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Jim Allister MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont

AQW 12165/17-22

Jim Allister MLA has asked:

To ask the Minister of Finance to place in the Assembly library copies of the slides and material used in unconscious bias training in the Civil Service.

ANSWER

A copy of the slides used for the NICS SCS classroom based training along with the content of the e-Learning package for all other staff have been issued to NI Assembly to be placed in the Assembly library.

Signed:



Conor Murphy MLA

Date:

23/12/2020

Unconscious Bias e-Learning

The objectives are:

- Define what Unconscious Bias is.
- Explain how Unconscious Bias can impact in the workplace.
- State ways to tackle Unconscious Bias.

Training themes:

What is Unconscious Bias

1. What is unconscious Bias
2. First impressions
3. Stereotypes
4. Mental shortcuts
5. Self reflection

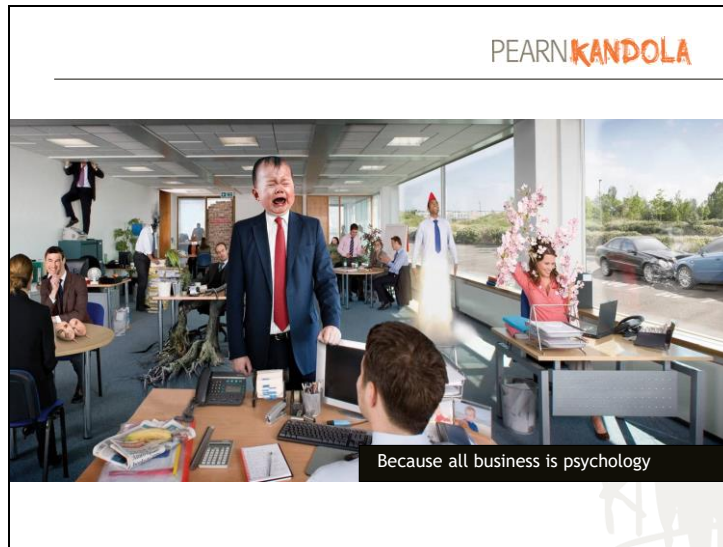
In the workplace

1. The far reaching impacts of unconscious bias in the workplace

Tackling Unconscious bias

1. Know the warning signs
2. Tackling unconscious bias
3. Aware of your biases
4. Widen your informal network in work
5. Manage stress
6. Awareness of unconscious bias whilst delivering at pace
7. Non-verbal behaviours
8. Pathway to inclusive working culture
9. Golden rules to tackling bias

Slide 1



Slide 2

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MANAGING UNCONSCIOUS BIAS
AT NICS

Because all business is psychology.

The slide features a white top section with the logo 'PEARN KANDOLA' in grey and orange. Below is a large orange section with a grey abstract graphic on the left. The title 'MANAGING UNCONSCIOUS BIAS AT NICS' is centered in white. A small black box at the bottom right contains the tagline 'Because all business is psychology.' in white.

OBJECTIVES

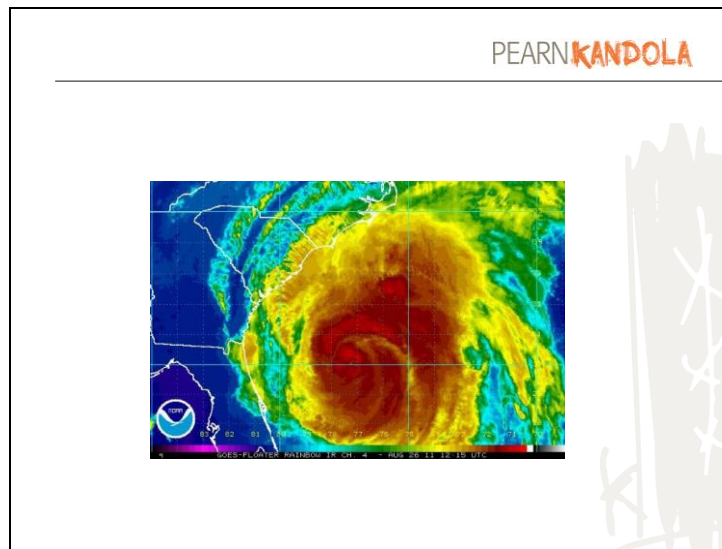
Explore the way in which we subconsciously process information

Review how our subconscious processes can result in faulty and sometimes biased decisions

Understand techniques to help you reduce the impact of bias on decision making

Discuss how this impacts our people and organisation.

