Scotland's International Development Alliance

Influence of diaspora communities in decision making on global justice in Scotland: Scoping exercise

Executive summary

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Introduction

This summary outlines the findings of a scoping exercise conducted between July and September 2024 by Scotland's International Development Alliance, aimed at generating recommendations for further research into the representation and influence of diaspora groups of colour in decision-making on global justice issues in Scotland. The exercise was initiated by SIDA's Diaspora Group for Global Citizenship.

The study identifies a significant gap in the literature regarding how diaspora communities, and in particular those of colour and from formerly colonised regions, living in 'the Global North' shape decision-making on global justice. While much research has focused on diaspora contributions through remittances and political engagement in their countries of origin, their influence within host nations remains underexplored. The scoping exercise reveals that diaspora groups in Scotland face substantial barriers to policy participation, including systemic exclusion, insufficient government support, and limited access to engagement platforms.

Despite these challenges, the research offers some initial practical recommendations, derived from survey and focus group discussions, to address these issues. These include improving education and empowerment, increasing government transparency, and creating opportunities for early and meaningful involvement in policy-making processes. With adequate support and genuine inclusion, diaspora groups can play a crucial role in shaping Scotland's global justice agenda.

This study also highlights key areas for further investigation, emphasising the need for a comprehensive exploration of the decision-making spaces that diaspora groups seek to influence, as well as their specific objectives, aspirations, and experiences. Addressing these focus areas in future research could lead to more inclusive and representative policy-making processes that reflect the diverse perspectives and needs of Scotland's diaspora communities.

The full results and analysis is available in a separate report entitled: *Influence of diaspora communities in decision making on global justice in Scotland: Scoping exercise report*

Key Definitions

This exercise was grounded in several key concepts and areas of focus, which are outlined below to clarify their meanings within this context. These were developed as part of the literature review and to define the scope of the research.

Diaspora Communities: Diaspora communities are made up of emigrants and their descendants who maintain connections to their homeland, thereby contributing to both their host and home countries. They serve as intermediaries in areas such as diplomacy, culture, and policy, influencing foreign policy and advocating for global justice, particularly during times of crisis.

This research specifically focuses on diaspora groups of colour with roots in the majority world, especially those from formerly colonised countries and regions, as they play a significant role in global development relationships and efforts.

Global Justice: Global justice refers to the concept of upholding human rights for everyone, free from discrimination or exploitation. It encompasses equal access to opportunities and resources and addresses issues such as climate change, public health crises, and terrorism—challenges that necessitate global cooperation. It also demands recognition of historical injustices and appropriate compensation, while actively challenging oppressive systems and dismantling unjust power structures worldwide.

Shared Global Challenges: Shared global challenges are intricate, cross-border issues that require global cooperation for resolution, yet manifest locally within all communities. These challenges encompass climate change, humanitarian crises, public health emergencies, inequality, poverty, access to education, human rights, gender and racial equality, environmental protection, peace, security, and migration. They are relevant across the policy and practice domains of global development, immigration, education, climate action, and equalities.

To facilitate participant understanding, we used the term ‘shared global challenges’ and ‘minority ethnic’ to convey concepts of global justice, global development and ‘diaspora’ more clearly.

Context and rationale

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) defines diaspora as emigrants and their descendants living outside their country of origin, either temporarily or permanently, while maintaining ties to their home country (IOM, 2013). Diaspora groups are diverse, including migrants, exiles, ethnic groups, and refugees, with affiliations to both their home and host countries. They contribute human, social, and economic capital by boosting host country workforces, facilitating cross-cultural relationships, and sending remittances to their home countries (IOM, 2013). Aggestam et al. (2023) likened diaspora groups to transitional agents due to their multiple affiliations.

Diaspora groups, with their shifting alliances, play significant roles in promoting bilateral relations between home and host countries, transferring culture and values both ways (Ho & McConnell, 2019). They also serve as mediators in diplomatic negotiations, advocating for development and influencing foreign policy for both nations. Host countries can leverage diaspora groups as "soft power" to promote their own interests on the global stage (Flores, 2024). These groups often partner with international organizations, NGOs, religious groups, and the private sector to enhance diplomatic efforts (Ho & McConnell, 2019).

Diaspora groups engage in diplomacy through three key activities:

1. **Advocacy:** Influencing domestic and foreign policies in both host and home countries.
2. **Mediation:** Facilitating exchanges between host and home countries, promoting peace or, at times, exacerbating conflicts (Flores, 2024; Ho & McConnell, 2019).
3. **Representation:** Promoting the culture and values of their home countries.

