Grants Plus
Directory of Organisations

West Yorkshire
First Edition - March 2016
The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust’s West Yorkshire Racial Justice Programme funded organisations to promote race equality and tackle Islamophobia. The grantees were supported through a ‘Grants-Plus’ programme which enabled all the organisations to engage in a process of learning; building capacity; developing new approaches and strategies; sharing information and analysis; and networking.

This Directory, together with a short DVD, is a ‘legacy’ for the programme. It highlights the experiences and learning over the period. We want to build on this by sharing our experiences more widely in practical ways.

The Directory will be extended to include representation from other organisations working on racial justice issues so that this important work can be shared to help improve the lives of those living within our communities.

We aim to create opportunities for dialogue and collaboration in order to help raise the voices of the most marginalised members of our communities in the decisions that affect their lives.

If you would like your organisation to be included in the Directory, please contact: taf@hamara.co.uk carl@lwicct.co.uk

The West Yorkshire Grants-plus Directory features local and regional organisations that have worked together on Racial Justice issues for the past three and a half years, and in future hopes to facilitate wider networking and collaboration.
CONTENTS

Advonet 4	Keighley Association for Women and Children Centre 11
AKCT 5	Kumon Y’all 12
Arakan Creative 6	Race Card 13
BCB 7	Racial Justice Network 14
Building Bridges 8	Ravensthorpe Community Centre 15
Leeds Gate 9	TAPEPUKA 16
Just West Yorkshire 10
Advonet is leading advocacy provider. We offer a unique bilingual advocacy service, provide a quality, culturally sensitive, independent advocacy in a range of community languages to established, new and emerging Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities. We work with priority clients within BME communities. This includes refugees, asylum seekers, Roma and other eastern European communities. We specialise in reaching out to those with little or no English.

We consistently work in over 13 languages, which include Arabic, Cantonese, Czech, Farsi, Kurdish, Mandarin, Mirpuri, Polish, Punjabi, Romani, Slovak, Tigrinya, and Urdu. Our bilingual advocates go far beyond interpreting. They address barriers to inclusion for these often marginalised parts of the community by developing trust, confidence, knowledge and cultural sensitivity.

We enable our clients to access services and achieve their full right and entitlements in relation to health and social care services, welfare benefits, tax credits, housing, debt and financial management.

**Why Our Work Is Important**

Our bilingual advocates go far beyond interpreting. They address barriers to inclusion for these often marginalised parts of the community by developing trust, confidence, knowledge and cultural sensitivity.

Recent years have seen a rapid increase in the number of Roma clients and in response we have developed the Roma voice project, providing capacity building through the community led Roma club; service engagement events and activities, including a health needs assessment, social activities, employment training as well as bilingual advocacy.

We work with partner agencies to influence strategy and service development for all BME, migrant communities, providing a voice for highly excluded elements of BME communities that others may struggle to reach.

**Areas Covered**
Leeds & surrounding areas

**Contact Details**
Unit A3, Unity Business Centre, 26 Roundhay Road, Leeds, LS7 1AB.

**Specialisms**

Bilingual Advocacy | Benefits, tax credits, other entitlements | Debt and money problems | Community engagement | Asset based community development approaches | Social care access | Health access | Health complaints | Employment skills
ALL KEIGHLEY COMMUNITIES TOGETHER
(AKCT)

AKCT was set up to celebrate diversity; mentor individuals and promote ambassadors; create safe spaces; strengthen BME voice to influence, promote peer support and networking.

This has been done by holding difficult conversations with authorities, like the NHS, police and other sectors accountable on matters relating to disadvantages faced by BME on behalf of or with the local community. The project delivers training and facilitates events that showcase inequality to inform and influence decision makers, general community and service providers.

The project also trains, empowers and mobilises the BME community to create a powerful voice and this has proved successful in creating more champions/activists who feel confident to do so. The project’s realm and influence has gone beyond the district as other organisations/agents seek knowledge, intelligence and possible long-term links with the project for skill share and support.

Despite efforts put in so far, communities in Keighley continue to be polarised. The arrival of newer and emerging communities from central and Eastern Europe has created more needs. The far right and negative stereotyping is growing in certain areas, with a helping from the media. Adding to the fact that there is poverty and a high proportionate number of disempowered impoverished white communities in the district, mean that there is a need for more work to be done to strengthen communities and to avoid real disquiet.

Other external national/international pressures that are having an impact on a local level include: Neo-liberalism products like austerity and continuing cuts on the public sector; media blaming immigrants and disregard for human rights which are having a disproportionate effect on BME communities; hostility is growing due to lack of jobs and shortage of resources amongst other things. This means that the situation is likely to get worse and more so for BME communities in the North where cuts have been more severe.

Despite policies and changes in law, racism is still rife, endemic and deep rooted in British society. A sense of apathy from the BME who feel disenfranchised from the State and targeted by the majority and therefore unable to change or influence change, means more time and effort is needed to inform and mobilise these communities.
Our ethos is: Instigator of Quality, Truth and Positive Change.

WHAT WE DO

Arakan Creative is the first theatre and film production company of its kind in Bradford and the North of England specialising in stories within the Islamic world. Through theatre we also impact on issues within the South Asian Community, the wider community and education.

Specialisms
Theatre and film production | Addressing social issues | Advocates of positive change | Dispelling misconceptions of Islam

Areas Covered
Bradford District and West Yorkshire

WHY OUR WORK IS IMPORTANT

It is important that Muslims have a voice in stage and in film to counteract all the negativity faced in today’s world and also a platform of positive role models. Equally, we address social ills that are detrimental to Muslim/South Asian communities.

Contact Details
Central Hall, Alice Street, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD21 3JD.
W: www.arakancreative.co.uk | T: (01535) 612 527
BCB is the Community Radio station for Bradford. Established over 20 years ago, BCB was instrumental in campaigning for legislation for community radio licences. We provide training and broadcasting opportunities for local people, supporting volunteers to become active radio broadcasters. BCB produces and broadcasts a wide range of speech and music programmes, reflecting the diversity in the city. Our small staff team supports over 230 volunteers actively involved in the radio station, giving a voice to those groups, communities and individuals who have least access to the airwaves. We broadcast mostly in English, but also provide programming in a range of community languages appropriate to the target audiences. Our aim is to make information appropriate and accessible to Bradford’s communities, encouraging people to take a full and active role in the life of the city, and building a connected community both in our building and over the airwaves too.

**Why Our Work Is Important**

BCB is an alternative to mainstream media. We encourage and facilitate open dialogue, debate and discussion relevant to our communities. As a community radio station, we provide the space and resources for a diverse range of individuals, groups and communities to make their own radio programmes, with full editorial control over what they produce and broadcast. We actively encourage participation from more marginalised groups, supporting people to use community radio to ‘tell the stories that need to be told, by the voices that need to be heard’.

BCB also works with groups to actively use the mainstream media better, helping them to develop an ongoing appropriate and effective media presence so that they are better able to promote issues of social and racial justice, creating an alternative to the dominant mainstream ‘truth’.

**Contact Details:** 11 Rawson Road, Bradford, BD1 3SH.
BUILDING BRIDGES

Building Bridges is a project of the Hamara Centre (www.hamara.org.uk), aimed at addressing Islamophobia across the city of Leeds. The project implements a holistic approach which looks at building the confidence and capacity within Muslim communities to identify and report anti-Muslim hate crime, whilst simultaneously raising awareness and tackling the stigma attached to the faith in the indigenous community. The project directly involves members of the community in the planning and delivery process, who work collaboratively with a number of key stakeholders to address Islamophobia. The four specific themes of Building Bridges are:

- Strengthening Shared Identity
- Creating Solidarity
- Islam & the West
- Promoting Rights

**Why Our Work Is Important**

It is evident that anti-Muslim hate crime is on the increase and more needs to be done to not only raise awareness of the nature of hate crime, but to also build confidence of victims to report incidents. According to the Home Office reports on Hate Crime in England and Wales in 2013-2014 and 2014-2015, racial and religious hate crime accounts for 88% of motivating factors for hate crime recorded by West Yorkshire Police.

The West Yorkshire police force recorded 40 anti-Islam hate crimes in the first six months since sub-categories of the faith strand of hate crime reporting was introduced on the 13th October 2014. This figure equated to 57.2% of all faith based hate crimes. This figure worryingly increased to 75 incidents between June and November 2015, equating to 84.3% of all faith based hate crimes. Now, more than ever before, our project is needed to raise awareness, create strategies, and to develop a safe environment that supports Muslim communities around hate crime.

**Contact Details**

Hamara Centre, Tempest Road, Leeds, LS11 6RD.

**Area Covered:** Leeds

T: 0113 2773330 | E: Taf@hamara.co.uk
LEEDS GATE

Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Exchange (GATE) is a community members association for Gypsies and Travellers who live in, or resort to, Leeds. Gypsies and Irish Travellers are amongst the most deprived and isolated ethnic minority groups in the UK. There is an urgent need to improve consultation and service provision to these communities. We are developing dialogue with service providers and others whose work impacts on our lives. We are working to promote positive understanding and appreciation of our culture, and to share our skills and experiences, among other UK communities. Our workers provide non-patronising information, advice and advocacy support particularly for people with poor literacy. We enable community members to develop projects aimed at overcoming social isolation and exclusion.

Areas Covered
Leeds & surrounding areas

Specialisms
Accommodation | Education | Advocacy | Training delivery

Contact Details:
169 Cross Green Lane,
Leeds, LS9 0BD.

Why Our Work Is Important

We are the only dedicated charity working with Gypsies and Travellers in West Yorkshire, Leeds GATE believe that to make a change we need to begin from the positive and not the ‘needs based’ approach. We believe that Gypsies and Travellers have a lot of skills and assets and to improve quality of life for Gypsies and Travellers we must begin with those.

Did you know?

- Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised Ethnic Minority groups under the Race Relations Act as amended in 2000.
- The average life expectancy for Gypsies and Irish Travellers in Leeds is about 50 years of age, compared to the settled population of Leeds which is around 78 years (Leeds Racial Equality Council, 2005).
- It is estimated that 1 square mile of land would be enough to provide all the pitches that are needed in the UK and largely solve the problem of unauthorised encampments (Equality and Human Rights Commission, 2009).

Areas Covered
Mainly West Yorkshire but we will work with Gypsies and Travellers who approach our service.
JUST WEST YORKSHIRE

We are a grassroots organisation promoting racial justice, civil liberties and human rights. Our main strands of work are:

- Counter-terrorism and extremism
  Islamophobia and hate crime
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and sexual violence
- Democratic participation
- Policing and criminal justice

We are a secular organisation in a sector dominated by organisation with links to one particular religion or social/ethnic group.

Specialisms
Campaigning | Advocacy | Lobbying | Empowerment | Research and analysis | Public speaking

Why Our Work Is Important
BME groups continue to be over-represented in poverty, discrimination, NEET’s, criminal justice, stop and search, education, poor health and other poor quality of life outcomes. Current social and economic policies are exacerbating these problems, with neoliberal austerity increasing inequality and draconian ‘anti-terror’ laws predominantly targeting minorities for oppression, making the work we do more vital than ever.

Our work is particularly important for building community cohesion between West Yorkshire’s diverse populations, our secular approach allowing us to bridge gaps between communities, other organisations and local and national authorities.

Areas Covered
North of England, primarily Yorkshire

Contact Details
Unit 74, Carlisle Business Centre, Carlisle Road, Bradford, BD8 8BD.
T: 01274542222 | E: admin@justwestyorkshire.co.uk
Keighley Association for Women and Children Centre (KAWACC) has over 30 years, developed a reputation and credibility within the community. The centre is active in addressing the key issues in the community which can be exacerbated by cultural and religious perceptions and prejudice. KAWACC has increasingly become involved in previously taboo subjects, e.g. forced marriage, domestic violence, child sexual exploitation, drugs and intergenerational mediation, while working towards the key targets for the district, improving; community safety, community relations, and the health and well-being of local residents.

Why Our Work Is Important

We can help address the impact of issues in Keighley by giving more strength, confidence and empowerment to women and girls as an integral part of the need for inward investment to help address the many issues it faces and one of those areas is empowerment.

Specialisms

- A platform for Women’s and Young People’s advancement
- Support for Successful Future
- Voice for making change

Areas Covered

Bradford district

Contact Details

Marlborough St, Keighley, BD21 3HU.
At Kumon Y’All we engage young people, empowering them to identify and tackle problems and issues faced by the community; delivering long term impact and contributing to an open and inclusive society. For some time we have been tackling the complex and divisive issue of Islamophobia and segregation which has been entrenched into society by the harmful actions of a few. Our work has created a healthier, more interactive and tolerant atmosphere, in and around the Dewsbury area, benefiting the wider community by making friends and building bridges between different groups of people.

Over the years Kumon Y’All noticed a clear segregation between the Muslim and non-Muslim communities. Misconceptions and misunderstandings of the Muslim faith among the non-Muslim community has become the norm. Tensions between neighbouring communities occasionally boil over, with very unfortunate consequences.

Kumon Y’All was set up in response: it aims to build bridges, eliminate misconceptions and correct the misunderstandings. It does this through working with future leaders of society: the young people of Dewsbury. Based in Savile Town, a suburb of Dewsbury, it brings together people from different backgrounds in order to increase understanding and positive interaction across cultural and religious differences.

Kumon Y’All’s aim is to try and eliminate the misunderstandings present between communities (Muslims and non-Muslims), recruiting and empowering the young people to spark a change in society. Mediums such as sport, food and discussions are used to bring people together. A range of options are discussed by the young volunteer members before specific activities are selected.

**Contact Details**
35 Orchard street, Savile town, Dewsbury, WF12 9LT.
**W:** [www.kumonyall.co.uk](http://www.kumonyall.co.uk)  **E:** enquiries@kumonyall.co.uk

**Areas Covered**
Dewsbury and Surrounding areas
RACE CARD

Leeds West Indian Centre Charitable Trust (or TRUST) was established in 2000 by Leeds West Indian Centre Management Committee. The TRUST is a limited company with seven directors, which exists to create an inspiring Centre of learning, cultural activities and social development to promote and celebrate the diverse communities of the Chapeltown and Harehills areas of Leeds and assist in the regeneration of the areas.

