ONE RACE • THE HUMAN RACE

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Catholic Association for Racial Justice

CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

A Catholic voice working for a just and inclusive society

Annual Report

1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

Catholic Association for Racial Justice

One Race, The Human Race



Charity Registration Number 1158338

Chair's Introduction

Blessings and warm greetings to all our members.

The past year, April 2025 to March 2026, has been a challenging one for CARJ. At the beginning of the year, we faced the difficult decision to make CARJ's only full-time member of staff redundant because of the financial pressures we have been sharing with members for some time. This was a painful moment for the organisation, but thanks to the commitment, generosity and tireless efforts of our wonderful volunteers, we have continued to carry forward CARJ's important work.

Despite these difficulties, the year has also brought achievements and reasons for encouragement.

We were delighted that CARJ's application to the Sisters of St Joseph of Peace, through their Peace Through Justice grant scheme, was successful. This funding has enabled us to continue our schools project work for another year, helping us to engage with young people and promote racial justice through education.

We were also grateful to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales for providing financial support for our well-received AGM and Conference on The Synodal Reports and the Future of CARJ. This gathering offered an important opportunity for reflection, dialogue and renewed commitment to our mission.

On a personal note, this year brought me a very special honour. After more than fifty years of working in the field of racial justice, I was deeply moved to receive the honour of Dame of the Order of St Gregory the Great from the Church. My investiture on 25 January 2026 was a memorable and humbling occasion, and I felt truly blessed and grateful for this recognition. I share this honour with all those who have worked alongside me over the years in the struggle for justice and equality.

As we look ahead, we know that there is still much work to be done. We may pause briefly to gather our strength, but we cannot afford to rest for long. Across Britain and the wider Western world, we are witnessing troubling signs that old prejudices, divisions and battles we had hoped were behind us are once again coming to the fore. Our communities face renewed challenges, and CARJ's mission remains as necessary as ever.

My prayer is that God will grant us the strength, courage and wisdom to meet these challenges together. May we remain steadfast in our commitment to racial justice, guided by our faith and sustained by the hope that, through our collective efforts, a more just and compassionate society is possible.

I thank every member, volunteer, trustee and supporter who has stood with CARJ throughout this difficult year. Your dedication gives us hope for the future.

Yogi Sutton
Chair, Catholic Association for Racial Justice
22 October 2026

Activities and Highlights

Launch of CARJ's New Website

In April 2025, CARJ launched its newly redesigned website, marking an important step in improving the organisation's communications and online presence. The project was made possible through the generous financial support of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. The new website provides a platform for sharing news, resources and information about CARJ's work with members and the wider community.

Annual General Meeting and Conference

CARJ's Annual General Meeting took place in person on Saturday 8 November 2025 at St Thomas More Church. The business meeting began at 11.00 am and was followed by Mass and lunch. In the afternoon, Rev. Deacon Justin Malewezi gave a talk on the Synodal Reports and the Future of CARJ, providing an opportunity for reflection and discussion about the organisation's mission.

Schools Project

CARJ's schools project continued throughout the year, with visits to schools to deliver talks and assemblies that encourage reflection on racial justice, equality and respect for others. Activities included a visit to St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Bexley during Black History Month, and a contribution to Mission Week at St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School in 2025. These visits remain an important part of CARJ's educational outreach to young people.

Racial Justice Week 2026

Continuing the practice established in recent years, CARJ marked Racial Justice Week from the Catholic observance of Racial Justice Sunday on 1 February 2026 to the ecumenical celebration on 8 February. The Catholic theme was "Whoever loves God must also love his brother" (1 John 4:21): Promoting Racial Justice in Our Parishes.

The ecumenical celebration took "Love Thy Neighbour" as its theme. CARJ was featured in the resources prepared by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland for this observance.

Recognition of CARJ's Chair, Yogi Sutton

Yogi Sutton, one of CARJ's founders, was honoured as a Dame of the Order of St Gregory the Great by Pope Leo XIV for her contribution to the Catholic Church and wider society. Since helping to establish CARJ in 1984, she has championed racial justice and worked to ensure that the Church speaks out against discrimination and inequality. The honour was presented by Canon Victor Darlington on Sunday 25 January 2026 at Corpus Christi Church, Brixton Hill, where Yogi is a parishioner.

Recognition of Rev. Deacon Justin Malewezi's Artistic Work

In early 2026, Rev. Deacon Justin Malewezi's portrait Our Lady of Africa received recognition from St Edward's College. Deacon Justin is a CARJ Trustee and Treasurer, is active in CARJ Merseyside and has written several children's books on race. Further information about his work and paintings is available at www.malewezi.com.

Traveller Working Group

CARJ continued to convene its Traveller Working Group, which meets three times a year. These meetings provide a regular opportunity for discussion, collaboration and continued attention to issues affecting Traveller communities.

Partnership Work

CARJ supported the Christian Network Against Caste Discrimination by assisting with the administration of grant funding for its 2026 Annual Conference on caste discrimination.

CARJ also continued its work mentoring and supporting students from the University of Notre Dame (USA) during their time in England.

Financial Support and Acknowledgements

CARJ is deeply grateful for the financial support received during 2025–2026 from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales; St Thomas More; Mill Hill Missionaries; Society of the Holy Child Jesus; Holy Family Sisters of St Emilie; Institute of Our Lady of Mercy; and Congregation of St Joseph of Peace.

We also thank our trustees, members, volunteers and friends, whose commitment has sustained CARJ's mission during a financially challenging year.