Diaspora group activities in promoting global justice often intensify following crises in their home countries, such as political unrest or natural disasters (Kennedy, 2019). Forced migration due to armed conflict also leads to stronger advocacy efforts in host countries (Aggestam et al., 2023). Their involvement in policymaking brings intercultural competency and diverse perspectives.

In 2021, over 10.7 million migrants lived in the UK, with 528,000 in Scotland alone, representing significant populations in cities like Aberdeen, Edinburgh, and Glasgow (Migration Observatory, 2024; National Records of Scotland, 2021).

Focus on diaspora groups of colour

This exercise focusses on the influence of diaspora groups of colour, particularly from previously colonised regions, in shaping Scotland's global justice policies. These communities have a vested interest in issues like global development, minority rights, and climate justice. The legacy of colonialism has created enduring disparities, making it crucial to understand how these groups navigate their influence in decision-making processes. Despite their significant contributions and cultural insights, diaspora groups of colour are often underrepresented in policy-making.

While previous research has focused on diaspora groups as development actors through remittances and political influence (Kaya & Drummer, 2022; Ratha et al., 2024), there is limited documentation of their influence on global justice in Global North nations. This exercise aims to address this gap, highlighting the barriers and contributions of diaspora groups of colour, and advocating for more inclusive representation in decision-making.

Focus on local and global aspects of global justice

The study examines global justice, particularly human rights and global development policies in Scotland. It explores the intersections of local and global issues, recognising the interconnected nature of challenges like climate policy, systemic racism, and migrant rights. Feedback from SIDA’s Diaspora Group for Global Citizenship emphasises the need for interconnected solutions to address these issues.

A key focus is understanding the push factors behind forced migration, such as conflict, persecution, and environmental degradation. These experiences shape the lives of diaspora communities in Scotland and underscore the importance of advocating for migrant rights. Scottish policies on global development, minority rights, and climate change have far-reaching implications, affecting both local populations and diaspora communities' countries of origin.

This exercise highlights the need for further research to explore these intersections and develop strategies that promote social justice, human rights, and sustainability in Scotland and beyond.

Theoretical framework

An adapted socio-ecological model, which incorporates a layer of globalisation, was used to examine the levels of diaspora engagement. This framework includes individual, interpersonal, organisational, community, public-policy, and global levels, accounting for their partnerships with international organisations and forums. These levels were used as a structure categorise the 'spaces' for influence which were used in the survey and focus group, as detailed below.

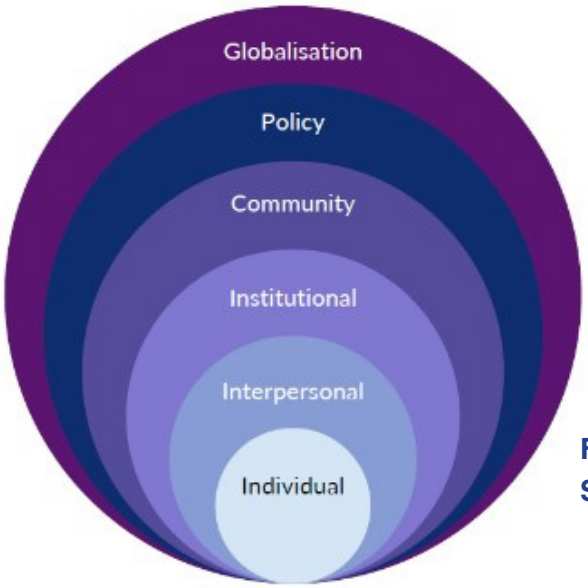


Figure 1: Adapted Socio-Ecological Model

- **Individual Level:** Focusses on the actions, beliefs, and knowledge of individual diaspora members trying to influence decision-making on global challenges in Scotland. *Associated spaces:* Emails, Social media
- **Interpersonal Level:** Looks at how diaspora members use their relationships with family, friends, and social networks to collectively influence decision-making. *Associated spaces:* Whatsapp groups, friends and family groups
- **Organisational Level:** Examines how diaspora groups collaborate with NGOs, educational, and voluntary organisations to mobilise resources and coordinate efforts on global issues. *Associated spaces:* Educational institutions (schools, universities) Civic societies and NGOs, Media platforms, Cultural and Religious organisations
- **Community Level:** Explores how diaspora groups engage locally to advocate for government action on shared global challenges. *Associated spaces:* Local radio and newspapers, Neighbourhoods, Local communities, Voluntary groups
- **Policy Level:** Focuses on how diaspora groups directly interact with policymakers at various levels to influence Scotland's decisions on global issues. *Associated spaces:* Local councils, Scottish Government, UK Government
- **Globalisation Level:** Assesses how diaspora groups connect with international organisations and global forums to shape Scotland's policies on shared global challenges. *Associated spaces:* United Nations, World Health Organization, International NGOs

