



ANTI-RACISM STATEMENT

Racism and negative discrimination of any kind have no place in society. Art Refuge stands in solidarity with anti-racism movements in the UK and internationally. Our charity is registered in Bristol which, as a City of Sanctuary, aims to provide welcome, safety and hope for all. However, we acknowledge that Bristol was historically central to the UK slave trade, from which the city reaped the benefits of diversity.

Ongoing racial violence around the world and the global disconnect exacerbated by global emergencies have brought to light the deep reservoirs of racism flowing through our society. This has enabled Art Refuge to reflect on our own commitment to opposing racism at all levels of society.

Many displaced people face challenges along their journeys to safety. After arriving in their country of destination, they may continue to experience oppression, persecution and victimisation. Displaced people may also face the complexities of asylum, including threats of deportation within a broader context of racism. Rising up to meet such challenges is central to refugee advocacy and the movement for racial justice. This includes taking account of colonial legacies and their fundamental links with asylum and refuge.

As such, Art Refuge resolves to

- Deepen and extend our collaboration with minority ethnic artists and art therapists, especially those originating from regions of conflict, persecution and poverty.
- Partner with artists and art therapists of other racial/ethnic identities, as well as those from a refugee background.
- Widen the racial/ethnic diversity of our Board.
- Educate ourselves about both the history of racism and the currently evolving context surrounding racism.
- Familiarise ourselves with anti-racism legislation.
- Learn from our colleagues, artists and community members of all races/ethnicities.
- Contribute to the creation of environments free from racial injustice.
- Recognise that institutional racism is ingrained throughout society and commit to challenging it through our work.

The arts and art therapy sectors, like many other sectors, have simultaneously suffered from and perpetuated systemic and structural inequities. We pledge to be part of the anti-racism work that needs to take place so that these sectors can embrace and celebrate the diversity of the arts and art therapy communities.

We are committed to using the transformative power of art and art therapy to contribute to the social justice and social change that is greatly needed in order for *all* individuals in society to feel safe, respected and valued.