

A close-up portrait of a Black man with a serious expression, wearing a light blue hospital gown. A white bandage is wrapped around his neck, and a red medical tube with blue and red connectors is visible. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Black people are
three times
more likely to need an
organ transplant

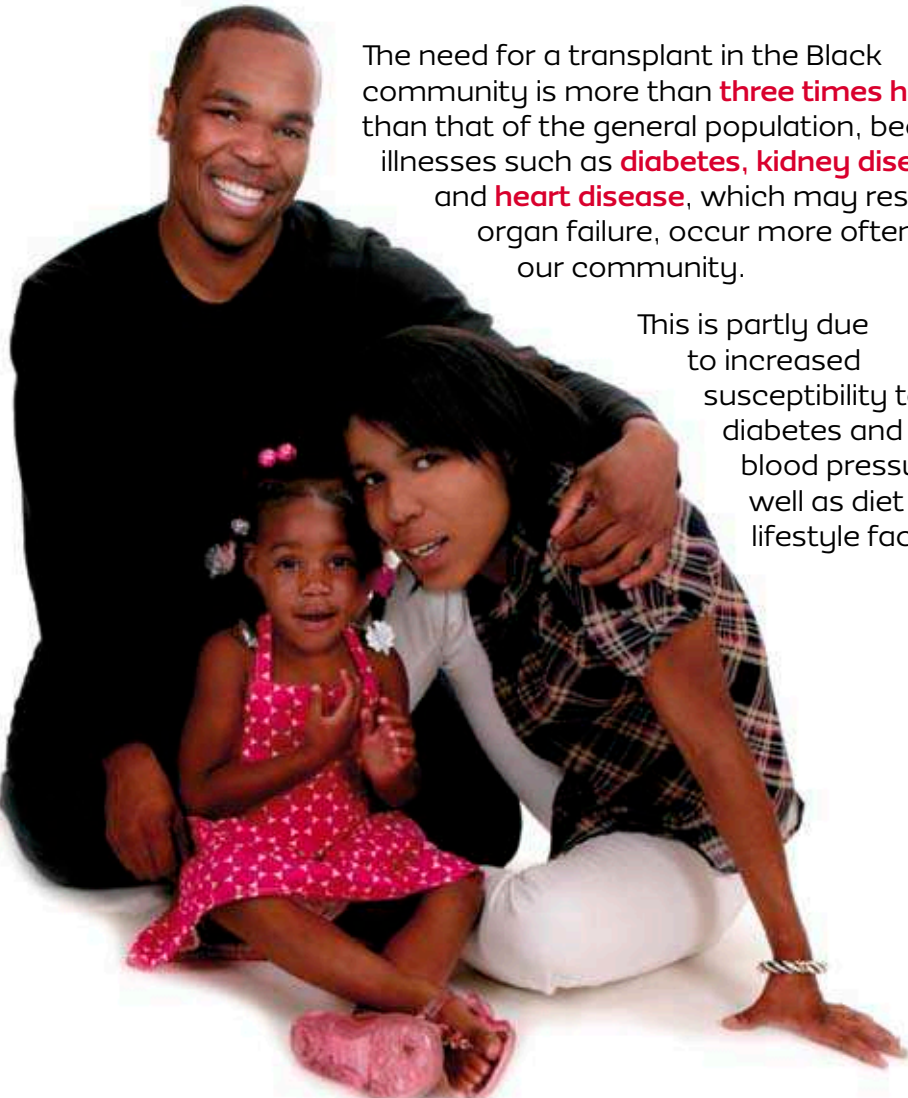
But **less than 1%** of people on
the **NHS Organ Donor Register**
are from our community.

If more people registered as donors,
more lives could be saved.



How organ donation affects you

Organ donation is not something that you think about every day. But the reality is that it may affect any one of us, our friends, families and community at any time.



The need for a transplant in the Black community is more than **three times higher** than that of the general population, because illnesses such as **diabetes, kidney disease** and **heart disease**, which may result in organ failure, occur more often in our community.

