill ward



Prof. Engobo Emeseh
Founder Diasporan Mum podcast



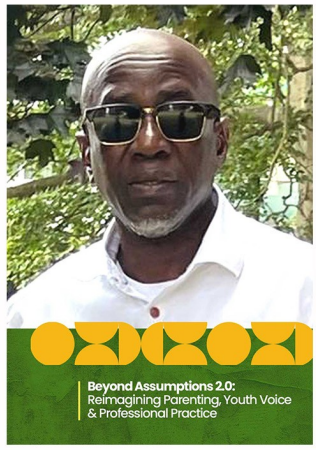
Tolu Owolabi
Afrikindness Trustee & GCSEpod administrator



Coura Mar Mbaye
Founder, Striving For Inclusion CIC



Lanre Oyedokun
Financial Services Professional Community Advocate



Lamin Kinteh
Mental Health Community leader, Afrikindness



Lola Olaniyan Alabi
Safeguarding Trainer

PLENARY SESSION

Parenting | Safeguarding | Neurodiversity | Men's Mental Health | Immigration



Engr Jayes Kolawole

Founder & President
The Nigerian Yorkshire Communities Network UK CIC (NYCN)



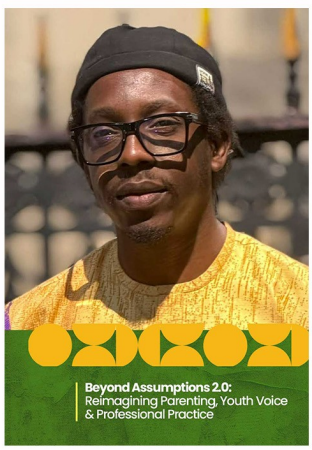
Modestus Okonkwo

Research Team
Lead Afrikindness



Pauline Alexis

APIC2026
Rapporteur



Immanuel Obani

Multidisciplinary Visual artists
& Community Arts Practitioner



Fatou Conteh

Community leader
Amaheree Society



Nafeesa Talbot

Honeybee Nursery
Safeguarding Lead

APIC2026
Closing Keynote
DR LARA ROSE

Closing Keynote & Performance – Dr Lara Rose

She is a multidisciplinary artist based in Leeds whose work spans visual art, sculpture, poetry, authorship, singing and songwriting, with a creative practice deeply rooted in **Yoruba culture, identity and heritage**.

Her work explores the power of cultural narratives, belonging and self-expression. Her poetry has been published in the Jacob Ross anthologies **Weighted Words** and **Sanctuary** by Peepal Tree Press, and she recently delivered a TEDx Talk, Finding My Yoruba Voice, at Leeds Beckett University.

A creative protégé of the late **Dr Geraldine Connor**, Lara also created the life-size ultramarine blue *Aworan* statue of Geraldine — the first statue of a Black woman in Leeds — now installed at Leeds Beckett University's School of Art.

We are honoured to welcome **Dr Lara Rose for the APIC2026 Closing Keynote and Performance**, bringing together voice, culture, creativity and reflection to close the conference on a powerful and memorable note.





Afrikindness Conference .org

apic 2026

YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY WORKSHOP 15+

Empowering the younger generation

LEEDS



Empowering families. Building inclusion. Shaping Futures.

Youth Employability Workshop

A key part of APIC2026 is ensuring that young people are not only spoken about, but are actively equipped for their future.

CV writing, LinkedIn, interviews, career planning, apprenticeships, AI and digital literacy, financial awareness and personal branding.

By placing youth voice and future readiness alongside the parent conference, APIC2026 creates a more complete conversation — supporting families today while helping young people build the confidence, skills and connections they need for tomorrow.

Youth Employability Workshop – What to Expect

The APIC2026 Youth Employability Workshop is a practical, hands-on programme designed to help young people aged **15–21** build confidence, strengthen their professional identity and develop future-ready career skills.

