



ANTI RACIST CUMBRIA

IMPACT 20

REPORT 25

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Hello there,

Welcome to the 2025 Anti Racist Cumbria Impact Report.

This is a particularly special year for our charity, as it marks five years since Anti Racist Cumbria was founded. Five years on, our shared purpose remains clear and unchanged. The importance of our work has not diminished over time. If anything, it has become more urgent than ever.

The UK's political discourse, the global geopolitical climate, and the environment in which many communities are living are challenging for many people. For those from marginalised communities, these challenges are felt more sharply and more consistently. It is within this context that the work of Anti Racist Cumbria matters so deeply. The commitment shown by our staff and ARctivist volunteers, often in difficult and emotionally demanding circumstances, continues to make a tangible difference across Cumbria.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed their time, expertise, and energy to the charity this year. Your dedication does not go unnoticed, and your impact is real. I am also deeply grateful to our funders and supporters. Without your financial backing, trust, and belief in our mission, the progress outlined in this report would simply not have been possible.

The evolution of Anti Racist Cumbria continues to inspire me. Over the past five years, the charity has grown and matured into a confident, credible, and values-led organisation. Seeing that development first-hand has been a privilege. In 2025, we continued to strengthen our foundations while remaining bold in our ambition. This balance is essential if we are to sustain our impact over the long term.

As you read this report, I hope you experience the same sense of pride and achievement that I felt throughout 2025. Five years on, our commitment to courageous conversations and meaningful action remains unwavering. Our vision of making Cumbria the UK's first anti-racist county continues to guide everything we do.

I hope this report re-energises you, as it has me, as we look ahead to the next five years and beyond. Thank you once again for standing with us.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jordan Fleary'.

Jordan Fleary
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Anti Racist Cumbria

Dear Reader,

It's my habit to look back on what I wrote for my last Impact Report so I can reflect and take stock before I write this latest 'word from our CEO'.

I felt my belly drop as I read my words around the state of the world at that point. And here we are at the end of another year and saying things are no better is a huge understatement. The reality we are facing is stark, more often than not it's overwhelming and the despair starts to seep in, enticing us to give up, turn our backs.

That's why these Impact Reports are so important.

For me they reignite the faltering flame of hope, stopping it from flickering and waning and instead holds it steady and strong, a constant reminder to stand firm, to not be silenced.

As you read this report and reflect on how you showed up throughout 2025, I hope it was along these lines from Angela Davis:

"You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to do it all the time."



Janett Walker
CEO & Co-Founder
Anti Racist Cumbria



Thank you to our 2025 funders



2025 in Numbers

275%

INCREASE

in regular monthly donors!

DONATE

100+
volunteers

**1,935 EMAIL
SUBSCRIBERS**

96%

of attendees of our
Conversation Days
felt better equipped
to recognise racism

95%

of survey participants said
they plan on taking an anti-
racist action after attending
our anti-racist summit!

12,711

FOLLOWERS

20% increase!

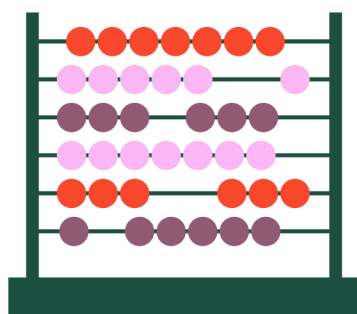
2,197 NEW followers

OUTGOINGS

£492,700

INCOME

£481,099



550

**SUMMIT
TICKETS
SOLD!**



**1.3 MILLION
SOCIAL REACH**



Driving Anti-Racist Change

At the end of 2025, we revisited our Theory of Change to review progress and reflect on what we had learned. We know our Theory of Change needs further refinement and 2026 will see us take it to its full fruition, but here's where we got to by the end of the year. We've refined our approach....



Phase 1: Understanding Racism

People and organisations develop a clear understanding of what racism is.

Change: Raising Awareness



Phase 2: Understanding Anti-Racism

People learn anti-racist values, language, and responsibilities.

Change: Building Confidence



Phase 3: Motivation to Act

People explore what drives them to act and how communities are affected.

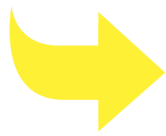
Change: Inspiring Action



Phase 4: Taking Action

People and organisations take concrete anti-racist steps locally.

