

PARTNERS IN COLOUR



Volume 1, Issue 1

December 2021

YORK RACIAL EQUALITY NETWORK

YREN bids for funding to the Dragons

YREN were delighted to be invited to take part in the High Sheriff's Dragon Den Funding Event, coordinated by the Two Ridings Community Foundation at Birdsall, North Yorkshire back in October 2021.

YREN had to bid for funding to the 6 Dragons who were introduced by Venetia Wrigley, the High Sheriff of North Yorkshire. For a successful bid, YREN needed to pitch for a short 4 minutes on why it deserved the Dragon's consideration for funding.

Fred Ring a founding Member of YREN, Grace Helliwell a Trustee and YREN's Charity

Coordinator gave the pitch about how YREN's work makes a difference to the lives of local people. The pitch included a presentation on the challenges and real life experiences of people interacting with YREN. This highlighted the impact YREN was making to the local communities.

YREN remains committed to ensuring that York is recognised as a truly diverse and multi-cultural city by ensuring equality to all its racial and ethnic minority communities and where no one is denied of their equal rights as citizens of York.



Exciting times with YREN

YREN is starting 2022 by marking its 30th year since inception with a new vigour and enthusiasm to meet the needs and challenges of minority ethnic and racial communities in York. Our aim is to be more visible and accessible so that the communities. Working in cooperation with all our partners and agencies we will

continue to strive to address issues of racism and inequalities in York and its surrounding regions.

We will be holding one major event each month, concentrating on Awareness Days and Festivals, and Open Forums. We will partner with and join in celebrating major events organised in the City that celebrate the uniqueness

of York's diverse communities.

Our first major event – YREN Open Day- will be held on Wednesday 12th January 2022, at St Sampson's Centre. The day will include a visit from The High Sheriff of North Yorkshire along with YREN's Open Forum. Lunch will then be provided, followed by Guest Speakers.

Inside this issue:

Inside Story	2
Inside Story	2
Inside Story	2
Inside Story	3
Inside Story	3
Inside Story	3
Inside Story	4

Special points of interest:

)	What we mean by Racial Equality
)	Our Objectives and how we meet them
)	Yren's new Chairperson
)	YREN partners with Foodbank
)	YREN provides a platform for Hate Crime Reporting
)	Meet our Trustees
)	Events YREN invite you to participate in

What we mean by Racial Equality



“All human beings belong to a single species and share a common origin. They are born equal in dignity and rights and all form an integral part of humanity. All peoples of the world possess equal faculties for attaining the highest level of intellectual, technical, social, economic, cultural and political development. The differences between achievements of the different people are entirely attributable to geographical, historical,

political, economic, social and cultural factors. Such differences can in no case serve as the pretext for any rank ordered classification of nations or people”. (Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation: Article 1, 1978.)

Today we live in a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society. In spite of the many challenges to

address racial discrimination and racial disadvantages in the societies we live in, we see the unconscious bias that is still largely prevalent and recognise that in many cases intolerance runs deep. However, we also openly recognise and celebrate the richness that racial and ethnic diversity bring. To take advantage of this richness and benefit from it, we all need to engage with one another and understand behaviours, subtleties and nuances towards a common goal of community togetherness.

Our Objectives & how we meet them

A real barrier and challenge to race equality is the fact that race and racism remain great taboos and are grossly underestimated. It is our moral obligation to bring such issues to the forefront.

Dr Rama Isaiah

YREN works towards the promotion of racial harmony for the public benefit in York and its surrounding areas. The four tenets of our approach are:

1. working towards the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of race;
2. promoting knowledge, mutual understanding and good relations

between different racial groups;

3. providing independent information, advice and non-financial support to individuals who are experiencing racial harassment, victimisation, discrimination or isolation; and
4. promoting awareness of the needs of minority ethnic people in the

area of benefit by developing links with appropriate voluntary, statutory agencies and by encouraging a multi-agency approach.

We deliver our objectives through the projects we support, events we hold and the partnerships we make - all in the ethos of building communities that live and work together.

YREN's new Chair



Dr. Rama Isaiah

Rama has been a proud York resident for over 30 years. With a PhD in Architecture and Conservation, Rama worked as Regeneration Project Manager on many projects both in India and in the UK.

She now devotes her time between YREN and St Sampson's

Social Centre on Church Street helping combat social isolation, community togetherness and racial equality issues. Working with various partners and statutory agencies, it is her hope to bring about an equal footing to all disadvantaged ethnic minority and racial communities.

