



Catholic Association For Racial Justice Annual Report 31 March 2020

DRAFT

Charity Registration Number 1158338

Contents

Chair's introduction	3
CARJ London - Activities carried out up to 31st March 2020	4
Liverpool CARJ -Activities carried out up to 31st March 2020	7

DRAFT

Chair's Introduction

"One Lord, one faith, one baptism". Ephesians 4:5

I greet you in the name of the blessed trinity.

What a year we have had. 2019 - 2020 has been dominated by firstly, the Corona virus Pandemic, then the death of George Floyd followed by the rise of the Black Lives Matter worldwide movement.

Our prayers and sympathies to all our members who have lost loved ones to the virus.

CARJ has been busier than ever working with individuals, small and big groups, schools and organisations on racial justice. It has not been easy, but very rewarding knowing there is recognition of racism within society that must be eradicated. We pray without fail for a just and equal society.

I am always appreciative of the Trustees for giving of their precious time and working tirelessly for the Association. Each one truly deserves our thanks and praise. The reports within will give you an idea of how much has been accomplished. A special thanks to Gloria Oham who even with the office closed, continues to keep us on track. Thank you to our associates who are working despite the restrictions.

My thanks to our membership for your support. An appeal to you is to renew your membership and please encourage friends and family to join.

May our Creator bless you and keep you safe.

Yogi Sutton.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "yogi sutton". The signature is written in a cursive, lowercase style.

Chair CARJ

CARJ London - Activities carried out up to 31st March 2020



Travellers Network

The CARJ Traveller Support Network met on 8 May, 2 October and 4 December 2019 and on 2 March 2020. Since lockdown, the Network has had two zoom sessions.

Issues discussed at these meetings and Zoom Sessions included:

- Education
- Parliamentary Report from the Women and Equalities Committee
- the National Strategy
- a Consultation on Criminalising Unauthorised Encampments
- the Dispatches programme on 'the Truth about Traveller Crime on 16 April

In February 2020 CARJ published a Briefing which discussed the proposed National Strategy and the Consultation on Criminalising Unauthorised Encampments.

In late April, CARJ sent a complaint to OFCOM regarding the Dispatches Programme – 'The Truth About Traveller Crime' – which had been broadcast on 16 April.

Throughout the year, Fr Dan Mason and Richard Zipfel have been attending regular meetings and Zoom Sessions by the Churches Network on Gypsy, Traveller and Roma (CNGTR). CNGTR is an ecumenical network led by the Church of England.

Urban Network

The CARJ Urban Network met on 9 July 2019 at Newman House. The main theme was: Equality and Community: how we move forward after austerity and Brexit. There were also substantive discussions of the Report of the UN Rapporteur on Poverty, the Barking fire and its aftermath, and the recent controversies over definitions of Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

The Urban Network held a Zoom Session on 25 March 2020. The Session was led by Ed Cox and addressed the issues of 'Northern Towns, Cities, Regions and the North South Divide'.

We have a continuing interest in the Grenfell Fire Inquiry. Grenfell had a particularly negative effect on poor and ethnic minority communities and vulnerable housing blocks in other parts of the country could have a similar impact on these communities.

History of the Past Ten Years

In May 2019, CARJ published a *History of the Past Ten Years* to mark its 25th Anniversary. This publication was through the year and informed discussion at the AGM in November 2019.

Conference on Belonging

On 16 October 2019, CARJ held a Conference on - Belonging: A Challenge for the Church in a Diverse Society – at the Priory Rooms in Birmingham. The Conference was an opportunity for Catholics from across England and Wales to share ideas and experience on how we can help new and marginalised groups feel they truly 'belong' in UK society. Representatives from fifteen dioceses, various CARJ networks and other Catholic organisations attended.

CARJ and Covid-19

Since lockdown, CARJ has received inquiries from various individuals, organisations and schools, asking for advice and suggesting new initiatives. On 24 April 2020, CARJ published a Briefing which highlighted 'the growing concern over the disproportionate numbers of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people who are affected by the corona virus.' Following that Briefing, a letter from Mrs Yogi Sutton was circulated to Catholic MPs and Peers and then more widely. The Centre for Catholic Social Thought and Practice (CCSTP) in Durham asked us for an article for their Covid-19 Blog Project. Our article appeared on 17 July and is available on their website.

George Floyd, Policing and Black Lives Matter

On 3 June 2020, CARJ produced a Briefing on 'Police, Black People and Racial Justice.' The Briefing traced the history of the Scarman Inquiry, the Gifford Inquiry, the death of Stephen Lawrence and the Macpherson Report which finally accepted the reality of 'institutional racism'.

Education

Through the year 2019-20, Charlene Fraser worked with small groups at St Anne's Vauxhall. Nicole Moore responded to invitations from schools to offer workshops for students and in-service for staff.

More recently, with support from CAFOD, CARJ has organised a series of six Workshops on *Diversity, Inequality and Racism in the UK – A Challenge for Catholic Education*.

A number of schools contacted us during lockdown. We have provided zoom sessions for some schools and had conversations about their plans with others.