08:30–09:00 – Registration, breakfast & networking
09:30–10:00 – Personal Branding, Self-Awareness & Strengths
10:00–11:15 – LinkedIn Optimisation Workshop
11:30–11:45 – Keynote: Aspire Higher – Building Confidence, Resilience & Leadership
11:45–13:00 – Youth Panel: Leadership, STEM, Apprenticeships, Employability, Youth Opportunities & Civic Responsibility
13:00–14:00 – Lunch & Networking
14:00–15:30 – Practical CV & Cover Letter Workshop, including responsible use of AI for job search
15:30–16:00 – Safety & Motivational Talk, Q&A and Closing
16:00 – Raffle & Opportunities Pack, Certificates issued to Young People

Young people should bring a laptop, as the workshop includes practical digital activities. Limited loan laptops will be available for those who do not have one.

Important for Parents: Young people attending the Youth Employability Workshop must have a parent or carer attending the **APIC2026 Parent Conference** at the same venue. This helps ensure appropriate supervision, safeguarding and a joined-up experience for families throughout the day

APIC2026
DR SANDRA OBIORA

Youth Employability Workshop Lead – Dr Sandra Obiora

Dr Sandra Obiora is a Senior Lecturer in Business, Future Workforce and Talent Development Consultant, and multidisciplinary researcher in sustainability and AI. She specialises in preparing young people and professionals for the changing world of work, combining employability skills, digital capability, labour market insight and future-of-work research.

With experience delivering training across the UK, West Africa, Brazil and Southern Africa, Sandra brings a strong international perspective to career development and workforce readiness.



As Afrikindness **Executive Lead for Employability Training and Talent Development**, Dr Sandra will lead the **APIC2026 Youth Employability Workshop**, helping young people build confidence, practical career skills and greater clarity about their future pathways.

APIC2026
MATI KAIM

Youth Keynote Speaker Mati Kaim

Mati Kaim is an Executive Coach, Leadership Consultant and Fractional Chief Learning Officer specialising in **leadership transitions, communication and leading across cultures**.



His experience includes senior leadership roles in higher education, supporting Executive MBA graduates and professionals moving into more senior leadership positions. Having worked, studied and travelled across almost 80 countries, Mati brings a strong international perspective to leadership, learning and personal development.

At the **APIC2026 Youth Employability Workshop**, Mati will deliver the keynote "**Aspire Higher**" — encouraging young people to build confidence, think beyond perceived limitations, develop resilience and take ownership of the opportunities ahead of them.

APIC2026
Youth Workshop Speakers



Dr Suzzie Oyakhire
Afrikindness Neurodiversity lead, Leeds
(Host)



Mariama Sillah
Founder Building Capacity & Bridges (BCB)
(Host)



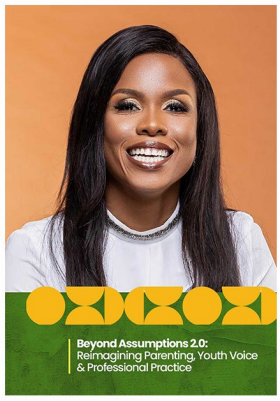
Ebrima Jabang (Karl)
Community Engagement & Youth Development



Dr Sandra Obiora
Employability training and Talent development Lead



Mati Kaim
Executive coach, Leadership consultant
Keynote Speaker



Titi Oliyide
Award-winning Engineer & Youth Mentor
(STEM)



Fathiat Olawuwo
Blossoming Beyond Borders
(Youth Opportunities)



Mame Narou
Striving for Inclusion
Youth Mentor



John Sephula
Youth Mentor
(Mentoring)



Temi Owolabi
Year 12 student & Youth Ambassador



Pearl Amoruwa
Year 12 student & Youth Ambassador

SCAN THE
QR CODE
TO REGISTER

Empowering families. Building inclusion. Shaping Futures.

apic 2026

EXHIBITION AND LOCAL BUSINESS ROADSHOW

Date: Wednesday 28th October 2026
Time: 11am – 4pm

Continue the Conversation

APIC2026 Exhibition

The conversation does not end when the conference finishes.

