

# CARJ People in 2013-14

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National Coordinator: Rosie Bairwal Schools Project Worker: Charlene Fraser Schools Project Worker: Dale Bradshaw

Administrator: Nicolette Burdford De Oliveira and from

December 2013 Gloria Oham

### Acknowledgements

Page 1 Front Cover picture and text, created by CARJ for Racial Justice Sunday 2013, photo credit: Bettman/Corbis

Page 4 text of Chair's Report is by Y Sutton

Page 5 picture of RJS Resource Pack 2013 created by CARJ for Racial Justice Sunday campaign 2013, photo credit: Bettman/Corbis. Image of article on Parish Practice, Make the Dream Come True is from the Tablet magazine.

Page 6 picture on Travellers sign is from paper by Brian Foster and Peter Norton on Educational Equality for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children and Young People in the UK, The Equal Rights Review, Vol. 8 (2012)

Page 7 picture of the Empire Windrush is from Patrick Vernon, who is part of the Windrush Anniversary Campaign

Page 9 picture of School children from Dreamstime.com.

Pages 9-10 text on Work with Schools and Young People, the Urban Network and Leadership for Social Change is by R Zipfel

Page 10 picture of Christ from Christ Pantokrator (c.1170) in the Basilica of Cefalu in Sicily - the icon for the Year of Faith. The text in Greek and Latin reads: 'I am the light of the world, who follows me will not wander in the darkness but will have the light of life' (John 8:12). Picture of Virgin Mary with Child Jesus from Dreamstime. Both used in the National Caribbean Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2013 booklet, by CARJ.

The other text in the Report is by R Bairwal

The design of the Report is by CARJ and First Presence.

# CARJANNUAL Report 2013-14

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# **Chair's report**

The year 2013-2014 was dedicated largely to structural reorganisation of CARJ on the part of the board of Trustees. The two main pieces of work were the application for a change of status of the Catholic Association for Racial Justice to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and an internal organisational review.

The preparation for CIO status involved many meetings of the whole board and a small working group, ably led by Vice Chair Nikki Petch, who dedicated a huge number of hours to liaising with the solicitors and providing the documentation needed for our discussions. CARJ is truly grateful to her for this work. The process was long and detailed and involved some changes to our constitution, which were brought to the AGM during the year.

The internal review of procedures and organisation of CARJ took place over a period of time and involved hearing from staff and associates as well as trustees. This process was skilfully guided by Deacon Alfred Banya, who brought his professional experience to the job, and the process would eventually inform a Strategic Plan for CARJ for the future 5 years.

The year also brought a series of meetings with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales in order to clarify the meaning of our being an Agency of the Conference and our working relationship with it, in the course of which it became evident that the organising of Racial Justice Sunday would pass from

CARJ to the Department for Migration, and in future we would only receive a part, as yet unspecified, of the donations from that day. This will have serious implications for CARJ's workload.

On a positive note, at the AGM we honoured Haynes Baptiste by presenting him with the papal award of Knight of St Gregory in recognition of countless years dedicated to the cause of racial justice. Haynes continues to give of his years of experience and wisdom to the trustees. During the year we also appointed a permanent administrator, Gloria Oham, after a series of temporary ones.

Thanks to Bishop Pat Lynch for his guidance, to Malcolm Forster for his arduous work as Treasurer, to Richard Zipfel for much of the practical work achieved, to Bill Chambers and Protasia Torkington for their work on the Liverpool Schools Project, and to Sue Smailes for secretarial work.

### **Yogi Sutton**

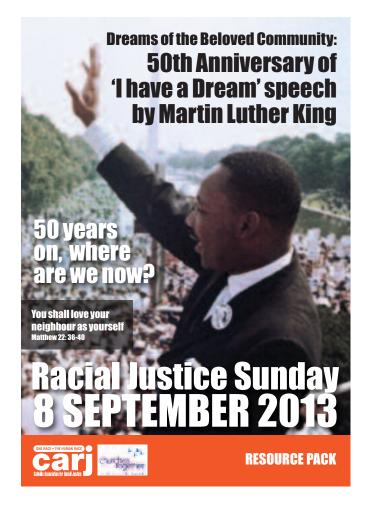
Chair

## Introduction

This annual report relates to the activities undertaken by CARJ from April 2013 to March 2014.