Change: Creating Activists



Phase 5: Embedding Anti-Racist Practice

Anti-racism becomes part of everyday practice and mindset.

Change: Transforming Communities

We've always known that impactful change takes long term, in-depth work, beginning by meeting people and communities where they're at. We see these phases as integral to our next chapter, helping us plan and flex effectively in challenging and unpredictable times.



Driving Anti-Racist Change

As part of our long term strategic goals, 2025 has seen ARC begin to combine **grassroots support with policy influence** and legal tools to hold institutions accountable in policing, schools, and local government.

Here are some of the ways we have begun to embed this work into our approach:

- **Education & Local Authorities:** Working with the Black Equity Organisation (BEO) to use Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and Subject Access Requests (SAR) to identify gaps in how schools and councils record and respond to racial incidents, improving systems and support for Black and Brown students.
- **Reporting Racism Portal:** In 2025 we launched a 'Report Racism' portal on our website. The portal aims to help us capture information to give a more accurate record of the extent of racism happening in the county, which in term aims to support longer term policy change .
- **Police Accountability:** We've begun to co-develop a framework with the Alliance for Police Accountability (APA) to guide police response to racist incidents, shaped directly by community experience.
- **Social Enterprise in Residence:** After a successful application, ARC secured a place as the Social Enterprise in Residence at The Faculty of Social Sciences at Lancaster University. This allowed us to explore funding for research ideas with our host Professor Temidayo Eseonu and to think about how we could use this to influence policy at a national, local and sector level.

What's next?

DEEPEN OUR OWN LEGAL EXPERTISE

BUILD ON OUR EXISTING COLLABORATIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS TO EXPAND COMMUNITY-LED FRAMEWORKS

USE EVIDENCE TO SHAPE LOCAL AND NATIONAL POLICY

MAINTAIN ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH ONGOING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND FEEDBACK

Embodiment & Regulation

In light of the gains we have experienced as an organisation since our embodiment practice began, we chose to carry on using these techniques under the guidance of our Embodiment Coach, Rowan Carr. Embodiment has become a part of our daily routine as individuals and as a team. From monthly 1:1 sessions for the team with Rowan to taking a moment of 'pause' and connecting with our breath during our meetings, the changes and growth we have noticed are remarkable.

"The difference, a pause and a deep breath in the belly can make"

We also continued to include embodiment as part of our anti-racist training with schools, communities and businesses. It is vital when talking about racism that we, and those we are working with, understand and accept that whilst the topic can be very challenging to discuss, we can discuss it in a safe way that allows for open discourse without bringing harm to one another. We encourage people to slow down or stop from time to time during these conversations and take a moment to process what they are feeling in their bodies, and then use regulation techniques to bring calm to their nervous systems.

This commitment to embodiment has proven helpful and necessary to our team and ARC's volunteers to help us counteract the effects we have felt after witnessing the surge in far right nationalism and anti-immigrant campaigns in 2025, such as the use of national flags to intimidate and stoke fear as well as protests in cities and towns across the country. Though we face racism head on regularly through the nature of our work, by employing embodiment practices we feel we are much better equipped now to protect ourselves from the harm racism causes.



Healing & Cultural Repair Retreat

From the 19th - 21st September 2025, thirty Black and Brown people from across the UK gathered at Higham Hall in Cockermouth, Cumbria. Under the guidance of ARC's Embodiment Coach and Racial Trauma Practitioner, Rowan Carr and his mentee, Simone Stephenson-Bellwood, we embarked upon a journey of healing, self-discovery, and connecting to our ancestors.

The retreat was a safe environment where we were able to hold space for each other, let our guards down and just show up as we are. There was real time for rest and reflection, socialising and spending time in nature. We got to experience the calming, healing effects of a sound bath with drums, gongs, and singing bowls, participated in embodied movement including stretching and dance, and expressed ourselves through voice, writing and art.

Delivering these types of events in Cumbria for Black and Brown people creates opportunities for us to find physical, emotional, mental and spiritual wellbeing right where we live. **Most importantly, these moments enable us to experience and share Black Joy, a joy that comes in the freedom and liberation of living in the truth of who we are.**

Living Whilst Black

We are still holding our popular monthly online Living Whilst Black sessions. We also had two in-person sessions at Rowan's Lotus Dragon studio in Cockermouth.