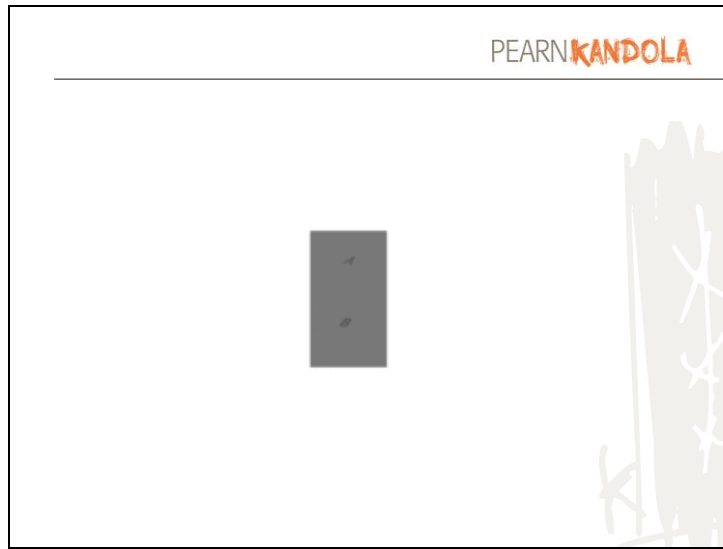
Slide 4



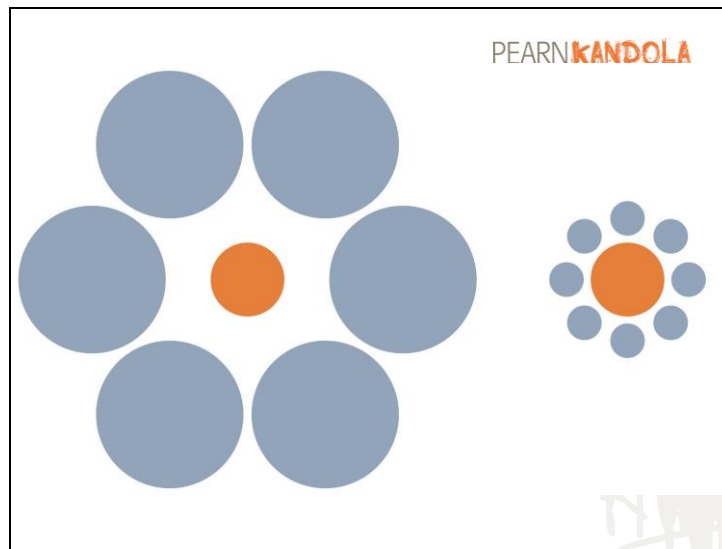
Intro to UB. Study showing the biases influence our decisions to evacuate during hurricanes.



Slide 6



Slide 7



Core Module 1 – Tool 1 – total 60 min

How can this impact your day to day behaviors or processes such as recruiting?

Slide 8



Group think, conformity – and relate it to recent events and research
More likely to occur with charismatic leadership

FINISHED FILES ARE THE RESULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY COMBINED WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF YEARS





Priming, need to make sense of the world, geologist example

System 1 thinking: quick, irrational – fight or flight

System 2: more cognitive

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STROOP TEST

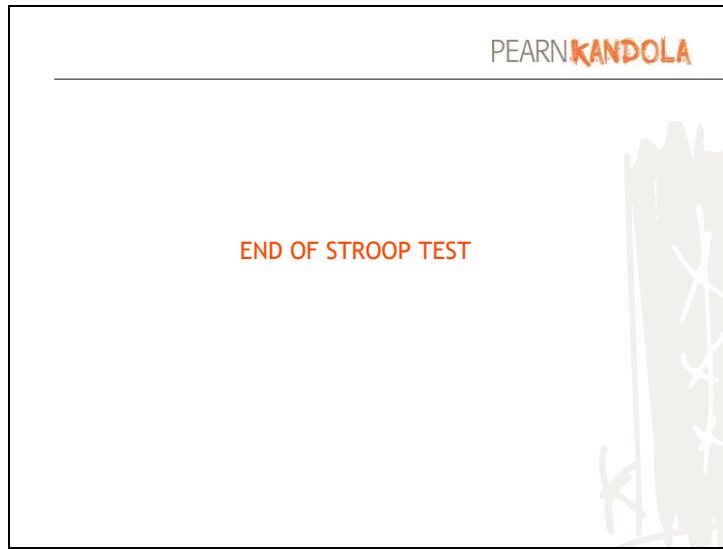


Word Set 1

RED	GREEN	BLUE	YELLOW	PINK
ORANGE	BLUE	GREEN	BLUE	WHITE
GREEN	YELLOW	ORANGE	BLUE	WHITE
BROWN	RED	BLUE	YELLOW	GREEN
PINK	YELLOW	GREEN	BLUE	RED