Literature review - summary

The influence of Global South diaspora groups on decision-making in Global North countries is underexplored. Existing literature mainly focuses on their role as development actors through remittances and political influence (Kaya & Drummer, 2022; Wellalage & Locke, 2019; Ratha et al., 2024). In 2023, diaspora groups from Low and Middle-Income Countries remitted $656 billion, exceeding official development assistance. While their impact on voting and policies in their home countries is well-documented (Boyle & Ho, 2017; Popyk & Lesinska, 2023; Walton-Roberts & Judge, 2023), less attention has been given to their influence on global justice policies in Global North nations. This research aims to fill that gap by examining how Global South diaspora groups in Scotland attempt to influence decision-making on shared global challenges.

However, there are notable examples, including the Armenian diaspora lobbying for U.S. recognition of the Armenian Genocide (Gevorgyan, 2023), the Indian diaspora's push for the U.S.-India nuclear deal (Bajoria and Pan, 2010), and the Egyptian diaspora advocating for human rights in the U.K. (Kennedy, 2019). Additionally, the Somali diaspora influenced Norway's stance on Somalia (Tellander and Horst, 2019), and the Jewish diaspora in the U.S. worked to maintain pro-Israel policies (Flores, 2024).

The limited literature available suggests that key factors contributing to diaspora success include political connections, strong organisation, alignment with host-country values, transnational collaboration, and financial resources. However, challenges such as internal divisions or a lack of connections with those in power can restrict their influence. Diaspora groups typically adopt three main roles: advocacy, by influencing policies in their host or home countries; mediation, by acting as intermediaries between nations; and representation, by promoting their home country's values and culture.

In summary, the literature reveals a significant gap in understanding on the influence of Global South diaspora groups on policy-making in Global North countries, particularly regarding global justice issues. While existing studies have primarily focused on their roles as development actors through remittances and political engagement, there is a pressing need to explore their impact on policy within host nations like Scotland. Notable examples from other contexts demonstrate the potential for diaspora influence, but challenges such as internal divisions and misalignment with the interests of those in power can limit their effectiveness. Recognising the multifaceted roles of advocacy, mediation, and representation that diaspora groups play is crucial for fostering more inclusive and representative decision-making processes that reflect the diverse perspectives of these communities.

Scoping Exercise

The research was conducted using a survey and a focus group discussion from July to September 2024. Due to a limited number of responses, the recommendations should be viewed as preliminary, indicating the need for further investigation.

The research aimed to gain insight on how diaspora groups of colour in Scotland influence decision-making to address shared global challenges.

Research Questions

- **To what extent are diaspora groups aware of Scotland's role in addressing shared global challenges?**
- **What spaces exist for diaspora groups to participate in decision-making processes regarding global issues in Scotland?**
- **Which spaces do diaspora groups utilise for engagement, and how frequently do they participate?**
- **What barriers do diaspora groups encounter when engaging in policymaking in Scotland?**
- **What strategies could enhance diaspora engagement in Scottish decision-making processes related to global challenges?**

Method:

- **Survey:** A 12-item questionnaire was used to gather demographic data and insights on diaspora engagement in decision-making spaces in Scotland, with the analysis performed using statistical analysis software, SPSS. The survey targeted individuals who identified as part of an minority ethnic community, as this terminology was considered the most accessible. To reach participants, we collaborated with various networks, including SIDA's Diaspora Group for Global Citizenship, Third Sector Interfaces, the Scottish Refugee Council, the West Lothian Race Forum, SIDA Membership, the West Scotland Regional Equalities Council, and informal university networks.

- **Focus Group Discussion:** Conducted on August 27, 2024, with six members of SIDA's Diaspora Group for Global Citizenship. Four key questions were discussed about understanding shared global challenges, participation spaces, barriers to engagement, and recommendations for improvement. Informed consent was obtained, and respondents' identities were anonymised using alpha-numeric codes.

