

## **North East Regional Race Crime and Justice Research Network**

### **Purpose of the NERRCJRN**

The North East Regional Race, Crime and Justice Research Network (NERCJRN) is a grouping of researchers from academic, research and policy backgrounds on which all five North East regional Universities are represented (Durham, Newcastle, Northumbria, Sunderland and Teesside). The Group undertakes independent and commissioned research, and analysis and comments on policy and practice issues in relation to the experience of ethnic minorities, in the region, in relation to the criminal justice system, broadly defined.

The NERRCJRN was set up in the summer of 2012 by Professor Gary Craig, Professor Maggie O'Neill, Dr Bankole Cole and Louise Wattis through their research conducted in 2012 – Race, Crime and Justice: Mapping Black Minority Ethnic and Refugee Groups and Communities in the North East region.

### **The Network has the following aims:**

- To consult with local community groups regarding the issues of race, crime, and justice
- To provide a forum for discussing policy and legislative changes and responding to consultations
- To host workshops and conferences on specific issues affecting minority ethnic groups locally
- To facilitate research projects that link theory, policy and practice and are relevant to our members
- To contribute to public debate, policy, and practice in this field
- To contribute to the theoretical and rigorous scholarly analysis in this field

### **Membership**

The network comprises researchers from all 5 Universities in the North East region and welcomes regional independent researchers to join.

Membership is open to all those that have an interest in race, crime, and justice. The network welcomes representatives from public bodies, third sector organisations, academia and individuals engaged in work in this area.

### **Accountability**

The Network is accountable to its members and will actively seek views as to its development and focus.

In responding to consultations, policy, or legislative changes we will act as a Forum and collect the views of our members.

We recognise and respect the right of all minority ethnic, refugee and community groups in the North East to respond in their own terms and we would actively encourage that.

### **Working methods**

The Network is committed to building, developing, and maintaining strong relationships with different groups – public, voluntary, and private sector.

The Network will aim to support people, agencies, and communities to locate, frame, analyse and respond to issues relating to race, crime, and justice in innovative, practical, and positive ways.

The Network aims to share its expertise and resources with groups through its collaborative and shared learning approach to further knowledge in this field.

The Network aims, through webinars, workshops, and conferences to provide opportunities for all members to connect and share their knowledge, expertise and resources with each other, and act as a sounding board for ideas they may wish to take forward.

### **Meetings**

The main Network committee will aim to meet 3 times per year.

### **Sharing of information and resources**

The Network will maintain a distribution list and circulate information to members about the work of any of its members.

### **Website**

The Network will utilise the website pages on Newcastle University website to share information and updates.