This is partly due to increased susceptibility to diabetes and high blood pressure as well as diet and lifestyle factors.

What you need to know



A transplant is much **more likely to be successful** if the donor and recipient have the same ethnic origin.



Currently **over 760 people from Black communities** are waiting for a transplant.



However **fewer than 1%** of people on the NHS Organ Donor Register are Black.



The acute shortage of suitable organs means Black people wait nearly **twice as long** for a kidney transplant.

On average, 3 people who need a transplant die every day in the UK.

Real life stories

Even after reading the facts, you may feel that organ donation is not something that will ever affect you. Here is the story of a family who thought the same.

Shohanna's story:

Shohanna was born in 1998 without a bile duct, a condition called biliary atresia, which meant her liver couldn't work properly and poisons were building up in her system. When she was four weeks old, Shohanna had the first of two operations.

When Shohanna was two years old, her health deteriorated. Her parents were told that she needed an urgent liver transplant. Within five days of her going on the transplant list, they received a late night call with the amazing news that there was a liver available for Shohanna.

Shohanna had a split liver transplant, where she received the smaller lobe of a liver and the larger one was transplanted into an adult patient.



Shohanna's father Simon says:

"We had originally thought we might have to wait for years and I felt we were going ahead of other children who'd been waiting longer but we were assured that it was all about who was the best possible match."

Shohanna's mother Deloris says: "The operation went well and we owe her life to a 12 year old girl who donated her organs. As a young person, I never even considered joining the organ donor register. Having been on the other side with Shohanna, I now know how important it is – otherwise Shohanna would not be with us today."

Shohanna is now a happy 11 year old with two younger sisters, and despite continuous medication and check-ups, is able to enjoy and celebrate growing up with her friends and family.

"I now know how important joining the register is, otherwise Shohanna would not be with us today."



Shohanna was one of the lucky ones, with a suitable match becoming available almost immediately. Less than 1% of people on the Organ Donor Register are from Black communities, which means that most patients will not be as lucky as Shohanna and may have to wait much longer for a suitable match.

Real life stories

As a community at high risk, we really need to act now to prevent people having to wait so long for a donated organ.

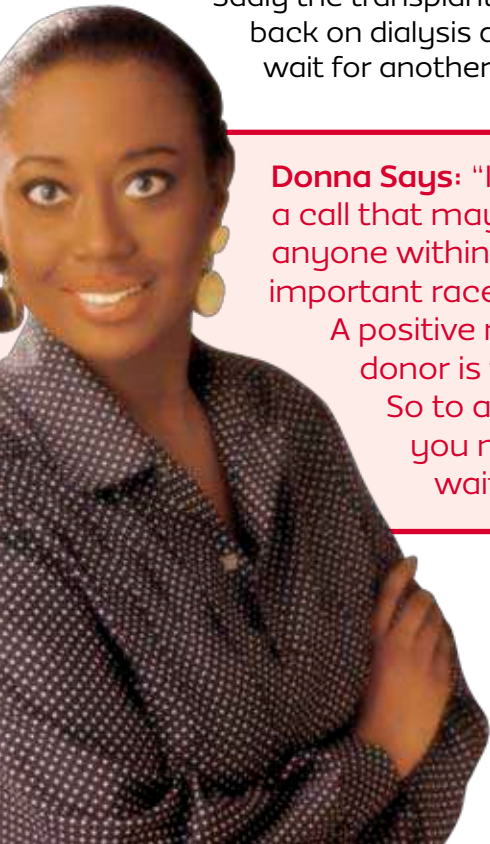
By **actively encouraging** more people from the African and Caribbean communities to register to donate organs after their death, and tell their family and friends about their wishes, we can reduce the potential wait.

Donna's story:

At the age of 18, Donna Akuffo was diagnosed with Lupus which has ultimately resulted in kidney failure. She has needed dialysis three days a week for a minimum of four hours each day for the past 20 years.

Donna's wish finally came true and she received a transplant.