Limitations

This scoping exercise serves as an initial step for identifying areas for further research rather than providing definitive, generalisable findings. Several limitations impact the study's applicability. First, the sample size was small, with only 20 survey responses, which does not reflect the full diversity of diaspora communities in Scotland. Additionally, accessing information about Scottish Government engagement platforms was challenging, as staff were often preoccupied or hesitant to participate. The focus group involved a limited number of participants, potentially missing broader perspectives within these communities. Furthermore, the research conducted between July and September 2024 may not capture evolving dynamics or emerging issues affecting diaspora engagement. Lastly, the inquiry primarily focused on barriers and strategies, potentially overlooking other critical factors that influence diaspora participation in policy-making. Recognising these limitations is crucial for guiding future research efforts that aim for a more comprehensive understanding of diaspora involvement in Scotland’s decision-making processes.

Results

The results from both the survey and focus group discussions are detailed separately. First, a demographic breakdown of diaspora groups' identities is provided, followed by insights aligned with the study's research questions.

Survey

1. Demographics

- A total of 20 responses were collected. Of these, 55% of respondents were female, and 45% were male.
- In terms of identity, 40% of respondents identified as being from a migrant community, 40% as part of a Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) group, and 40% identified with a specific continent (Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Oceania, Latin America, or the Caribbean).
- Only 5% of respondents identified as members of the refugee community.

2. Awareness of Scotland's approach to addressing global challenges:

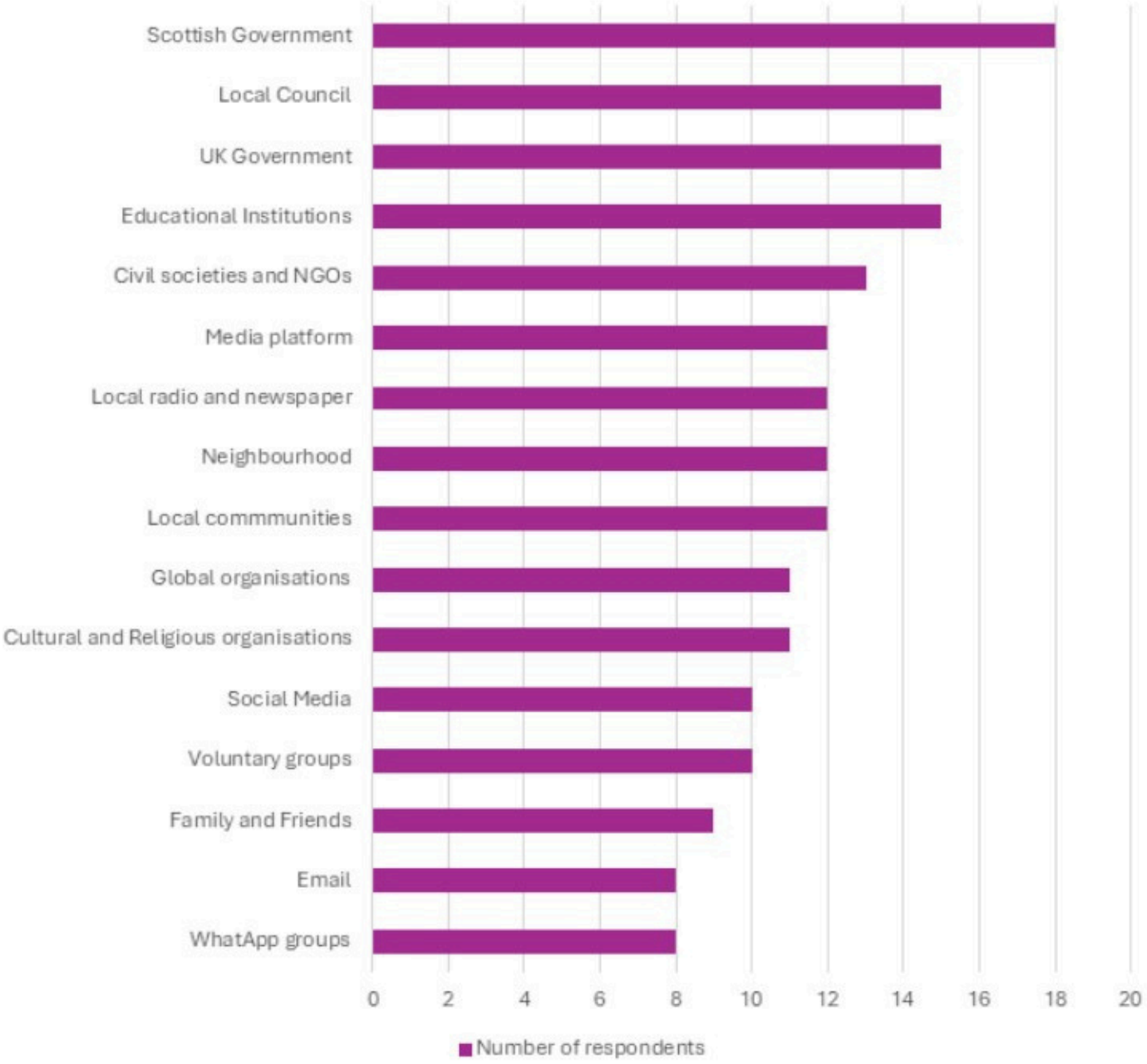
- Respondents were asked about their perception of Scotland's role in addressing shared global challenges such as climate change, racial injustice, poverty, global inequality, conflict, and refugee rights.