The LWB WhatsApp community has grown to around 40 Black and Brown people from all across the UK, and with new people signing up to join us regularly. It's a forum where we can openly talk about the things that affect us day to day as Black and Brown people living in a world that hasn't necessarily been built to support us. There is a sense of community and camaraderie there that we find so valuable.





Rest is Resistance

Based on the writing of author and activist Tricia Hersey, we adopted a 'Rest is Resistance' policy which allows and encourages our team members to actively rest when needed as a means of anti-racist, anti-capitalist and anti-patriarchal activism. Those systems were built to exploit and oppress and if we truly ever want to see equitable progress, we must act in ways that disrupt the status quo. Whether it's taking a nap for an hour in the middle of the work day or giving ourselves space to process, sleep, and re-energise, we have found that granting ourselves this grace ultimately allows us to do our jobs more efficiently all while fostering a culture of care in our organisation.

“

"In the ARC team I feel entirely safe and supported, and there's a clear recognition that the nature of this work will always be challenging and have an impact on us. But no matter how long we've been here - for me almost five years! - sometimes the weight of the task we're facing can feel really heavy. Our new rest is resistance policy has really helped me by allowing me to take the time that I need, recover, reset, and then be able to come back feeling resourced and ready to carry on fighting for justice..."

We can't effect change if we do things the way they've always been done."

Kellé, Operations Director

”



Impacting Leadership

2025 has been our quietest year in terms of uptake from businesses in both the private and the public sector, reflecting the rejection of EDI trickling through from the US into UK business culture. This, alongside the rise and normalisation of far-right politics, has meant there's limited financial incentive to be seen doing anti-racism work and fears about public backlash.

But that's not to say we haven't been really busy in terms of training:

- **Ran our Online Programme** from January to April with participants engaging in a total of 12 hours of in-depth anti-racist learning!
- **Facilitated an anti-racist conversation workshop** to the team at The Rum Story.
- **Finished our 12 month intensive programme with Cumbria Museum Consortium.** The three senior leaders from three separate Arts & Culture organisations are now continuing this work independently and we are excited to check in on their progress in September 2026!
- **Held an anti-racist session** for 15 members of Workington Town Council.

Feedback about our work speaks for itself:

“*An eye-opening, challenging and inspiring course that helped me confront uncomfortable truths about white supremacy, deepen my anti-racist practice, and commit to listening to Black & Brown voices and speaking out to make real change. It has fundamentally changed how I see the world.*”

-Online Modular Programme Attendee

As part of our work in response to the far-right flag campaign in September, we were pleased to come together with other third sector and community groups who are also working to ensure Cumbria becomes a safe place for refugees, people seeking asylum, and all Black and Brown people living, working in, and visiting our county. We sent a collective letter to both our councils calling for a stronger response. This alongside, members of the public sending letters using [our template](#) led to Westmorland & Furness Council changing their statement to reflect the racist, Islamophobic nature of the flag campaign. **As we continue to see the growth of far-right ideas rooted in racism, Islamophobia and anti-Blackness, we are leaning into the importance of collectivising more and more.**

Some of the organisations we have worked with so far



Impacting Leadership

In 2025 we forged ahead with The Rum Story Re-Imagined project in partnership with The Rum Story, funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund and made possible by Lottery players. So much has been achieved this year thanks to our Project Manager Katy Haigh and there have been **25 consultation events with 1,250 people taking part!** With the help of two advisory groups made up of 21 people, new panels and installations are going up in early 2026. These aim to tell the history of Whitehaven's connection to the transatlantic trade in enslaved African people and the products they were forced to produce (such as rum), in a more engaging, honest and sensitive way.

We also...

- Built **stronger national partnerships** with Black Equity Organisation, Alliance for Police Accountability, Runnymede Trust and BLM UK.
- Delivered focus groups for **The Phoenix Way grant making strategy** tailored to their young people racial justice grant building group.
- Supported The Phoenix Way North East & Cumbria in becoming a Company Ltd by Guarantee.
- Received the **Cumbria High Sheriff Award!**
- Invited (and took up the offer) of joining the **Harris Dialogues** in the US
- Worked on our own leadership by **investing in training** on how to better serve Black and Brown people who are trans or gender non-conforming, as well as training on Child Exploitation, Radical Safeguarding and the Climate Crisis.



