



North East Anti-Racism Coalition

Anti-Racism in the North East

A Framework for Change

Introduction

This document sets out our ideas and outline strategy. If you have views on it please share them with us by emailing us at hello@northeastantiracism.org.uk and title your email 'Framework for Change.'

Our Name: The North East Anti-Racism Coalition (NEARC)

Our Mission: To make the North East a region that actively opposes racism, and hatred based on religious identity

Our Strapline: A fairer, anti-racist North East - made stronger by the talents of all its people.

Our Vision: That the North East is a place where diversity is celebrated, inclusion the norm, and everyone feels safe and valued.

Why This Matters

1. **Racism and discrimination are wrong.**

Everyone should be treated fairly, regardless of their race or religious identity. Sadly, many still face hate and barriers. For example, Islamophobia, especially towards women - is rising in the North East.

2. **Inclusion helps everyone.** It brings:

- **Economic benefits** - Diverse and inclusive areas are more innovative, have better opportunities, and fewer social problems.
- **Social and cultural benefits** - Inclusive communities are richer in culture, more peaceful, and more connected.

3. **The region is changing.**

The North East is becoming more diverse. If we respond positively, our region will thrive. If not, racism will hold us back.

What Problem Are We Tackling?

Research shows that people from ethnic and religious minorities in the UK face racism. We are carrying out research in the North East to understand the situation here in more detail.

Racism can take many forms - from violence and threats, to damage to property, poor treatment in services, or being treated unfairly at work. Often, these incidents are never reported.

While public attitudes have become more tolerant in the UK over the past 40 years, recent concern about immigration has led to more racism being reported. Whether or not immigration rises or falls, our region is diverse, we should accept the people we have and play to the strengths this offers.

What Influences Public Attitudes?

- **Human nature** - People often divide into “us” and “them”, which can lead to fear and misunderstanding.
- **History** - Ideas from Britain’s colonial past still influence how some people view others today.
- **Money worries** - When people feel financially insecure, they may be more likely to blame others or fear difference.
- **Concerns about Immigration** - The UK is becoming more diverse. In 2021, 26% of people identified as something other than “White British” (up from 12% in 2001). The North East is less diverse than the UK overall, but has changed.

- **Populism** - Some politicians and media stir up racial divisions to gain support. Social media spreads these views quickly.
- **The law** - The Equality Act 2010 protects people from race-based discrimination. But laws alone aren't enough, discrimination is often not reported or hard to prove.

What Can We Do?

Our plan based on five connected goals:

1) Build a Strong and Visible Anti-Racist Movement

- Speak out and be visible.
- Draw people into the movement, with a menu of ways to engage.
- Offer ways in which people and organisations can show their commitment to our mission.
- Hold events, support local activists, and share good ideas.
- Work with public services, businesses, and community organisations.
- The movement should be led by those with lived experience of racism or hatred based on religious identity, but welcome everyone who supports the cause.

2) Support Local Community Work to Build Understanding in our Neighbourhoods

- NEARC won't directly deliver projects but will support those who do.
- Map what's happening locally.
- Share and celebrate good work.
- Promote learning and best practice.
- Identify and support local community champions.

3) Change Public Attitudes Through a Long-Term Campaign

- It could take 15 years to make a big difference.
- The goal is to shift mindsets and build confidence in anti-racism.
- It will need strong visibility, good research, long-term commitment (like the "Time to Change" mental health campaign), and proper investment.

4) Give Practical Help to Organisations

- Support employers, schools, media, and researchers to be more inclusive.
- Provide training, toolkits, and advice.

5) Build a Knowledge and Evidence Hub

- Gather and share lived experiences.

- Carry out and share research on racism and anti-racism.
 - Support decisions based on evidence.
 - Track the region's changing population.
 - Commit to learning and using the best available evidence in our work.
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You can send us your feedback:

- **Via our website:** <https://northeastantiracism.org.uk>
- **By email:** hello@northeastantiracism.org.uk (Please put '*Framework for Change*' in the subject line.)