Common themes in responses emphasised that Scotland's role should be "neutral, transparent," and focused on sustainability. Some participants highlighted that Scotland should set an agenda for development, plan, and execute integrated strategies for addressing these global challenges.

In terms of knowledge, 35% of respondents rated their awareness of Scotland's actions as "average," while 25% rated it as "low" and 20% as "high." Only 5% reported having a "very high" level of awareness.

3. Spaces of influence

The questions on spaces of influence were structured around the adapted socio-ecological model, as detailed above. The results highlight several critical spaces where respondents believed representation is essential for influencing Scotland's approach to global challenges, as detailed on the graph below:



The most frequently cited spaces of importance include:

- **Scottish Government (18 votes):** This is perceived as the most crucial space for engagement, reflecting the importance of formal political structures in shaping policies that affect global justice and development. Representation in the Scottish Government could provide minority ethnic groups with a platform to advocate for their specific needs and perspectives on international issues, fostering a more inclusive policy-making process.

- **Local Councils (15 votes)**: Local councils are vital for grassroots engagement and community representation. The high number of votes indicates that respondents recognize the significance of local governance in addressing global challenges at the community level. Local councils can act as a bridge between national policies and community needs, making their role in representation crucial.

- **UK Government (15 votes):** The inclusion of the UK Government as a key space underscores the broader political context in which Scotland operates. As many global justice issues require national policy alignment, the influence of diaspora groups at the UK level is critical for effecting change in Scotland's international stance.

- **Educational Institutions (15 votes):** This reflects an understanding that education is a foundational element for empowerment and advocacy. Schools, colleges, and universities serve as platforms for awareness-raising and skill-building, equipping diaspora groups with the tools to engage effectively in public discourse and policy-making.

- **Civil Societies/NGOs (13 votes):** The involvement of NGOs highlights the role of organized community advocacy in addressing global challenges. NGOs can provide resources, networks, and expertise that empower minority ethnic groups to voice their concerns and participate in decision-making processes.

In contrast, platforms viewed as less important for influence include:

- WhatsApp platforms (8 votes), Emails (8 votes), and Family and Friends (9 votes): These channels, while valuable for informal communication and support, are perceived as insufficient for effecting change at a structural level. Their lower importance suggests that respondents see more formal and organised methods of engagement as more effective.

- Voluntary Groups (10 votes) and Social Media (10 votes): Although these platforms can facilitate community building and awareness, their perceived limitations in achieving meaningful representation and influence reflect a desire for more substantial avenues for engagement.

4. Representation and Frequency of Engagement

The survey respondents' perspectives on representation reveal a complex landscape regarding the influence of diaspora communities of colour in Scotland's approach to global challenges. Key observations include:

- **Higher representation in certain areas:** Respondents indicated that minority ethnic groups are better represented in educational institutions, family and friends networks, and at the global level. This suggests that while these spaces allow for some level of participation and influence, they may not translate into tangible impact on formal decision-making processes in Scotland. The representation in educational institutions also points to their role as sites of knowledge production and activism.

- **Low representation in key decision-making bodies**: In stark contrast, respondents reported low or very low representation in local councils, the Scottish Government, the UK Government, and media platforms. This disparity highlights a significant gap between the existence of diaspora communities of colour and their ability to influence critical areas that directly impact global justice policies.

