

# Northern Race Equality Conference Programme



15 June • Leeds



# Northern Race Equality Conference

## Foreword from the Programme Partners

### Hey there!

Welcome to the Northern Race Equality Conference 2026 (NREC26)! We're absolutely thrilled to have you join us for this special event. It's not just any conference—it's a gathering of passionate activists, advocates, organisations, lawyers, researchers, and academics all committed to building a better society where racial justice is the norm. And we're so excited to do this right here in Leeds!

### You're the Heart of This Conference

The magic of this conference comes from YOU. Your stories, your ideas, and your passion are what make this event truly special. We've designed this conference to be interactive, educational, and most of all, welcoming. We're all here to learn, share, and grow together.

### Thank You for being here

Let's dive into some great discussions, workshops, and activities.

### Let's Disagree Well

There are going to be a lot of discussions today, exploring different ideas and viewpoints, it is inevitable that we won't agree with everything that we hear. Let's ensure that we treat each other with respect, especially when we disagree. And let's turn every disagreement into a learning moment, an opportunity to see the same issues from a different perspective. Disagreeing well is one way in which we deepen our understanding.

### We Want to Hear from You

Before you head out today, we'd love for you to fill out the [evaluation](#). Your feedback will help us make our events even better.

### Stick Around for Some Fun

Don't rush off after the conference! We've got a networking opportunity and a social lined up - let's keep the conversations going and enjoy each other's company.

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# Northern Race Equality Conference

## Meet the Conference Programme Partners!

### **Race Equality Network (REN)**

REN is at the heart of racial justice work in the North. They're all about action – bringing communities and organisations together to tackle inequality and uplift marginalised voices. From local grassroots efforts to big-picture policy conversations, REN is always in the mix, making change happen one step at a time.



### **Ella Baker School of Organising (EBSO)**

Inspired by civil rights hero Ella Baker, this team is all about empowering people with the skills and confidence to stand up and organise for justice. Whether you're brand-new to activism or a seasoned organiser, their workshops and resources are super helpful and always down-to-earth. They're all about people power and making real change, from the ground up.



### **Racial Justice Network (RJN)**

RJN builds long term infrastructure and collective power for racial justice through grassroots organising, education, advocacy, and community engagement. It supports communities most impacted by racism, colonialism, and state violence to lead sustainable change. RJN advances migrant justice, resistance to border violence, decolonial knowledge, race and climate justice, and international solidarity while promoting holistic economic, spiritual, and cultural repair across diaspora communities.



## We'd also like to give a big thanks to our sponsors and partners:

As a predominantly unfunded conference, each contribution is impactful and valued.



## And of course a huge thanks to each and every facilitator

Each one volunteering their time, skills and insights to bring you the incredible line up of workshops that we have today - find out who they are in the session descriptions

## Thanks again for being here. Let's make today count!

Cheers, **The Conference Programme Partners**

# 15 June • Leeds

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**Please note:** if you are looking at this programme on a device, rather than in paper form, all **bright blue** words (and logos) are clickable - to help you find out more information and navigate through the programme.

If you have a print copy of the programme and would like to access the links, you can find a virtual copy of the programme at: [tinyurl.com/NREC-prog](https://tinyurl.com/NREC-prog)

# Venue, access and lunch details

## Getting to the venue

The conference will take place in the **Worsley Building**, University of Leeds (LS2 9NL).

You can find **info on getting to the University** on their website: [leeds.ac.uk/about/doc/find-us](https://leeds.ac.uk/about/doc/find-us).

To get to the **Worsley Building** from Leeds City Railway Station, there are a number of options:

- To walk: maps' estimate a 20 minute walk. If you're navigating using an app, make sure to enter Worsley Building into your app, if you ask for the University, it will take you to the main building, and this will double your journey time.
- To take a bus: you can take the Leeds City Bus service 5 from Station Stop B, it will take approximately 10 minutes to travel the six stops to the Worsley Building (the fare is £1).
- By taxi: it is possible to pick up a cab from the station, again, specify the Worsley Building.

The **Worsley Building** is fully wheelchair accessible. You can find more info about the building here: <https://students.leeds.ac.uk/rooms> and the University of Leeds provides info for disabled visitors here: [leeds.ac.uk/around-campus/doc/information-disabled-visitors](https://leeds.ac.uk/around-campus/doc/information-disabled-visitors)

Registration alongside refreshments and stalls, will open at 9am in the **Anwar Ditta** room **8.43 X & Y** on the 8th floor of the Worsley Building. For more info about the room (including accessibility info) go to: [students.leeds.ac.uk/buildings-and-rooms/3582/worsley-sr-8-43x-and-8-43y](https://students.leeds.ac.uk/buildings-and-rooms/3582/worsley-sr-8-43x-and-8-43y)

The first formal session will begin at 10am in the **Errol James** (Medical) **Lecture Theatre** on the 7th floor. For room info see: [students.leeds.ac.uk/buildings-and-rooms/3605/worsley-medical-lt-7-35](https://students.leeds.ac.uk/buildings-and-rooms/3605/worsley-medical-lt-7-35)

## Quiet room & prayer room

- There is a prayer room at level 6 (room 6.78).
- There is a quiet room on level 8 (8.43).

