

FREE ART EXHIBITION
25 FEBRUARY - 2 MARCH 2023



GET THE **TROLLS** OUT!
UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER
REGENT STREET CAMPUS



ACTION AGAINST HATE

DIVERSITY & RELIGION
EXHIBITION

~~~~~  
CLOSING NIGHT EVENT  
THURSDAY 2 MARCH 2023  
6-9PM  
@REGENT STREET CINEMA







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This year we mark a quarter of a century of working globally with journalists, civil society activists and academics to create connections and highlight diversity issues in the media. The time has come for us to bring artists to our work. This exhibition aims to show the importance of providing more creative spaces to start new conversations about diversity in the media. We hope through this exhibition to find additional ways to elevate stories from marginalised voices in our communities across Europe.

***Milica Pesic***

Executive Director of the Media Diversity Institute



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# Introduction

**Action Against Hate:** *Diversity & Religion Exhibition* aims to counter a concerning rise in hate speech by providing a platform for European artists and film makers who speak out against injustice and promote positive narratives about their lived experiences.

The exhibition is a collaboration between *Get The Trolls Out!* (GTTO), a campaign led by Media Diversity Institute (MDI) comprised of eight organisations across Europe, including MDI, and the *Diversity & Inclusion Research Community* at the University of Westminster in the UK.

The GTTO project monitors news and social media and responds to incidents of anti-religious hate to stop them from spreading further. In response to an increase in antisemitic and anti-Muslim illustrations, articles and commentaries in the media, the exhibition aims to counter hateful content by sharing inclusive narratives about 'Diversity and Religion'.

While antisemitic comments by public figures like Kanye West and Nigel Farage, as well as anti-Muslim articles by newspapers - such as the Daily Mail and The Times - have reached mass audiences, there are also a number of alternative newspapers and websites promoting conspiracy narratives and publishing antisemitic and anti-Muslim imagery.

**The amount of hateful content being created and shared in newspapers and on the internet is deeply disturbing.**

In the last two years alone, the *Get The Trolls Out!* media monitors have identified 1,241 incidents of anti-religious hate - 719 on social media and 522 on traditional media.

The exhibition, which was created to counter this hate, received a staggering number of submissions - 146 visual artworks and 29 videos - from across our seven project countries. The work was judged by a panel of artists, activists and academics working in the fields of art and countering hate speech.

Sometimes, hate can seem to be deafeningly loud and overwhelming, but we believe that our work, which is centred around values of inclusion and equality, can withstand prejudices, bigotry and hatred. We believe together we can work to challenge hate.

**Action Against Hate: Diversity & Religion Exhibition is our small way to fight that hate.**





# Closing night programme

Regent Street Cinema

**5.30pm - 6pm**

Welcome and check in

Enjoy a drink\* in the bar area before the event begins

**6pm**

Cinema doors open

**6.05pm - 6.15pm**

Welcome to Action Against Hate by Milica Pesic,  
MDI Executive Director

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\* Sorry! Drinks are not complimentary in the  
Regent Street Cinema bar



6.15pm - 6.45pm

**Film screening**

- A Wanderer, Rafael Klein
- Suitcases, Hamza Ali
- Bamba's Story - Migrant Lives in Pandemic Times, Migration Matters, CERC Migration, Araia Tamayo Alvarez
- GURI, Yasmin Ali
- Action Against Hate: Diversity & Religion Exhibition Selected Artworks

6.45pm - 7.45pm

Panel discussion: Action Against Hate, followed by live Q&A

7.45pm

Cinema doors close

7.45pm - 8.45pm

Reception and entry to the last night of Action Against Hate: Diversity & Religion Exhibition (tickets compulsory)

8.45pm-9pm

Event ends

# *Get The Trolls Out!*

## A Campaign that Acts against Hate

Led by the Media Diversity Institute (MDI), with the support of seven other partner organisations in Europe, *Get The Trolls Out!* is a campaign that combats discrimination and intolerance on religious grounds in Europe.

By detecting and exposing anti-religious hate speech and discourse spread by public figures, reporters and social media personalities, GTTO raises awareness of the dangers of religious discrimination across Europe.

By disseminating inclusive media content and generating dialogue, GTTO delivers a powerful counter-narrative against diverse forms of hate, focusing on antisemitism and Islamophobia.

The project has three main objectives: **empower** civil society organisations to identify and counter hateful narratives; **challenge and debunk** harmful stereotypes and toxic narratives; and **consolidate** the work of young activists committed to act in response to hate.

