

Annual Report

Catholic Association for Racial Justice Annual Report 31 March 2025

Charity Registration Number 1158338

Chair's Introduction

Joyful greetings to all our members.

This past year (April 2024 – March 2025) saw CARJ celebrating its 40th Anniversary

We had two celebrations, in London and Oldham, to mark the anniversary year. The first was on 25 May 2024 in St Georges Cathedral, Southwark, with approximately 140 people attending. Fr Phil Sumner, presented, CARJ's vision going forward from its 40th year, set out in the booklet: *A Racial Justice Agenda for Change*.

On 21 September 2024, 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*.

Throughout the year, CARJ has continued 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 CARJ. Each trustee truly deserves our thanks and praise. We unfortunately have a Trustee – Prof Protasia Torkington - stepping down at the AGM. We are grateful for all she has contributed over many years, and we wish her every blessing for the future, knowing that she will always be part of CARJ's large family.

A special thanks to Gloria Oham (CARJ Administrator) who unfortunately we have had to make redundant because of shortage of funding. Gloria will go on working with us as a CARJ Associate.

Summary of CARJ Activities from April 2024 – March 2025

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. This year we produced Easter, Summer and Christmas Bulletins.

Work with Schools

Nicole visited St Joseph's Bexley in October 2024 as a contribution to Black History Month.

Gloria visited Gray's Convent School on 27 Feb 2025 and participated in their careers day speaking about the work of CARJ and working for the public good.

On 6 March 2025, Gloria participated in a zoom workshop with St Martins Academy titled 'Pilgrims of Hope' in which she spoke about Catholic Social thought and linked this with the work of CARJ.

CARJ Traveller Support Network (TIWG)

CARJ continues to coordinate the TIWG network and held 4 meetings in April, July, October 2024, and January 2025. Topics of discussion were wide ranging from Policing of GRT Communities, the Report of the UN Committee on Racial Discrimination, and Traveller Catechesis to the Travellers Forum in Chelmsford Prison.

Other Partnerships

CARJ continues its partnership work with Christian Network Against Caste Discrimination (CNACD), Churches Together Britain and Ireland CTBI, National Justice and Peace Network NJPN, CAFOD, CSAN and many others.

CARJ 40th Year Anniversary

To mark this important anniversary CARJ held 2 National events on Sat 25th May and 21st September. On Saturday the 25th of May in London CARJ launched a new 'Racial Justice Agenda for Change', which is the vision for the work of CARJ for the future after these four decades of tirelessly working for racial justice in society. The Agenda for Change builds on the experiences and learning of the past 40 years and puts forward a strategy for bringing about greater equality and creating a racially just church and society, a goal which continues to elude us in the 21st century.

The 21st of September saw about 60 people gather in Oldham for the second of two 40th anniversary conferences. The Bishop of Salford, John Arnold, welcomed those attending before Alison Lowe, the Deputy Mayor of West Yorkshire, gave the keynote speech. Fr. Phil Sumner, a Trustee of CARJ, then outlined CARJ's 'Agenda for change'. The afternoon session saw those attending break into smaller groups to discuss 'the way forward'. These discussions were given extra vitality and vision by a group of university students from Notre Dame, based in London and some young people from a YCW group based in Oldham.

AGM 2024

The CARJ AGM was held on Saturday 16 November 2024 which was devoted to 'practical ways of bringing about racial justice in parishes'.

CARJ in Liverpool

On 15 October 2024, Archbishop Malcolm Mahon recorded a Pastoral Letter on Racial Justice. A few months later, on 12 April, a half day conference was held at St Margaret Clitherow Centre, to look more deeply at the implications of the pastoral letter and to promote racial justice in the Archdiocese.

In April 2025, Pope Francis appointed the Most Reverend John Francis Sherrington as the Archbishop of Liverpool, Fr Anton Fernandopulle was

appointed a Trustee of CARJ in 2024 and Deacon Justin Malewezi was appointed Treasurer of CARJ in 2025.

Following a recent joint meeting, CARJ Liverpool and the CARJ group at the Parish of Sts Agnes and Aidan agreed on a proposal to formally combine their efforts under the name CARJ Northwest. Their shared belief is that by working together as a unified group, they will be stronger and more effective in promoting racial justice across the Northwest of England. They also recognise that the Liverpool CARJ group has experienced a decline in membership, and this merger might help to revitalise and consolidate their work in the region.

CARJ Receipts and payments accounts

#VALUE!	Catholic Association for Racial Justice			1158338		CC16 a
	Receipts and payments accounts					
	For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date		
	4/1/2024	3/31/2025				
Section A Receipts and payments						
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year	
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	
A1 Receipts						
Donations	9,311	-	-	9,311	24,763	
Bank Interest	1,821	-	-	1,821	1,704	
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	11,132	-	-	11,132	26,467	

A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).						
	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	
Total receipts	11,132	-	-	11,132	26,467	
A3 Payments						
Liverpool Music	-	-	-	-	14,546	
Liverpool Schools Project - other costs	-	60	-	60	1,139	
Liverpool Schools Project - staff Costs	-	-	-	-	8,185	
Premises	3,000	-	-	3,000	3,804	
Office Administration	374	-	-	374	2,816	
Communications & Publicity	418	-	-	418	1,163	
Professional Fees	-	-	-	-	4,290	
London Office - Staff Costs	28,569	-	-	28,569	28,494	
Other Costs	2,536			2,536	5,327	
Governance Costs	1,008			1,008	244	
40th Anniversary	6,277	-	-	6,277	-	
Sub total	42,182	60	-	42,242	70,008	
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)						
	-	-	-	-		
	-	-	-	-		

Sub total	-	-	-	-	
Total payments	42,182	60	-	42,242	70,008
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 31,051	- 60	-	- 31,111	- 43,541
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	60,921	17,303	-	78,224	-
Cash funds this year end	29,870	17,243	-	47,113	- 43,541

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	General fund	29,870	17,243	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	29,870	17,243	
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

		Unrestrict ed funds	Restrict ed funds	Endowm ent funds	
	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	
B3 Investment assets			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)	
B5 Liabilities			-		
			-		
			-		
			-		
			-		
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval		