



Woodlands Community Anti-Racist Toolkit



With contributions from the members of our Anti-Racist
Community Group & Anti-Racist Community Library

Credits

Author

Sapna Agarwal

Contributor and Copy Editor

Martha Adonai Williams

Contributor

Eothen Stearn

Illustrations

Chelsea Frew

Layout and Print

Good Press

We would like to thank our Anti-Racist Community Library volunteers & wider community especially:

Ray Aggs, Pinar Aksu, Robert Alston, Jess Anderson, Amanpreet Bajwa, Debbie Brammall, Rosa Cato, Johnny Dale, Cass Ezeji, Vicki Fleck, Ishrat Gazala, Dimple Grewal, Asia Hart-Eason, Agatha Kabera, Maria Latumahina, Hajar Moradi, Undram Munkhbat, babs nicgriogari, Nico Ndlovu, Tessa Qiu, Mahdi Saki, Anca Stanescu, Ryan Vance, Lida Vincent Agarwal, Rosetta Vincent Agarwal, Keng-Keng Watt, Annie Webster, Annabel Wright, Tina Yu.

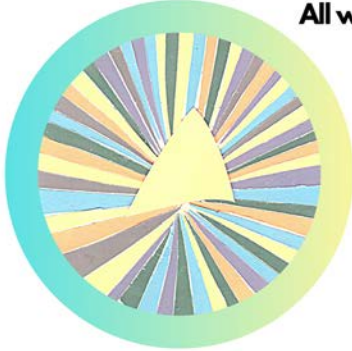
Without you this work would not be possible.

Contents

- 5 Woodlands Community Anti-Racist Library**
 - Where, what, how?
 - Why is it needed?
- 14 People of Colour sessions**
 - Drop-in healing sessions
 - Tree of Life
- 16 Events hosted by the Anti-Racist Library**
- 27 Origins of Woodlands Community Anti-Racist work**
 - How the Woodlands Anti-Racist Reflection group began
- 32 Signposting**
 - Other Anti-Racist organisations throughout Glasgow
 - Glossary
- 42 Volunteers' pack**
 - How to set up and pack down the library
 - Woodlands Community Safeguarding policy
 - Helpful contact details

**ANTI-RACIST COMMUNITY LIBRARY
1st Birthday Party!**

Sunday May 8th, 11AM - 3PM
Millenium Park. G3 6HW
 Free samosas, vegan cake & more
All welcome



FUN & GAMES for all ages!

- FOOTBALL, UNITED GLASGOW F.C.
- SCREEN PRINTING, KENG KENG WATT
- LIVE MUSIC, BOB ALSTON
- POETRY, SEAN WAI KEUNG
- GLASGOW CAPOEIRA



Woodlands Community



Aye-Aye Books

ALL WELCOME !!!!!

**ANTI-RACIST
COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

**FORTNIGHTLY
on SUNDAYS
11AM-1PM**

**MILLENNIUM
PARK
G3 6HW**

Woodlands Community

Aye-Aye Books

FREE ALL WELCOME

BANNER MAKING WORKSHOP

HOSTED BY COMMUNITY ART ACTIVIST KENG KENG
 ALONGSIDE OUR ANTI-RACIST LIBRARY
**MARCH 12 FROM 11AM - 1PM WOODLANDS
 COMMUNITY TERRACE 66 ASHELY STREET G3 6HW**

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Racism: Call It Out</p> <p>BLACK LIVES MATTER</p> <p> I KNOW MY RIGHTS</p> <p>I AM HUMAN</p> | <p>BLACK LIVES MATTER</p> <p>NO JUSTICE NO PEACE</p> <p>I AM HUMAN</p> <p>UNLEARN RACISM</p> | <p>BLACK LIVES MATTER</p> <p>SURVIVAL SOLIDARITY</p> <p>NO JUSTICE NO PEACE</p> <p>NO HUMAN IS ILLEGAL</p> | <p>BLACK LIVES MATTER</p> <p>HISTORY IS A WEAPON</p> <p>NO JUSTICE NO PEACE</p> |
|--|--|--|--|

All the materials and kits will be provided, bring your designs and messages



Woodlands Community



Aye-Aye Books

KENG KENG WILL HELP YOU TO BLOCK PRINT AND SCREEN PRINT YOUR BANNERS. ALL THE MATERIALS AND KITS WILL BE PROVIDED. BRING YOUR DESIGNS AND MESSAGES.

LET'S MAKE YOUR VOICES AND STORIES HEARD TO BRING OUR BANNERS TO THE STREET!

THIS BANNER MAKING SESSION, IS IN PREPARING FOR THE ANNUAL ANTI-RACISM MARCH ON 19.03.22.



Woodlands Community

Visit www.woodlandscommunity.org.uk/whatson for more details. Questions? Email eo@woodlandscommunity.org.uk

Aye-Aye Books

Woodlands Community Anti-Racist Library

*“More than just a library - a holistic community
mutual inter-learning experience!”*

— babs nicgriogari

The Woodlands Community Anti-Racist Library first opened in May 2021, growing out of an anti-racist reflection group, whose members felt driven to create a physical resource that the whole community could use.

The library has met fortnightly on a Sunday from 11am-1pm since first opening. From March to October it takes place in the Millenium Park on Ashley Street. Over the colder, wetter months it operates from the Woodlands Community Meeting Room, also on Ashley Street.

In our work, we take an expanded view of what a library is. It is, of course, a collection of books but any library is so much more. Libraries are places to gather, to meet people, to share stories, troubles and conversation. They are places to come for information or be signposted to services. They are special spaces where nobody needs to spend any money, egalitarian by their very nature.

The Woodlands Community Anti-Racist Library is no different. Our books are carefully curated to carry forward anti-racist education in a community setting and act as a vehicle for conversation.

The library has books for people of all ages - children, young people, adults. There are fiction and non-fiction books, serious and light-hearted - and all centre the lived experience of People of Colour. The library makes a connection between Migrant Justice and Climate Justice and we have a selection of books that explore this connection.