Education

In 2025, Westmorland and Furness Council funded a year-long **Anti-Racist Education Lead (AREL)** role to support schools to strengthen their anti-racist policies and day-to-day practice. This work began in earnest in September 2025, with 13 schools across Westmorland and Furness taking part.

The role focuses on helping schools take practical, meaningful steps across **philosophy, policy, and pedagogy**; supporting schools to reflect on what they do, why they do it, and how anti-racism can be embedded consistently and for the long term.

Engagement from schools has been encouraging. Most have welcomed visits and coaching sessions as opportunities to think more deeply about racism and anti-racism, and to have honest conversations that are often hard to prioritise in busy school settings. Schools have been open to challenge and keen to learn.

Pupil understanding of racism varied by age and context, but across schools pupils showed empathy, thoughtfulness, and a strong sense of fairness. While many pupils initially described their schools as largely free from racism, deeper conversations revealed that racist incidents do happen and are under-reported. Pupils spoke about the influence of social media and shared a clear desire for more consistent responses from staff and better long-term support when incidents occur.

With support from the AREL, **schools have begun making visible changes**, including improving representation across learning environments and libraries, and working towards embedding diversity throughout the curriculum rather than treating it as a one-off or add-on. Building staff confidence to talk about racism has emerged as a key area for development, alongside clearer communication with both school communities and families to ensure shared understanding and consistent support for pupils.

Overall, the AREL project is helping schools to listen, reflect, and take meaningful steps towards stronger, more confident anti-racist practice...

With much more to come in 2026!

Education

In 2025 we continued to offer our 'The Fell We Climb' package to Cumbrian schools: our multi award-winning animated film created from the experiences of Black and Brown children in Cumbria, along with free lesson plans and resources. Schools can access Philosophy for Children (P4C) training in anti-racist enquiry, supporting teachers to discuss everyday racism safely and age-appropriately in the classroom.

95%

of attendees felt better prepared to facilitate conversations about racism in their school following The Fell We Climb training.

"We are always looking to improve our practice and ensure our classrooms feel inclusive...our team and current cohort of children are all white but this training has helped me to realise why that makes this work even more important for us."

"The session was thought-provoking, the film inspiring, and the resources very powerful - we plan to incorporate them into our curriculum so that anti-racism is practiced throughout the year, not just during Black History Month. Thank you so much for this opportunity. "

Towards the end of 2025 as part of our AREL work we also launched our **half-termly School Surgeries**.

These expertly facilitated online spaces are there to support teachers and offer the chance to:

- Gain insights into work already happening
- Talk through issues and common barriers
- Share resources and discuss practical ideas
- Build confidence in talking about racism
- Network with other schools engaging in anti-racist learning

[Read more about our ongoing offer for schools here](#)



Grassroots: Young People

From February to October a big focus of our youth work has been our **Creator Lab project!** This saw 16 Black and Brown young people, aged 12-25 from across Cumbria come together to plan a creative takeover of one of the gallery spaces at our Anti Racist Summit. The theme? Black Joy! Their exhibition was out of this world and was a product of months of dedication on behalf of the young people who designed, planned, and meticulously created it all with the help of our wonderful ARC Youth Workers.

Alongside this project we re-started our Youth Clubs in Kendal and Carlisle for young people aged 13+. These have a growing cohort of young people regularly attending and are an essential space in a predominantly white county where Black and Brown young people can socialise away from the white gaze. A space where they can be themselves and, if they want to, explore their identity and their heritage with other young people and our Youth Team who are all Black and Brown and just 'get it'. It's also a space where they can share any racism, queerphobia or ableism they may be facing in other spaces and get support.

On top of all this, we also ran an ARC Youth Takeover at Carlisle Youth Zone with over 20+ young people attending! What a year!

[Learn more about our ARC:Youth offer here.](#)



Grassroots: in the Community

In 2025, with support from the National Lottery Community Fund, ARC ran a year-long pilot in Cumbria to help people in underserved areas have honest conversations about racism.

Led by our Community Development Director, Niall, we worked with The Centre in Maryport, Carlisle United FC, and training hubs in Barrow, with support from Furness Multicultural Forum.

We believe avoiding tough conversations lets racism thrive and leaves communities open to far-right influence. Our Courageous Conversations approach is all about giving people the confidence to engage, not dodge or dismiss.