# A. Racial Justice Sunday 2013

- (i) Racial Justice Sunday (RJS) took place on 8 September 2013. CARJ produced its edition of the Racial Justice Sunday materials 2013, using the theme Dreams of the Beloved Community: 50th Anniversary of 'I have a Dream' speech by Martin Luther King. The materials ask the question, 50yrs on, where are we now? The materials contained contributions from Richard Reddie from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI), CARJ and Father Phil Sumner who contributed a suggested homily. The RJS resources were sent to bishops, Catholic parishes, religious orders, secondary schools and members and friends of CARJ. They were also circulated to diocesan justice and peace workers, diocesan communication and information officers and to other networks like the National Justice and Peace Network, the Catholic Communications Network (CCN), the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Network, Minority Ethnic Christian Affairs Network and other contacts in England and Wales. CARJ sent letters of thanks to all dioceses, parishes, individuals and others that supported the campaign.
- (ii) On Racial Justice Sunday 2013, the National Coordinator of CARJ spoke to a gathering of around 3,500 people, including many people from the Ethnic Chaplaincies from across England and Wales, at the Dowry of Mary Pilgrimage at Walsingham. The



main celebrant at the Mass was Dom Joseph Delargy, OCSO. CARJ is very grateful to the staff at the Walsingham Shrine for all their support.

(iii) An article related to the theme of Racial Justice Sunday entitled Make the Dream Come True, about celebrating diversity as a means to combat racism appeared in the Tablet magazine in September 2013.

### **PARISH PRACTICE**

# Make the dream come true

Christian churches are steeped in the belief in the inherent value of all people. But their congregations are rich in diversity, and celebrating that fact is one way of combating racism

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■ Rosie Bairwal is National Coordin the Catholic Association for Racial

21 September 2013 | THE TABLET | 17



This sign at a pub in Walthamstow in 2012 was reported to police and removed 3 days later, as it is illegal.

# B. Support to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities

CARJ organises a **Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Support Network** which includes priests, religious sisters and others that work to counter discrimination against Traveller communities and to promote their equality. The **Working Group** of the Network met 3 times in 2013-14 to discuss **policy and pastoral care** issues in support Traveller communities, and information about each of the meetings is outlined below.

- (i) On the 10 July 2013, the Working Group invited Tina and Bridie Purcell, from the Traveller community to give a presentation on 'Telling and Sharing our Histories', a Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Community project which was supported by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education.
- (ii) On the 16 October 2013 the Working Group discussed the issue of the increased engagement of Evangelical Churches with Traveller communities. Ann Casey and Margaret Doran from the **Catholic Charismatic Renewal** organization gave a presentation about their work.
- (iii) On 12 March 2014, the Working Group heard about a new inter-faith initiative to provide solidarity to Travelling communities from Shauna Leven, the CEO of the Race Equality charity Rene Cassin. The meeting also discussed the Internship programme of the Traveller Movement, aimed at providing work experience to young Travellers and heard from Helen Sherlock an intern and Peter Norton.
- (iv) In 2013-14 CARJ also provided advice and support to parishes that are providing Marriage Preparation to Travellers through the Network. In April 2013, CARJ was asked to contribute to the Haringey Council strategic needs assessment on Travelling People, alongside partners like the Irish Traveller Movement in Britain and the London Gypsy and Traveller Unit. In 2013-14 year CARJ played a key

role alongside other agencies in supporting the continuation of the work carried out by the **Haringey Travelling Peoples Team**, to benefit local Traveller communities. CARJ also participated in the Traveller Inter-Agencies forum in Haringey on 6 November 2013. The forum aims to improve joint working, avoid duplication and fill gaps in service provision among agencies and to promote services which are needs led and evidence based.