"I really enjoyed my reads from the Anti-Racism Library and highly value the community bridging/building service it nurtures every time it rocks up in our hood! The diverse selection of thoughtfully curated texts (prose, poetry, zines, fact and fiction) cater to all ages - thank you Sapna @ Aye Aye Books!! Some shock, some move, some provoke righteous anger - all inspire and educate us on a neighbourhood learning journey towards decolonisation (particularly those of us with white privilege).

More than just a library - a holistic community mutual inter-learning experience ! Ceud mìle taing. The public al fresco events the library has hosted - poetry reading, t-shirt printing, capoeira - fuelled by samosas, fairtrade karma cola and Xander's legendary vegan cakes and biscuits - have brought much needed positive energy and joy to a wide range of people."

— babs nicgriogari

People can borrow five books per household for free. All we ask is for some contact details. Books can be returned to the library itself or to the special, green book return box in Woodlands Community Garden on West Princes Street.

We have a language exchange table with a world map and conversation starter cards, which a dedicated language exchange volunteer uses to engage people in conversation. The world map has been invaluable in drawing people in to talk about their histories. The language exchange table is also a safe space to practise English. Although we do not encourage English to be the dominant language at the language exchange table, we recognise the importance of providing English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) within its structure. We also have flash cards in a number of languages and have made signs in different languages and scripts inviting people to stop and talk.

Many adults visit the library who do not speak English. They benefit from taking out the children's or young adult books to aid them on their language journey. We are looking to increase the amount of bilingual books we have available.

The library not only serves our local community but, given its uniqueness, people from all over the city seek it out, often citing the need to talk to someone who understands them as a reason for doing so.

"Being a mixed-race person of colour in a predominantly white school makes me feel different in ways that are both good and bad. When I was younger I wanted to look like a typically Scottish girl with blonde hair and blue eyes, white skin and straight hair, but now that I know who I am more I am able to embrace my differences and feel empowered by them.

I have started volunteering at the Anti-Racist Library and I absolutely love it. So far it has allowed me to meet like-minded individuals and discuss our experiences or world issues. I love meeting new people of all ages and learning from them – most recently I was talking about running techniques with a 70 year old man. It has made me feel more connected, and proud to be mixed-race and Scottish in a community of people who can work towards change."

— Olive Mojsiewicz White

You can find a list of all the books we currently stock at the library here. Scan the QR code with a smartphone.



“When I was invited to write something personal about our anti-racism group, I found it really hard getting started. I asked myself: was I frightened of getting it wrong...is this white fragility, probably... how much to say about catching white supremacy unwillingly internalised inside me and not wanting this to hurt friends who are people of colour. But then they know better than me that white supremacy affects everyone. This understanding has been one of the most helpful, shifting things about being part of this group, through being together, talking, reading, listening, watching the things we have done. Like reading Reni Eddo Lodge, Resmaa Menakem, Claudia Rankine, Robin DiAngelo, watching the work of Steve McQueen, listening to the poetry of Jay Bernard, Langston Hughes and Maya Angelou.

I have grown up consciously anti-racist, challenging racism acted out by others and felt by others. There has been a reckoning in appreciating that, growing up as I have in a white body, I too have absorbed misperceptions of white superiority. It is insidious but in the reckoning I feel hope of change and healing. A very small example of that change came when I had to choose a children’s novel to use in a lecture for student teachers. I have done this lecture a number of times and I realised the novels I have used are all written by white authors. They are great novels, I’m familiar with them, and it would have been easy to use one of them again. But appreciating more the injustice reproduced, and the voices silenced, when university courses and children’s classrooms are dominated by white authors and characterisations, I explored further, and unsurprisingly (thanks to Sapna Agarwal) I found a new favourite in *The Girl of Ink & Stars* by Kiran Millwood Hargrave. It takes time and willingness to give things up. It is right, it is just and worth it.

A brilliant thing has been the development of the anti-racism library (of adult and children’s books) by Sapna Agarwal, which I volunteer at. I have read and worked with children’s literature in one form or another for over twenty years. It is a category of literature that has been dominated by white, middle-class, heterosexual, and non-disabled representations of children’s and family life. There have always been rich exceptions, including the work of Malorie Blackman, James Berry, Grace Nichols, John Steptoe, Valerie Bloom, John Agard, Trish Cooke and others, but the canon remained predominantly white. This clearly means that only some children get to regularly encounter books in which they find themselves. Rudine Sims Bishop makes the crucial point [*in Mirrors, Windows and Sliding Glass Doors* (1990)] that it’s not just

children of colour, whose experience is often marginalised, that need books with more diverse lives represented. White children need those books too if they are not to grow up with an “exaggerated sense of their own self-worth” and a distorted view of where talent lies and whose life experiences matter in their world.

Over the last couple of years, influenced by the Black Lives Matter movement, I have found many more children’s books by people of colour, portraying engaging, complex, valued characters of colour, living life in all its extraordinariness and mundanity. This find seems partly because many more books are being published, promoted and displayed by Black and Brown writers and illustrators, and they are winning more prizes. It is also because in Sapna and her kids, I have met people who are both passionate and knowledgeable about diversity in children’s literature. I am in the happy position of running to keep up with all the fantastic books created by, and featuring, children and adults of colour that I want to read; the pile by my bed is about to topple. Recent personal favourites include Jason Reynold’s Carnegie Medal winning book, *Look Both Ways* and *Last Stop on Market Street*, a picture book by Matt De Peña and Christian Robinson. Look them up...they are brilliant. But as well as celebrating the greater visibility of writers and illustrators of colour, I’m also mindful of a sign displayed at the library, which says something like this: as well as a celebration, this greater visibility of authors, illustrators and characters of colour is also a painful reminder of the times of invisibility caused by white dominance taking centre stage.”

— Jess Anderson



You've spoken in our Anti-Racist Reflection group as well a bit about being a person of color married to a white Scottish man and your preconceived ideas around racism and how that changed when you moved here.

Um, yeah, up until now, I mean to a certain degree my social life is relatively contained that it protects me a little bit from facing all these very nasty, you know...