A University Lecturer approached CARJ asking us to help with a new course on the History of English and Irish Catholic involvement in colonialism (1450-1776) which culminates in students preparing materials for schools. CARJ will be helping students make the history available to schools. The course has been delayed because of the pandemic, but it is likely to sometime in 2021.

Fr Phil Sumner and Melvin Lyons have prepared a series of six zoom sessions for seminarians which will be available soon on the topic of race.

Racial Justice Reading List

Margaret-Ann Fiske has been preparing a reading list for CARJ. The list will be of use for schools and for all those who are interested in understanding race and

racism in UK society. The list was included in plans for one of the six Workshops for schools.

Working with other groups and organisations

During the year, we have worked with a number of partner organisations. During the pandemic especially, we have been asked to lead or participate in a variety of sessions. The following are a few examples of cooperation.

CNACD- Led by Fr Gerard Mitchell SJ and VODI, the Christian Network Against Caste Discrimination (CNACD) has continued to meet regularly over the past year (more recently by zoom). CARJ is an active participant in and supporter of CNACD. The Network continues to work to raise awareness of caste discrimination in the UK and to promote various measures to counter caste discrimination, and we are currently trying to raise funds for a Dalit Desk in the UK.

Traveller Movement (TM) and Friends Families and Travellers (FFT)- CARJ works closely with the Traveller Movement and Friends Families and Travellers who attend and inform our Traveller Support Network.

NJPN- Melvin Lyons gave a presentation to the NJPN Zoom Networking Day on 19 September.

CSAN- On 13 October, Yogi and Richard led a zoom presentation to the CSAN Directors Forum on *Advancing Racial Justice*.

Citizens UK- CARJ is a member of London Citizens and we are planning to work with Citizens on undocumented migrants, policing and other issues where our priorities overlap.

CAFOD- Over the summer, CARJ worked with CAFOD to plan and advertise a series of six zoom sessions for School Chaplains, Teachers and others interested in Catholic Education.

CARJ Liverpool -Activities carried out up to 31st March 2020



Committee

During the year Angela Murphy and Veronica Shaw resigned and were replaced by Steve Atherton (Justice & Peace Co-ordinator, Liverpool Archdiocese) and Fr Charles Obanya (White Fathers, Liverpool).

At the end of this period the committee comprised:

- Stephen Atherton
- Dale Bradshaw, Project Officer
- Professor William Chambers, Chair
- Sally Croughan
- Rev Charles Obanya
- Brendan Schmack
- Professor Protasia Torkington, President
- Angela Wylie

Employees and Volunteers

Dale Bradshaw continued as Project Officer. He was assisted by Mel Birkett who managed the Circle of Voices Gospel Choir activities at St Hugh's and St Clare's Primary Schools. Louise McVey continued to provide instrumental tuition to pupils at St Vincent de Paul's School.

We were saddened by the untimely death of Ebroje Azanuwha who had volunteered at the Belvidere Centre for over 5 years. Ciara McEntee volunteered as a maths and music tutor (ukulele, guitar and piano) at Yates Court and the Belvidere Family Centre. Other volunteers were Rachel Bruce at the Belvidere Centre, and Steve Roberts (a retired police officer) at Yates Court.

Activities

All existing activities continued throughout the year. All musical and art tuition is provided by fully qualified professionals.

Music

The Circle of Voices Gospel Choir rehearsed weekly at St Hugh's and St Clare's Primary Schools and we were approached by Childwall Valley Primary School to support them. Numbers attending remained high (76) although the transient nature of many of the asylum seeker and refugee families affected attendances from Hugh's.

Performances were given, as usual, at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, the Royal Liverpool Hospital, the local ASDA supermarket and Barclays Bank Regional Centre. To enhance the audibility of the soloists four new microphones were purchased.

A new 6 week musical activity providing ukulele, guitar, piano and singing provided by Ciara and funded by the Whitechapel Centre was successful and attended by 15 children at the Belvidere and 4 at Yates Court, where the low numbers were attributed to the low occupancy of Yates Court for the duration of the course.

The piano tuition at St Vincent de Paul's School in Liverpool's China Town continued for 12 pupils. The mixed ethnicity group are from year 5 & 6 and are learning to read music and play. One of the children took Grade 1 and passed with distinction (!) Sadly the teacher continually failed to meet her reporting, provision of musical performance and extension of the instruments beyond the piano targets and after numerous warnings her contract was terminated at the end of the school year.

After School Homework Clubs

In its 8th year, the After-School Homework and other activities at The Belvidere and Yates Court Centres continued with great success. Sessions are held twice weekly on Mondays and Wednesdays between 4pm and 6pm over the school year (normally) of 38 weeks per year. They are led by Dale helped by 3 volunteers, 2 of whom have helped us for 6 years.

At the Belvidere, numbers vary between 12 and 18 each session. Families are transient. The number of children attending throughout November was 40 girls and 15 boys aged between 5 and 15 years although older ones attend (and help) at times. Non-English speakers ranged from 10% to 60% coming from China, Iran, Iraq, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Pakistan, Ireland, Albania Uganda, Nigeria, Eritrea and the UK.