On **28 October**, parents and families will have the opportunity to meet organisations and service providers face-to-face, ask questions and access more personalised guidance through dedicated one-to-one conversations.

The exhibition will bring together support around **SEND, neurodiversity, health, education, employability, family wellbeing and community services**, alongside local businesses and family-friendly activities.





Empowering families. Building inclusion. Celebrating culture.

It is a chance to move from learning to connection — helping families find the people, services and support that may be right for them.

The day will be organised into three key sections:

The Exhibition Area will bring together organisations and service providers supporting parents, families, children and young people, including those with additional needs. Parents will be able to meet providers, ask questions, discover services and access practical information in one place. A dedicated space will also be available for confidential one-to-one conversations, allowing parents to receive direct guidance and support from relevant professionals.

Our Business Roadshow will showcase a selection of African-owned businesses that support families and children, with a particular focus on art, culture, heritage, traditional clothing, children's wear and family fashion. It is an opportunity to celebrate creativity, culture and enterprise while helping families discover local businesses that reflect and serve their communities.

Family Activities To make the day welcoming and family-friendly, we have included a range of activities such as arts and crafts, a jobs board and other interactive activities. While parents explore the exhibition, speak with professionals and connect with services, children will also have opportunities to take part in enjoyable and creative activities throughout the day.

The exhibition will be organised into six zones:

Neurodiversity Support	Organisations that offer support to families with special needs children
Mental Health & Well being	Organisations that support the health and well-being of individuals
Legal Support & Advocacy	Organisations that offer advocacy, legal and advisory support
Children & Family Support	Organisations that support education (public/private)
Local Business Roadshow	Local Businesses that support families and children with focus on arts, culture and fashion
Quiet zone	A quiet area away from the main space

Exhibitors

Exhibitors

NEURODIVERSITY SUPPORT

NUDGE EDUCATION
nudgeeducation.co.uk

LEEDS SENDIASS
sendiass.leeds.gov.uk

CHATTERBUG LTD (SPEECH AND LANGUAGE)
chatter-bug.com

IPSEA
Independent Provider of Special Education Advice
ipsea.org.uk

LEEDS MENCAP
leedsmencap.org.uk

LITTLE HICCUPS
littlehiccups.co.uk

LEEDS PARENT CARER FORUM
leedsparentcarerforum.co.uk

Exhibitors

Exhibitors

CHILDREN & FAMILY SUPPORT

NSPCC
nspcc.org.uk

BHR PCN

FOSTER 4 LEEDS
foster4.leeds.gov.uk

ONE ADOPTION WEST YORKSHIRE
oneadoption.co.uk

LEGAL SUPPORT

WARD HADAWAY LLP
wardhadaway.com

IRWIN MITCHELL
irwinmitchell.com/our-offices/leeds

WELL BEING & MENTAL HEALTH

LEEDS MENTAL WELLBEING SERVICE
leedsmentalwellbeingservice.co.uk

Exhibitors

Exhibitors

LOCAL BUSINESS ROADSHOW

STRIVING FOR INCLUSION
strivingforinclusion.com

ÈRÍN AFRICAN FABRICS
instagram.com/erin_african_fabrics



IKE CHOICE COUTURE
www.instagram.com/ikechoice1

LAZY COVER ART STUDIO
www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550810046410



SATURDAY 7TH
NOVEMBER 2026
12PM – 6PM

SCAN THE
QR CODE
TO REGISTER

apic 2026

PARENT NEURODIVERSITY SUMMIT - VIRTUAL

ONLINE



Afrikindness Conference .org

Empowering families. Building inclusion. Shaping Futures.

Online Neurodiversity Summit

As part of **APIC2026**, our **Online Neurodiversity Summit** will bring together parents, carers, professionals and global speakers to explore **autism, ADHD, neurodiversity, stigma, support pathways and practical strategies for families.**

The virtual format means participants can join from wherever they are and take part in meaningful conversations designed to improve understanding, challenge misconceptions and strengthen support for neurodivergent children and young people.