## Accessible and gender neutral toilets

- Gender neutral toilets are available across the university and on all floors of the Worsley building. Find more info here: [equality.leeds.ac.uk/support-and-resources/gender-neutral-toilets](https://equality.leeds.ac.uk/support-and-resources/gender-neutral-toilets)
- Accessible toilets are available across the university and on all floors of the Worsley building. Find more info here: [accessable.co.uk/university-of-leeds/access-guides/worsley-building](https://accessable.co.uk/university-of-leeds/access-guides/worsley-building)

## Lunch - including access details

Each booked ticket comes with a lunch voucher that you can redeem at **The Refectory** in Leeds University Union. You can find full info about **The Refectory**, including menus and accessibility details, here: [gfa.leeds.ac.uk/where-to-eat/refectory](https://gfa.leeds.ac.uk/where-to-eat/refectory)

**The Refectory** is approximately 8 minutes walk from the Worsley Building. The most direct step-free route (which our volunteers can help you find) involves: **1.** Navigating to the accessible internal "Red Route" corridors; **2.** Looking for signs for the NSCAR (North-South Campus Access Route - which is flat or mildly inclined with lifts to bypass slopes); **3.** Heading to the Leeds University Union (LUU) building; **4.** Using the step-free accessible entrance for **The Refectory** just off The Precinct.

If this sounds like too much for you to manage, then it will be possible to redeem your lunch voucher at **Café 7** in the Worsley Building. Please note, that, unlike The Refectory, which is expecting us en masse, the café's capacity is limited, and so we're reserving the café's capacity for those with mobility issues. The café is situated in the main, open-plan social space on Level 7, right next to the Health Sciences Library and the link corridor to the Garstang Building.

# Talking-Hearing, Refreshments & Stalls

## Talking-Hearing

We would like to ask and remind all facilitators and speakers to please use the microphones and hearing loop that are available in every room whenever possible. All you need to do to use them is to turn the sound system on and use the provided microphones. There are lapel or handheld mics for moving around, and there's a bar mic fixed to the lecterns. If there are any problems please ring the helpdesk on 0113 343 7001 and the university team will get it sorted as soon as they can.

Again, **please do use the mics at every opportunity, to support the inclusivity of the conference.**

## Refreshments

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available in the **Anwar Ditta** room **8.43 X & Y** during registration (9 - 10am) and both the morning break (11.35 - 11.50am) and the afternoon break (3 - 3.10am).

## Stalls

We have some brilliant stalls, you can find them during registration and the breaks in the **Anwar Ditta** room **8.43 X & Y** they may include:

- **The Commonweal Trust**
- **The Peace Museum**
- **Stand Up To Racism**
- **Educate Against Islamophobia**
- **Voice 4 Change England**
- **Inclusive North**
- **Impact Hub**
- **Prevent Watch**
- **The Zahid Mubarek Trust**
- **Yorkshire Cancer Community**
- **Watoto Play**
- **BRIG – Birmingham Race Impact Group**
- **Fossil Free West Yorkshire**
- **Black and Brown Rainbow**
- **The Ubele Initiative**
- **Care 4 Calais**

## Renamed Rooms - Spotighting people

We have chosen to temporarily rename the rooms we are using after heroes from racialised minority communities. Some are fairly well known, others more obscure. We hope you'll take the time to read a little about each of them. It is people that make our movement, and it's good to celebrate them.

### Anwar Ditta (1953–2021)

Anwar Ditta was born in Birmingham but brought up Pakistan. In 1975 she decided to return to Britain with her husband. In September 1976 she applied for their three children to join them in the UK. Racist immigration practices, meant her children were denied the right to join her. It took six years of struggle to reunite the family. The Anwar Ditta Defence Campaign brought together a wide-ranging coalition of organisations, and Anwar shared her experiences at 400 meetings, conferences, student union gatherings and demonstrations across the UK between 1979 and 1980. In April 1981, Anwar and her children were finally reunited here in the UK.

### Avtar Singh Jouhl (1937–2022)

Avtar Singh Jouhl (1937 –2022). After the notoriously racist 1964 parliamentary election campaign in his hometown of Smethwick, Avtar led a campaign against what was referred to as 'the colour bar'. He famously invited the visiting American activist Malcolm X for a pint in a pub in Smethwick which refused to serve them, leading to national newspaper headlines. As general secretary and national organiser of the Indian Workers' Association (IWA), he devised strategies to challenge trade union members, factory owners and publicans to end this racism. Their targeted campaign led to discrimination in pubs being outlawed in the Race Relations Act (1965).

# Renamed Rooms - Spotighting people

## Claudia Jones (1915–1964)

Claudia Jones was a Trinidadian feminist, political activist, visionary, and pioneering journalist. Deported from the US during the McCarthyite anti-communist witch hunts, she arrived in the UK in 1955 and rapidly became a driving force for race equality. She founded the West Indian Gazette, Britain's first commercial black newspaper. In response to the 1958 race riots in Notting Hill, she organised the a celebration of Caribbean culture and is widely considered the 'Mother of Notting Hill Carnival'.

## Errol James (1926–1994)

In 1944, 18 year old Errol volunteered to serve in the RAF in Britain during WW2. One of the first Jamaicans to settle in Leeds after the war, he was at the forefront of the fight for racial equality and justice. His contribution continues through the institutions that he helped to establish: the Caribbean Cricket Club (1948), Aggrey Housing (1954), the United Caribbean Association (1964), and Jamaica Society Leeds (1977) the Leeds West Indian Centre (1982) and CASAC (1993). He was part of a generation that didn't just challenge inequality, they built the structures our community still stands on today.

## John La Rose (1927–2006)

A Trinidadian-born poet, publisher, and political activist involved in the struggles for political independence across the Caribbean, he arrived in Britain in 1961. In 1966 he founded New Beacon Books, the first Caribbean publishing house, bookshop and international book service in Britain. He also co-founded the Caribbean Artists Movement, and was chair of the Institute of Race Relations which published the radical campaigning journal Race Today. One of his favourite sayings was "We didn't come alive in Britain," an allusion to the lessons learned in the long struggles that had been waged by migrant communities against colonialism.

