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## Lunchtime Symposia Series

### ***Covid-19 and the Cypriots Diaspora in the UK: Symposium 1 - Health***

***12.30pm – 1.30pm 20th May 2021***

***Venue: On-line platform, University of Westminster***

The Cyprus Centre at the University of Westminster is pleased to announce a series of on-line lunchtime symposia themed on Covid-19 and its manifold and diverse impact on citizens of the Cypriot diaspora in Britain. The symposia series is organised in collaboration with the Cyprus High Commission.

***Symposium 1 – Health:*** The impact of the pandemic on the community in terms of health, both physical and mental will be discussed. This will include mortality and dealing with grief as well as dealing with wider issues of isolation. Questions arising from the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on mortality within the community will also be considered.

We would like to explore the impact of Covid-19 on the health of the Cypriot community in the UK as a whole - over and above that felt by those based in London alone. An exploration of available statistics would be welcome as would a comparison of the experiences of those who are more isolated in terms of community support.

You are invited to join this virtual event which will take place on Blackboard Collaborate. In order to access this symposium please email to [a.chrysostomou@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:a.chrysostomou@westminster.ac.uk) with your name and affiliation (if appropriate) and the relevant codes will be sent. Following the panellist's presentations discussion will move to the floor where all participants are invited to add to the conversation with comments relating to their own experiences or with questions that can be directed to the panellists. Please note this is one of a series of lunchtime on-line events. You are welcome to access as many of these as you wish.

Further details can be found below.

**Admittance to our events is free of charge.**

Dr Alicia Chrysostomou  
Professor John Charalambous

Email: [a.chrysostomou@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:a.chrysostomou@westminster.ac.uk)  
Dr Petros Karatsareas

UNIVERSITY OF  
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309 Regent Street  
London W1B 2HW  
T: +44 (0)20 7911 5053  
F: +44 (0)20 7911 5106  
E: [ssh-facultysupport@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:ssh-facultysupport@westminster.ac.uk)  
[westminster.ac.uk/ssh](http://westminster.ac.uk/ssh)

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## Programme

### **Introduction and Official Opening**

#### **Welcome Address:**

His Excellency, the High Commissioner of Cyprus, Mr. Andreas S. Kakouris

#### **Core panel:**

**Dr Linda Papadopoulos:** *Practicing psychologist, author and broadcaster.* Linda will explore the impact of the pandemic from a psychological viewpoint.

**Dr Athina Mavrou:** *Cyprus Medical Society.* Athina is an Internal Medicine Trainee at Imperial NHS Trust. She obtained her medical degree from St George's University of London Medical School with distinctions and since then has continued her clinical training at various hospitals in London. Athina worked on Covid wards during the last year and will focus on the medical aspect of Covid such as the nature of the symptoms, the severity, as well as the long-term implications of covid-19 and how they affected the community.

**Dr Huseyin Cakal:** *Assistant Professor, Keele University.* Huseyin obtained a DPhil in Social Psychology from the University of Oxford before joining the School of Psychology as a lecturer in psychology. Huseyin has a particular passion for policy oriented research on extremely disadvantaged communities in the least accessed regions and will explore how Covid has influenced minority groups in general and specifically the Cypriot Diaspora in the UK from an academic viewpoint

**Michael Yiakoumi:** *Author and journalist, Parikiaki.* Michael has reported on the effects of the pandemic in the Community across this last year and will share his findings and thoughts as to why the Community appears to be disproportionately affected by the virus from a journalistic viewpoint.

**Lorna V (Vassiliades):** *Mental Health and Heritage Researcher:* Lorna's background is a career in journalism for national newspapers and magazines and she has written three books for Psychologies magazine. Lorna recently conducted a survey among the Greek Orthodox community investigating heritage and mental health. This is for an interim study between her MSc in Creative Arts and Mental Health, and forthcoming PhD at Queen Mary University of London. She will introduce aspects of this research relating to Covid-19.

#### **Guest panellist:**

**Dr George Kassianos CBE:** *UK National Immunisation Lead for the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP).* George has been the National Immunisation Lead for the Royal College of General Practitioners since 1996, of which he is a Fellow. He chairs the Pan-European Group on influenza RAISE (Raise Awareness of Influenza Strategies in

Europe) and is Board Director of the European Working Group on Influenza. George is the author of 'Immunisation Childhood and Travel Health', has edited a number of medical books and has lectured worldwide in over 30 countries. Dr Kassianos will be present to field any questions that may arise pertaining to the vaccine and immunisation.

### **Open General Discussion:**

As the short presentations from the expert panel progress, participants will be invited to submit questions/comments. Following these introductory discussion points, the moderator will air relevant thoughts arising. Further discussion in keeping with the symposium theme will take place from this point. This will involve all panel members and those participants wishing to engage in the discussions.

### **Close**

*This conference is being arranged by the Cyprus Centre of the University of Westminster in collaboration with the Cultural Section of the Cyprus High Commission in London and with the support AG Leventis Foundation.*

Additional events include:

### **Symposium 2: Culture**

**12.30pm – 1.30pm (GMT) 10th June 2021**

The concept of ethnicity as realised by 'home and belonging' and the effects of not being able to return to ones 'native' country. The effects of missing cultural and traditional markers such as celebrating Easter, Christmas, weddings, curtailing group activities including dance, effects of missing cultural input such as museum or theatre visits.

We would like to explore the impact of Covid-19 on the culture of the Cypriot community. Mostly anecdotal in nature, an exploration of the reflections of those both participating and offering cultural experiences are of value.

### **Panel 2:**

Dr Marios Psaras: *Cultural Counsellor, Cyprus High Commission*

Dr Ersin Hussein: *Classics, Ancient History & Egyptology, Swansea University*

Lorna V: *Journalist - Mental Health and Heritage Researcher*

Antony Petrou: *Cypriot Filmmaker*

Achilleas Hadjikyriacou: *The Hellenic Institute, Director, Centre for Greek Diaspora Studies, Royal Holloway, University of London*

***Symposium 3: Next Generation***

**12.30pm – 1.30pm (GMT) 1st July 2021**

The emphasis will be on pandemic in terms of reaction and its effects on the younger generation. How it effects expectations, income, business, SME's, work prospects, hope and trust. The focus here would be very much towards the younger members of the community.

We would like to explore the impact of Covid-19 on the younger members of the Cypriot community. Here graduates, youth bodies and aspiring professionals will be invited to talk of their experiences.

**Panel 3:**

Christos Tuton: *President, NEPOMAK; Executive Officer, National Federation of Cypriots.*

Adrian Patsalos: *General Secretary, NEPOMAK UK; Executive Assistant Secretary, National Federation of Cypriots in the UK.*

Nicholas Nicou: *Honorary Vice President and Global Outreach Coordinator, NEPOMAK.*

Elle Zacharia: *Recent Undergraduate*