📅 **Saturday, 7 November 2026**
💻 **Online | Open to all**

Speakers

Keynote speaker - **Dr Tom Nicholson**



Dr Tom Nicholson is a prominent neurodiversity expert who has spoken live to over 100,000 people on understanding neurodivergence. He delivers bespoke talks, ongoing consultancy, and training for organisations across education, health and social care, and corporate sectors. Tom holds a position as Assistant professor of Mental Health Nursing at Northumbria University where his research explores the lived experience of neurodivergence. Tom is also a qualified mental health nurse with experience working within a Children and Young People's neurodevelopmental assessment service. Diagnosed with ADHD in childhood and autism at 29, Tom uses his lived experience of ADHD alongside his clinical and academic background to give a nuanced and varied perspective to his work. Tom's story explores educational trauma, how damaging narratives of neurodiversity impact children and the adults they eventually become, and how we as individuals can change the story and make a difference in neurodivergent people's lives.

Parent Neurodiversity Virtual Summit
Saturday 7th November | 12pm - 6pm (UK Time)

Online Neurodiversity Summit Speakers



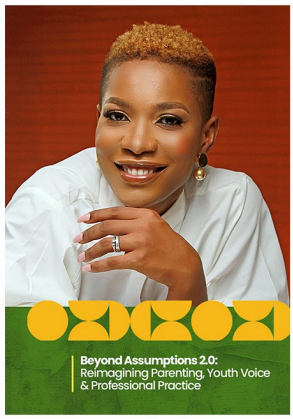
Dr Pedi Obani
Parent Team Lead
Afrikindness
Host



Adwina Smith
Parent Empowerment
Lead & Trainer
Host



Dr Tom Nicholson
Neurodiversity Summit
Keynote Speaker



Dr Vivian Okoye
Neurodiversity Lead
Afrikindness



Lovette Monyei
Education team
Afrikindness



Nike Oluyemi
Neurodiversity
Advocate



Dr Anwuli Irene Ofuani-Sokolo
Associate Professor of Law
University of Benin



Nneka Etafo
Neurodevelopmental
Clinician



Zameal Eboiyehimen
Founder and Director
Anchor of Hope Autism
Center

From Conversation to Impact - **APIC2026 Impact Report**

This year, **Forum Central** is supporting APIC2026 as a strategic partner, helping us ensure that the learning from the conference does not end when the event closes.

Following APIC2026, Afrikindness will develop an **Outcome and Impact Report** capturing the key themes, lived experiences, parent and youth voices, professional insight, emerging concerns, areas of good practice and recommendations arising from across the conference.

The purpose of the report is not simply to document what happened on the day. It will provide an evidence base for learning and future action — identifying where families are experiencing barriers, where support is working well, where stronger connections may be needed, and what parents, young people and professionals believe could improve outcomes.

Forum Central's role as a collective voice for Leeds' health and care third sector means it is well placed to help connect this learning with relevant **networks, commissioners, strategic leaders and decision-making forums across Leeds.**

The findings will be used to:

- Inform conversations around service **improvement and more inclusive practice.**
- Strengthen collaboration between **communities, voluntary organisations**, **professionals and statutory services.**
- Highlight areas where further engagement, research or intervention may be needed; and
- Ensure that the voices and experiences shared at APIC2026 can contribute to wider strategic and commissioning conversations.

The **APIC2026 Impact Report** will also be shared with registered participants, partners, relevant commissioners and key public-sector and government leaders, helping ensure that community insight reaches those with the influence to shape services, policy and practice.

For APIC2026, this is about moving beyond hosting important conversations to ensuring that **community insight is captured, evidenced, shared and given a meaningful opportunity to influence what happens next**.

The conference starts the conversation.
The Impact Report carries those voices forward — because leadership is not only about listening; it is about what we do with what we hear.

Forum Central

AFRIKINDNESS

Empowering Children and Young People from Black and Minority Ethnic communities.

AfriKindness
Be Kind to all Kinds

Afrikindness delivers comprehensive social and emotional support to children and young people, ensuring their holistic development and well-being.