Instead of one-off sessions, we built relationships in trusted local spaces and kept the conversation going.

Over the year we:

- Reached **600+** people
- Trained **70** people
- Recorded **138** in-depth chats
- Engaged with **500+** students



We also worked with under-represented communities including African diaspora groups, Romany Gypsy & Traveller communities, and Black and Brown young people.

Participants said they felt more confident starting and staying in tricky conversations, listening with curiosity, and challenging racism in constructive ways. Our most common reflection was: ***"A difficult conversation is better than no conversation."***

Because we focused on local ownership, partners are continuing Courageous Conversations on their own, supported by stronger community hubs, a refreshed ARCTivists pathway, and new partnerships.

In 2026, we're building on the insights from our pilot to strengthen connections throughout Cumbria; fostering dialogue in spaces at risk of far-right influence whilst renewing our focus to uplift Black and Brown communities.

Grassroots: ARCTivists

Our volunteers are the heart of ARC.

In 2025, more than 100 people gave their time and energy to anti-racist action across Cumbria - talking with local businesses, hosting Courageous Conversations, showing up at Pride, university fairs and our Anti Racist Summit, and supporting our work in countless ways behind the scenes.

Whether visible in their yellow ARC hoodies or quietly helping with comms, admin, tech or community care, their contribution makes our work possible.

This year we listened closely to our volunteers by recruiting a **Volunteer Lead** and running a survey to understand what brings people to ARC and how being part of the community supports them.

People told us they volunteer to support others, learn together and feel part of something bigger and that ARC helps them feel more connected, more confident, and better equipped to talk about and challenge racism:

“ARC provides a safe space to explore and more fully understand the impact of racism on myself, my family, friends and society. And then work out how to make a positive difference”.

What we learned also helped us remove barriers like time, location and confidence, shaping improved resources and a new programme of learning and training for 2026.

One of the most meaningful changes was moving away from the term ‘volunteer’ and adopting the name ‘ARCTivist’. This reflects the proactive and collaborative nature of involvement with ARC, and a shared commitment to showing up, learning, and taking action together.

We currently have **104 registered ARCTivists**, with new cohorts joining following updated inductions in late 2025 .



Communications

Our communications, from social media posts, to long-reads on our website, to our monthly newsletter and press appearances are a great opportunity to raise awareness of anti-racism and from there, mobilise people into taking action!

From the small actions to the big ones, it all makes a difference.

In 2025, we launched new, engaging and colourful branding which incorporates graphics and design from the heritages represented in our ARC community.

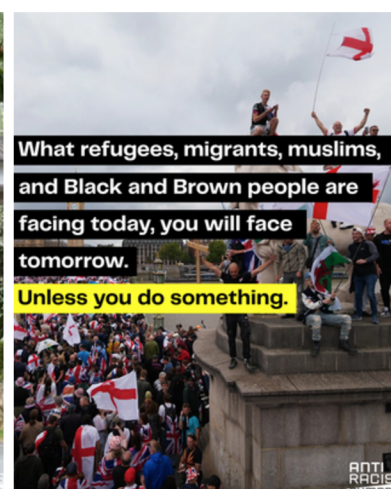
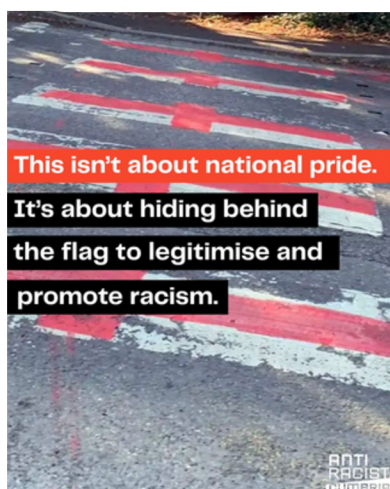
We also used our platform to talk about the things that matter, even the unpopular and controversial topics. Reflecting our approach to community conversations, **ARC does not shy away from challenging conversations. We lean in.**

White feminism. The far-right. The weaponisation of violence against women and girls. The genocide against the Palestinians perpetrated by Israel. Sudan. Congo. The cost of fast fashion and overconsumption. The legacy of Partition. Institutional racism in the police...**you name it, we talked about it.**

Another big moment for our communications came during the far-right flag campaign. Our content on socials exploring the campaign and its far-right and racist motivations went stratospheric. As did our post about actions individuals could take.