## Mala Sen (1947–2011)

Mala Sen was a leading member of the Race Today Collective. She used her journalism as a method of instigating collective action amongst mainstream audiences for anti-racist campaigns, including the 1974 Imperial Typewriters strike. She became, a leading member in the Bengali squatting movement, and helped to form a community defence patrol to protect buildings that were housing South Asians from racist attacks. She was a founding member of the Bengali Housing Action Group (BHAG). Her book India's Bandit Queen explored the exploitation of women in rural India through Phoolan Devi's experiences.

## Olive Elaine Morris (1952–1979)

A grassroots organiser, a core member of the British Black Panther Movement and founder of the Brixton Black Women's Group. A legendary leader of the Brixton squatters movement, her activity spanned anti-police brutality, housing rights, and Black feminism. Anticipating the term intersectionality, she famously cautioned that 'if we don't speak for ourselves, we'll always be spoken for'.

## Stuart Hall (1932–2014)

Born in Jamaica, in 1951 Stuart won a Rhodes scholarship to study English at Oxford. He became, Director of the Birmingham Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies and Professor of Sociology at the Open University. He was a founding editor of the New Left Review. His work theorized the intersection of race, class, and Thatcherite politics. Angela Davies asserted that in his work, Stuart 'urges us to feel comfortable with discomfort, with complexity'.

Time	Activity	Location
9.00 - 10.00	<b>Registration - with refreshments, stalls &amp; ice breakers</b>	<b>Anwar Ditta</b> room <b>8.43 X &amp; Y</b>
10.00 - 10.30	<b>Opening Plenary, Intros and Keynote Speech</b>	<b>Errol James</b> Medical LT <b>7.35</b>
10:35 - 11:35	<b>United in Struggle: Internationalism, Colonial Power and th...</b>	<b>Avtar Singh Jouhl</b> room <b>9.58b</b>
	<b>Health, Employment and Racial Justice</b>	<b>Claudia Jones</b> room <b>9.58c</b>
	<b>Belonging: Developing Racial Literacy in Schools</b>	<b>John La Rose</b> room <b>9.57</b>
Workshop 1	<b>Community Consultation - Amnesty UK, Migrants Orga...</b>	<b>Mala Sen</b> room <b>8.34b</b>
	<b>Prevent in Practice: What You Need to Know</b>	<b>Olive Morris</b> room <b>9.58a</b>
	<b>Building Collective Safety Against Racist Immigration Enf...</b>	<b>Stuart Hall</b> room <b>9.53</b>
11:35 - 11:50	Break	<b>Anwar Ditta</b> room <b>8.43 X &amp; Y</b>
11:50 - 1.00	<b>Building a Movement</b>	<b>Avtar Singh Jouhl</b> room <b>9.58b</b>
	<b>Race, Fascism and Resistance</b>	<b>Claudia Jones</b> room <b>9.58c</b>
	<b>Women Leading in Times of Crisis</b>	<b>John La Rose</b> room <b>9.57</b>
Workshop 2	<b>The Slow, Everyday Violence of Climate Change</b>	<b>Mala Sen</b> room <b>8.34b</b>
	<b>Violence at the UK-France Border</b>	<b>Olive Morris</b> room <b>9.58a</b>
	<b>The Holistic Nature and Presence of Islamophobia</b>	<b>Stuart Hall</b> room <b>9.53</b>
1.00 - 2.00	Lunch	See <b><a href="#">lunch details on page 5</a></b>
2.00 - 3.00	<b>Community Response to Racist Violence: Learning from P...</b>	<b>Avtar Singh Jouhl</b> room <b>9.58b</b>
	<b>Understanding the Racial Regime: From Structural Racism...</b>	<b>Claudia Jones</b> room <b>9.58c</b>
	<b>Navigating the Hostile Workplace</b>	<b>John La Rose</b> room <b>9.57</b>
Workshop 3	<b>How the East Influenced the Global Anti-Racist Movements</b>	<b>Mala Sen</b> room <b>8.34b</b>
	<b>Ours For Good: New Economies of Ownership for Comm...</b>	<b>Olive Morris</b> room <b>9.58a</b>
	<b>Racial Justice in the Charity Sector</b>	<b>Stuart Hall</b> room <b>9.53</b>
3.00 - 3.10	Break	<b>Anwar Ditta</b> room <b>8.43 X &amp; Y</b>
3.10 - 3.55	<b>Exploring the UK Black Radical Tradition</b>	<b>Avtar Singh Jouhl</b> room <b>9.58b</b>
	<b>Funding, Finance &amp; Driving Sustainable Impact</b>	<b>Claudia Jones</b> room <b>9.58c</b>
	<b>Are You Gay Enough to be in the UK?</b>	<b>John La Rose</b> room <b>9.57</b>
Workshop 4	<b>From the Streets to the Boardroom: Community-driven Ch...</b>	<b>Mala Sen</b> room <b>8.34b</b>
	<b>'A Day in Their Life' - BGM Young Carers and the Limits of...</b>	<b>Olive Morris</b> room <b>9.58a</b>
	<b>Who was left behind? Deindustrialisation, Renewal and Co...</b>	<b>Stuart Hall</b> room <b>9.53</b>
4.00 - 4.45	<b>Closing Plenary</b>	<b>Errol James</b> Medical LT <b>7.35</b>
4.45 - 5.15	<b>Networking Opportunity</b>	<b>Anwar Ditta</b> room <b>8.43 X &amp; Y</b>
5.30 - 7.30	<b>Join us for a social</b>	<b>Trinity Kitchen</b> Leeds LS1 5ER

We'd love to hear your feedback, please fill in our **[feedback form](#)** to let us know your thoughts

# Session Descriptions

## 9am - 10am

### Registration, refreshments , stalls & ice breaker

**Location:** Anwar Ditta room 8.43 X & Y

Registration opens at 9.00 am and will take place in the **Anwar Ditta** room **8.43 X & Y** of the Worsley Building. We will run an ice breaker and have refreshments available alongside an array of **stalls**. It will be an opportunity to situate yourself and meet fellow attendees. All you need to bring to register is yourself, and we'll ask for your name to check you in.

