

ONE RACE • THE HUMAN RACE

carj
Catholic Association for Racial Justice

**ANNUAL REPORT
2010-2011**



Introduction

This annual report provides information about the work of the Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ) from April 2010 to March 2011. CARJ tackles racial discrimination in the church and in society. It aims to ensure that racism and racial inequality is eradicated through its work and programmes. We work through programmes like **Racial Justice Sunday** – to raise awareness of the issues, with **Parish and Diocesan groups** including through training, support and outreach to **Black and Minority Ethnic communities** including through the **Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Network**, we **Counter Political Extremism** working with other church denominations and support **Black and Minority Ethnic students to reach their potential** among our areas of work. In this annual report we highlight some of the main activities and programmes we have undertaken between 2010-11 to provide an overview of the work that CARJ has carried out to promote racial justice.

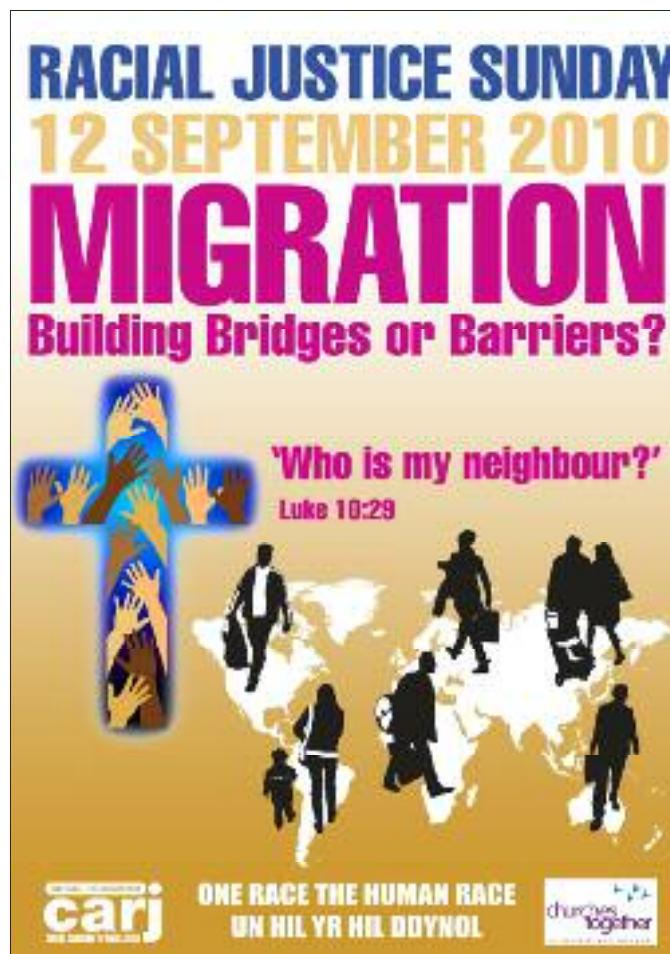
During the 2010-11 year, CARJ employed staff members as follows: Rosie Bairwal as National Coordinator, Antony Benchilas as Administrator (part-time) from April to September 2010 and Charlene Fraser as Schools Development Worker (part-time). Charlene was on maternity leave from 30 April 2010 and subsequently special leave during the period May 2010-March 2011. Patsy Cummings a consultant worked as a Schools Development Worker (part-time) and also covered for the maternity and later special leave of Charlene Fraser, so worked full-time from May 2010 – March 2011. CARJ is grateful to the staff and consultant and also to the volunteers that worked with us during this period.

1. Racial Justice Sunday 2010

Racial Justice Sunday on 12 September 2010 highlighted the theme of Migration: Building Bridges or Barriers? It addressed the question 'Who is my neighbour?' based on the biblical reference in Luke 10:29. The Racial Justice Sunday (RJS) materials were produced by the Racial Justice Network (RJN) of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) of which CARJ is a member. In 2009 CARJ was invited by CTBI to coordinate the production of the materials for 2010, working in partnership with a Racial Justice Network writers group. CARJ was pleased to accept the invitation in light of the centrality of Racial Justice Sunday to its work. The writers group included representatives from different Christian denominations which met and corresponded during the course of the year to produce the 2010 materials.

