

Tuesday 16th April – General Debate

My name is Karen Carberry. I am a Consultant Family and Systemic Psychotherapist working in the United Kingdom, and an Advisory Board Member of the Humanity Summit. I have worked across the entire family life cycle from the cradle to the grave with families from all races and cultures. Our families of African descent have been over-represented in the mental health system for over thirty years. Despite our striving, surviving, and thriving there are extreme concerns for our generation's wellbeing. Our older people: those in their middle years, our young people in school and university, together with those outside face grim prognoses due to the distress arising out of inequalities in employment, and employment experiences, expulsions from school and teaching that do not positively represent us. Our elders who came to rebuild Britain after the war, affected by the Windrush scandal and Covid are dying without recourse, and their offspring are equally affected. Our babies are inexplicably dying 4 times more than white babies at birth, and our African-descended mothers are equally losing their lives at childbirth at a rate of 3 times more than white women. I am only comparing these deaths as a measure of the inequity in our health services, and I ask the Panel to recommend development policies and funding to be set aside in these areas to support each of these African-descended populations to sustain life and wellbeing for the extended families and communities.