



Annual Report

Catholic Association for Racial Justice Annual Report 31 March 2024

Charity Registration Number 1158338

Chair's Introduction

Joyful greetings to all our members.

2024 marks CARJ's 40th Anniversary from its founding.

We have spent most of 2023 preparing for the two wonderful celebrations we held in London and Oldham to crown the anniversary year. The first was in St Georges Cathedral, Southwark, London with approximately 140 people attending. In the morning, we had speakers addressing the work supporting Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, a presentation on work with Dalits, speakers on black vocations from members of religious communities and the Black diaconate. In the afternoon there was a talk on 'Loving the Stranger,' which was followed by Fr Phil Sumner, presenting to the gathering, CARJ's vision going forward from its 40th year, set out in the booklet: 'The Agenda for Change'.

We ended the day with a wonderful sung Mass. Bishop McAleenan presided, Canon Victor Darlington preached, the choir from south London provided fabulous music and the congregation in their full participation brought great joy.

In September we were in Oldham hosted by St Patricks church on Foundry Street. We developed further our vision for the future in the Agenda for Change.

CARJ, as usual, continue to be active working with individuals, community groups, schools and in partnership with other organisations on racial justice. We continue to work and pray for a just and equal society.

Thank you to all the Trustees for giving of their precious time and working tirelessly for the Association. Each trustee truly deserves our thanks and praise. We unfortunately have a few Trustees stepping down at the AGM. We give thanks to God for all they have contributed and wish them every blessing for the future, knowing that they will always be part of CARJ's large family.

The reports within will give you an idea of how much has been accomplished. A special thanks to Gloria Oham who continues to keep the CARJ work on track. Our heartfelt gratitude to Richard Zipfel, Nikki Fashola Petch, Fr Phillip Sumner and Deacon Joseph, Mary Pierre-Harvey, Protasia Torkington, Malcolm Forster all the members of CARJ Huyton and Liverpool including Fr Anton Fernandopulle and all the trustee emeriti and so many others whose commitment to the work in CARJ is invaluable.

We are grateful to the Bishops' conference of England and Wales who offered financial support for the anniversary year events. Thank you also to our associates including Nicole-Rachelle Moore who are always ready when called. My thanks to our membership for your support. Please renew your membership and do encourage friends and family to join.

May our Creator bless you all.

Yogi Sutton
Chair of CARJ

Summary of CARJ Activities from April 2023 – March 2024

CARJ Bulletins

CARJ circulates a quarterly Bulletin and other occasional bulletins with information on key issues. These Bulletins go to all our members, friends, networks, volunteers, staff, associates and trustees. The contact list receiving these Bulletins is over 700. The bulletins that were sent out in the time frame include: Easter Bulletin- 4th April 23, Summer Bulletin September- 7th 23, Christmas Bulletin -20th Dec 2023, and 2024 Easter Bulletin on 28th March 2024.

Public Workshops

During summer 2023 CARJ organised a series on Zoom, workshops on the area of race, racism and the church's role in the struggle for racial justice. These workshops were in preparation for the upcoming 40th year of CARJ in 2024 the six workshops were:

- The Changing Face of Britain – A Brief History 1947-2023
Saturday 27 May
- Persistent inequality and Racism over the past 75 years.
Thursday 15 June
- Combatting Racism – different approaches over the past 75 years
Thursday 29 June
- The Churches role in combatting racism over the past 75 years
Thursday 6 July
- Combatting racism - An Agenda for the Future for Britain
Saturday 29 July
- The Church's role in the struggle for Racial Justice in the future
Thursday 3 August

Schools and University Work

The work with the new intake at Notre Dame University London continued in spring of 2023. CARJ provided Mentors for students taking the course.

Talks and Presentations

CARJ visited several schools to deliver talks and assemblies through our associate worker Nicole-Rachele More. The schools included Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

Marking the Date

CARJ marked the 30th anniversary of the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence on 21st April 2023. CARJ also marked Racial Justice fortnight from Sunday January 28th to Sunday 11th February 2024.

CARJ Traveller Support Network (TIWG)

CARJ continues to coordinate the TIWG network and held 5 meetings in April, July, August and October 2023, and January 2024. Topics of discussion were wide ranging from Traveller inclusive churches, the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act, to improving education for children missing education.

CARJ in Partnership

CARJ continues its partnership work with Christian Network Against Caste Discrimination (CNACD), Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI), National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN), and Leeds Justice and Peace, Cafod and Caritas Westminster. CARJ was in attendance at the climate march in May 2023.

AGM 2023

The CARJ AGM was held on Saturday November 2023 which was devoted to in-depth discussion on CARJ's Agenda for Change after which it was set out in a booklet,

CARJ in Liverpool

CARJ Liverpool lost its project worker in 2023 and has had to go through a time of review and repositioning. The Ambassador for Racial justice award was held in April 2023. Liverpool CARJ also worked with Knowsley Primary School and contributed monthly, articles about racism in the Liverpool Archdiocese monthly magazine The Catholic Pic.