Church communities are concerned with the social issues that impact human dignity. International migration has been an increasingly important subject of interest in recent years and it continues to be an important part of the experience of life in Britain and Ireland. Migration has also been an important feature of the histories of both Britain and Ireland.

The Racial Justice Sunday materials in 2010 invited Christians and others to reflect on the theme of migration and to consider how as members of the same human family we are bound together by a common humanity. The materials encouraged people to work together to build bridges with each other and to remove the social and other barriers that can exist. The materials explained how Churches in



Racial Justice Sunday 2010 cover image

Britain and Ireland have a common biblical tradition of welcoming strangers and migrants, particularly those who are vulnerable and in need and how migration is not a new occurrence but has been taking place throughout human history. A concern for and care of migrants is therefore an essential aspect of mission and ministry for churches. The RJS materials encouraged Christians to be prepared to cross the social and other barriers that can exist between settled and migrant communities and to build communities of love, compassion and generosity that reflect God's unlimited love for all people.

The Racial Justice Sunday materials provided a resource for churches on the topic of Migration to be used on Racial Justice Sunday and as an educational resource throughout the year. The contents of the pack included a Background note on Migration, Biblical reflections based on Lectionary readings, Homily/Sermon suggestions, Hymn suggestions, Prayer suggestions, Activities for Children and Young People, Personal stories of Migration, a Poster and Feedback form. The RJS resources were distributed by CTBI electronically to all member churches in Britain and Ireland. CARJ distributed the materials in hard copy and electronic format to Catholic parishes, secondary schools, members and networks across England and Wales. The CARJ Racial Justice Sunday appeal in 2010 raised £106,000.

2. Working with Dioceses, Parishes and others

On 8 May 2010 CARJ representatives (Haynes Baptiste, Richard Zipfel, Antony Benchilas and Rosie Bairwal) provided a workshop on the Changing Face of Britain to the Dominican Sisters, Rosary Priory, Hertfordshire. On 16 October 2010 the National Coordinator provided workshops on Racial Justice to the Birmingham Diocese Justice and Peace Assembly which was held at St Peter's School in Solihull.

3. CARJ as an agency of the Catholic Church

As an agency of the Catholic Church, during 2010-11 the CARJ National Coordinator attended regular meetings of the Christian Responsibility and Citizenship Department at the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales. The National Coordinator, Administrator and one of the Walsingham Pilgrimage Coordinators (Christina Charles-Sampson) participated in the London Vigil of the Papal visit, (including the banner procession of Catholic organisations) on September 18, 2010. The National Coordinator also participated in a Common Endeavour Conference at Liverpool Hope University on 1 February 2011, organized by the Caritas Social Action Network. This looked at how Church related organisations could engage more deeply in social action with a range of groups including migrants and refugees, youth, the elderly and discussed issues around volunteering and the Big Society agenda.

4. Countering Political Extremism

CARJ has been part of the Countering Political

Extremism Resource Group (CPERG) since 2009. This involves working in partnership with a range of other Christian Denominations to Counter Political Extremism including the Baptist Union, Church of England, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church. The Countering Political Extremism Resource Group (CPERG) met a number of times in 2010-11 and produced a range of resources to support and enable parishes to counter political extremism in their localities. In May 2010, a general election as well as some local elections took place. The CPERG resources included **Statements** from churches nationally and locally on political extremism, **Prayers**, materials for **House groups**, advice on running **hustings** for elections or question-time meetings or making statements to the **media**, or what to do if you are represented by extremist councillors and other information and resources.

Christians, along with people from other faith communities and beyond, have been very concerned by the growing presence of extremist parties in local elections and their threat to community cohesion. Churches of a range of denominations have stated that racism, in all its forms, is a sin, and a denial of God's love for each of God's children.