Word Set 2

RED	GREEN	BLUE	YELLOW	PINK
ORANGE	BLUE	GREEN	BLUE	WHITE
GREEN	YELLOW	ORANGE	BLUE	WHITE
BROWN	RED	BLUE	YELLOW	GREEN
PINK	YELLOW	GREEN	BLUE	RED



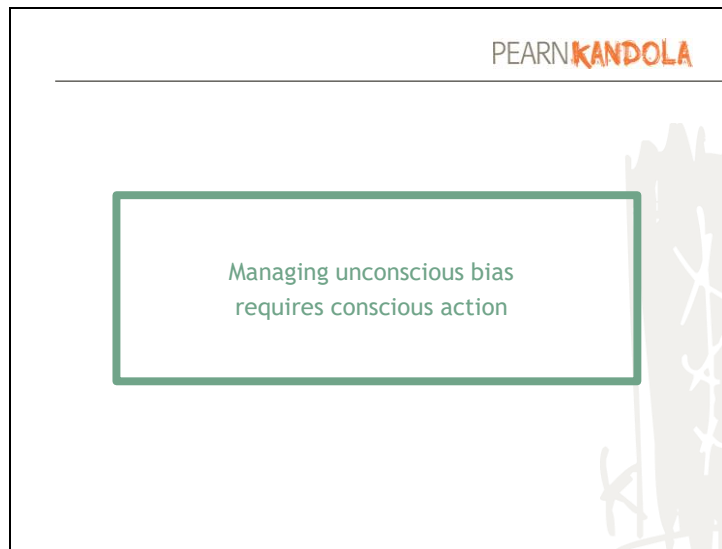
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SOURCES OF UNCONSCIOUS BIAS

- **Confirmatory Bias**
 - Expectations & Experience
- **Contrast Effect**
- **Groupthink**
 - Social pressure for consensus
- **First impressions & Stereotypes**
- **Selective attention**
- **Priming**

1. Which of these types of bias do you recognise around NICS?
2. How could or how do these biases (including your own) impact decisions here?





In small groups – which one of these biases do you see? And feedback to group




Introduces tools

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PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR MANAGING BIAS


-  **Tool 1** You're Biased: Accept it
-  **Tool 2** Create the Right Conditions
-  **Tool 3** Network Analysis
-  **Tool 4** Displaying Inclusion



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PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR MANAGING BIAS

 **Tool 1** You're Biased: Accept it



PRACTICAL WAYS TO MANAGE YOUR BIAS

- **Know your own biases!**
- **Some of your biases you will already know -**
 - Are there particular backgrounds or experiences that you are favourable towards or against?
 - Are there things that candidates do that leaves you with a particularly good or poor first impression?
- **Some of your biases will be unconscious -**
 - Harvard University Implicit Association Test - <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/demo/takeatest.html>

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IMPACT OF BIAS

- IAT predicted favouring Swedish over Arab names in offering candidates an interview

Jost, J.T., Rudman, L.A., Blair, I.V., Carney, D., Dasgupta, N., Glaser, J. & Hardin, C.D. (2009). The existence of implicit bias is beyond reasonable doubt: A refutation of ideological and methodological objections and executive summary of ten studies that no manager should ignore. *Research in Organizational Behavior*.

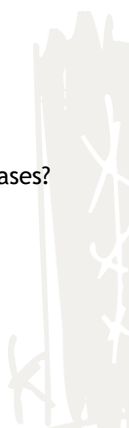
- With the first example, it's important to state that this is for equally qualified candidates. Again, make reference to the UMIST research of CV scanning. Other research is that European American sounding names 50% more likely to be invited to interview than applications with African American sounding names. (Bertrand & Mullainathan, 2004).
- 2nd Bullet – needs careful debrief. This was based on research carried out in computer based simulations, not on real events. The researchers found that police officers were more likely to shoot a black unarmed suspect than they were to shoot a white unarmed suspect. Importantly, this bias was reduced with appropriate training. This last point is important as it links to the possibility to reduce bias with training, hence the e-learning package.