Yeah. Nasty societal, um, perceptions and societal structures but that doesn't mean I am fully secure, but because I am fully aware of it, I know how to protect myself, you know, not to get emotionally affected by it.

I am fully aware of this, of the embedded racism. I'm fully aware of the embedded injustices in this society here in the UK, but because of my educational background and because of my professional background, that in the end, you know, that understanding really protects me and I'm relatively in a safe and contained kind of environment.

My husband's friends, for example, in the pub are very, very good, you know, very aware people who have really good hearts. And yeah they're very, very helpful in that. We don't have that many friends and all that, but we have quite a good, a bunch of good friends and that protects me and you could imagine what will happen to you know, black people, people of color, you know, minority people who don't have that.

Such as asylum seekers arriving with no one? With no family, no support and then the language barrier sometimes as well.

Exactly. It's very intimidating, even I feel, who's been working in an English speaking environment for more than 20 years, still feel very intimidated by the language. To a certain degree I still feel it.

The trauma you're speaking about seems very linked to the book that you suggested to our Anti-Racist Reflection Group, Resmaa Menakem's *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies*.

Yes. You know how the British, what they call British Nationalism, builds and all of that. Yeah. How that pride and that power cultivated. And it's a long process. So in order to heal the nation, it takes a hell of a lot of work and it takes a lot of - it takes a very, very strong, massive re learning process. It's not easy. But I think yeah, I think healing has never been easy.

In the book Resmaa Menakem speaks about the trauma from every angle, whilst centring intergenerational trauma experienced by people of colour and he offers healing exercises. It brought up many important conversations within our group about how that trauma manifests in bodies.

It's in your body and yeah, you can feel that in your body. It's not just in your mental, in your emotions, in your psychological in - in your psychology, but it's also in your body. You can feel how your body shrinks when you are facing a white coloured people.

— Maria Latumahina



I'm just wondering if you could just briefly say, the history of you meeting Doreen and Neville Lawrence, if you wouldn't mind? It was such a tragic, monumental case with Steven Lawrence.

Yes well I first read about Steven Lawrence once in my modern studies course at high school. That's when I first knew about it but then I think we were having a Burns Supper I think it was in the STUC Glasgow, on Woodlands Road. And my Granddad comes in and says, "There's someone I'd like you to meet."

Neville Lawrence, they had booked a hotel and it had been cancelled, so our organisation allowed them to have the bigger bit, you know, the middle of the STUC. We allowed them to have that and we took the wee room to allow them to have their event. So anyway, my Granddad come in and says "There's someone I'd like you to meet." So I come in and I shook hands with Neville Lawrence and I shook hands with Doreen as well. And all the family was there as well, so. I never said much to him, I was only a wee boy at the time. I always remember doing that and then later on at high school reading about Stephen Lawrence and how angry I was with the whole state and the whole system. As I said before at our Anti-Racist Meetings – Total Racism from the ones that are supposed to protect us. Of the ones that are supposed to be there for us. You know, total racism within the Metropolitan Police. And I don't think the Metropolitan Police has still recovered from that. Its cementing cracks and there are other cracks forming. If you know what I mean and then they are cementing them over again. As if, oh that will do, we'll just patch we'll get rid of leaders and high up chief constables – that's the answer. And I don't think it is. It's far wider than that.

But it was great, inspirational to meet Neville Lawrence. To hear their story and their fight. What a fight they had to try and get justice, you know, for their own son, you know.

And you read Doreen's book, *And Still I Rise: A Mother's Search for Justice*, as well didn't you with our Anti-Racist Community Group?

Yeah yeah inspirational, just absolutely. You know, from start to finish the whole journey all through the court and the and the fact that the ones that were accused getting released but they got some of them again and another trial, it was just you know, it's just inspirational. The struggles and their fight for justice and keeping fighting for Black rights and matters. Just a continual constant fight against a system that was ruled against them in every way. It was inspirational for me and for many others as well.

— Johnny Dale



People of Colour Sessions

Monthly sessions exclusively for racialised people (People of Colour/ POC) have been taking place in our Community Meeting Room on Ashley Street. People visiting and volunteering at the library requested time to get together as People of Colour and have some space for support and community. It was recognised that this kind of space could offer respite from the exhausting oppression experienced in the world, a rare time without marginalisation or having to make oneself small or palatable to white people.

Drop-In Healing Sessions

At the drop-in sessions there is time and space to talk about life, both the difficult aspects and the celebratory. There are always some breathing exercises to aid relaxation and sometimes participants share their own relaxation techniques with the group. The group also has cups of tea and snacks together.

Tree Of Life Sessions

For the first few months of 2023, the POC sessions have been centred around the Tree of Life methodology. This is a trauma-informed, culturally sensitive approach to healing and was developed by the South African organisation, Phola. The Tree of Life process involves drawing, storytelling and celebration. It focuses on bringing to the fore a person's history strengths and aspirations before looking at any trauma. It is about healing in community and shining a light on the skills and customs people already have that bring support and peace.

My dad's Coke drink

– Tina Yu

Ingredients

Coca Cola – large bottle(s)
Root ginger
Spring onions
1 or 2 lemons
Cinnamon sticks or powder (optional)

– Not in original recipe but a new ingredient I have added



Preparation

Using a teaspoon peel your root ginger removing the skin. Then cut thinly into slices. Add as much ginger according to personal taste.

Cut your lemon into thinly cut slices.

Use 4 or 5 of the spring onion heads and cut into thin vertical strips.

In a large pot add your Coca Cola (it must be the original and not the diet version).

Add your ginger, lemon, spring onion and (optional) cinnamon.

Leave to boil on high then bring to simmer on low heat for at least one hour. The longer you boil, the stronger the drink but lesser the liquid.

When most of the mixture has boiled you can taste this concoction of sweet fiery liquid that coats the back of your throat.

This recipe passed to me from my father to relieve a sore throat. Many a time when I was unwell this was made he would tell me that he drank this drink when he was a boy and how there used to be cocaine in the Coca Cola when he was young.

An elixir for a cold, an elixir that warms the heart, that reminds me of home.

Events hosted by Woodlands Community Anti-Racist Library

We have a programme of cultural and arts events that take place at the library and satellite venues. These events are free and open to all. They aim to connect communities, give voice to relevant issues and highlight the work of other local organisations with similar values.

2022

We saw our **first anniversary** celebration on May 8th, which featured:

- United Glasgow. F.C
- Screen Printing with Keng Keng Watt
- Live music from Bob Alston
- Poetry with Sean Wai Keung
- Glasgow Capoeira





For **Refugee Festival Scotland**, June 19th, our Summer Solstice event had a packed programme, which involved:

- Storytelling from Ishrat Gazala, Pinar Aksu and Amanpreet Bajwa
- Talk from Mahdi Sake, a refugee advocate from the Mental Health Foundation
- Reading from 'The Sea of Paperwork' by Pinar Aksu from Maryhill Integration Network
- Talk by Bob Alston from Hamilton Hill Clay Pitts Local Nature Reserve
- Master of ceremonies (M.C) by Nico Ndlovu of 'SIYAKHULAMA We TALK' podcast
- Zine making with Lida Vincent Agarwal
- Nordic Slingshot with Rosetta Vincent Agarwal
- Sunflower planting & seed sowing with Woodlands' staff member Vicki Fleck





To celebrate **Diwali** on October 23rd we held a storytelling event with Gauri Raje, accompanied by chai, samosa and clay divas.



We marked **Winter Solstice** on December 18th with:

- Storytelling with Tawona Sitholé
- Live music from Fairweather Orchestra
- Arts and crafts



We also established a **monthly language exchange** for people to practise English and share their languages, and had **story and craft sessions** for all ages running in parallel with the library.



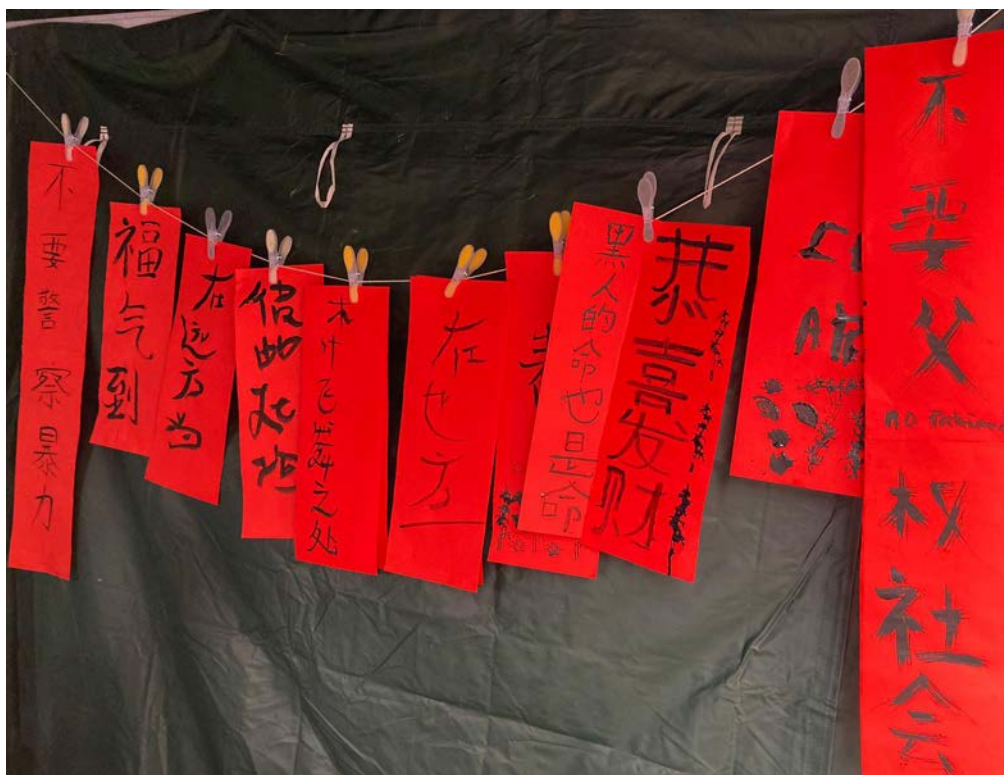


2023

Early in 2023, we held a **Lunar New Year** celebration on January 22nd in partnership with Keng Keng Watt and Tessa Qiu. During this event we held lots of activities:

- Calligraphy, protest banners and paper cutting
- Red envelopes giving and receiving
- Traditional Yunnan square dancing and music played on the Hulusi





On March 19th, our **Afro Gàidheil** event explored racism within the Gaelic community, with:

- Screening of 'Trusadh: Afro Gàidheil', with an introduction and post-screening Q&A with Cass Ezeji focusing on systemic racism in Gaelic schools
- Talk from Ray Aggs about decolonising folk music followed by a live music session for POC musicians
- babs nicgriogair hosting placard making, using anti-racist slogans in Gaelic
- Videography by Matthew Arthur Williams.



Woodlands Anti-Racist Reflection Group

“Woodlands Community Anti-Racist Project is bringing communities together to fight against racism and raising awareness towards human rights”

— Nico Ndlovu



In the summer of 2020, as much of the world was experiencing lockdowns, the murder of a Black man, George Floyd, by police officers in the USA prompted protests worldwide and an outcry for racial justice. Responding to community members expressing a need for anti-racist education, Woodlands Community started an online anti-racist reflection group. People met once a fortnight to discuss books, articles, podcasts, films, TV programmes and more. It was a space to consider interpersonal and structural racism, to sit with the pain and discomfort that came up, and to support each other in learning how to work towards a more just society.

What about our Woodlands Community Anti-Racist Reflection group? Is there anything about the group that you have learned over the last year? And to say you've taught me a lot. So, thank you for that.

What's good about the group is I was able to talk about things that I generally wouldn't talk to anybody about, you know and so I'm thankful for that. I looked at Nico, a young Black man, and you know, his frustrations with things. He's pressing on. Really. I've got a lot of admiration for him. And you know, I know it's difficult. It goes without saying...and I heard him talk about things the few first times and I think, yeah that's, that's right, but I'm just going to press on. That's what you have to do. That's what I tell mine (children/grandchildren). We can't let it be.