The nature of racist and extremist activity has begun to change recently. Alongside political parties such as the British National Party, we now also have social movements such as the English Defence League. The CPERG have produced resources for churches seeking to respond to such extremist groups.

CPERG resources 2010

5. Working to improve policies and awareness to promote racial justice

CARJ contributed to the Westminster City Council Consultation on a proposed byelaw to ban soup runs in particular locations in the Victoria area of London on 23 March 2011. Many service users of homeless support services are from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME)



communities, as are many of the volunteers that work with homeless people in this area of London. CARJ contributed to the consultation, by submitting a letter opposing the proposed byelaw and worked in partnership with other agencies like Housing Justice who also opposed the introduction of the byelaw.

The National Coordinator participated in the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Europe Conference on Destitute Asylum Seekers on 29 March 2011. The speakers included Jean Lambert, Member of European Parliament (MEP) and JRS country representatives from across Europe.

The National Coordinator participated in the Runnymede Trust Race debate on the question 'Is Race still a significant disadvantage in Britain today?' on 30 March, 2011. Speakers from the Guardian newspaper and Prospect magazine led the debate.

6. Working with the National Justice and Peace Network

CARJ is a member of the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) and the National Coordinator participated in the National Conference in Swanwick, Derbyshire from 16-18 July 2010 and the National Justice and Peace Networking Day at the Chinese Methodist Church, Birmingham on 12 February 2011.

7. European Laity Forum

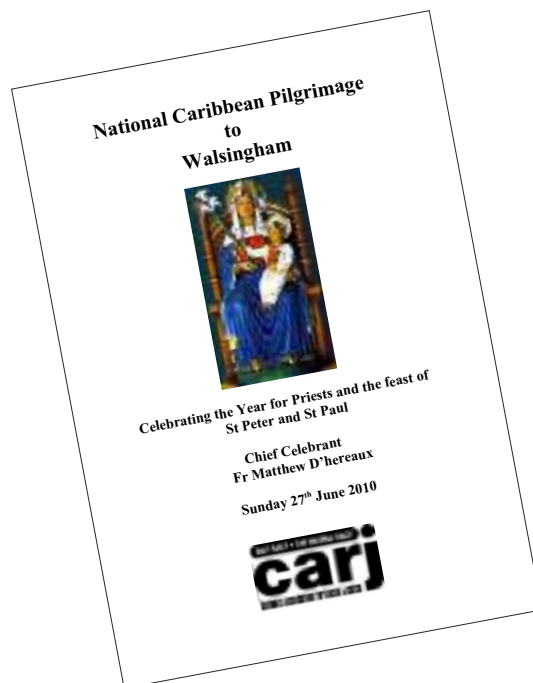
From 6-11 July 2010 CARJ representatives (the National Coordinator and Administrator) participated in the European Study Forum of National Laity Committees at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham. Delegates from 12 national councils of the Catholic laity in European countries met to discuss the theme Human Dignity in a Changing Europe - the Christian Response. Speakers included Bishop William Kenney, president of Caritas Europa, John Gerard Bruton, the former Taoiseach of Ireland and David McLoughlin, Newman University College among others. CARJ contributed a display stand on its work to the exhibition for the Forum in St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham.

8. National Council for Lay Associations

CARJ is a member of the National Council of Lay Associations (NCLA), a forum for networking and discussion for lay Catholic organisations. The CARJ National Coordinator participated in the National Council for Lay Associations (NCLA) meeting in October 2010 and February 2011 at the Oblate Retreat Centre, Crewe. At the October meeting the National Coordinator also provided a lecture to the NCLA meeting on the subject of Migration, theology and Catholic Social Teaching.

9. National Caribbean Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2010

Each year, CARJ sponsors and assists in the organisation of this Pilgrimage for around 600-800 pilgrims, musicians and a choir. CARJ supports coach organisers from parishes located across the country and



we liaise with colleagues at the National Shrine of Our Lady, Walsingham, Norfolk on arrangements. All communities are welcome to participate.

