Anti-Racism statement

This statement was created in recognition of the Black Lives Matter movement to condemn racism, and state our commitment to improve YVAN's practices for anyone who is currently discriminated against by the arts because of their race or ethnicity.

We are concerned about making value statements as an ally of Black Lives Matter without showing a related programme of activity that is authentic. We commit to do this in ways that foster wider dialogue and debate, in line with our Inclusivity framework.

YVAN works towards being an anti-racist organisation for the visual arts in the Yorkshire and Humber region. YVAN continues to demonstrate its commitment to Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility through its governance and programme structures. We seek guidance from critical friends including our research and learning working group and members of our board. Current members have experience in decolonial approaches, colonial histories and connection with a global majority creative network in Rotherham.

We are guided by CVAN Fair + Equitable in our work. Fair + Equitable is a five year programme and commitment to instituting equity within the visual arts sector in England.

We acknowledge that it is a continual process to become an organisation where Global Majority artists and arts workers see and feel their culture and presence is truly represented in its programmes and governance.

YVAN is committed to taking this forward to ensure the visual arts in Yorkshire and the Humber is contemporary and inclusive; that it opens up opportunities in fair and transparent ways; and challenges itself and network of partners to examine the unconscious bias and prejudice against Global Majority artists and arts workers that permeate the arts and its institutions.

We ask all of those working in leadership roles to break the status quo through education, policy and programme to make visible the changes required. We ask our colleagues and Global Majority artists and arts workers to watch this space whilst we continue reassessing our practices and actioning our commitment to lever institutional change in the arts sector.

We need to hear your thoughts – please contact ceo@yvan.org.uk.

Statement from the Chair and Directors of Yorkshire and Humber Visual Arts Network

Date reviewed: November 2026