I remember you saying that you have done a kind of mentoring for young Black men?

Of course. Yeah. And it's just saying, look, I know it's hard and I know it's gonna be difficult at times, but, you know, you can't give up, you've got to press on and there will be frustration, that things won't go your way. We can't let it be.

— Robert Alston



"I joined the Woodlands Community Anti-Racist group in June 2020 and have been rewarded with an abundance of compassion, shared experiences, heartfelt insights, and probing interrogation of the racialised issues that confront and confound us every day.

The Woodlands Anti-Racist group has given me the opportunity to explore issues relating to racism and racist behaviours in a safe, non-judgemental environment that nonetheless challenges my own attitudes and responses. I am enormously grateful to the Woodlands Anti-Racist group for the friendships forged and the insights gained during our regular meetings and events. It gives me great pleasure and pride to have been involved in the Woodlands Anti-Racist group and Library.

Starting with my early participation in the group sessions to more recently becoming a volunteer with the library I have always been welcomed and encouraged. At a time when we are confronted with frequently overwhelming situations, globally and locally, it is hugely comforting to be part of a growing group of people who willingly and openly tackle the underlying issues that can so easily confound us."

— Annie Webster



Meeting initially on zoom and eventually in person, the group engaged with subject matter surrounding race and racism, systemic bias and human rights. Specific attention was given to the Scottish context within this dialogue. The group started to create an archive of material that had been spoken about collectively, ranging from podcasts, articles, exhibitions, campaigns, missing histories, and anti-racist support agencies.

These materials can be found here. Scan the QR code with a smartphone.



The group also had slow reads of specific books selected by individuals in the community. As time went on, the group voiced that a library would be helpful, initiating the beginnings of what is now the Woodlands Anti-Racist Library.



Balsam, Buddleia and Knotweed

– Vicki Fleck

We classify them and place them in a glass case to be examined with a
monocled eye,
The plants that glamorised our gardens,
We brought 'the exotic', 'the orient', 'the tropics' to our borders and
conservatories,
but they escaped!

And now their roots are undermining our foundations,
and outstripping our fragile natives
So we've rebranded them 'alien invaders'
(always the Empire's fear of the Other)

Not only the plants we 'discovered' and brought home in Wardian cases,
But seeds accidentally carried in the soil of our colonial stomping boots,
And in the ballast deposited on our river banks from slave ships

Himalayan balsam
Buddleja davidii
Japanese knotweed

colonise our wastelands, our bombsites, our car parks, our railway-lines,
our ruins of empire,
here because we were there

look at them, they make our hostile and toxic landscapes beautiful!



Anti-Racist Organisations Working in Glasgow



There are many anti-racist organisations, and organisations that are for and by people of colour, that are active in Glasgow. This is a non-exhaustive directory of some of these.

Baba Yangu Foundation

Baba Yangu Foundation (my father in Swahili) is a Christian charity working in Glasgow and Uganda. Focusing on destigmatising mental health in the African and Afro-Caribbean community. A variety of classes and support group.

babayangufoundation.org
info@babayangufoundation.com
+44 141 391 4207 (UK)

Being Mixed Project

Being Mixed is a community group by and for people of mixed heritage. They hold potluck meals, workshops and other events.

beingmixedproject@gmail.com

Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights

CRER is a Scottish strategic racial equality charity, based in Glasgow. We are focused on working to eliminate racial discrimination and harassment and promote racial justice across Scotland.

crer.org.uk
mail@crer.org.uk

Hwupenyu Health and Wellbeing Project

A community organisation that supports Black people living with chronic health conditions.

hwupenyuproject.org
info@hwupenyuproject.org

Intercultural Youth Scotland

Intercultural Youth Scotland is a youth and BPOC led organisation for young people aged 12-22. They offer youth groups, anti-racism work in education settings, employability and mental health support.

interculturalyouthscotland.org

My Body Remedy

My Body Remedy provides a programme of workshops, residences and creative development opportunities for BPOC women and non-binary people, focusing in particular on movement and physical practice for self-recovery.

mybodyremedy.com

Refuweegee

Refuweegee is a community-led charity that strives to ensure that people who have been forced to flee their homes arrive in Scotland to a warm welcome and practical items that will help them to feel more at home here.

[Refuweegee, 249 W George St, Glasgow, G2 4QE](https://www.refuweegee.co.uk)

enquiries@refuweegee.co.uk

0141 401 0756

Ricefield

Ricefield Arts and Cultural Centre provides access to Chinese arts and culture in Scotland through workshops, cultural events, exhibitions, arts development and community engagement.

info@ricefield.org.uk

Safe In Scotland

Safe in Scotland provide emergency and temporary accommodation in Scotland for people experiencing asylum-related destitution.

safeinScotland.com

Scottish BPOC Writers Network

The Scottish BPOC Writers Network provides advocacy, literary events and professional development for BPOC (Black and People of Colour) writers based in or from Scotland, with the aim to address systemic barriers to the literary sector in Scotland.

scottishbpocwritersnetwork.org

Scottish Refugee Council

SRC can provide advice about your rights and help you find out more about the services and support available in Scotland. They can provide an interpreter if you need one.

Free and confidential helpline for information and advice on refugee and asylum issues: 0808 1967 274

Stand up to Racism

Stand up to Racism is a UK-wide direct action group focused on anti-racist struggles, with a group active in Scotland.