If you arrive after 09:55, please go straight to the Opening Plenary, or a session of your choice.

## 10am - 10.30am

### Opening Plenary

**Location:** Errol James Medical LT 7.35

The opening plenary will take place in the **Errol James** (Medical) **Lecture Theatre** and begin with a warm welcome from REN CEO, Humma Nizami, who will be joined by three brilliant speakers: Halima Begum, Dr Peninah Wangari-J from RJN and Yvonne Field from The Ubele Initiative.

The plenary will be an opportunity to re-emphasise the commitment we have all made to respect difference, and to highlight some of the themes we will explore over the weekend: intersectionality, power and the state of our movement.

This year's gathering comes at a critical moment. Across the country, the rise of far-right politics is creating real threats to democracy, fairness, and the safety of all our communities. As we are gathered today, we are witnessing attacks on our basic human rights protections, communities, networks and institutions. We are here to exchange knowledge, create solidarity connections and form networks that will fight for a better future for all, a future that is built upon hope, justice and solidarity. The voices of division are growing louder and louder in this country and beyond, therefore, it is absolutely vital to come together in unity and create spaces like the Northern Race Equality Conference (NREC), a space of organising and collective action. The workshops at NREC26 span from migrant justice, to tackling health inequalities, and organising against fascism. We hope you find the conference insightful and we look forward to connecting with you all. Now more than ever, we must come together, organise, learn, and build collective power.

Let's get this thing started!

**Facilitator:** Humma Nizami, CEO at Race Equality Network

**Speakers:**

- Halima Begum
- Dr Peninah Wangari-J, CEO at Racial Justice Network
- Yvonne Field, CEO at The Ubele Initiative

# 10:35am – 11:35am - page 1 of 2

### United in Struggle: Internationalism, Colonial Power and the Interconnected Fight for Liberation

**Location:** Avtar Singh Jouhl room 9.58b

Colonial history is heavy. It shaped human and non-human worlds, power-hungry, built on exploitation and slavery and the list of harms is still being written. Decolonial projects and traditions are how we build coalitions: dismantling these legacies and blocking the routes through which colonial power still manifests today.

In this session we move through many ways and the understanding of how we work in solidarity, and why building coalitions matters more than before. Colonial power has always been in action, but today the injustice and racism are no longer hiding behind clever tactics. What is in play now is openly designed to divide: weaponising immigration, xenophobia, and attacks on marginalised communities. The people driving this are no longer shy; they say no to climate justice, no to just transitions, miseducating the public, mobilising more money, and power to take down any hopeful, collective view.

We bring this into the room to learn how we stay connected, sustain communities of resistance and keep fighting for collective liberation. The struggle is real and long, and it is time for more tactics that can do many jobs to defend racialised and marginalised communities, hold the line on climate justice, migrant justice, stand in solidarity/defend the defenceless and more. Our call will be to learn collectively, share tactics, and be in radical solidarity. [Avtar Singh Jouhl](#) room **9.58b**

**Facilitators** from Racial Justice Network, including: • Dr Peninah Wangari-J, CEO  
• Ndungi Githuku, Artist • Elgasim Hamad, Race & Climate Justice Coordinator

### Health, Employment and Racial Justice

**Location:** Claudia Jones room 9.58c

Race Equality Foundation will be presenting findings of their recent report, Too Poor to be Sick, which outlines how racialised employment patterns, alongside institutional racism in the workplace, directly contribute to poorer health outcomes and a reduced capacity to recover. As a result, racialised workers who navigate persistent racism and socio-economic disadvantage across their lifetimes face a higher risk of developing chronic and long-term illness. The report was produced in the context of a government focus on encouraging people back into work. While the Employment Rights Act 2025 begins to address some of the issues identified, significant gaps remain. The presentation will be followed by a panel discussion, building on the findings from the report. The panellists will focus on what steps are needed to ensure that Black, Asian and minoritised ethnic workers are able to be protected and realise their existing rights, and those introduced by the Employment Rights Act 2025. [Claudia Jones](#) room **9.58c**

**Facilitator:** Jabeer Butt, CEO, Race Equality Foundation. **Panellists** include: • Carol Peltier, Black Health Forum  
• Safiyya Patel, Policy & Campaigns Officer at the TUC North East, Yorkshire & Humber  
• Sharon Jhandu Kaur, NPH Ethnic Minority Business & Policy Forum / Yorkshire Asian Business Association

### Belonging: Developing Racial Literacy in Schools

**Location:** John La Rose room 9.57

This session introduces a games-based workshop, the Belonging Game, to help educators strengthen their racial literacy and cultural competence. This is a desktop card-based game that explores scenarios based on research findings from a project with racially minoritised young people. Through interactive play and guided reflection, participants will explore how race, identity, and power shape experiences of belonging and exclusion in educational settings and beyond. The workshop creates a structured yet open space for honest conversation, encouraging participants to examine assumptions, develop critical awareness, and practise inclusive approaches. By combining experiential learning with discussion, the session equips educators with practical tools and confidence to foster more equitable, responsive, and inclusive learning environments in their own professional contexts. [John La Rose](#) room **9.57**

**Facilitators:** • Dr Temidayo Eseonu, Lecturer in Politics & Policy, Lancaster University • Siza Dube  
The game can be downloaded from [teseonu.itch.io/belonging](https://teseonu.itch.io/belonging) and printed for use

## 10:35am – 11:35am - page 2 of 2

### Community Consultation - Amnesty UK, Migrants Organise & REN

**Location:** Mala Sen room 8.34b

This session is primarily for organisers, activists and organisations who work in and with communities in Yorkshire and the Humber region.