A network of monitors regularly tracks a selection of media outlets, including mainstream news outlets, popular blogs, and social media platforms. When incidents of anti-religious hate are identified, the project responds by using a variety of strategies. These include complaints to editors, meetings with IT companies, production of inclusive content and research studies, training for young journalists and activists, and social media campaigns.

By providing short and long-term ways to counter hate, we strive to promote religious pluralism and inclusivity in society.



Learn more about *Get The Trolls Out!*  
[getthetrollsout.org](http://getthetrollsout.org)





# Media Diversity Institute

Promoting a Diverse, Inclusive, and Accurate Media



**Media Diversity Institute (MDI)** works to encourage accurate and nuanced reporting on race, religion, ethnic, class, age, disability, gender and sexual identity issues in media landscapes around the world. MDI's work is grounded in the principles of freedom of expression and values of diversity and inclusion, with day-to-day work focusing on cultivating practical skills to combat negative stereotypes and disinformation, improving media and information literacy, and influencing the conversation on diversity and the media.



Learn more about Media Diversity Institute  
[media-diversity.org](https://media-diversity.org)

# *Get The Trolls Out!*

## Partner Organisations and Collaborators



The **International League against Racism and Anti-Semitism** - or Ligue Internationale Contre le Racisme et l'Antisémitisme (LICRA) in French - established in 1927, is one of the oldest non-governmental organisations fighting against racism and anti-Semitism. It fights against the growing political and social acceptance of xenophobia and discriminations and offers a free legal assistance to victims of racism and anti-Semitism. Licra also develops pedagogical actions and professional training in partnership with educational institutions.



The **Amadeu Antonio Stiftung** founded in 1998 is one of Germany's foremost, independent, non-governmental organisations working to strengthen democratic civic society and eliminate neo-Nazism, right-wing extremism, and anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry and hate in Germany. The foundation funds projects and campaigns in pursuit of this goal, brings direct support to victims of hate-based violence, and promotes alternative youth cultures and community networks to weaken the social structures that intolerance and racism need to survive. The foundation goes beyond mere grant-making to assist projects in intensifying their local and grassroots work, and build networks and coalitions with other initiatives. In addition, it runs its own parallel projects. The Foundation also leverages its profile and resources to expand its role beyond Germany, developing strategic partnerships in the United States and around Europe.





**The European Network on Religion and Belief** strives to provide a civil society platform of different religions, beliefs and convictions to facilitate dialogue and promote the rights and freedoms and other international human rights conventions. Formed in response to the increase in discrimination and hate crimes on religion/belief grounds across Europe, ENORB is inter-convictional, representing the full diversity of religions and humanist/atheist groups with a huge body of experience in this field. ENORB's core mission is to combat discrimination and promote mutual understanding among R&B groups across Europe, focusing on minorities subject to exclusion.



**'NEVER AGAIN'** is Poland's leading anti-racist organisation. It has existed since 1996. The mission of the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association is to promote multicultural understanding and to contribute to the development of a democratic civil society in Poland and in the broader region of Central and Eastern Europe. The major objectives of the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association include: breaking the silence and raising awareness of the problem of racism and xenophobia; building a broad and inclusive movement against intolerance and discrimination, for respect, inclusivity and diversity; eliminating or marginalizing racist, xenophobic and antisemitic tendencies in various spheres of life.



The **European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS)** is a pluralistic, inclusive and non-partisan umbrella organisation. EUJS supports Jewish student unions throughout Europe and represents its members in international institutions and organisations. Founded in 1978, it currently has 35 member organisations, spanning from Russia to Scandinavia to the United Kingdom. Their vision is a vibrant, sustainable Jewish communal life in Europe with strong youth and student involvement. EUJS seeks to strengthen Jewish communities and European society through Jewish student activism and advocacy. Therefore, EUJS connects peer-led, independent Jewish student unions throughout Europe and supports them in fulfilling the aspirations of the Jewish people; developing Jewish religious, spiritual, cultural and social heritage, and ensuring continuity.



The **Center for Independent Journalism (CIJ)** is a non-profit and non-political organisation aiming to promote ethical, fact-based journalism and independent media in Hungary. CIJ focuses its activities on journalism training, with a special emphasis on training professional journalists to contribute to ethical and high-quality journalism. In recent years, priority activities have been training of journalists and managers; diversity reporting and multiculturalism; international cooperation and networking; media self-regulation and freedom of information issues.



**Karpos** develops local and European projects encouraging expression and the exchange of views and creative ideas through the use of media. They strongly believe that, in a society where images surround us, these tools can empower both young and adult citizens to participate in social transactions and bring forward their own alternative voices. They specialise in how media, image and sound can develop narratives and how they can be introduced in educational environments.



