Dear Kate Sang, Abigail Powell, Chrissi McCarthy, Josephine Kinge, and Barbara Myers (Editorial Team),

This letter accompanies the manuscript **‘For Whom the Bell Tolls? COVID-19 Among Ethnic Minorities Across the European Union’**, for consideration in the special issue ‘**Intersecting inequalities in the time of COVID-19’** in the ‘Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Equality and Diversity’ journal.

The think piece submitted examines the health disparities of ethnic minorities seen in COVID-19 infection and mortality rates across Europe. This piece is unique in that it critically discusses the way in which knowledge on ethnic inequities for COVID-19 is shaped by the data collected. These data can be biased when race-based data is binary, which treats ethnic groups as homogenous. There is also a lack of data collected on ethnic minorities, which is often a result of the “colour-blind” approach taken by European governments. When these data are biased or limited, the intersectionality of risk factors unique to specific ethnic communities – such as gender, age, employment, household structure, geographical location, immigration status, and SES – cannot be recognized and therefore addressed.

With regards to the dire importance of understanding health inequities among minority ethnicities during the pandemic, we believe that this think piece on the biases and limitations of race-based data will be of great interest to your readership and beyond.

All authors have made a substantive contribution to the study, and all have read and approved the manuscript. The manuscript has not been submitted for consideration elsewhere, nor will any of it be published elsewhere.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at: **michelle.king-okoye@igdore.org**

Sincerely,

Michelle

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Dr Michelle M. King-Okoye
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