Our four posts exploring the far-right and racist flag campaign were seen 173.9k times.

173.9K VIEWS



Communications: Community Impact

We were proud to publish several strong organisational statements and long-form articles, particularly [our response](#) to the Supreme Court ruling on the definition of 'woman' and [our statement](#) raising concern about the repressive ripple effect of the government's decision to proscribe Palestine Action.

We see communications as integrated across all our work, and we did not stop at publishing statements. During the flag campaign, we collaborated with local third-sector organisations to send a collective letter and encouraged the public to use our templates, resulting in clearer communications around racism in the statement published by one council.

Following our response to the Supreme Court ruling, we committed to doing better for Black and Brown people and those who are trans or gender non-conforming. We invested in Gendered Intelligence training for the ARC community and attended a protest in solidarity with trans and gender non-conforming people in Carlisle. Similarly, after speaking out about the chilling effect of proscribing Palestine Action, we worked with other organisations to secure legal advice for small, Black-led organisations, leading to a stronger working relationship with [Sistren Legal Collective](#).

As part of our collectivising approach, we used our communications platforms to support community organising against the far right, including promoting anti-racist protests in solidarity with the Islamic Centre in Dalton and demonstrations in Carlisle.

This year we received over 50 press requests and appeared across local BBC and ITV news, regional papers, and national outlets, including BBC Radio 2, The Big Issue, The Telegraph, and Children in Need, where two of our young people, Sasha and Daya, featured in the choir.



2025 Anti Racist Summit

What a DAY!

ARC's Anti-Racist Summit brought together 500+ people for a day and evening full of connection, learning, and joy. Together, we explored how racism shows up across arts and culture, land justice, gender, climate, and loads more...while encouraging real commitment to anti-racist action and allyship.

A standout thread throughout the day was Black Joy; celebrated as history, lived experience, and resistance. It was woven through food, music, movement, performance, comedy, and art. As we marked five years of ARC, the Summit was a powerful reminder that building an anti-racist society can't be done alone. Change happens in community, and that collective energy was felt in every moment.

The centrepiece in the lobby of our 2025 Anti Racist Summit was ARC's Family Tree. We asked all of our team members and volunteers to share photos of their ancestors, and we strung them from our beautifully lit tree, to bring our connection with them into the room. Our work is grounded in history and in knowing that Black and Brown people have always been here. Finding joy and community, surviving, thriving, as well as resisting and fighting for our rights, no matter how much white supremacy has tried to silence us.

Se wo were fi na wosan kofa a yenkyiri.

"It is not taboo to go back and fetch what has been forgotten." This is from the Sankofa proverb of the Akan people of Ghana, learning from the past shapes a strong, grounded future.

Our ancestor installation asked attendees:

"You may never have thought about your connection to your ancestors, known or unknown. Today, we invite you to pause, consider, and reflect on your own roots. What wisdom, knowledge, or qualities would you want to bring forward from those who came before you?"



2025 Anti Racist Summit

What a LINE UP!

Our 2025 Summit hit a new record for number of workshops on offer!

We wanted to create a festival feel and give plenty to choose from... so along with two floors of ARC exhibitions, an interactive arts space run by Carlidoscope, boat trips on the lake and two choices of delicious menus for lunch, we also put on two main stage sessions and a choice of **EIGHT interactive workshops!**

Main stage:

KEYNOTE: Lemn Sissay

Poet, playwright, memoirist, performer and broadcaster picked up on themes of the day, Black Joy, Allied Activism and more.

LAND IN OUR NAMES (LION): Reparations and Land Justice in the UK

LION were joined by Shabna Begum, CEO of Runnymede Trust with a session exploring some of the most glaring intersections of social justice: anti-racism, reparations, climate and land justice.

Workshops:

Representation and Beyond - Harnessing Your Superpower!

Bennie Kara from Diverse Educators and ARC Trustee Kirsty Cooper

ARTS & CULTURE: The Shapeshifting Face of Racism.

Chaired by Dr Darren Chetty and joined by Sandra Shakespeare, Anoushka Khandwala, and Zandra Yeaman.

RUNNYMEDE: Confronting Injustice: Racism, Riots and the Environmental Emergency.