The TRUST has developed a range of social justice projects that help to promote and celebrate the history and culture of people of African Caribbean and African descents. The RACE CARD project was the second major TRUST social justice event. The first major project (2007-2009) delivered over one hundred events of African achievements, liberation and aspirations in commemoration of the British Parliamentary Act of 1807 that legally ended the capture and transportation of African people from the continent of Africa to be enslaved in the Caribbean and the Americas.

Why Our Work Is Important

The work of the TRUST is important because it:

- empowers individuals and local communities of African Caribbean and African descents;
- promotes collective actions;
- provides African historical narratives;
- promotes truth and positive stories of the African descent communities;
- insures that cultural and history legacies are continued to the next generation.

For example, the logic or valid reasons for the RACE CARD project was to build understanding and a sense of shared power for local communities to be able to engage in debates and policy decisions that affect their lives. RACE CARD provided the format for creating regional linked alliances and skills for individuals and organisations to share good practice and create new individual and collective social justice intervention strategies.

Specialities
Racial and social justice campaigning.
Education advocacy.
Development and delivery of cultural, educational, historical and arts programmes.

Areas Covered
Leeds | Bradford | Huddersfield | Wakefield

Contact Details
Leeds West Indian Centre Charitable Trust,
Leeds West Indian Centre,
10 Laycock Place, Leeds, LS7 3JA.

Tel: (0113) 262 2270
E: carl@lwicct.co.uk / 07504764705
E: claude@lwicct.co.uk / 07831480196
Web: lwicct.co.uk
RACIAL JUSTICE NETWORK

We are a peer-led membership organisation of grassroots community organisations working with a diverse range of ethnic minority communities in the Leeds City Region. We work collectively & use the solidarity & mutual strength created by bringing together different voices from unlikely communities to identify & address issues of social & racial injustice. Our work uses the lived experiences of local people, gathered & recorded by our members to evidence the need for change in local & national policy & practice.

We both contribute our voices to national campaigns but also work at local & regional level. Our members all occupy different niches in their local communities & bring different lived experiences & technical or specific skills & expertise.

Specialisms
Mobilising | Campaigning | Lobbying | Racial justice | Solidarity
RAVENSTHORPE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Ravensthorpe Community Centre is an experienced community organisation, we successfully deliver community-based nursery provision, adult learning and health and social care projects across Kirklees.

We have a strong background in delivering civic engagement participation in decision-making projects such as the JRCT funded project which was initially developed to tackle the under-representation of BAME people in health and social care in Kirklees.

Specialisms

- Consultancy work for other organisations to address BME barriers and increase their membership
- Empowerment of local ethnic minority communities
- Creation of self-help groups to encourage participation on school governorships
- Collaboration with teaching profession to address failures in school policy re: recruitment/treatment of BME staff
- Awareness-raising and behavioural development workshops for local communities & decision makers

Why Our Work Is Important

The number of BME people who migrated to the UK from the Caribbean and the Indian sub-continent in the 1950s and 1960s are reaching the oldest age groups; consequently the UK’s BME older population has increased dramatically in recent years. Many of these BME older people feel the current services on offer aren’t culturally or socially appropriate, which stresses the importance of alleviating the barriers to participation of the BME community.

We are the only organisation that represents the views of the wider BME elderly community in Kirklees, taking into consideration the heterogeneous needs of the different groups within BME community. We are best placed to do this work as we understand the needs of local ethnic minority communities and have extensive networks with a range of institutions and community networks.

Contact Details

24 Garden Street, Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury, WF13 3AR.

Tel: (01924) 510030
Fax: (01924) 510031
Email: info@rccl.org

Areas Covered

Kirklees and Calderdale
Our work gives visibility to, and amplifies the voice of hounded communities. Immigration laws and policies are increasingly Afrophobic with a negative bearing on other aspects of our Users’ lives. Our work as a user led, user trusted and respected Service uses hard, concrete evidence of poor practice from our advocacy work for engagement with change-makers. It is vital that we continue to monitor, document and challenge racist misinterpretation, misappropriation and misapplication of ever-changing laws and policies.

The laws themselves are already detrimental to socially and economically marginalized individuals, poor practice resulting from a lack of understanding of needs worsens an already bad situation. We tell these sad User stories to key individuals, organisations and decision makers raising awareness and highlighting the harm being done by some ill informed practices, personalities, approach and behaviors of people who staff institutions and service organisations as a way of challenging Afro-phobic racial discrimination and exclusion.

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