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CASE STUDY 1

In twos/threes:


- Read and discuss the written case study
- What biases do you see?
- What advice would you give to reduce those biases?
- 5 minutes

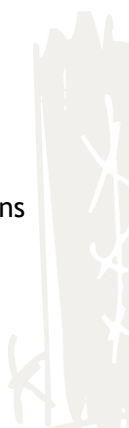


Use case study – creating the right conditions

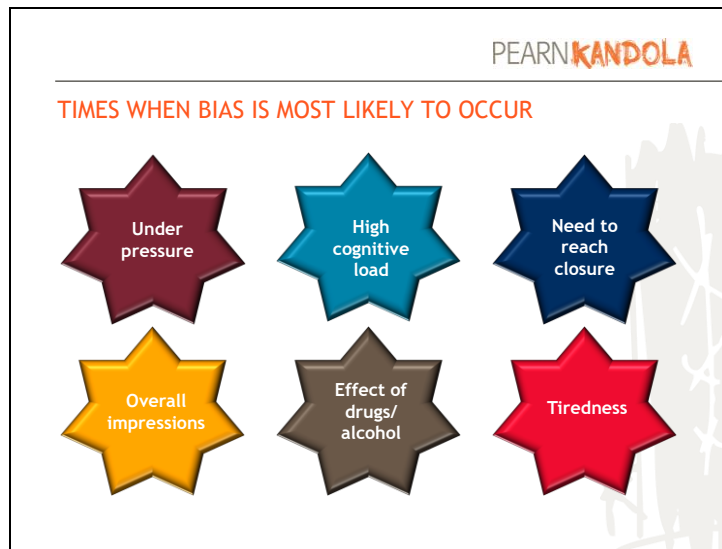
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PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR MANAGING BIAS

 **Tool 2** Create the Right Conditions



Identifying and challenging Bias Module – 80 minutes



Tool 2- CREATE THE RIGHT CONDITIONS

- Give yourself time - focus!
- Look to disconfirm a stereotype
- Treat people as individuals
- Challenge each other
- Review your decisions
- Instruct yourself and others to be fair and objective



INSTRUCT YOURSELF TO BE FAIR

- Imagine a scenario in which you will make a decision.
- Give yourself an implementation plan.
- Remind yourself of the plan regularly.

Example:

“I will make sure that when I interview candidates, I will treat them all fairly and objectively. I will not stereotype or make assumptions about them. I will treat them as an individual.”

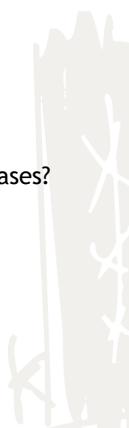


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CASE STUDY 2

In twos/threes:

- Read and discuss the written case study
- What biases do you see?
- What advice would you give to reduce those biases?
- 5 minutes



Use case study – creating the right conditions

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Tool 3 - Network Analysis





WHY WE'RE NOT AUTOMATICALLY INCLUSIVE

We have a natural tendency to associate with people who are like ourselves - homophily.

Reinforces our values and helps us to feel good about ourselves

This means we tend to talk to, informally network with, take advice from, pass information to *et cetera* members of our in-group

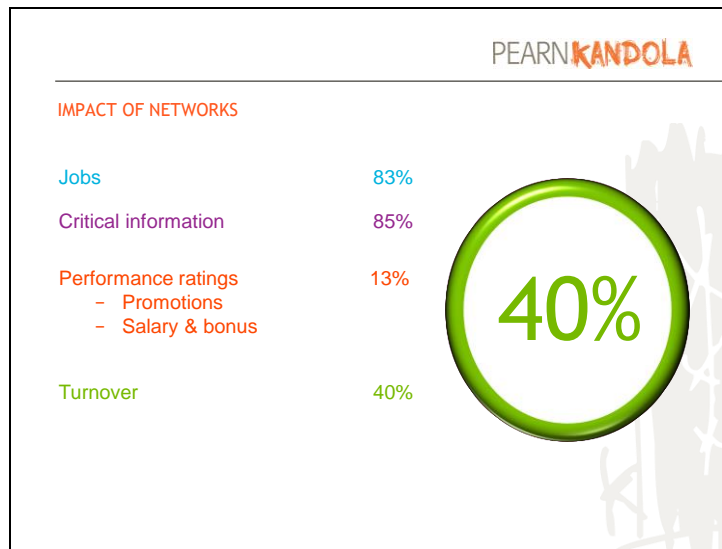
INGROUP & OUTGROUPS: CATEGORISING BEHAVIOUR

