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This report looks at the following areas:

- The impact of COVID-19 on the beauty consumer.
- How consumers define a diverse beauty brand.
- Issues faced when buying BPC products and opportunities for brands and retailers.
- The impact of diversity issues when buying BPC products.
- Attitudes towards diversity in beauty.
- Perceptions of well-known brands and opportunities in brand attributes.

With 46% of BPC buyers being more likely to buy from a brand/retailer that takes a stand on issues related to minority groups than one that doesn't, beauty brands can no longer sit on the fence when it comes to these. Having an opinion does not mean being political, however; only 13% of adults consider the taking of a political stand on issues relating to minority groups as a top three factor for a diverse beauty brand.

COVID-19 has exacerbated existing societal differences. Those on the lowest incomes have been most impacted, being most likely to cut back spend on BPC. In addition, those from BAME groups have been disproportionately impacted by infection rates, and are also overrepresented in the industries that have been hardest hit by job losses. This will see the economic divide increase between those who can afford discretionary beauty products and those who can't

A threat to beauty brands now comes from remaining silent on issues relating to diversity, as those that don't have an opinion risk losing consumers to those that do, particularly younger consumers. Many brands are driving DEI practices behind the scenes, and sharing this with consumers can be a way to show the authenticity of such measures – particularly as consumers are increasingly seeing diversity as a tick-box exercise for beauty brands.



"The events of summer 2020, which saw the BLM movement gain momentum, have had reverberations across all industries and not just politics. In BPC, brands and retailers can no longer stay silent on topical issues related to diversity and equality, as many consumers seek to buy from those that align with their values."

– Roshida Khanom, Category Director BPC

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There are also opportunities for well-known brands to support and be a platform for smaller, minority-owned brands particularly as 23% of BPC buyers seek out brands owned by a minority.

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