- **Frequency of engagement:** The data indicates that most engagement occurs within friends and family networks (6 respondents), voluntary groups (5 respondents), and social media (4 respondents). While these informal interactions are valuable for building solidarity and support, the limited engagement with political and formal decision-making bodies, such as local councils and government institutions, raises concerns about the effectiveness of advocacy efforts.

Overall, the survey findings point to a significant disconnect between areas of higher representation and those considered essential for influencing policy by respondents (namely UK, Scottish and local government). While diaspora groups of colour successfully engage within educational and informal networks, their participation in formal political structures remains low.

Additionally, the predominance of "average" to "low" awareness regarding Scotland's global actions suggests that improved communication and outreach efforts may be necessary. Key insights from the survey, albeit with a limited number of responses, indicate a diverse demographic with strong representation from migrant and BME groups, while the low engagement from refugees points to potential gaps in outreach. Furthermore, the near-equal gender distribution among respondents contributes to a balanced effort in advocacy efforts.

Focus group discussion

The semi-structured focus group, held online, involved six participants, all members of SIDA's Diaspora Group for Global Citizenship, who shared their experiences concerning four key questions, with one additional participant providing input via email.

Question1. What do you understand 'shared global challenges' to mean?

Participants were asked to express their understanding of the term 'shared global challenges' using a word cloud tool, resulting in a visual representation of their collective views (below). The predominant themes included "poverty and inequality," "be heard not just seen," and "insincerity."

Question 2. They were then asked about the level of importance they place on having representation in decision-making regarding global issues in Scotland. Three main reasons emerged:

- **Impact on diaspora:** Participants emphasised that decisions made in Scotland significantly affect their communities both locally and globally. One participant stated that engaging in decision-making processes is crucial for improving the lives of diaspora members and their families both in Scotland and in countries of heritage.

- **Upholding human rights:** Another participant highlighted the importance of diaspora participation in promoting human rights and social justice, asserting that their voices are vital in advocating for necessary changes.

- **Livelihood concerns:** Participants noted that representation in policy decisions directly impacts their livelihoods, necessitating their involvement at all levels of decision-making.

- **Lack of access to key spaces:** Participants then addressed the second question regarding important decision-making spaces. They expressed frustrations over limited access to policy-making avenues, citing issues like exclusivity, lack of inclusive consultations, and inadequate representation in discussions beyond those labelled as "diversity." Some participants mentioned that while opportunities exist at the international level for their countries and communities to be represented, local avenues for diaspora engagement are scarce.

Question 3. The third question asked for examples of barriers faced by diaspora groups in decision-making. Participants identified several key challenges, including:

- **Systemic exclusion:** Many felt their issues were ignored by policymakers, resulting in their concerns rarely making it onto the agenda.

- **Discriminatory bias:** Participants expressed frustration over being viewed as a problem rather than a resource, highlighting a lack of recognition of their knowledge and experiences.

- **Narrow-mindedness:** Some noted policymakers often dismiss contributions from diaspora communities, reflecting a narrow worldview.

- **Limited platforms**: A lack of spaces for active participation in decision-making processes was a common concern.

- **Insufficient information:** Participants highlighted the need for better communication regarding opportunities for engagement.

- **Knowledge gaps:** Some diaspora members felt unprepared to contribute due to a lack of familiarity with the topics being discussed and the jargon and practice involved.

- **Limited government support:** Insufficient support from government entities hindered their ability to participate effectively.

- **Lack of lived experience:** Many felt that without representation from those who have lived their challenges, decisions often do not address the real issues faced by diaspora communities.

Question 4. For the final question, participants provided recommendations for improving diaspora influence in policy-making:

- **Inclusion of lived experience:** Participants advocated for including individuals with lived experiences in decision-making roles to foster understanding and empathy.

- **Early inclusion in processes:** Participants emphasised the importance of being involved from the outset of decision-making, rather than further down the development process.

- **Leadership from within:** There was a call for diaspora groups to take ownership of their issues and lead the narrative of their experiences.

- **Creating platforms:** Recommendations included establishing platforms that allow diaspora voices to be heard and engaged in decision-making processes.

- **Acknowledge contributions**: Lastly, participants stressed the importance of recognising and utilising the skills and experiences of diaspora members to foster a more inclusive environment.

The focus group discussions illuminated the barriers faced by diaspora communities and provided actionable recommendations to enhance their representation and influence in Scotland's policy-making regarding global challenges.

