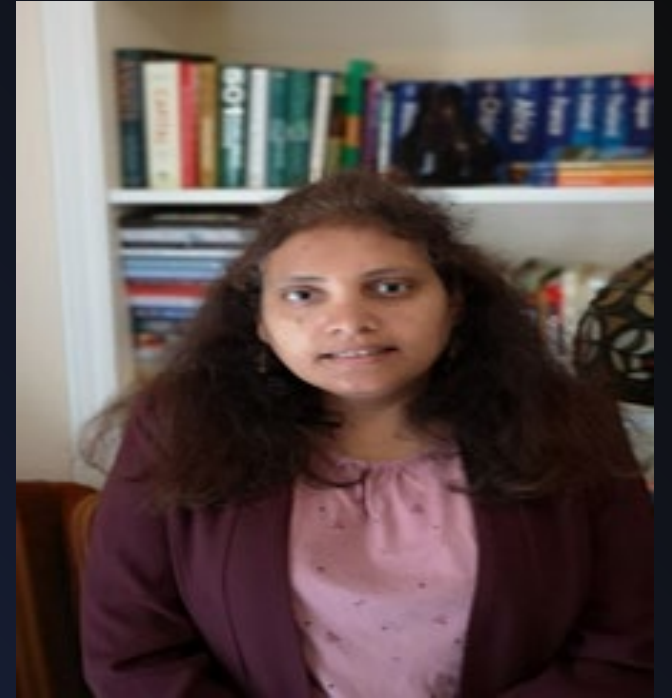


## Race Equality Champion

# Aravinda Guntupalli

---

I am a Senior Lecturer in Global Health at the Institute of Applied Health. I also act as the PGR coordinator, Athena SWAN Champion and MSc Global Health and Management co-coordinator at IAHS in addition to being a Race Equality Charter member and elected Senate member of the University of Aberdeen.



### What attracted you to the Race Champion role?

My research investigates the role of gender, age, ethnicity, sexuality, and socio-economic characteristics in shaping health outcomes. Growing up in a multi-ethnic household (multi-caste in India) opened my eyes to structural inequalities in societies. My lived experiences and observations acted as a spark to my scientific research. Through my research I demonstrated that structural factors often contribute to public health issues. My 18 years of work experience at 5 Higher Education Institutions in 3 countries supports the view that some of our personal experiences are, at times, structural and political!

UK higher education must address structural inequalities. Only 140 out of 21,000 professors identify as Black, and there are strong racial inequalities in the attainment of a high pass. In the past, I focused on some of the barriers as an Academic Lead of the Race Equality Charter at The OU and during my engagement with the UK Parliament on “Advancing race equality, building equity, and increasing researchers’ impact and engagement at the UK Parliament”. My Race Equality Champion role provides an opportunity to recognise the barriers faced by BAME staff and students at the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition and to address them while celebrating our diversity.