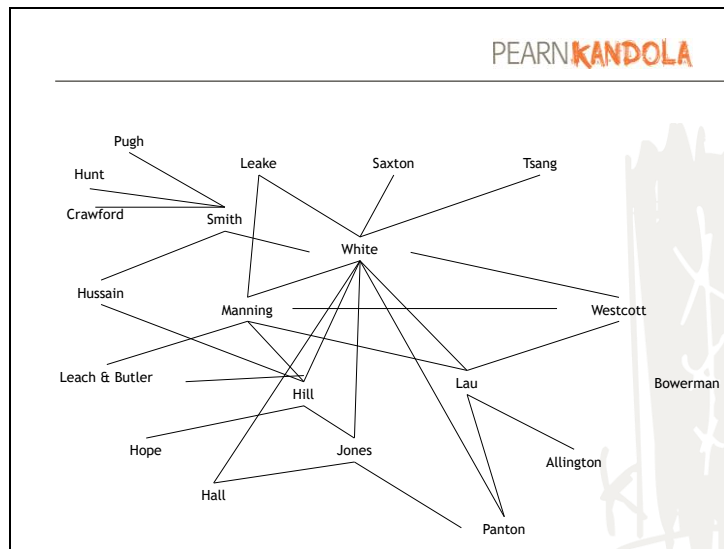
In-group

- Individuals
- Difference accepted
- Positive information remembered
- Recall contributions
- Works hard for in-group
- Prepared to make sacrifices

Out-group

- Homogenous
- Difference minimised
- Negative information remembered
- Forget contributions
- Not put in the effort
- Not offer support

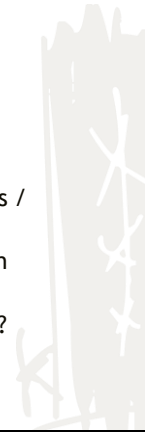




KEY QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO ASK YOURSELF


Thinking about each of your team members:


- How often do I ask their opinion or seek their advice?
- How often do I involve them in social activities / conversations?
- How often do I involve them in formal decision making discussions?
- How often do I provide them with information?



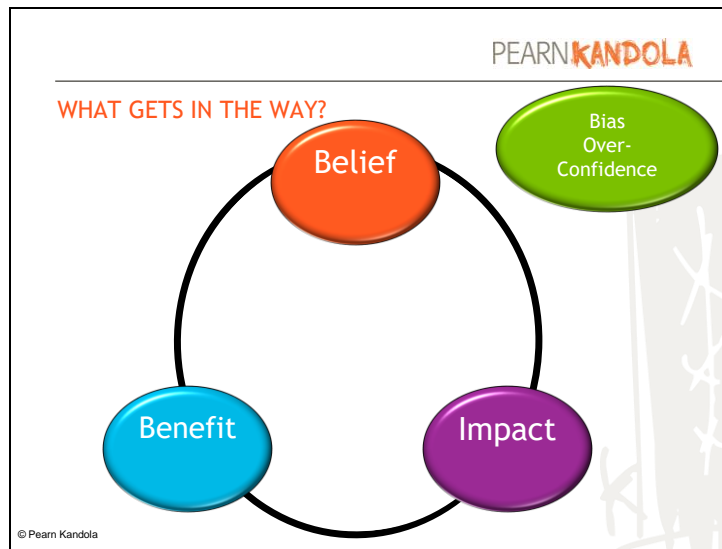
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PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR MANAGING BIAS

 Tool 4 Displaying Inclusion








Bias gets in the way of being inclusive as does an over-confidence in our abilities-we may not be as good as we think we are at this. These are aspects that will be explored in this workshop.

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CREATING INCLUSION

- Between 80-90% of behaviour in an organisation is directly attributable to what leaders say and do.
- You play a key role in embedding good practice
- Not just about understanding the business case
- It is about what you say, how you say it and what you do
- It is about displaying the importance of:
 - Fairness
 - Objectivity
 - Diversity
- It is about setting expectations and challenging behaviour where necessary.











In pairs – discuss everything we talked about –what has struck you most? Learned? What could you do differently? Or changes to instigate to systems or processes you are responsible for in the business?

And he asks for some examples – 10 minutes

With a reference to the Action Board!

Action planning

INCLUSIVE ACTIONS

-  Use the IAT to identify your unconscious biases
-  Share out the stretch opportunities
-  Identify someone from a different background to mentor
-  Develop a diverse personal network
-  Actively seek different perspectives from your team members
-  Give feedback to team members
-  Talk about unconscious bias
-  Think: What can I do to demonstrate inclusion today?

YOUR INCLUSIVE ACTIONS

1. What have you learnt?




2. What will you do?



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Thank you



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