(v) In June 2013, CARJ promoted Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month by circulating details of various events scheduled to take place through the Network. Sylvie Parkes, a CARJ Associate represented CARJ at a meeting on 8 August with Phil Regan, from the Westway Development Trust to discuss how to increase the impact of the History Month in June 2014.

# C. Countering Political Extremism

There is recognition that anti-migrant rhetoric has increased in the media and political debate in recent years. Faith communities can play an important role in mobilising their members to counter this trend, by encouraging their members to vote and by calling for a more positive and inclusive debate on migration, ethnic diversity and integration issues. Historically vulnerable communities like migrants are prone to be targeted, for electoral purposes particularly during times of economic recession. It is therefore important that Faith communities and others stand in solidarity with vulnerable groups to counter that trend.

- CARJ is part of the Countering Political Extremism Resource Group (CPERG), an ecumenical group that includes representatives from the Joint Public Issues Team (Baptists, Methodists, United Reform Church) the Church of England, local Baptist, Methodist and URC church representatives and CARJ. The CPERG was created following the British National Party (BNP) winning two European Parliamentary seats in 2009. It aims to bring together a network of people from the different church denominations to work together to counter political extremism. As support for far-right parties historically rises during periods of economic recession, the CPERG is monitoring and responding to developments in the UK and Europe. The CPERG met on the 14 November 2013 in Birmingham and the meeting discussed how Churches should engage with the UK Independence Party (UKIP), updating advice to churches regarding hustings in the lead up to the European and local elections in 2014 and how to address concerns over post 1 January 2014 potential increases in migration rates from Bulgaria and Romania.
- (ii) The National Coordinator and Administrator of CARJ also participated in a Souls to the Polls Seminar on How Faith Communities can mobilise against Racism, organised by London Churches Social Action and Hope not Hate, on 17 February 2014 in London.

# D. CARJ's work with Dioceses, Parishes and memhers

CARJ has responded to a number of requests for information and support on racial justice and equality related issues from parishes, dioceses, members and individuals. For example following a request from a CARJ member, the CARJ National Coordinator provided a Racial Justice Workshop (with a focus on Racial Justice Sunday, Martin Luther King and Travellers) to around 30 people at Ss Peter & Paul Church, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire, in Nottingham Diocese, on 17 February. In March, following a request received from a CARJ member in Salford Diocese, CARJ provided support in a racial discrimination case before a Tribunal. The National Coordinator of CARJ is a member of the Westminster Diocese Justice Peace and **Commission** and participated in meetings in 2013-4.

# E. CARJ's work with the Bishops' Conference and its departments and agencies

- (i) As an agency of the Church, CARJ participates in meetings of the Christian Responsibility and Citizenship Department of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW). Department meetings were held on the 19 June 2013, 3 October 2013 and the 6 March 2014.
- (ii) CARJ is also part of the Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN). This enables a closer collaboration between CARJ and CSAN and with the other member organisations of the CSAN Network. CARJ is a member organization of CSAN and was invited to participate in the CSAN 2013 Conference from 12-13 June 2013, where it also had a display stand. The National Coordinator participated in the CSAN Directors Forum on 12 September, in London which included discussion of the new Papal Encyclical Lumen Fidei.
- (iii) CARJ participated in the CSAN Criminal Justice Forum meeting on 30 May and 10 September in London. One in 4 prisoners is from the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) community, which is a significant over representation in terms of their proportion within the population. CARJ also contributed to the CSAN response to the Ministry of Justice consultation in May 2013 to Transforming legal aid: delivering a more credible and efficient system as this proposed restricting legal aid in prison law matters.
- (iv) A representative of CARJ was invited to participate in the **Domestic Abuse Working Group** on 8 November 2013 at CBCEW. Women from the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) community face particular barriers in accessing services.