In response to the racist and Islamophobic violence that took place in the UK in August 2024, Amnesty [investigated](#) how X amplified the violence. Building on Amnesty's research examining the role of social media companies in spreading disinformation and discriminatory content, we are seeking to engage with individuals directly affected by the riots and ongoing violence. Including those who have experienced targeted racism, physical or verbal assaults, online abuse, or vandalism to their homes or other places of residence, community centres, or businesses.

Between February and August 2026, Amnesty UK will be conducting research, looking at the impact of increasing racist violence and gathering testimony from racialised communities, staff and volunteers in racial justice organisations, and other local rights-holders to understand their experiences. [Mala Sen room 8.34b](#)

**Facilitators:**

- Ilyas Nagdee, Racial Justice Lead, Amnesty International UK
- Rebecca Barnes, Campaigner, Amnesty International UK
- Sarli Nana, Yorkshire and the Humber Organiser, Migrants Organise
- Fatima Mahmood - Projects and Communications Officer - Race Equality Network

### Prevent in Practice: What You Need to Know

**Location:** Olive Morris room 9.58a

Prevent remains one of the most contested counter-terrorism policies in the UK, with profound implications for public services, workplaces, and communities. This interactive workshop brings together experts from Prevent Watch and Medact to explore how Prevent operates on the ground, including its impact on people with mental health conditions or neurodiversities. Through case studies and facilitated discussion, participants will develop a deeper understanding of how Prevent works in institutional settings, the rights of those affected, and what effective challenge and response looks like. [Olive Morris room 9.58a](#)

**Facilitators** include: • Dr Layla Aitlhadj, Prevent Watch • Professor Charlotte Heath-Kelly, Medact Author

### Building Collective Safety Against Racist Immigration Enforcement

**Location:** Stuart Hall room 9.53

This session responds to growing fear and insecurity in migrant communities, particularly racialised communities, who are most exposed to the violence of immigration enforcement. Since July 2024, the Labour Government has advanced repeated policy changes, proposals and practices that deepen border control, expand raids and grow the detention estate. These are not isolated developments. They are part of a wider political project that treats migrants as disposable and makes racialised communities live under heightened surveillance, instability and threat.

Raids and detention are only the most visible edge of that system. Enforcement is also built through reporting conditions, data-sharing, right to work restrictions, settlement rules and "good character" requirements. Long before someone is detained, the hostile environment has already done its work by producing fear, confusion, exclusion and control.

The problem is not that communities do not care. It is that enforcement is designed to be quiet, cumulative and difficult to resist. This session reframes enforcement as a continuum and focuses on collective political preparation: building shared knowledge, strengthening confidence, identifying earlier intervention points and organising before crisis hits. It is about defending each other and building the kind of organised community power that can push back against state violence. [Stuart Hall room 9.53](#)

**Facilitator:** Ally Swadling, Lead Legal Education Officer, Right to Remain

# 11:50am – 1.00pm - page 1 of 2

## Building a Movement

**Location:** Avtar Singh Jouhl room 9.58b

Building a Movement seeks to look at ways we can create solidarity connections in our society, through various communities and sectors. The session is hosted by Baobab Foundation, accompanied with facilitators from various fields. The central question of the session seeks to ask how we can utilise our existing resources to tackle inequalities and racism, and what is missing from our spaces? In the format of a World Café, we will look at ways to build a series of movements, relating to topics such as migrant justice, arts and culture, civil liberties, anti-racism movement, the trade union movement and more. [Avtar Singh Jouhl](#) room **9.58b**

**Facilitators:**

- Hosts: Jermain Jackman, Membership & Theophina Gabriel, Comms & Engagement, Baobab Foundation
- Anti-racism: Davina Kaur, Anti-Racism Committee, Amnesty International UK
- Arts & Culture: Anthony Riach, Riachbros & Arooj Aftab, Cultural Consultant
- Migrant Justice: Sarli Nana, Organiser, Yorkshire & the Humber Region, Migrants Organise
- Civil Liberties & Law: Nazmul Hasan, Legal Information Officer, Liberty
- Trade Union Movement: Safiyya Patel, Policy and Campaigns Officer & Emma Campbell, Project Officer at the TUC North East, Yorkshire and Humber

## Race, Fascism and Resistance

**Location:** Claudia Jones room 9.58c

The session will explore the commonalities of racism and fascism. Explore the role that racialised communities have played in organising against attacks on their communities and developing a politics of resistance. Examine what lessons can be learnt from those experiences to help combat the current rise of the far-right in our workplaces and communities. [Claudia Jones](#) room **9.58c**

**Facilitators** include:

- Wilf Sullivan, former Race Relations Officer for the TUC, Trustee of EBSO and Chair of Care4Calais
- Riz Hussain, Deputy Director of the Institute of Race Relations
- Ian Manborde, Equity Regional official for the Midlands, and former National Programme coordinator for International Labour and Trade Unions Studies at Ruskin College Oxford

## Women Leading in Times of Crisis

**Location:** John La Rose room 9.57

This session will explore the different leadership styles women embody, the achievements and contributions they bring to leadership spaces, and the unique strengths often developed through lived experience, resilience, and navigating systems not historically designed for them. How do women of colour at the top of the organisation lead without losing themselves in a system not designed to include them beyond rhetoric and performativity.