Sadly the transplant has not been successful. She is now back on dialysis and preparing for the potential long wait for another transplant.



Donna Says: "I spend every day waiting for a call that may change my life. I don't think anyone within our community has any idea how important race is when it comes to donation.

A positive match is far more likely when the donor is from the same ethnic background. So to all of you out there – register today, you never know when you could be waiting in hope like me."

"A positive match is far more likely when the donor is from the same ethnic background"

Your questions answered

Many people have concerns and questions about organ donation and we'd like to take this opportunity to reassure you.

Faith

Some people are not sure whether their religion would prevent them from agreeing to donate their organs after death – yet **all the major faiths** in the UK support the principles of organ donation and transplantation.

Fears

Many people are unaware of the donation process and have fears about the quality of treatment. Doctors and nurses are trained and committed to **saving lives**, this is always their first priority. Organ donation is only considered if, despite their efforts, a patient dies.



Organs are only removed for transplantation after a person has died and those closest to them have confirmed they wanted to be a donor. Death is confirmed by two doctors who are entirely **independent** of the transplant team. Death is certified in the same way for people who donate organs as for those who do not.



Donors are treated with the **utmost respect** and organs are removed with the same **care** as any other operation. Families can spend time with their loved one if they wish and the funeral need not be delayed.

Many families say that they have gained great comfort from donation at an otherwise tragic time.



Important facts about organ donation

Around 3,500 organ transplants are carried out every year in the UK. As well as life-saving organ transplants, more than 2,500 people have their sight restored through corneal transplants annually.

As medicine and technology advance, the types of organs that can be transplanted have increased. As well as heart, liver and kidney, doctors can also transplant organs such as lung, pancreas and the small bowel.



More than **10,000** people in the UK currently **need a transplant**. Of these, over 1,000 – on average 3 a day – die every year before they receive an organ.



There is no maximum age for donors. Healthcare professionals will make a decision based on each individual case.



Having an existing medical condition does not necessarily prevent a person from becoming a donor. Again, the decision will be taken by doctors after death.

By offering to become an organ donor you could save or enhance as many as 9 lives.

Join the register now

More donated organs are needed urgently as people who need a transplant are dying.

Please think about joining the Organ Donor Register and help others to live after your death.



The register is a **confidential database** which is used by NHS staff to identify those who have indicated that they wish to donate their organs and tissue after death so that someone else can benefit from a life-saving transplant.



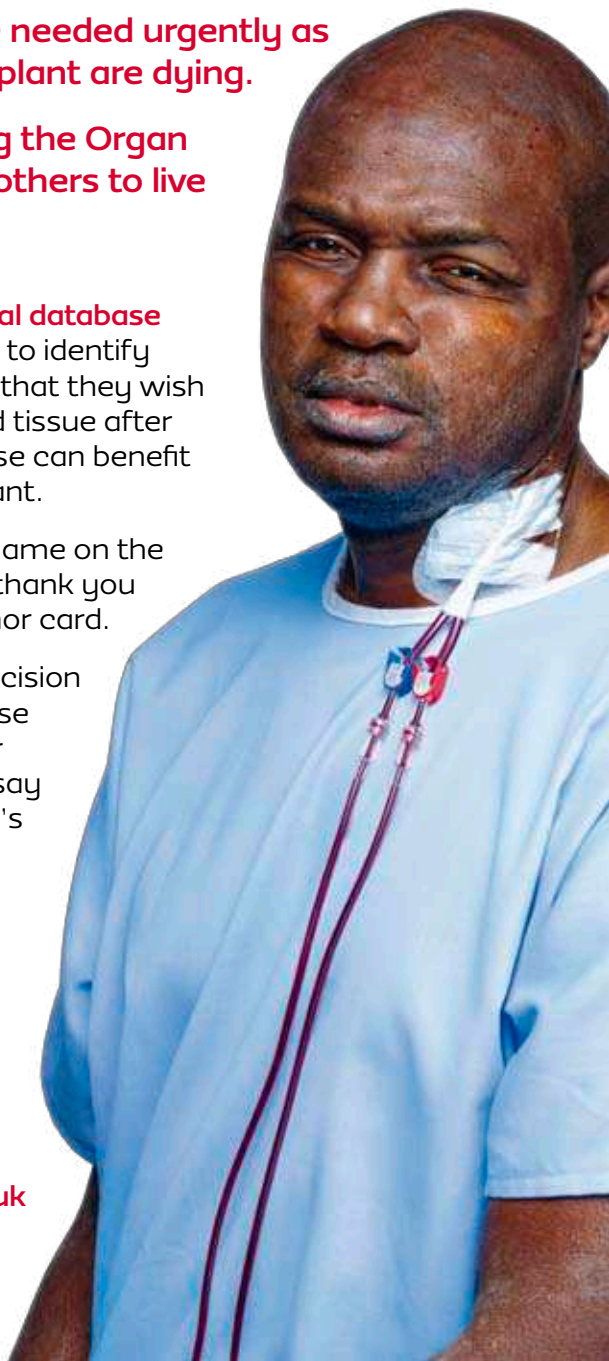
When you have put your name on the register you will receive a thank you pack which includes a donor card.