YREN partners with the Foodbank

YREN are delighted to work with the York Foodbank to facilitate the availability of Foodbank vouchers to those in need from the members of the ethnic and racial minorities through the Foodbank's online E-referral system. Working with the Foodbank, it is York Racial Equality

Network's primary aim to ensure that members of ethnic minority communities in York are not overlooked for accessing emergency Food and support in times of difficulty.

In consultation with the communities we represent we are keen to ensure tailored Foodbank

package contents are made available to suit specific sensitive needs of the communities represented. We are therefore keen to engage with our communities to establish the need and requirements. Please contact info@yren.co.uk to register your interest.



YREN provides a platform for Hate Crime Reporting

YREN works to create safe and welcoming communities for people of all Ethnicities, We work towards supporting those who have been racially abused, and to prevent further incidents whilst reducing Race Hate Crime by educating individuals and the wider community.

Having worked closely with North Yorkshire

Police, we will open as North Yorkshire's first Third Party Race Hate Crime Reporting Centre in the New Year. We will offer direct phone contact Monday to Friday between the hours of 9.00 am and 5.00 pm. During other times and weekends there is a reporting form on our website and there will also be an answerphone facility where

messages can be left and will be picked up for action the next working day. We will consult North Yorkshire residents on the barriers to reporting Race Hate through our Open Forum meetings. Our objective is to increase the minority ethnic communities confidence that concerns will be appropriately and compassionately addressed by NYP.

"Reducing Hate Crime and supporting our local communities"

"Building confidence"

Meet our Trustees



Fred Ring has been a Trustee since its inception. He served as Chair from 2009 – 2021. He is now a well-respected member of the Board.



Grace Halliwell is a qualified mental health nurse and has been a volunteer with YREN for a number of years, now a valued Trustee



Mahendra Verma is a long standing Trustee of YREN and Emeritus in the Department of Language and Linguistic Science at the University of York



Panos Boumpoulis is one of YREN's newest Trustees and was appointed to the Board in February 2021



Daryoush Mazloun was born in Iran, he has been a long-standing member of YREN since the mid-1970s and has been a former Chair



Lisa Mayer settled in York in 2007. She is an administrator at the University of York and has been on the Board of Trustees for a number of years

YORK RACIAL EQUALITY NETWORK (YREN)



Wharfedale
Tower Court
Oakdale Road
York
YO30 4XL

YREN were established in the early 1990s and registered as a Charity in 2001. Providing independent, impartial information and mutual support to individuals within the minority ethnic community who are experiencing racial harassment, victimisation, discrimination, or isolation, YREN aims to promote awareness of the needs of minority ethnic people in York and North Yorkshire.

By improving access to services, including a focus on health inequalities, by developing links with the appropriate voluntary, statutory agencies and by encouraging a multi-agency approach, YREN promote inclusivity, diversity and believe in equality – it's in our name!

We encourage friendship and harmony amongst people of all cultures and make our events inclusive for everyone to attend. We aim to include all communities and we stand up to discrimination and race hate. We provide individuals with free information and advice; and find ways for minority ethnic voices to be heard by those who run local services.

MEET OUR
OFFICE
COORDINATOR

LISA EVANS



**For all enquiries contact:
info@yren.co.uk**

**We're on the web!
www..yren.co.uk**

YREN invites you to participate with us at Sampson's Social Centre - an example of our monthly activities is as below



EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

YREN will be working with and alongside St Sampson's Social Centre in the heart of York. A City Centre venue for YREN's activities provides a more central and easily accessible place to meet regularly, especially through weekly sessions. Our joint aim is to combat isolation and bring together communities by keeping them involved in a series of activities, stimulating talks and events.

Week 1	11.00 - 13.00	YREN joins the Samaritan's in offering support to minority ethnic and racial communities
Wednesday		
Thursday	10.15 - 11.45	YREN joins York's Age Friendly Citizen Group representing the older citizens of the minority ethnic and racial communities in York and surrounding regions
Friday	11.00 - 13.00	Coffee morning with YREN
Week 2	13.00 - 14.00	Computers, Questions and Answers
Monday		
Monday	15.00 - 16.00	Keep fit with music
Wednesday	10.00 - 13.00	YREN joins Older Citizens Advocacy York Table in offering support to minority ethnic and racial communities
Thursday	14.00 - 16.00	Board games with YREN
Week 3	15.00 - 16.00	Keep fit with music
Monday		
Wednesday	14.00 - 16.00	Live music sessions - performers to be agreed
Friday	10.00 - 15.00	Craft & Chat
Week 4	15.00 - 16.00	Keep fit with music
Monday		
Thursday	14.00 - 16.00	Board games with YREN
Other potential activities in planning include language sessions, cultural experiences, quizzes, guest speakers, fun & learning with computers		