Together, we will reflect on both the individual and systemic challenges women leaders encounter, including issues of visibility, racism, emotional labour, code-switching, burnout, and barriers to progression, hyper visibility and media scrutiny. The session will also consider how leadership expectations are shaped by race, gender, culture, and power, and the impact this has on authenticity, confidence, and sustainability in leadership and governance.

Through discussion participants will be encouraged to examine what authentic, bold, courageous leadership looks and feels like, what it takes from the organisational culture to sustain inclusive leadership and how to lead without fragmentation or diminishing core sense of self, and how organisations can better cultivate inclusive, sustainable, and values-led leadership cultures. [John La Rose](#) room **9.57**

**Facilitator:** Halima Begum

**Panel:** • Yvonne Fields, Ubele • Akiko Hart, Liberty  
• Humma Nizami, REN • Timi Okuwa, Black Equity Organisation

## 11:50pm – 1.00pm - page 2 of 2

### The Slow, Everyday Violence of Climate Change

**Location:** Mala Sen room 8.34b

Climate justice is critical to anti-racism. Rather than simply a physical phenomenon associated with extreme and volatile weather, the climate crisis is driven by the same systems that sustain racial injustice. Join us for a session exploring the language and framing needed to connect climate change to exploitative systems such as colonialism and capitalism. [Mala Sen room 8.34b](#)

**Facilitators** from Voice 4 Change England:

- Jennifer Wat, Environmental Strategy Officer
- Jana Kovariova, Infrastructure and Development Officer
- Jessica Webber, Marketing and Communications

### Violence at the UK-France Border

**Location:** Olive Morris room 9.58a

Learn about the experiences of those trapped at and trying to cross the UK-France border, particularly the violence they face. This session will also discuss the UK's policy and funding leading to violence at the border, and what we can do to take action against racist border violence.

Humans for Rights Network is a needs-led NGO supporting people within the UK asylum system. We focus on direct support as well as advocacy, ensuring people's voices are heard.

[Olive Morris](#) room [9.58a](#)

**Facilitators:** Lily MacTaggart, UK/French Border Violence Project Lead from Humans for Rights, and the Humans for Rights Network team

### The Holistic Nature and Presence of Islamophobia

**Location:** Stuart Hall room 9.53

Islamophobia doesn't operate in a vacuum. It threads through our schools, our institutions, our streets, and our politics. This 70-minute session brings together three organisations to expose how Islamophobic violence functions across every layer of society and, crucially, to map out exactly what we do about it. You'll hear how to drive transformative change in education and why a rigorous structural analysis, in how Islamophobia is defined, applied, and rooted out, is no longer optional but essential. Justice for our communities can't wait.

Nursena Jamal will present key findings on the nature of Islamophobia in education, and the strategies schools and educators can adopt to combat it within the school community.

Aqsa Suleman will look at why we must consider and frame Islamophobia as anti-Muslim racism, why a structural lens is not just an option but necessary to respond to the sharp rise of hate crimes and violence we see against Muslims, what actions must be taken to address this.

[Stuart Hall](#) room [9.53](#)

**Facilitators** include:

- Nursena Jamal, From Educate Against Islamophobia
- Aqsa Suleman - Senior Policy Officer, Runnymede Trust

# 2.00pm – 3.00pm - page 1 of 2

### Community Response to Racist Violence: Learning from Past Activists

**Location:** Avtar Singh Jouhl room 9.58b

In the context of rising violent racism in a changing 1980s East London, young Asians responded in several different ways. We will look at three stories and how various forms of action eventually succeeded:

- **Nasreen Saddique and her family 1982-88.** Described by journalist John Pilger as 'Anne Frank with a telephone', 12-year-old Nasreen started a diary recording daily racist attacks on her family that carried on for six years.
- **The Newham 8 defence campaign and trial 1982-3.** After hundreds of schoolchildren went on strike in support of eight teenagers who fought back when violently assaulted, the Newham 8 trial – in the words of Goga Khan, one of the accused – 'showed that the police were institutionally racist, ten years before Stephen Lawrence.'
- **The campaign to save Stardust Asian youth club 1985.** When the Council wanted to close down their youth club, young people occupied the building.

In 2018 we interviewed Goga, Nasreen and other activists. We will show clips from the interviews, and study contemporary photos and documents shared with us by participants. How do their stories resonate today and what can we learn from the choices they made?" [Avtar Singh Jouhl](#) room [9.58b](#)

**Facilitators** from Journey to Justice: • Tania Aubeelack • Patricia Boyer

### Understanding the Racial Regime: From Structural Racism to Solidarity and Collective Resistance

**Location:** Claudia Jones room 9.58c

This interactive workshop offers a critical exploration of racism as a structural and enduring feature of society, rather than a series of isolated incidents or individual prejudices. Drawing on Critical Race Theory, the session examines how racism is shaped by histories of colonialism, racial capitalism, and the ongoing reproduction of power through institutions, policies, and everyday practices.

Together, we will explore concepts including institutional racism, whiteness, and racial hierarchy, considering how these operate across education, media, governance, and public discourse. Moving beyond surface-level diversity and inclusion narratives, the workshop invites participants to critically examine the root causes of racial inequality and how systems sustain inequitable outcomes while maintaining the appearance of neutrality.