Summary of feedback recommendations from survey, literature review and focus group:

For government and civil society

- **Create open spaces for engagement:** Establish systematic processes and open platforms for diaspora communities to engage in decision-making from the outset.
- **Promote participation:** Encourage diaspora involvement in decisions that affect them from the beginning of any process.
- **Enhance transparency:** Make policy-making spaces more inclusive and transparent to ensure diverse voices, especially from diaspora communities, are heard and considered.
- **Improve accessibility:** Ensure that information regarding policy consultations is readily available to diaspora communities, allowing them to provide timely feedback.
- **Value contributions:** Recognise and appreciate the economic and intellectual contributions of diaspora communities to encourage their active participation in policy-making. Take steps to understand how to meaningfully include them.

For diaspora communities

- **Internal education on political advocacy:** Leaders of diaspora communities can play a crucial role in educating their members on effective engagement in policy-making and raising awareness about global justice issues and Scotland's efforts to address them.
- **Grassroots mobilisation:** Continue and expand mobilisation from grassroots levels to higher policy levels.
- **Leadership from within:** There was a call for diaspora groups to take ownership of their issues and expand efforts to lead the narrative of their experiences.
- **Partnership with NGOs:** Collaborate with established NGOs and organisations to enhance access to policy-making spaces.
- **Leverage international platforms:** Build networks with diasporas in other countries to advocate for global justice through collaborative transnational efforts.
- **Utilise social media:** Use social media as an affordable platform to highlight issues and advocate for change.
- **Advocate for lived experience:** Encourage individuals with lived experiences to share their stories in policy discussions and parliamentary sessions.
- **Secure funding:** Work collectively to source funding for initiatives that support diaspora engagement in policy advocacy.

Research recommendations

In conclusion, this research reveals a significant gap in the literature concerning how diaspora groups of colour and those from formerly colonised regions in the Global North seek to influence decision-making on global justice issues. While much of the existing scholarship has focused on diaspora contributions through remittances and political engagement in their countries of origin, this study highlights their often-overlooked role in host nations. The findings suggest that diaspora groups in Scotland encounter considerable barriers to meaningful participation in policy-making, such as systemic exclusion, insufficient government support, and limited access to platforms for engagement. However, the survey and focus group discussions offer practical recommendations for overcoming these challenges, including enhancing education and empowerment, increasing government transparency, and creating spaces for early and substantive involvement in decision-making processes. With adequate access and genuine inclusion, diaspora groups have the potential to play a crucial role in shaping Scotland's approach to global justice.

Recommendations for Further Research

Although there are some key examples, academic research in this area remains limited, particularly in Scotland. Given that diaspora communities of colour make up 5% of the population —and that both their lives in Scotland and their connections to their countries of heritage are directly impacted by Scotland's decisions—it is essential that they are meaningfully included in democratic processes, especially when shaping Scotland's global role. The primary aim of this research was to highlight focus areas for a more extensive study, which would provide recommendations on enhancing diaspora inclusion and amplifying their voices in decision-making. Based on the findings, here are key recommendations for future research on decision-making spaces that diaspora groups seek representation in:

- **Policy-Making Involvement and Engagement:** Future research should focus on measuring the levels of inclusion of diaspora groups of colour at the UK, Scottish, and local government levels regarding cross-cutting issues related to "global justice," including global development policy, minority and migrant rights, and climate policy. It should investigate the timing and methods of their inclusion in policy-making within these contexts. This research could analyse legal frameworks, policy development and practical applications, involving current or former Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) to identify existing barriers and opportunities for effectively engaging these communities.

- **Diaspora community strategies:** Research should investigate the strategies and approaches diaspora groups are already employing to influence change and identify the areas of policy that are most important to them.

- **Wider Ecosystem Analysis:** Future research should examine the broader ecosystem influencing access to decision-making spaces. This includes analysing factors such as representation in traditional and social media, civic engagement, and the role of civil society.

- **Intersectional analysis:** Analyse how various intersecting identities (e.g. gender, ethnicity) shape the experiences and challenges faced by different diaspora groups in policy-making.

- **Inclusionary research approach:** Adopt an inclusive, peer-led approach to research, ensuring that diaspora communities are involved from the outset in designing and conducting the study.

By exploring these areas, future research can provide valuable insights into how to enhance diaspora representation and inclusion in Scotland's decision-making processes.

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