**standuptoracism.org.uk
sutrscot@gmail.com**

The Anti-Racist Educator

A Scotland-based collective of educational stakeholders (teachers, parents, students, academics and activists) working to build an equitable educational system that is free from racial injustice and critically engaged with issues of power, privilege and identity.

theantiracisteducator.com

The Unity Centre

The Unity Centre gives practical support and solidarity to all asylum seekers and migrants in Scotland, including anyone detained in any UK Detention Centre. The office is 100 metres from the Home Office reporting centre on Brand Street. Anyone required to report to the Home Office can stop at Unity on their way so that the collective are aware and can act quickly if they get detained by the Home Office. Unity also share information and training about the asylum process.

info@unitycentreglasgow.org

Tripod

Tripod is a worker-owned co-operative. Their staff team and board are made up of grassroots organisers and facilitators from a range of backgrounds and identities. They are working for a world free of oppression, where communities organise together in solidarity, navigate differences collaboratively, learn from experience and care for one another. They offer training, facilitation, mediation and consultations.

info@tripodtraining.org

We Are Here Scotland

We Are Here Scotland amplifies the voices and work of BPOC (Black and People of Colour) artists and creatives in Scotland to address underrepresentation in the creative industries.

weareherescotland.com

West of Scotland Regional Equalities Council (WSREC)

WRSEC is an equalities organisation that offer a range of services including community groups and advice and advocacy hotlines for a range of issues including hate crime, information for EU citizens, employability, women's civic participation, energy advice and health and wellbeing.

0141 337 6626

Ubuntu Women's Shelter

Ubuntu are a Black feminist organisation led 'by and for' women who have experienced the injustice and violence of border regimes. They provide unconditional practical support for destitute women and people of other marginalised genders who have no recourse to public funds and insecure immigration status in Scotland, including counselling and community activities.

Emergency accommodation: +44 7570 877 817

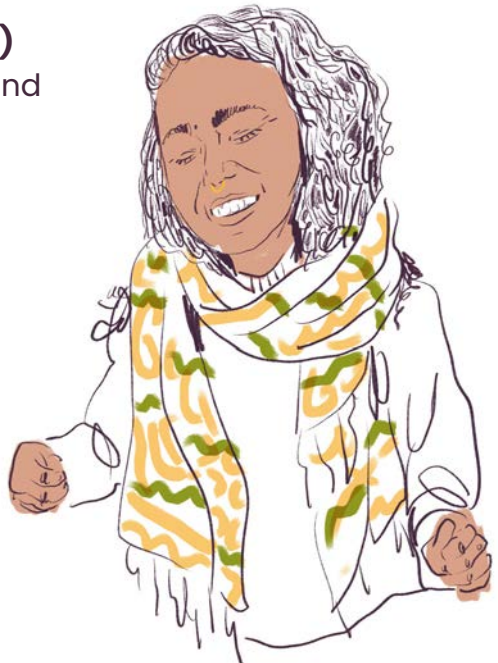
Support with healthcare, lawyers, grants and food banks, and

Wellbeing services: +44 7543 491 900, weekdays 9am-4pm

Youth Community Support Agency (YCSA)

YCSA offers a range of services to Black and Minority Ethnic young people aged 10-25 and their parents.

ycsa.org.uk



Glossary

“In a racist society, it is not enough to be non-racist. You have to be actively anti-racist.”

— Angela Davis

Afro-Gàidheil: A person with African and Gaelic heritage.

Allyship: An ally is someone who is in solidarity with people who are experiencing oppression and injustice. Being an ally involves recognising your own privileges and biases, educating yourself and helping others holding a similar position as you to learn. When you are an ally you are mindful of your positioning within group dynamics and use what power you have to uplift others with less power, rather than talking over them and taking up undue space.

Anti-Blackness: The systematic denial of Black people’s humanity and dignity.

Anti-Racism: Actively challenging racism within yourself, in your community and in wider society. Approaching the world in an anti-racist way requires a lot of unlearning. Your anti-racist education can never be complete until the world around you is fully anti-racist.

BME/BAME: BME stands for Black and Minority Ethnic. BAME stands for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic. These terms are still commonly used but are increasingly problematised and avoided.

Calling in: ‘Calling in’ is a term coined by Black activist and scholar, Loretta J Ross and is a way of drawing attention to harm within a group or community to support continued growth and learning.

Calling out: It is important to interrupt oppression and injustice when you hear or witness it. The ‘calling out’ method involves a very clear shutting down of harmful words or actions. It can be uncomfortable to hear but is necessary in some situations.

Coloniality: The living legacy of colonialism. Enduring power imbalances and discrimination that continue as a result of, or in the pattern of, colonialism.

Colour blindness: The refusal to acknowledge race, allowing people to ignore manifestations of racist oppression and invisibilising racialised people's experiences and identities.

Colourism also known as shadeism or anti-darkness: Discrimination based on skin tone, privileging light skin over dark skin. It is rooted in and preserves white supremacy, rewards proximity to whiteness and upholds Eurocentric beauty standards.

Cultural racism: Using cultural differences to justify the unequal distribution of power, for example, white Western cultures being deemed more sophisticated and advanced while other cultures are deemed to be primitive, backward and uncivilised.

Decolonisation: The process of liberating a country, institution or sphere of activity from the social, economic and cultural effects of colonisation.

Emotional labour: The mental effort required to manage normal tasks and interactions in order to maintain relationships and ensure the smooth running of a process. It is typically regarded as an unappreciated or unacknowledged burden that can lead to exhaustion. People of colour often have to perform a disproportionate amount of emotional labour across all aspects of life, including within anti-racist organising.

Environmental racism: Environmental injustice that disproportionately impacts Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour.

Hostile environment: Draconian Home Office policies intended to severely limit or remove access to public services for anyone without leave to remain, undermining the human rights of those seeking asylum.

Internalised racism: When racialised people absorb negative messages about their abilities and intrinsic worth. This can have a pervasive and detrimental impact on people's lives.

Interpersonal racism: Prejudices and discriminatory behaviours that are based on assumptions about the abilities, motives, and intents of racialised groups based on their race.

Intersectionality: A term coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw to describe how multiple forms of oppression interconnect to create overlapping or interdependent systems of discrimination and disadvantage.

Institutional racism: When organisations, businesses and institutions like schools, the police and the Home Office, discriminate, deliberately or otherwise, against racialised people to limit their rights.

Islamophobia: Bigotry and racism directed towards Islam, Muslims and people perceived as Muslim.

Non-white: A problematic term that centres whiteness when describing racialised people.