Founded in 2004, **Community Media Forum Europe (CMFE)** represents networks, national federations and organisations active within the Third Media Sector at the European level. CMFE supports community media in maintaining a clearly distinct identity alongside the national public service and private commercial media, raising awareness of their contributions to pluralism, democratic participation and media literacy. Through research, inputs to policy-making and projects CMFE advocates for the legal recognition and funding of the non-profit media sector. CMFE has observer status with the Steering Committee on the Media and Information Society (CDMSI) of the Council of Europe and is part of the CoE International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGO) Conference. CMFE is a Member of the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD). Currently, CMFE has 98 members (of which 25 are National Federations) from 24 European countries.

# University of Westminster



## Diversity and Inclusion Research Community

The Diversity and Inclusion Research Community (DIC) has a twofold vision.

Firstly, to celebrate, promote, and enhance research and knowledge exchange in the area of Diversity and Inclusion and secondly to facilitate dialogue, links and co-operation with colleagues across the University, and with external partners.

We believe that research that questions inequalities and injustices and sheds light on the need for structural changes in our societies, is best achieved when we work with colleagues that are as passionate as we are for the issues that matter to us.

We also believe, that in the current research and research funding environment, building networks and collaborations enhances the impact of our research and puts us in a better position to achieve impact and to capture research funding.

# MA Course: Diversity and the Media

The MA in Diversity and the Media has been developed by the University of Westminster in collaboration with the Media Diversity Institute (MDI) and combines theory and modules providing hands-on practical training in journalism or campaigning and public relations related to social and cultural diversity.

Drawing upon this unique combination of rigorous theoretical engagement and specialist practical training, the MA is designed to equip students with a comprehensive conceptual/theoretical grounding and the practical skills to engage in responsible media coverage of diversity, to practice culturally informed and inclusive journalism and to develop a career (whether practical, strategic, or research-based) involving understanding and responding to the challenges of social diversity. Our teaching staff are highly experienced academics and journalism professionals with expertise in inclusive journalism.

Westminster is a leading provider in this academic discipline and is ranked top 10 among UK institutions for Communication and Media Studies in the QS World University Rankings 2021. The University is also ranked 4th in the UK in the Complete University Guide 2022 for Research Quality in Communication and Media Studies.

**Applications are open for the 2023-2024 academic year, apply here:**

[westminster.ac.uk/media-and-communication-courses](https://westminster.ac.uk/media-and-communication-courses)



# Identifying and Countering Hateful Artwork

*Get The Trolls Out!* (GTTO) has noticed a worrying increase in the publication of antisemitic and anti-Muslim illustrations online and in the media.

In 2022, Documenta, a major contemporary art exhibition in Germany, displayed several works featuring antisemitic stereotypes. The Taring Padi, a collective of underground artists in Indonesia, exhibited a mural called “People’s Justice”, which showed a Jewish person with a hooked nose, sidelocks, bloody eyes, fangs, and wearing a hat labelled “SS”, while a Mossad soldier was drawn with a pig’s head and a Star of David.

Though antisemitism has been a problem for centuries, during the Covid-19 pandemic it became amplified.

The GTTO report “Antisemitism and anti-vax discourse in Europe” found connections between

the anti-vaccine protests in 2021 and a rise in antisemitic behaviour including protestors wearing a reproduction of the yellow Star of David with the word ‘unvaccinated’ instead of ‘Jew’.



Additionally, artwork connected with anti-vaccine beliefs are increasingly featured in galleries and online platforms. “The Cure is Worse than the (Alleged) Disease Exhibition” by Alexander Heaton



at the Secret Art Gallery in Brick Lane, London, in May 2022 displayed artwork that compared the Holocaust to the Covid-19 vaccination programme, as seen in Heaton's illustration (on the left), which depicts the entrance to Auschwitz. GTTO emailed Heaton, the Secret Art Gallery, Art Rabbit, and British anti-vax newspaper 'The Light' about the problematic nature of this artwork, which resulted in Art Rabbit, an online platform for contemporary art exhibitions and events, stopping their promotion of the exhibition. Art Rabbit thanked GTTO for flagging this 'harmful content,' stating they would update their community guidelines to avoid this happening again.

### Mainstream media and social media platforms are increasingly likely to feature images depicting Muslims as a threat to Europe.

In June 2022, the Economist article, 'MBS: despot in the desert', was accompanied by illustrations such as the image of a Keffiyeh stylised with an explosive mechanism, a caricatured Arab man's face, a Keffiyeh combined with a match; an eye including a Scimitar and a Keffiyeh shaped as a bullet. These images reinforce anti-Muslim stereotypes which have increased greatly since 9/11 and the Syrian refugee crisis.



In November 2022, the Spectator used drawings of dreary-looking Muslim refugees arriving at Dover to illustrate how problematic immigration was for British culture. Online it is common to see photos of Muslim men praying on the street, overcrowded boats with refugees, and women in burqas accompanied by warnings against the Great Replacement conspiracy theory, which claims that "native Europeans" are at risk of being replaced.

Hateful illustrations influence beliefs and affect how people behave. GTTO tries to increase awareness about the impact of hate to reduce prejudice in our society.

# Fighting Hate: The Inspiration Behind the Exhibition

Coming across a high level of hateful visual content through our media monitoring prompted *Get the Trolls Out!* (GTTO) to react. Several years ago, we started commissioning and creating our own illustrations and images for campaigns and distribution on our online platforms. Inspired by the richness of inclusive artwork created by people from diverse backgrounds and experiences across Europe, we decided to provide them with space to exhibit their artwork hoping this would expose their works to wider audiences.

These drawings designed by Madeleine Kay, our social media campaigner, demonstrate how we at GTTO use artwork to create change.

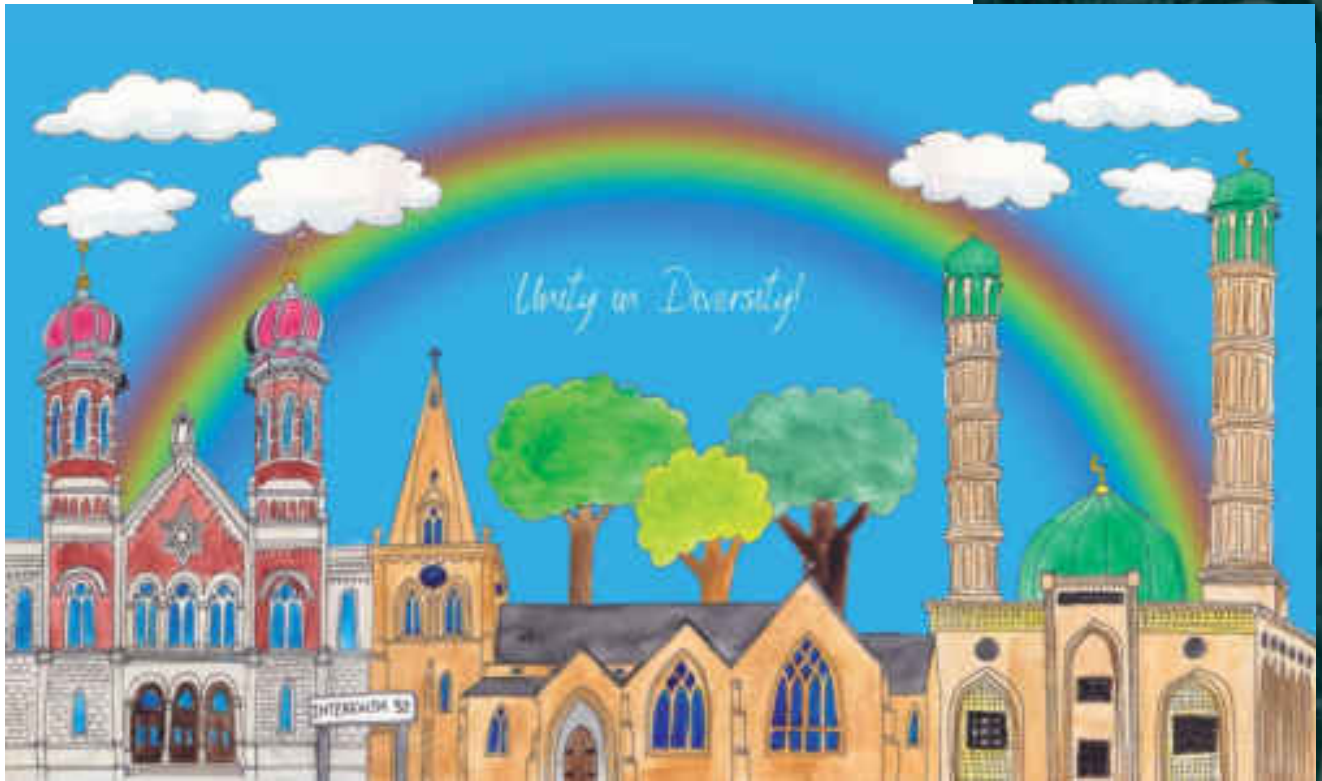
## Madeleine Kay

Madeleine Kay is an activist and artist. She has written, illustrated and self-published nine books and performed at events and festivals across Europe. Awards: 'Young European of the year' 2018, 'Democracy Needs Imagination' grant (European Cultural Foundation) 2019, EU Charlemagne Youth Prize 2020, Young European Video Award 2020.