The Empire Windrush arrives from the Caribbean in 1948

# Making Windrush Day an annual anniversary date

The meetings in September 2013 included support for the call for an Early Day Motion in Parliament, which was tabled on 29 October 2013, as follows:

'That this House notes the cross-party campaign to celebrate a Windrush Day every year on 22 June to celebrate the positive contribution of the first generation of Caribbean immigrants since the MV Empire Windrush landed at Tilbury Docks on 22 June 1948; recognises that this generation have helped shape the UK's multicultural society, from their contribution to public service to literature, culture and food; and welcomes the statement by the Prime Minister on the 65th anniversary in 2013 praising their fortitude and determination in overcoming difficult challenges; and hopes that the Windrush generation, the last of whom are in their 80s and 90s, are remembered long into the future with an annual day of celebration.'

# F. CARJ's work with other partners on racial justice

- (i) One Society Many Cultures is an initiative to promote racial equality by bringing together politicians, faith communities, civil society activists and trade unions. Following the murder of soldier Lee Rigby on 22 May 2013, and an increase in attacks against Muslim communities, CARJ participated in a meeting to discuss these issues on 3 June 2013 in London, and a written statement was later released.
- (ii) The 22 June 2013 marks the 65th Anniversary of the arrival to Tilbury of the Empire Windrush ship from the Caribbean in 1948. CARJ participated in an Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving for the 65th Anniversary on 22 June at Bloomsbury Baptist Church in London. Alongside 100 other organisations CARJ supported a letter to the Times newspaper on the 22 June 2013, marking the



anniversary of the Windrush and celebrating the positive contribution made by migrants to Britain, including to the National Health Service (NHS) and the Olympic 2012 team.

Meetings also took place in September 2013 to discuss how to promote the Campaign to make Windrush Day an annual anniversary date in the public calendar. The London Baptist Association led the coordination of the campaign, on behalf of the different churches.

(iii) CARJ supported the End Racism in this Generation campaign from the Runnymede Trust and participated in an event on the 8 July, 2013 to promote the event. The 3 year campaign aims to find new ways to tackle racism and create lasting solutions to racial injustice. Individuals and organisations are invited to make a pledge about the action they will take in order to End Racism This Generation. For example a charity might pledge to highlight how its work reduces racial inequality.

# (iv) Addressing caste-discrimination

CARJ had a meeting with Sister Mary Kutty, about a proposed new **Platform on addressing Caste-Discrimination** on 21 August, 2013.

### (v) Marking the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Racism

Members of religious orders, justice and peace commissions, the St Ignatius Caribbean Choir, Stamford Hill and the National Coordinator and Administrator of CARJ, participated in the Stand Up to Racism Event on 22 March 2014. The Event marked United Nations Antiracism day and it is estimated that thousands of people participated. The CARJ National Coordinator also participated in planning meetings for the event as part of the One Society Many Cultures initiative in December 2013 - March 2014, at meetings in Parliament and at the Trades Union Con-

The 22 March 2014 event was part of a coordinated

day of action across Europe, with the message of supporting ethnic diversity and standing up to racism, the scapegoating of migrants and Islamophobia.

On the 22 March, the CARJ banner was carried in the Parade from Parliament Square to Trafalgar Square. In addition CARJ had a stall in Trafalgar Square to promote its work, alongside other antiracism and equality organisations like the Migrants Rights Network and the Traveller Solidarity Network. The event was reported in the media. CARJ widely circulated information about the event in advance to parishes, dioceses, religious orders, justice and peace networks, ethnic chaplaincies, members and friends, communication officers and to other networks and contacts, to mobilise support for the event.



# **G. Work with Schools and Young People**

During this past year, 2013-14, **Charlene Fraser** has worked regularly in a few primary schools in London. In all these schools, Charlene has worked with pupils in small groups and met with individual pupils as appropriate. She has supported them to build self-confidence and self-esteem, to develop speaking and listening skills, and to work on individual issues identified by their teachers or during the sessions.