People/Person of Colour (POC): A commonly used term to refer collectively to racialised people. It assumes that people who are not white share similar experiences in a predominantly white society. Originating in the US it is increasingly used in the UK, often in place of BAME, which is now somewhat outmoded. While it is still considered an insufficient umbrella term that does not reflect diverse and unique ethnic and cultural identities, it is generally a preferred term as it is a self-determined designation. Sometimes this is extended to BPOC or BIPOC, 'B' standing for Black and 'I' standing for Indigenous. This acknowledges the systemic racism that deeply affects Black and Indigenous people that other people of colour may not experience.

It is important to remember that all racialised people have the right to choose which terms they use to describe themselves. It is never acceptable to use an alternative term, even if this term is widely used and accepted elsewhere.

Racial antisemitism: Prejudice against Jews based on the belief that Jews are a distinct race with inherent traits or characteristics that are inferior or abhorrent.

Racial capitalism: The manner in which capitalism relies on the exploitation of notions of racial difference to perpetuate and justify the unequal division of wealth and labour.

Racism: Racism was an idea created during the European colonisation of much of the Global South to justify the theft and abuse of natural resources and people, the destruction of cultures, as well as the enslavement of Black Africans and the indentured servitude of other colonised groups. This legacy is alive today and we live in a racist society.

Scientific racism also known as biological racism or race science: Using pseudoscience (eugenics) to justify a hierarchy of racial superiority and inferiority to reinforce the supremacy of the dominant group.

Systemic racism: A complex interaction of economic, political, social, and cultural structures, actions, beliefs that work together to perpetuate an unequal distribution of privilege, resources, safety and power in favour of dominant groups, disadvantaging all other racial groups.

Theological racism: Using religion to justify colonisation and the unequal distribution of power.

Tokenism: Making a symbolic or perfunctory gesture to give the appearance of addressing inequality without any real commitment to change. In this context, marginalised people are 'tokenised'.

Whiteness: A system of thought that asserts white superiority and privilege and assumes white people are the norm.

White fragility: When white people perform defensive behaviours, feelings and actions such as anger, fear, crying and silence in reaction to conversations about racism.

White saviourism: The belief that white people are here to teach, save and protect People of Colour. It relies on a feeling of superiority and shows up when the feelings, thoughts and opinions of white people are given higher value than those of people of colour. An ally does not engage in white saviourism.

Away n'bile yir heid!

— Tina Yu

I feel scunnered
The way I am told
It's my problem
Not yours
A stramash
My presence
Makes you uncomfortable
How I offend your fragile
Ego
You continue to exploit
Eyes on the prize
Who's the master and who's the slave?
The players all out but in a different guise
I'm no playing your game
Naw.....
My minds made up
I only have one thing to say to you
Away n'bile yir heid!





Volunteering at the Woodlands Anti-Racist Library

Here is some information and practical guidance to help you know what to expect when volunteering at the Anti-Racist Library.

You will be asked to share your next of kin details before volunteering with us.

Setting up and packing down the library

Arrive at the Community Meeting Room at 10.30am, unless you've arranged to come at a different time.

Check the returns box in the garden for books. The key is kept in the library date-stamp box. Note down or photograph which books have been returned and then place them in one of the plastic boxes with the other books.

Gather all the materials from the portacabin. The boxes are heavy so please be mindful not to lift more than you are able to and work in pairs when needed. Please remember to bend from the knee rather than the waist when lifting.

These are the materials you need to gather:

- Red trolley
- Four clear, plastic boxes and one red one containing books and other items
- Three tables and six chairs
- The A-board and A0 library poster
- A gazebo (if the weather looks like it might be a little wet or very sunny)

Use the stair lift to carry all the library materials up the stairs. The key for the stair lift is in the small drawer in the Community Meeting Room. At least one person will need to be at the bottom of the stairs, and at least one person at the top of the stairs throughout this process, with an additional person operating the lift.

From March to October use the trolley to transport all the materials to the Millenium Park. This will take a few trips so make sure one person stays with the stuff at the park and one person stays at the Community Meeting Room until it has all been taken over.

From October to March take the books and tables into the Community Meeting Room to set up the library there.

Unfold the tables and cover with tablecloths. The tablecloths should be in one of the plastic boxes.

Lay out the books, table signage, sign up forms and suggestions box. It is helpful to put children's books at one end of the tables, young adult books next to them, followed by adult fiction and then non-fiction and poetry at the other end.

Take the book borrowing clipboard out of the box plus the date stamp. Set the date on the stamp to 18 days after today's date. Write the names of all the volunteers at the top of the book borrowing sheet.

Put the A-board and A0 poster up so they are easy to read.

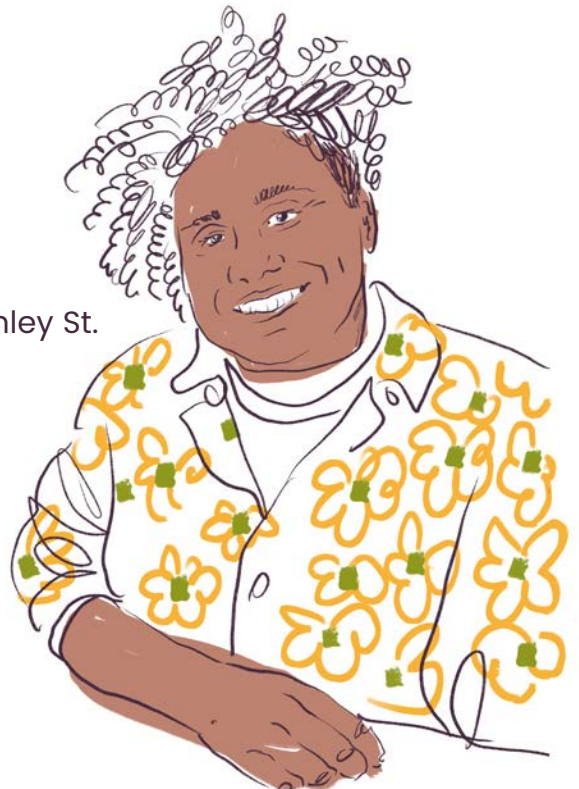
At 1pm close down the library and put everything back in the portacabin. We often all go to share a meal together at the community cafe after each library session.

