



PRIME

Protecting Minority Ethnic Communities Online

REPHRAIN All Hands Meeting
19-20 January 2023



Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council



The Open
University



UNIVERSITY
of York

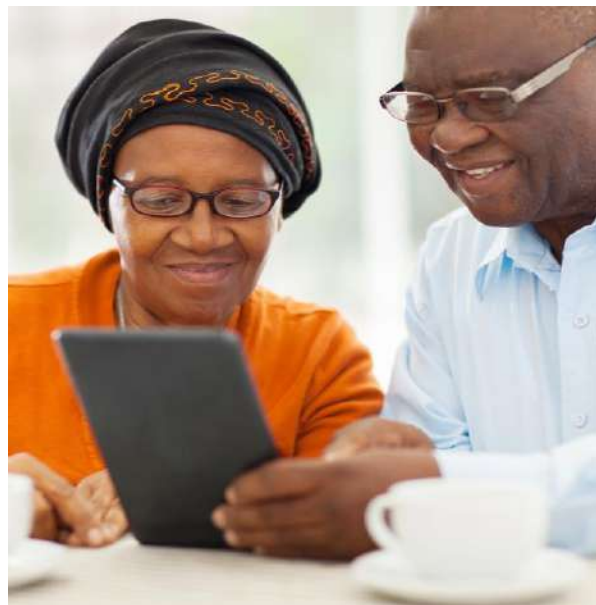


University
of Glasgow



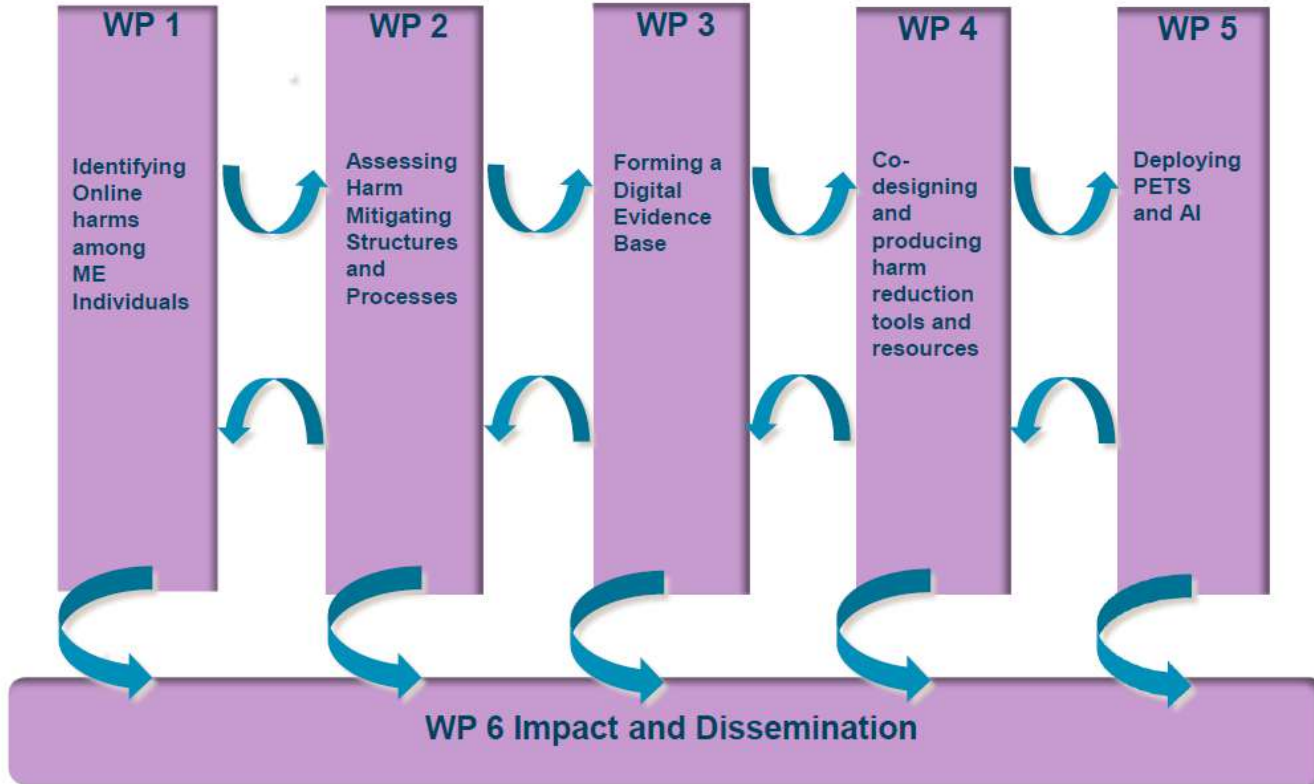
RACIALISED INEQUALITIES, ONLINE HARM AND DIGITALISATION OF SERVICES

- Systematic racism, marginalisation and discrimination experienced by minority ethnic communities in the UK (*Healing a Divided Britain*, Equality and Human Rights Commission)
- Increasing awareness of the potential for 'online harms' including harms that people may experience through engaging with online services.
- The Online Harms White Paper 2020 (now the Online Safety Bill).
 - Harms identified in the White Paper included abuse/bullying, undermining of civil discourse.
- Rapid digitalisation of services – a lack of research regarding whether existing inequalities in service provision may be reproduced or exacerbated by digitalisation.



- PRIME will deepen understanding of online harm, including those which may arise from a lack of equitable experiences and outcomes of key public services, focusing on three deeply interconnected areas of **health, housing and energy**.
- PRIME will:
 - Work with REPHRAIN to create safer spaces for ME communities.
 - Lead and build **policy, research and practitioner capacity** by connecting research with impact.
 - Develop a Citizen-led Race Equality Living Lab (CREL) to co-create systems and tools which bring about **transformative and sustainable change**.
- Multidisciplinary project: social sciences, applied linguistics, human computer interaction, data mining and cyber security.

RESEARCH DESIGN
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT
DATA FLOW



Conceptual Advances

- PRIME will provide a transdisciplinary intersectional conceptual framework which increases understanding of the nature of the harms that ME communities and organisations are exposed to.

Empirical Contribution

- PRIME will provide:
 - An evidence-based understanding of the **biases, triggers and different types of harms** that ME individuals are exposed to.
 - Knowledge of the ways in which **digital, linguistic and cultural** literacy intersect to contribute to harm.
 - An examination of the impact of harms.
 - An assessment of existing harm mitigation tools and processes.

OUTPUTS

- An evidence-based Online Map of the Adversarial and Threat Landscape against ME communities
- An Online ME Policy, Social and Technical Harm Reduction Toolkit
 - Policy Guidance
 - Educational Resources and Training
 - Explainable AI
 - Privacy Enhancing Tools

THANK YOU

Follow the project updates at
www.primecommunities.online