"I want people to imagine the harsh reality of being racially bullied and socially excluded—a reality that many children face daily. This experience does not simply end with childhood; it extends into adulthood, perpetuating a cycle of limiting behaviors and mental health challenges that can hinder their entire lives."

– Charity Founder

At Afrikindness, we are dedicated to breaking this cycle and fostering an environment where all children can thrive, free from the shadows of discrimination and exclusion.

- KIDS Intervention & Mentoring Programs
- EMPOWER project for Young People
- Parents & Teachers Programs
- Schools Kindness Workshops
- Africa Awareness Week
- Research in minority communities



Embracing identity is an act of empowerment!

Signifies a collective effort and initiative aimed at promoting self-acceptance, inclusivity, and empowerment through embracing diverse identities.

Become a Part of the Movement
Volunteer with us and help empower young minds

Volunteer with us · Partner with us · Donate to us · Fundraise for us
Campaign - Join the movement · Be an Ambassador · Support Us

www.afrikindness.org



FOR MORE INFORMATION
afrikindness.org
kindness.org

Supporting Parents and Young People to Thrive

Are you a parent struggling to navigate the challenges of parenting, or a young person looking for support, guidance, and opportunities to grow?

At Afrikindness, our programmes are designed to empower you, strengthen families, and build inclusive communities.

Our Services

- Parent Training Workshops – Practical sessions on safeguarding, neurodiversity, mental health and digital inclusion, tailored for parents and delivered by practitioners with lived experience and cultural understanding.
- KIDS Empowerment & Teens Academy Programme – Equipping young people with leadership skills, resilience, and emotional intelligence using the globally recognised CASEL framework.
- Neurodiversity Support – Guidance and signposting for parents, raising awareness and promoting inclusion for children and young people.
- Cultural Awareness in Schools – Inspiring projects that celebrate identity and heritage, including Africa Awareness Week with curated activities and resources.
- Family Intervention Service – A bespoke 6-month programme supporting families with tailored interventions to build resilience and wellbeing.
- Community Empowerment Programme – Bespoke training for communities (diverse and faith based) on inclusion, health and wellbeing, and independent living

Join us in creating a kinder, more inclusive future for every child and family.
Contact our friendly team today to find out how we can support you.
📩 **parents@afrikindness.org**



Empowering families. Building inclusion. Celebrating culture.



Funders, Sponsors & Partners

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our sponsors, strategic partners, community champions, speakers, volunteers, exhibitors and supporting organisations who have helped make APIC2026 possible.

We are especially grateful to the many community groups and leaders across Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield and Newcastle who have shared the conference within their networks, connected us with families and stood alongside us in creating a more inclusive space for parents, young people and professionals.

APIC2026 is a reminder that meaningful change is rarely achieved by one organisation alone. It happens when communities, services, businesses, professionals and families work together with a shared purpose.

Thank you for believing in the vision, supporting the journey and helping us take the conversation further.



Funding and Partnership Appeal

At Afrikindness, we believe that children and young people thrive when families feel informed, supported and connected.

Through initiatives such as APIC2026, Parent Connect, supplementary education, youth development, safeguarding support, neurodiversity programmes and community training, we work alongside parents, professionals and communities to strengthen understanding, celebrate identity, improve access to support and create better outcomes for children and young people.

Your support helps us keep this work accessible to families.

£20 can help a child access our Supplementary Education or Teens Academy programmes.
£10 can help deliver vital parent and community training.
£5 can contribute towards practical welfare support for a family in need.

Every contribution helps us continue building stronger families, more confident young people and more inclusive communities.

https://bit.ly/DonateToAfrikindness

SUPPORT OUR MISSION TODAY!

SCAN THE **QR CODE** TO REGISTER

Empowering families. Building inclusion. Celebrating culture.

LOOKING AHEAD TO apic 2027



The conversation continues beyond APIC2026.

As we build on the learning, partnerships and community voices from this year's conference, we are already looking ahead to **APIC2027** — with even greater opportunities for parents, young people, professionals, organisations and communities to connect, learn and shape change together.