Suddie Komba Kono has worked as a CARJ Associate with young people in schools and parishes mostly in London to raise awareness and encourage young people to embrace their vocation to 'world citizenship'. Suddie has also been very involved in contacting schools, inviting them to participate in Liverpool Congress and supporting others in organizing the event. Patsy Cummings has worked one day a week, as a CARJ Associate, in Cardinal Pole secondary school in Hackney.

The **Liverpool project** commenced on 1 April 2013. During the current year, Dale Bradshaw and Alan Heaton have been working with young people in a variety of contexts in Liverpool including – the Belvidere Homeless Shelter, St Vincent's School for the Blind and Enterprise South Liverpool Academy. Both Dale and Alan are very involved in the organization of the Congress.

To celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, CARJ will organise a Young People's **Congress on World Citizenship**, 10-12 July 2014 at Liverpool Hope.

CARJ has also been working with others to consider various approaches to improving the quality of education offered to young people in marginalised communities. CARJ will be

publishing the results of this dialogue and will be organising a series of seminars to explore the issues further – under the title **Stepping Stones to a More Equal Society**.

# H. The CARJ Urban Network

The CARJ Urban Network brings together people who wish to be involved in the Church's work with poor and marginalised communities in our inner cities and outer estates. The Network meets two or three times a year and shares ideas and experiences through personal contact and email.

The Network met on 25 June 2013 at Newman House. Rev Paul Nicolson led a discussion on benefit changes and their effect on individuals. Sr Lynda Dearlove (Women at the Well) helped the group to reflect on the gendered nature of poverty and marginalisation and the particular effect of austerity measures and related policy developments on women. Stephen Saxby and Terry Drummond discussed the future challenge for the churches and the need for a renewed common vision and approach (thirty years after Faith in the City).

The Network met again on 27 November 2013 at Newman House. Five speakers contributed to a lengthy discussion of 'housing issues'. The discussion included the need for more affordable housing, the provision of housing for the poor, overcrowding, disrepair, various welfare benefits relating to housing, community land trusts and the need for a national strategy. The meeting also discussed Pope Francis's comments on 'urban culture' in Evangelii Gaudium.

The Network is planning a residential Retreat in April 2014 at Wistaston Hall in Crewe. Fr Phil Sumner will lead the Retreat, will help the group

reflect on various themes raised by Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*. In October, the Urban Network, together with the Schools Project, will sponsor a **Seminar** to explore the issues and initiatives raised in *Stepping Stones* 

# I. Leadership for Social Change – an intensive training workshop

In November 2013, in partnership with Voice of Dalit International (VODI), and with support from Maryvale Institute, CARJ organised a **ten-day Workshop for activists and future leaders**. The Workshop was held on weekday mornings from 18-29 November 2013, at St Anselm's Parish, Southall.

The Workshop aimed to prepare participants to work more thoughtfully and effectively for social change – especially in those movements defined or inspired by issues of 'race, caste, religion and social class'. It addressed four key areas: social thought, language and communication, organisational skills and the history theory and practice of selected social movements. Participants were UK residents (some had been in the UK for many years). Four were originally from India and six originally from Sri Lanka.

Overall, there was **considerable satisfaction** among the participants. All rated the workshop as excellent or good, and gave similarly high marks to various topics covered. Members of the Group expressed some interest in meeting again, to keep in touch and to give one another at least minimal support. A few expressed some interest in getting involved in ongoing social action or in starting something themselves. VODI and CARJ offered continuing support. Another workshop is being planned for November 2014. This will probably be a residential workshop at Maryvale.

# J. Caribbean Pilgrimage to Walsingham

The Annual Caribbean Pilgrimage to Walsingham took place on Sunday 30 June 2013. The theme was Mary and the Year of Faith. Both the National Coordinator and the Administrator assisted in the organisation of the pilgrimage, and participated in the event on the day. CARJ supports the Pilgrimage for around 600-800 pilgrims each year by providing sponsorship, administrative support and liaising with colleagues at the Shrine on arrangements. CARJ is particularly grateful to Father Irenaeus Vincent OP the Principal Celebrant at the 2013 Pilgrimage, the music director Leila Persaud and all the St Ignatius Caribbean Choir, Stamford Hill for all their contributions.