Through dialogue, storytelling, and collective reflection, participants will connect theory to lived experience and explore how solidarity and collective action can be mobilised to challenge racial injustice and advance meaningful anti-racist change. [Claudia Jones](#) room [9.58c](#)

**Facilitators** include: • Dr [Syra Shakir](#), Leeds Trinity University Associate Professor & Strategic Lead Race Equity Chair of the Anti-Racist Scholar Collective • Dr Sean Walton, Leeds Trinity University, Senior Lecturer in Academic Development • Dr. Veronica Wairimu Kimani - Archivist at the Racial Justice Network

### Navigating the Hostile Workplace

**Location:** John La Rose room 9.57

This interactive TUC workshop explores how racism, discrimination and inequality can show up in the workplace, from microaggressions and hostile cultures to insecure work, barriers to reporting and the impact of misogyny. Participants will use discussion and a case study to consider how trade unions can support workers and challenge hostile workplaces.

The TUC brings unions together to campaign for better rights at work, fair pay, equality, safe workplaces and dignity for all workers. [John La Rose](#) room [9.57](#)

**Facilitators** from the TUC North East, Yorkshire and Humber:

- Safiyya Patel, Policy and Campaigns Officer • Emma Campbell, Project Officer (Skills)

# 2.00pm – 3.00pm - page 2 of 2

### How the East Influenced the Global Anti-Racist Movements: Tagore, Du Bois and the Black Radical Tradition

**Location:** Mala Sen room 8.34b

This is about how migrant communities bring a history of resistance with them.

In July 1929, the Indian poet and educator Rabindranath Tagore wrote from Santiniketan to W. E. B. Du Bois. Published in *The Crisis* as “A Message to the American Negro from Rabindranath Tagore,” the letter was more than an act of correspondence. It was a public gesture of solidarity, placing African American struggle in dialogue with Indian anti-colonial thought and wider movements for freedom.

Tagore imagined a world in which “the human races have come out of their enclosures,” offering a radical vision of relation across empire, race and nation. This was not a universalism that erased difference, but an anti-imperial internationalism rooted in mutual recognition, dignity and shared struggle.

This talk explores how ideas from the East shaped global anti-racist movements, including Black radical thought, Caribbean diasporic culture, Indian anti-colonialism and freedom struggle in the United States. It considers how ecology, care, community solidarity and attachment to place were central to these discussions. Anti-racism was not only expressed through protest or political theory, but through ways of living, organising, teaching, healing, gathering and sustaining communities under hostile conditions.

Focusing on the Midlands during the 1960s and 1970s, the talk traces how these global ideas were grounded in local life: in temples, community centres, factory floors, parks, cafés and people’s homes. It reveals a hidden history of anti-racist activism in which internationalist thought was remade through everyday practices of care, place-making and collective resistance. [Mala Sen room 8.34b](#)

**Facilitator:** Jagdish Patel, Director of Race, Arts and Heritage at Himmah, Nottingham

### Ours For Good: New Economies of Ownership for Community Wealth

**Location:** Olive Morris room 9.58a

We deserve cities that work for us. How can we imagine our cities into places that meet the needs of our communities? The workshop seeks to provide an understanding of the political nature that is associated with everyday spaces that we experience and ways we can build an inclusive environment for everyone and will be an introduction to our journey of democratic ownership approaches at People’s Property Portfolio. [Olive Morris room 9.58a](#)

**Facilitators** include:

- Harry Jelly - Director of People’s Property Portfolio
- Fatima Mahmood - Director of People’s Property Portfolio
- Claude Hendrickson MBE, Widening Participation Leeds Community Homes

### Racial Justice in the Charity Sector

**Location:** Stuart Hall room 9.53

Charity So White will be leading a facilitated group conversation about the ways in which systemic racism operates within the charity sector, how it affects our work, and what we can do to build something better. Charity So White are a POC led grassroots group campaigning against systemic racism within the charity sector. This session will be a collective space to share our experiences of systemic racism within our work, build a vision for an anti-racist charity sector, and think about what we can do to make it happen. [Stuart Hall room 9.53](#)

**Facilitator:** [Jon Cornejo](#) (they/them), Organiser at [Charity So White](#)

# 3.10pm – 3.55pm - page 1 of 2

### Exploring the UK Black Radical Tradition

**Location:** Avtar Singh Jouhl room 9.58b

Black Lives Matter UK will explore the Black Radical Tradition in the UK and its relevance to contemporary anti-racist organising. The session will examine the history of Black resistance, community organising and struggles for justice in Britain, while creating space to reflect on how these traditions continue to shape movements today. The workshop aims to deepen understanding of Black political organising and connect historical struggles with current challenges facing Black communities. [Avtar Singh Jouhl](#) room 9.58b

**Facilitators** from BLM UK include: • Sai Maury • Mateus Silva Ferreira

### Funding, Finance & Driving Sustainable Impact

**Location:** Claudia Jones room 9.58c

The session informative piece on the Local Access Bradford District Programme (LABD), The Phoenix Way and the variety of support mechanisms that the Impact Hub Yorkshire offers to non-profit organisations and social enterprises.

The session will provide an informative overview of:

- The Phoenix Way programme and how it supports ethnically diverse and community-led organisations to become funding ready.
- Local Access Bradford District (LABD) and its zero-rated blended finance options through social investment.
- The wider range of support mechanisms available through Impact Hub Yorkshire for non-profit organisations, social enterprises, and community groups.

Participants will learn what “funding readiness” means and how to strengthen organisational capacity, gain knowledge on inclusive finance models, and the types of capacity-building support available to help organisations grow sustainably and increase their impact. [Claudia Jones](#) room 9.58c

**Facilitators** include:

- Ashfaq Gulab, Head of Operations, Impact Hub
- Malyka Malik, Programme Administrator (The Phoenix Way), Impact Hub

### Are You Gay Enough to be in the UK?

**Location:** John La Rose room 9.57

With the current, and also historical discriminatory UK Immigration laws that strip people of their dignity and humanity, this session will look at the LGBTQ+ community who have been forced to flee racist/homophobic/ableist colonial laws and seek refuge in the UK, a country they are made to feel will offer support but instead perpetuates the persecution. The recent BBC documentary which incorrectly portrayed those seeking refuge on the basis of their sexuality as sham claims only further alienated Black and Brown LGBTQ+ people fleeing homophobia, transphobia, lesbophobia, biphobia.