Once you have made a decision to register as a donor please inform your family of your wishes. Family members say that knowing their relative's wishes made it easier to agree to donation.

If you believe in organ donation, prove it.

www.organdonation.nhs.uk



If you require any more copies of this leaflet or need more information please call the donor line

0300 123 23 23

This leaflet can be downloaded from

www.organdonation.nhs.uk.

This website also has lots of useful information about organ donation.

You can also join the register by text.

Text **REGISTER** to **84880**

Once you have made a decision to register as a donor please inform your family of your wishes.

Please register my details on the NHS Organ Donor Register

Please complete in CAPITAL LETTERS using a black ballpoint pen.

*indicates that a field must be completed.

My name and address

Surname*

Forename(s)*

Date of birth*

/

/

Male ☐ *

Female ☐ *

Address*

Postcode*

Telephone

Mobile

Email

My wishes

I want to donate: (Please tick the boxes that apply)

A. any of my organs and tissue ☐ **or**

B. my kidneys ☐ heart ☐ liver ☐ small bowel ☐
eyes ☐ lungs ☐ pancreas ☐ tissue ☐

for transplantation after my death.

Signature

Date

Please tick here if you would like to receive future information about blood, organ and tissue donation from NHS Blood and Transplant. ☐

My ethnic origin

There's a better chance of getting a closer match and a successful transplant if the donor and recipient are from the same ethnic group. Please tick the ethnic group which best describes you.

White: British ☐ Irish ☐ Other ☐

Mixed: White/Black Caribbean ☐ White/Asian ☐ White/Black African ☐ Other ☐

Asian or Asian British: Indian ☐ Pakistani ☐ Bangladeshi ☐ Other ☐

Black or Black British: Caribbean ☐ African ☐ Other ☐

Other mixed background: Chinese ☐ Other ☐

Not stated: ☐

Data Protection Assurance. Completion of this form is for the purpose of recording your wishes to become an organ donor. All information provided to NHS Blood and Transplant is used in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Your data may be handled on our behalf in a country not normally covered by EU Data Protection law. If so, we will ensure that the data will be protected by the EU requirements. More information on how we look after your personal details can be found at www.nhsbt.nhs.uk or by calling 0300 123 23 23.

If you wish to amend or withdraw your record from the NHS Organ Donor Register you can do so by calling the Organ Donor Line on 0300 123 23 23, visiting www.organdonation.nhs.uk or writing to us at the address overleaf.

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If you believe in organ donation, prove it.
Register now at organondonation.nhs.uk Text REGISTER to 84880



NHS

You don't
need to use
a stamp,
but doing so
helps save
our funds

FREEPOST RRZK-SHUX-SBCK
NHS Blood and Transplant
Fox Den Road
Stoke Gifford
Bristol
BS34 8RR