On Sunday June 27 June, 2010 around 600 pilgrims from across the country participated in the CARJ National Caribbean Pilgrimage to Walsingham. The theme was Celebrating the Year for Priests and the feast of St Peter and St Paul. Father Matthew D'hereaux was the Chief Celebrant and music was provided by the West Indian Chaplaincy Steel Band from Birmingham Diocese. CARJ sponsored the pilgrimage, including organising the pilgrimage planning meetings for coach organisers, coordinators and the music in the months before the pilgrimage and CARJ produced a pilgrimage booklet. A collection taken at the pilgrimage amounting to £218 was donated to rebuilding a church in Grenada. CARJ also organised a planning meeting on 26 February 2011 to prepare for the 2011 Walsingham Pilgrimage.

10. Engaging with other faith communities

Four CARJ representatives (Margaret-Ann Fiskin, Haynes Baptiste, Richard Zipfel and Rosie Bairwal) participated in the London Mayor's/Fayreshare Foundation Interfaith Conference at Kings College, London on 8 February, 2011. The event aimed to promote faith-based social action initiatives and participants discussed best-practice and current challenges and opportunities for collaboration.

11. Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Support Network

CARJ organises a support network for Catholics and others involved in ministry or service to Gypsies, Roma and Travellers. There is a residential National Gathering of the whole Network annually, and a Working Group drawn from the Network meets three times a year. *Pilgrim Catholic*, published twice a year, is the newsletter of the Network.



Roma mother and children

Shortly before the 2010 General Election, CARJ issued a statement criticising the Conservative and Labour Party policies toward Gypsies and Travellers. The Statement was published in *Pilgrim Catholic*. The statement criticised both Labour and Conservative policy proposals as punitive.

The Travellers Working Group met on 16 June, and 26 October 2010 and on 20 January 2011. Matters discussed included:

- diocesan policy on preparation for sacraments,
- draft guidelines for marriage,
- policy towards Gypsies and Travellers under a new government.
- research into Travellers in Prison,
- the Census 2011,
- attempts to expel Roma in France and Italy,
- an ITMB submission (endorsed by CARJ) to the Mayor of London's consultation on Traveller sites,
- the appointment of a second part-time person to work with Travellers in Westminster diocese.
- Dale Farm.

A residential National Gathering was held on 15-16 March 2011 at the Focolare Centre, Welwyn Garden City. Matters discussed included: literacy, the media and public perceptions, Travellers in prison, policing and changes in government policy since the 2010 election and the impact on Travellers.

12. Caste Discrimination and support of Dalits in the UK

During its 25th Anniversary celebrations in 2009, CARJ reflected on the 'Changing Face of Britain' and highlighted some new priorities for the future. We identified **caste discrimination and support of Dalits in the UK** as one of our future priorities. Although CARJ's work is primarily in the UK, because of the global nature of these issues, there will inevitably be international aspects to the work; and we may find ourselves working with international partners.

To begin addressing these important issues, CARJ and VODI held an interfaith conference which resulted in the

formation of an interfaith **Coalition Against Caste Discrimination**. At the same time, CARJ established a **Dalit Support Group** to take its work on these issues forward.

On Saturday 23 October 2010, during Interfaith Week, VODI and others held a Conference at the Dominion Arts Education Centre, 112 The Green, Southall. The Conference was organised with a view to making local authorities and other organisations aware of what caste is and how it impacts on people, strategies, plans and policies in the UK. CARJ participated fully with other organisations in this conference.

The CARJ Dalit Support Group met with Mgr Paul Watson (Director) and Fr John Redford (Staff) at **Maryvale Institute**, on Monday 13 December 2010 and on Wednesday 26 January 2011 to explore the possibility of a partnership between VODI, CARJ and Maryvale to offer a **Leadership Training Programme**. The meetings were very positive and a consensus was reached around relatively detailed plans for a study programme. The programme would involve students from the UK and other parts of the world and would confer a Certificate and Diploma validated by Maryvale.

During the year, VODI, with CARJ, CBCEW and many others, were successful in pressing the House of Lords to add a provision relating to caste discrimination to the Single Equality Act. The provision gives the Minister power (following the completion of research) to add caste discrimination to the other grounds on which discrimination is prohibited in the legislation.