At Yates Court Homeless Centre one session per week is held on Tuesdays and numbers attending range from 5-8 aged 5 to 12 years of age. Numbers are smaller but more remain longer. We have also employed a sessional tutor to work one to one with the lower achieving youngsters.

The Summer School run by Dale and Sue (the social worker at Belvidere) ran throughout the summer on Mondays and Tuesdays. It included art and craft, excursions and day trips.

Art Project

A one-off Art project was run starting in the spring. This was part funded by the Austin Smith Fund. Several schools and the Belvidere and Yates Court centres were invited to participate. Local professional artists Freida McKitrick, Hazel Barrett and Steve Bayley agreed to support the project inputting tuition and advice to participants and adjudication. It was agreed that the successful pieces of art would be printed for the children schools and centres.

The theme 'My Community' was agreed and children were able to use any medium. The professional artists worked with children from the schools and homes but disappointingly only 48 entries were received, and St Clare's of the schools finally submitted entries. The low participation was attributed to the transient nature of the families in the homes over the term long duration of the project and the possibility of

project and initiative exhaustion for the schools. However those who participated had the privilege of working with professional artist and seeing their work printed to a professional level.

Funding

Funding, as always, was a continued source of concern for the Liverpool Branch and CARJ Headquarters. This reached crisis point in 2019.

The CARJ Liverpool Project was initially funded centrally for 2-3 years. Careful management of costs, applications for funding plus ensuring financial contributions from the benefitting schools and organisations and the services of volunteers have ensured a continuation for 7-8 years. However in July CARJ funding nationally was in jeopardy and the allocation of CARJ's financial support to Liverpool was also uncertain. The London Fund was 'empty', the Liverpool Fund had £21k and the Liverpool Music Fund had £29k. Annual costs are approximately £14.7k which covers Dale's part time salary, the costs of the Gospel Choir (although these are split 3 ways between the 2 schools and CARJ) and for the St Vincent de Paul's Classical instrumental tuition.

Financial contributions (50% of the costs of tuition) were received from the benefitting schools for the choir activities. Similarly the Family Centres (Belvidere and Yates Court) contribute on a regular basis to part-cover learning materials (£250), weekly activities and the Summer School. Barclays Bank contributed to the costs of transporting the choir to performances at Liverpool Cathedral and The Royal Liverpool Hospital (£300). Bids were also successfully made to the St Joseph's Province of the Passionists (£6k) and to the Fr Austin Smith Fund (£350) for the Art Project. A bid to LEGO for training tutors in the use of LEGO materials was also successful. Other bids to Redrow (The Steve Morgan Foundation) the Holy Spirit Fathers and the White Fathers were unsuccessful.

The highlight of the year, helped by CARJ Headquarters, which saved the Liverpool Project, was the receipt of £40k for two years. This has enabled us to continue existing projects for the next few years and also consider new initiatives with the help of additional locally generated funds and reserves. (see later).

Plans for the Future: 'Young Ambassadors for Racial Justice'

On receipt of the generous financial support of the CARJ Board and the Bishops Conference and advice from members of the CARJ Board to look more strategically at our activities, early 2020 was spent evaluating new projects. Two were looked at closely both involving encouraging and developing the leadership skills of young people. One involved inner-city children working with young asylum seekers in an attempt to encourage positive thinking and integration. Brendan Schmack, a Liverpool Committee member and former CARJ Board member, school head teacher and OFSTED inspector was invited to work with Dale on this proposal. The need for racial justice in some of the mono-cultural Local Authorities of the Liverpool City Region (St Helen's, Knowsley and Birkenhead for example) was recognised. This

was agreed by the Liverpool Committee with great enthusiasm just before the onset of closures associated with COVID19 and the project has been developed by a series ZOOM meetings in the 2020-21 year and adopted at our June 2020 meeting. The project aims to challenge a group of young people to:

- develop the leadership skills of a group of young people (Ambassadors) from Year 10 and 12 who are showing leadership potential to equip them to become effective Catholic leaders who promoters of racial justice in the Church and the wider community.
- deliver projects and events which promote racial justice in the Church and in wider society to various groups e.g. youth groups, parishes, schools, justice and peace groups, focus groups
- raise awareness of the work of CARJ within the Church and beyond
- collaborate with agencies with related objectives eg faith communities, voluntary agencies, youth councils, school parliaments.

This will be achieved by the Ambassadors, supported by a facilitator appointed by CARJ, participating in a programme of education/awareness-raising experiences. This will lead to a legacy project which promote racial justice and combats racism.

This proposal was adopted at our June and September 2020 meetings. The Liverpool Branch has already allocated £15k from its locally generated reserves and is seeking matched funding from other organisations.

And then came the Covid19 pandemic and our first response was to endeavour to continue to provide our services whenever and wherever possible.

Professor Bill Chambers

Chair Liverpool Branch of CARJ

28th September 2020