That's everything!

Ask staff members Eo or Sapna if you have any questions whatsoever.

There are toilets located at both Woodlands Community Meeting Room, 66 Ashley St and Flourish House 23-25 Ashley St.

Thank you for volunteering!



Safeguarding

Expectations

When you are volunteering for the Woodlands Community Anti-Racist Library, you can expect

- to be safe, valued and respected
- to be offered lunch
- to be offered travel expenses
- to be given a break if you are volunteering for more than four hours

We expect you to

- communicate your needs to the staff member that you're working most closely with
- respond to emails or messages about when you are volunteering
- to adhere to the safeguarding guidance outlined below

Sometimes when working with the public and/or when talking about sensitive issues like racism, emotions can run high. If you are ever in a situation where you are feeling unsafe or threatened whilst volunteering for the library, tell a staff member immediately. It is never a volunteer's responsibility to diffuse a difficult situation.

Please additionally read Woodlands Community's wider volunteer and safeguarding policies. Ask a staff member for these documents.

Safeguarding

What is safeguarding?

In the UK, safeguarding means protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect. At Woodlands Community Development Trust (WCDDT), we understand it to mean protecting people, including children and at-risk adults, from harm that arises from coming into contact with our staff or programmes.

Policy Statement

WCDT believes that everyone we come into contact with, regardless of age, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation or ethnic origin has the right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. WCDT will not tolerate abuse and exploitation by staff or volunteers.

How to report a safeguarding concern

Staff members or volunteers who have a complaint or concern relating to safeguarding should report it immediately to WCDT's Named Person Community Facilities Manager, Rosie O'Grady. If the staff member or volunteer does not feel comfortable reporting to the Named Person (for example if they feel that the report will not be taken seriously, or if that person is implicated in the concern) they may report to our Manager Tim Cowen, or Chair of our Board of Trustees Michael Weatherhead.

Named Person Contact Details:

Rosie O'Grady

rosie@woodlandscommunity.org.uk

07547402994

Additional Named Persons:

Tim Cowen

tim@woodlandscommunity.org.uk

07919505256

Michael Weatherhead

michael@woodlandscommunity.org.uk

07914759854

Response

WCDT will follow up safeguarding reports and concerns according to policy and procedure, and legal and statutory obligations.

WCDT will offer support to survivors of harm caused by staff or volunteers, regardless of whether a formal internal response is carried out (such as an internal investigation). Decisions regarding support will be led by the survivor.

Confidentiality

It is essential that confidentiality is maintained at all stages of the process when dealing with safeguarding concerns. Information relating to the concern and subsequent case management should be shared on a need to know basis only, and should be kept secure at all times.

Helpful Contact Details

Sapna Agarwal

Woodlands Community Anti-Racist Library Coordinator

sapna@woodlandscommunity.org.uk

07733 667102

Eothen Stearn

Community Events and Wellbeing Co-ordinator

eo@woodlandscommunity.org.uk

07935 007401

Rosie O'Grady

Community Facilities Manager

rosie@woodlandscommunity.org.uk

07547 402994

Our Anti-Racist Community Library is a collaboration between Woodlands Community Development Trust and independent bookshop Aye Aye Books that sits inside the Centre for Contemporary Arts (CCA) on Sauchiehall St in Glasgow. There is an option to buy specific books from our wishlist for our library:



For more information on Woodlands Community's Anti-Racist Library and outreach visit: www.woodlandscommunity.org.uk/antiracism



If you would like to donate specific relevant books to our Anti-Racist Library please get in touch with sapna@woodlandscommunity.org.uk

Our Anti-Racist Community Library presents...

Afro-Gàidheil

Talks, music, community

Sunday 19th March, 1-5:30pm
Fred Paton Centre, G4 9AJ


1.30pm Screening of **Trusadh: Afro Gael** with introduction from Cass Ezeji

4pm talk by **R.AGGS** followed by session for POC musicians. **People of colour bring your instruments along.**

Ongoing Gaelic sign making with babs nicgriogair

Join the conversation about race and identity in the Gaelic speaking community & explore decolonising folk music

FREE EVENT ALL WELCOME

More info 



欢迎来参加反种族歧视社区图书馆
WOODLAND COMMUNITY GARDEN
 春节联欢活动

LUNAR NEW YEAR

1月22日, 11:00 - 14:00

地点: **Woodlands Community Meeting Room**
66 Ashley St. G36HW

现场音乐表演
 艺术工作坊 (剪纸+春联)
 制作反种族歧视宣传杂志
 社区文化和活动建设自由讨论空间
 传统云南广场舞
 中式春节点心



活动免费, 老少皆宜
 欢迎大家来玩!

Woodlands Community 

Woodlands Community's Anti-Racist Library celebrates

DIWALI

FUN FOR ALL AGES

SUNDAY 23RD OCTOBER 11AM-1PM
WOODLANDS COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM
66 ASHLEY STREET G3 6HW

STORYTELLING WITH GAURI RAJE

MAKE CLAY DIVAS

FREE SAMOSAS

FREE CHAI

QUESTIONS? EMAIL SAPNA@WOODLANDSCOMMUNITY.ORG.UK

ALL WELCOME

Woodlands Community 

CLIMATE JUSTICE DAY

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF ANTI-RACIST COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SATURDAY 13TH NOV 11AM-4PM
WOODLANDS COMMUNITY EVENTS TERRACE
66 ASHLEY ST G3 6HW

LIVE MUSIC
R.AGGS
PAULINE BRADLEY OF SOUND INSPIRATIONS & ROBERT ALSTON

STAND UP COMEDY
NICO NDLOVU & FRIENDS

ART EXHIBITION BY
FOUZIA ZAFAR

GUEST SPEAKERS
FROM MIGRANTS ORGANISING FOR RIGHTS & EMPOWERMENT (MORE)
SAFE IN SCOTLAND & BABA YANGU FOUNDATION

ANTI-RACIST COMMUNITY LIBRARY

FREE ALL WELCOME

Woodlands Community 

Aye-Aye Books



Woodlands Community