

CAN WE COUNT ON YOU?



**Facts about organ donation
for the black community**

www.organdonation.nhs.uk/blackcampaign

Why we're counting on you!

Usually my job is to make people laugh but I want to tell you about something that's very serious – organ donation.

Many people think organ donation doesn't really affect them. Think again. Why?

Because as black people we're at least three times more likely to need a kidney transplant than the rest of the population. That's because we're at greater risk of diabetes and high blood pressure and these are major causes of organ failure.

Here's the next big problem. Donated organs need to be carefully matched to the recipient to ensure blood and tissue groups are compatible. But there is a serious shortage of black donors.

As a result, black people have to wait on average about twice as long as a white person for a kidney transplant.

Right now over 700 black people in the UK, some of them small children, are waiting for a transplant. Some of them will die waiting – and that's not funny.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Walker'.

Curtis Walker
Comedian

How you can become a life-saver

You can give the gift of life and help your community by joining the NHS Organ Donor Register. This is the national database of people who are willing to become donors after they die.

If you join the register it means, in the event of your death, your organs, such as kidneys, heart or liver could be used to help someone else live.

There is already a desperate need for black donors across the UK. And the need over the next ten years is predicted to go up and up. It's an issue that is relevant to us all.

If you want to do something positive for your community then discuss your wishes to be an organ donor with your family and join the NHS Organ Donor Register.

Please don't delay. Your decision could make the difference between life and death.

Can we count on you to become a life-saver?



Gina Yashere
Comedienne



Kwame Kwei-Armah
Actor



Leave someone a future

To decide whether or not you wish to give life to someone else after you have died is something very personal and it is important that everyone makes their own decision.

Even if you already carry a donor card you should join the NHS Organ Donor Register to ensure your wishes are recorded. Discuss your decision with those closest to you so they know your wishes should the time ever come.

By joining the register you are giving your agreement to your organs and tissue being used for transplantation to save or enhance the lives of others after your death.

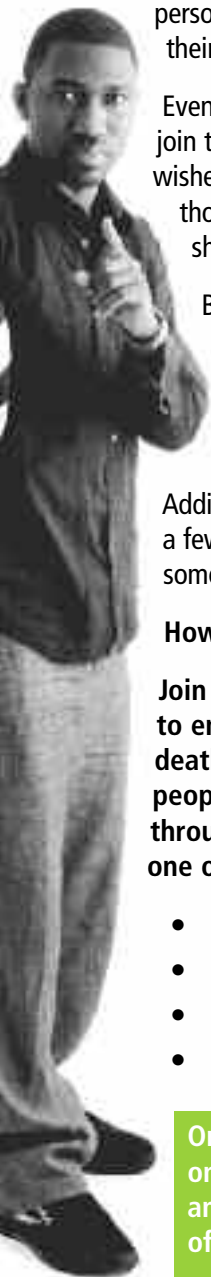
Adding your name to the register will only take a few minutes of your time. But it could save someone else's life.

How to register

Join the NHS Organ Donor Register today to ensure that you can give life after your death. It is only through the generosity of people like you that lives can be saved through transplants. Please register using one of the following methods:

- **visit organdonation.nhs.uk**
- **call 0300 123 23 23**
- **text SAVE to 84118**
- **Complete and post this leaflet**

Once you've signed up, join our online community at walloflife.org.uk and upload your photo and message of support.



What is organ donation?

Organ donation is the gift of an organ to help someone else who needs a transplant. Hundreds of people's lives are saved each year by the generosity of organ donors.

One donor can give life to several people and restore the sight of two more.

Organs that can be donated after death include the heart, lungs, kidneys, liver, pancreas and small bowel. Tissue such as skin, bone, heart valves and corneas can also be used to help others.

You are more likely to need a transplant than to become a donor. Because organs have to be transplanted very soon after the donor has died, they can only be donated by people who have died in hospital.

Most donated organs come from people who die while on a ventilator in an intensive care unit, following a severe brain injury. The brain injury damages vital centres in the brain stem that are essential to maintain life. No one can live once these centres have been destroyed.

Doctors and nurses are committed to doing everything possible to save life and organ donation is only considered once all attempts to save life have failed and after death has been certified by an independent team of doctors.

It's down to you to decide

Some people think their religion forbids organ donation but all the UK's major religions and faiths support the principles of organ donation and transplantation. Within each religion there are different schools of thought, which means that views may differ, but all the major religions accept that organ donation is down to individual choice.

Shohanna's story

"We can never express just how grateful we are to the young donor and the donor's parents who gave our daughter the gift of life."



Deloris Newman from Birmingham, mother of Shohanna who received a liver transplant when she was two years old.

Horace's story

"Liver failure has had a major negative impact on my life and I wait in hope for a suitable organ to become available. Please make a difference and give something back to the black community by joining the NHS Organ Donor Register."



Horace Hibbert, South London.

For more information:

0300 123 23 23

www.organdonation.nhs.uk/blackcampaign

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.

Black or Black British: African Caribbean
Other black background

Mixed: Caribbean & white
African & white Other mixed background

Other: (Please specify) _____

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

FREEPOST RRZK-SHUX-SBCK
NHS Blood and Transplant
Fox Den Road
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