Look out for **APIC2027** announcements, partnership opportunities and sponsorship packages.

If your organisation would like to support the next conference, become a sponsor or explore strategic partnership opportunities, we would love to hear from you.

APIC2027 — building on the conversation, strengthening the impact.

FOR ENQUIRIES
email: info@afrikindness.org

For partnership/Sponsorship:
Email: ceo@afrikindness.org, Telephone: 03301335442

Afrikindness Conference .org

Acknowledgements & Appreciation

To Our Sponsors, Funders & Partners

Great things happen when people come together with a shared purpose.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our

- Headline Sponsors - Nudge Education and The National lottery Community Fund,
- Funders - Leeds Community Foundation, Blooming Genius, Sir George Martin Trust.
- Strategic partners - Forum Central
- Community and Faith organisations across Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield and the UK

whose generosity, commitment and belief in our vision have made APIC2026 possible.

Your support goes beyond funding and resources. It represents an investment in families, young people, inclusion and stronger communities. Thank you for standing with Afrikindness and helping us turn meaningful conversations into opportunities for lasting impact.

To Our Distinguished Speakers & Facilitators

Powerful conversations begin with people willing to share their knowledge, experiences and voices. To our incredible speakers and facilitators joining us from across the UK, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your time, expertise and commitment to APIC2026. **Your contributions go beyond the conference stage. They have the potential to shape perspectives, strengthen families and create lasting impact in our communities.** We are truly honoured to have you as part of the APIC2026 journey.

To Our Planning Committee & Volunteers

Behind every successful event are dedicated people whose contributions may not always be seen, but whose impact is deeply felt. To our incredible Trustees, APIC2026 Planning Committee and volunteers, thank you for the countless hours, creativity, sacrifices, teamwork and unwavering dedication you have poured into making this conference a reality.



Acknowledgements & Appreciation

APIC2026 Planning Committee & Volunteers

Bunmi Owolabi	APIC Planning & Safeguarding lead
Vivian Okoye	APIC2026 Safeguarding Lead
Adwina Smith	APIC2026 Safeguarding Lead
Dorcas Fakile	APIC Convener
Kemi Oseni	APIC Planner
Dave Adebisi	Web Developer & Creative Contents (Filming, Motion, Graphics)
Damilola Adeyemi	APIC2026 Catering Lead
Awa Kinteh	APIC2026 Catering team member & Community support
Chidi Mpieri	Social media
Pauline Alexis	APIC2026 Rapporteur
Immanuel Obani	Multidisciplinary Visual artists
John Awe	Volunteer Manager
Wanjiku Ngigi	APIC2026 Corporate Partnership Manager
Oke-Oghene Oyoluma	APIC2026 Finance Lead
Agla Fadeel	APIC2026 Children care
Margaret Osei Wusu	APIC2026 Children care
Fatou Conteh	APIC2026 Interpreter - Soninke
Nyma Conteh Tunkara	APIC2026 Interpreter - Soninke
Lidia Persidia Holea	APIC2026 Interpreter - Romania
Lamin Kinteh	APIC2026 Community Leader
Nafeesa Talbot	Honeybee Nursery Safeguarding Lead (Child-minding service)
Mya Pwint Phyu	Volunteer
Anas Kabar	Volunteer
Philomena Amoruwa	Volunteer

Media Support

INSIDE 54

INSIDE 54 is a uk media organisation changing the narrative on Africa. Through diaspora voices, business spotlights and real conversations, we tell stories that show the continent's ambition, culture and opportunity in real time.

YouTube: INSIDE 54 | Facebook: Inside 54
Instagram: inside54media

Together, we are building more than a conference. We are building a community where every child, parent and family can feel seen, heard and supported.

With heartfelt appreciation,
The Afrikindness Team



apic 2026

Afrikindness Parenting & Inclusion Conference

THEME:

Beyond Assumptions 2.0: Reimagining Parenting, Youth Voice & Professional Practice

Afrikindness Conference .org

Empowering families. Building inclusion. Shaping Futures.