CARJ coordinated a planning meeting for the Pilgrimage on the 20 April 2013 at the CARJ Office. This provided support to the coach organisers and pilgrimage coordinators who are located in many different dioceses. CARJ produced the Pilgrimage booklet working with the music director for the Pilgrimage, Leila Persaud. CARJ also produced a

# National Caribbean Pilgrimage to Walsingham



Celebrating the feast of Saints Peter and Paul
Principal Celebrant: Father Irenaeus Vincent OP
Sunday 30th June 2013



# Mary and the Year of Faith



Source of picture: Virgin Mary with Child Jesus from Dreamstime

The shrine pilgrimage theme in 2013 is Mary and the Year of Faith. The Year of Faith began on October 11 2012, the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, and concludes on November 24 2013, the feast of Christ the King. CARJ shares in the hope that, during this time, Catholics throughout the world will take the opportunity to appreciate the gift of faith, deepen their relationship with God and strengthen their commitment to sharing their faith with others.

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The shrine pilgrimage theme in 2013 was Mary and the Year of Faith. The Year of Faith began on October 11 2012, the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, and concluded on November 24 2013, the feast of Christ the King.

Pilgrimage promotional flyer, and assisted with arrangements for the Mass, the Rosary procession and made other logistical arrangements.

# K. Working with the National Council for Lay Associations

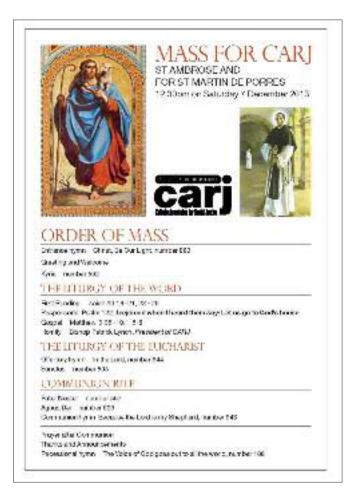
CARJ is a lay organisation and is a member of the National Council for Lay Associations (NCLA). CARJ uses this forum to network and communicate information about its work to other organisations. CARJ participated in NCLA meetings in October 2013 and February 2014, which discussed Poverty in the UK, the response to the call of Pope Francis to be a Church for the Poor and Evangelii Gaudium. The National Coordinator of CARJ also acts as the Southern region representative on the NCLA Executive. On 21 January 2014 a Southern NCLA Region meeting took place at the CAFOD Headquarters in London, to discuss current issues of concern and proposals for future work and included representatives from Housing Justice, the Union of Catholic Mothers, the Order of Franciscans Secular and others.

### The CARJ AGM

A CARJ AGM and St Martin de Porres Mass took place on Saturday 7 December 2013 at the CARJ Office, relating to the 2012-13 Financial Year. The meeting was followed by a Christmas lunch. An AGM relating to the 2013-14 Financial Year took place on Saturday 1 November 2014.

# The CARJ Office

With thanks to all who have made a positive contribution to promoting racial equality and justice through the work of CARJ.



# Bank account details

Lloyds Bank
Southampton Row
London
Account Number: 00528256
Sort Code: 30-94-79

**Auditor** S Banerjee

# Catholic Association for Racial Justice

CARJ tackles racial discrimination within the Church and within society. We work to ensure that racial inequality and the racism that causes it are eradicated. We do this through programmes like:

Racial Justice Sunday – raising awareness of the issues.

Training parish and diocesan groups on racial justice issues

**Outreach** to ethnic minority communities, including Gypsies and Travellers

Countering Political Extremism working with other Church denominations

Supporting Black and Minority Ethnic students reach their potential

Providing a forum for exchange among those working in **marginalised urban communities** 



# To join CARJ or to make a contribution

to the future work of CARJ:
contact CARJ, 9 Henry Road, London N4 2LH
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Cheques payable to CARJ
or the Catholic Association for Racial Justice.
CARJ is a registered charity no. 291601