This will be an interactive session with a combination of short presentation, role play and discussion. We will be inviting a few participants to volunteer to role play as a means to demonstrate what it means and feels like to be asked if you are gay enough to be in the UK? This will be followed by a collective response to challenging these narratives we see in the media, by the far right, and LGBTQ+ community itself about Black and Brown LGBTQ+ people seeking safety. [John La Rose](#) room 9.57

**Facilitators** include: [Taranjit Chana](#) ROTA & EBSO

# 3.10pm – 3.55pm - page 2 of 2

### From the Streets to the Boardroom: Community-driven change in the Governance and Leadership of Institutions

**Location:** Mala Sen room 8.34b

This 45-minute participatory workshop is for community activists, grassroots group members, and voluntary sector leaders who want practical tactics to hold boards and senior leadership accountable for dismantling systemic racism. Using a fast-paced World Café format, you will explore three angles: **1.** Data & Transparency – how to force boards to publish pay gaps, disciplinary rates, and service outcomes by ethnicity; **2.** Community Accountability Panels – how to build independent panels with real power, with or without board permission; **3.** Board Composition & Competence – how to demand diversity targets and anti-racist expertise in governance and leadership.

You will leave with: • Three concrete activist tactics you can use immediately (e.g., FOI requests, shadow Racial Justice Impact Assessments, board watcher training); • A clear understanding that England is the only UK nation without a cross-sector anti-racist framework – and a WhatsApp link to join other activists in campaigning for one.

This is a hands-on, strategy-focused session. It is not a theory session. It is about power, accountability, and collective action. Come ready to share, challenge, and commit. [Mala Sen room 8.34b](#)

**Facilitators** include: • Pauline Melvin-Anderson OBE, chair of the Traveller Movement  
• Lara Oyedele, CEO of Black on Board Ltd  
• Steve Skinner, of Steve Skinner Associates  
• [Nadim Qureshi](#), Programme Development Manager at [Race Equality Network](#) (REN)

### ‘A Day in Their Life’ - Black and Global Majority (BGM) Young Carers and the Limits of Current Policy

**Location:** Olive Morris room 9.58a

How the intersections of race and young caring can crossover to create unique and typically unnoticed responsibilities for Black and Global Majority (BGM) children. Patterns of adultification, migration-related responsibility, translation labour, and institutional mistrust shape the experiences of many Black and Global Majority young carers in ways that current frameworks do not adequately capture. Based on the Race on the Agenda (ROTA) policy briefing [Invisible at the Intersection: Black and Global Majority Young Carers and the Limits of Current Policy](#). [Olive Morris room 9.58a](#)

**Facilitators:** [Emily Farquharson](#) from [Race on the Agenda](#)

### Who was left behind? Deindustrialisation, Renewal and Community Memory

**Location:** Stuart Hall room 9.53

This workshop explores how deindustrialisation and renewal have shaped communities in uneven ways. Participants reflect on changing experiences of work, belonging, and local identity and consider whose stories have been left out of dominant accounts of industry and industrial decline. Participants will identify what has been lost, what has been overlooked, and what a fairer future for renewal could look like. [Stuart Hall room 9.53](#)

**Facilitators:** • Simon Hood. Senior Researcher, Runnymede Trust  
• Dr Martin Quinn, Lancaster University  
• Dr. Divya Jyoti, Lancaster University

# 4.00pm - 4.45pm

### Closing Plenary

**Location:** Errol James Medical LT 7.35

As the day draws to a close, we will create an opportunity for us all to reflect on what we have learned and what we have achieved during the day, and perhaps most importantly to consider what we are going to do next. **Errol James** (Medical) **Lecture Theatre**

**Facilitator:** **Piers Telemacque** from Race Equality Network

**Speakers** will include:

- **Taranjit Chana**, Black and Brown Rainbow & the Ella Baker school of Organising
- Iris Dixon, Communications Coordinator at Racial Justice Network
- Fatima Mahmood, Race Equality Network
- Ndungi Githuku, Activist at Racial Justice Network
- Jermain Jackman, Membership, Baobab Foundation

## Feedback!

### Well, what do you think?

We would love to have your feedback. Please fill in our **feedback form** to let us know your thoughts and reflections: <https://forms.gle/4XJTBLbEV17yzVwh7>



## Join us for a social?

**Location:** Anwar Ditta room 8.43 X & Y and Trinity Kitchen LS1 5ER

We hope you enjoyed the conference. The **Anwar Ditta** room **8.43 X & Y** will be available 4.45 - 5.15 pm to give you an opportunity to network and build connections with each other, so feel free to stay on.

Then, if you are not in a rush to get back home, some of us will be getting together for some food and socialising after the conference, and you are more than welcome to join us.

We will be heading over to **Trinity Kitchen** (Leeds, LS1 5ER) for 5.30pm. It's wheelchair accessible and has a range of food options, you can find out more here: [visitleeds.co.uk/things-to-do/view-all/trinity-kitchen](https://visitleeds.co.uk/things-to-do/view-all/trinity-kitchen)

To get there, either join us at the **Anwar Ditta** room **8.43 X & Y** at around 5pm and we'll make our way together, or you can meet us there. Maps' estimate it to be an 18 minute walk, a 14 minute drive, or a 4 minute cycle. We hope to see you there!

**Facilitators:** **Fatima Mahmood** and **Piers Telemacque** from Race Equality Network

# Thank you for taking part!