Hosted by Shabna Begum, CEO of Runnymede Trust

'WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KAREN'

Three white women, Karen Lockney, Meg Guy and Jane Yates, hosted an open and honest conversation about the intersections between feminism and anti-racism.

LIVE Book Club Sessions in our stunning Literary Tent

On-topic authors and talks from: Travis Alabanza in Conversation about their book 'None of the Above', with Benjy Kusi. Marsha Garratt in Conversation about her new book 'So Now I'm Mixed Race', with Hannah Chandisingh. Kimberly McIntosh in Conversation about her book 'black girl, no magic', with Nykia Herron-Ash.

Reconnecting with Earth: A Wellbeing Walking Workshop.

We invited Black, Brown and Global Majority participants only to this session of healing and collective care from Rowan Carr and LION, rooted in ancestral and radical practices.

It was an incredible line up and the whole atmosphere of the day was uplifting...

attendees left full of good food, inspiration and Black Joy!

2025 Anti Racist Summit

What a FEAST!

To fuel their anti-racist conversations attendees were treated to a difficult choice. South Asian vegan deliciousness provided by Eve Timothy featuring coconut raita, chickpea masala, dhal, flatbread and more; OR authentic Jamaican food by one of our Cumbrian favourites, Yardies!

As if that wasn't enough, we had discounted hot crumbles and custard, pizza and complimentary fizz provided by the Lakeside Cafe at Theatre By The Lake and lots of deals with local restaurants and cafes. These included The Moon & Sixpence Coffee House, Peri Fresco, Merienda and Barua Street Food!

What a LAUGH!

To top off the day with Black Joy at the centre we, alongside a full audience, were able to release everything with some deep, joyful belly laughs. Every single one of our comedians: Nish Kumar, Desiree Burch, Tabish Akbar and Don One were absolutely hilarious and powerfully demonstrated that you can be an anti-racist and still have fun and LAUGH.



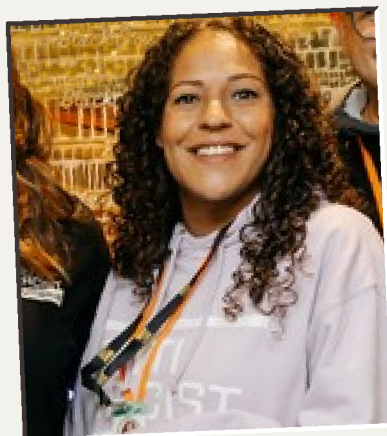
What's Next: 2026 and Beyond

Let's hear from the team about their hopes going into 2026!



"My hope is that we continue finding new ways to inspire people and communities to take meaningful anti-racist actions that make a positive difference in everyone's lives"

~ Nykia, Creative Marketing & Admin Coordinator



"My hope is that we continue to grow with integrity, resourcing our communities and building youth spaces where belonging and anti-racist practice are the norm, not the exception. Our young people, their resilience and willingness to show up even when systems haven't shown up for them, remind me why anti-racist work must be rooted in accountability and action"

~ Jess, ARC:Youth Lead



"My hope for 2026...is more hope! I want us to be resourced with everything we will need to resist the tension, division, racism and fear that's been building in our communities and beyond. Resist. Rest. Repeat. And have hope"

~ Kelle, Operations Director



"We have to build relationships and connections across the sectors and communities of Cumbria to collectively stand together for social justice. Take the chance in 2026 to look at the areas of influence, opportunity or power that you might have to build connections"

~ Niall, Community Development Director

What's Next: 2026 and Beyond

Let's hear from the team about their hopes going into 2026!

"Doing the embodiment work has been a life saver for me. Collective healing, like conscious witnessing during Living Whilst Black sessions, has made me realise just how much has been stolen from us, how much we no longer recognise or appreciate so much of our cultures and traditions, as part of who we are. So my hope is that more Black and Brown people begin to recognise the importance of this work and how vital it is to our survival and collective liberation"

~ Janett, CEO & Co-founder

"I'm looking forward to our ARcTivists becoming an even more formidable force for anti-racist change resourced with more training and with new opportunities to connect with each other and communities across Cumbria"

~ Katie, ARcTivist Lead

"I hope that despite it all we continue to plant seeds and watch them grow! I'm excited for us to bring even MORE people along with us in this movement of anti-racist change, connection and healing"

~ Meg, Comms & Policy Lead





THANK YOU



Please direct any questions or enquiries to:
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