This power of the Minister (to implement caste discrimination legislation) was made contingent upon the completion of government research into the extent of caste discrimination in the UK. In early 2010, the Government had commissioned the **National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR)** to conduct independent research; and their report *Caste discrimination and harassment in Great Britain* was published on 16 December 2010. It found that caste and caste discrimination does exist in the UK in the areas covered by the *Equality Act*.

The Coalition Government has not yet decided how they will respond to the research; however, indications are that CARJ and others may have to press the government to include 'caste discrimination' in equality legislation.

13. CARJ Schools & Young People's Project

CARJ's project working with schools and young people began in 2006. For the last few years, one part-time worker Charlene Fraser has been working with primary schools and another part-time consultant Patsy Cummings has been working with young people in secondary schools and parishes. At the end of April 2010, the part-time worker Charlene Fraser **began her maternity leave, so the part-time consultant Patsy Cummings took over** some additional work to cover for the maternity leave. CARJ continued to be engaged in



from September 2010 in three primary schools: Our Lady of Lourdes, Brent (weekly), St. Anne's, Lambeth (weekly) and St Paul's, Haringey (fortnightly), working in each of these schools with a small group of selected pupils. Patsy Cummings had also been working at Cardinal Pole Secondary School in Hackney a half-day a week which was later increased to a full day each week.

In August 2010, Patsy Cummings and another consultant Brian Bellevue ran an experimental, week-long Summer Programme around sport and citizenship (in the spirit of the Olympics). Fifteen young people from ten schools and parishes participated.

Alongside her regular work with four schools, during the year, Patsy Cummings responded to requests from schools and parishes including to St Ignatius College (Enfield), Maria Fidelis (Camden), and Holy Family Parish (Slough), Sacred Heart Secondary School (Hammersmith) and St Dominics Sixth Form College (Harrow), and has invitations from three new parishes – in Broxbourne, Shepherds Bush and Hammersmith and she also helped Catholic Childrens Society (Westminster) with two events.

14. CARJ Urban Network

The **CARJ Urban Network** includes more than 100 Catholics and ecumenical colleagues who are involved in or wish to support the Church's work with poor and marginalised communities in our inner-cities and outer estates. The Network is a place for discussion and reflection. Alison Gelder is Chair of the Network and Richard Zipfel acts as Secretary.

An important meeting of the Network took place On Friday 19 March 2010 at the Las Casas Institute in Oxford. It was scheduled to coincide with the international conference on *Renewing the Catholic*

Social Conscience, at Blackfriars on the weekend of 19-21 March. The Urban Network meeting included reports from Birmingham Justice & Peace, from the Hope Family Centre in Wolverhampton, from the Catholic Worker Community in Oxford and from Holy Family Ecumenical Church on Blackbird Leys Estate in Oxford. Prof Tariq Modood also spoke about the recently published Report of the Government's Equality Panel (Prof Modood was a member of the Panel).

The meeting of the Network on 22 June 2010 was devoted to exploring the theme: *Supporting Urban Communities Under a New Government*. Speakers addressed issues of housing and homelessness, migrants, benefits and community organising (*The Big Society*).

The Urban Network held a residential Retreat on 13-14 October 2010 at Wistaston Hall in Crewe. The theme of the retreat was: *Searching for Springs of Hope: supporting poor communities in a time of austerity*. Patricia Stoat led the Retreat, and Mgr Peter Rosser said Mass.

Another meeting of the Network took place on 15 February 2011 at the offices of Housing Justice. The theme was *Poverty, Participation & the Common Good (2010-2015)*.

The Urban Network has links to the newly-formed, ecumenical **Christian Coalition for Urban Mission (CCFUM)**. CARJ has been involved in the ecumenical discussions to establish CCFUM and will continue to be involved in the future.

Conclusion

CARJ is grateful to all who have contributed to its work in 2010-11. We look forward to building on the work achieved during the year and to promoting racial justice more effectively in the future.