Facebook and Twitter [@MadeleineKay](#)  
Instagram [@Madeleine\\_Kay](#)



**'No Freedom Until We're Equal'** is a digital compilation artwork from a series of watercolour illustrations created for the *Get The Trolls Out!* 'activist feature posts' campaign. Each illustration spotlights and celebrates an activist who stands up for social justice.



**'Interfaith Street'** is a digital compilation artwork from a series of watercolour illustrations of places of worship, created to celebrate Interfaith Week. The artwork celebrates unity in diversity and interfaith dialogue.





We feel art has the  
power to shape  
opinions and provoke  
thought and debate  
on sensitive and  
controversial issues



# Action Against Hate: Diversity & Religion Exhibition

## The Open Call

In October 2022, *Get The Trolls Out!* launched an open call for artwork and short films exploring the theme of 'Diversity & Religion'. Artists and film makers resident in the project countries were eligible to apply. We were blown away by the response: we received 146 visual artworks and 29 videos from Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Poland and the UK.

A jury panel of four people working in the arts, academia, and NGO sector reviewed the submissions, selecting 25 visual artworks and 4 videos for the exhibition and closing night event.



**Diana Ali** is a visual artist, international curator, lecturer, mentor and workshop leader. She has been practicing for over 20 years and has exhibited nationally and internationally. She is a trustee at Nottingham Women's Centre and has appeared as a professional mentor on BBC's Big Painting Challenge, BBC's Life Drawing Live, Channel 4's Drawers Off and has written and presented Inside Museums on the BBC.

# Jury panel



**Diana I. Popescu**, Honorary Research Fellow at Birkbeck Institute for the Study of Antisemitism at the University of London, focuses on public history and the reception of violent histories. She explores aspects related to the ethics and the aesthetics of representing genocide, and histories of discrimination and persecution in visual culture and contemporary art.



**Giulia Dessi** is a project manager at the Media Diversity Institute where she currently leads the project *Get the Trolls Out!* countering anti-religious hate in European media. Giulia is also a researcher, trainer and freelance journalist, specialising in hate speech, discrimination and freedom of expression. She is a puppeteer trained at the Curious School of Puppetry and Brighton Puppetry School.



**Dr Nitasha Kaul** (PhD, MSc, BA Hons) is a multidisciplinary academic, novelist, poet, artist, and economist. She is an Associate Professor in Politics and International Relations at the Centre for the Study of Democracy, University of Westminster. Over the last two decades, she has published on themes concerning international relations, democracy, political economy, technology/AI, identity, rise of right-wing nationalism, feminist and postcolonial critiques, small states, Bhutan, India and Kashmir.

# The Artists and Artwork

This exhibition brings together emerging and established artists who explore the theme of religion and diversity in society.

It includes 30 artworks, of which 25 have been selected through the open call, two created by Madeleine Kay, *Get The Trolls Out!* social media campaigner, and three which have been previously featured in *Get The Trolls Out!* social media campaigns.

Some artworks examine the lived experience of religious minorities, some empower the individual, some imagine a society where multi-cultural communities live in harmony, and others reflect on historic discrimination and hate. These ideas are explored in a wide range of media and styles. The thread which draws these artworks together is the respect for equality, diversity and inclusion in society.



## Be Not Afraid

### Saturninus

Angelic apparitions routinely begin with the sentence Be Not Afraid - a message, according to Saturninus, which should be a guiding principle among all faiths, yet fear is one of the basic features of religious persecution. The artist considers collage an ideal media to depict chimeric creatures because it re-uses the "vanities of contemporary magazines" to create something divine.

Saturninus who, as well as being a photographer, has a legal career, started doing traditional paper collages during the pandemic, when craving less screen time. This new passion led to various works steering away from glamour and portraits to more visual deconstruction and reconstruction.



## The Hourglass

Fred Fabre

'The Hourglass' depicts St Francis petitioning the Lord to have mercy for the corruption of the earth.

Fred Fabre's work captures moments of ideologically political concepts. By mixing documentation and interpretation of intentions of social changes, the artist creates a parallel present in which political failure is highlighted.

Instagram [@drawlogia](#)





## Not in Our Names

Tibor Hajsz

'Not in Our Names' represents the concept that passionate belief does not mean hatred towards other beliefs - and it is especially not requested or encouraged by gods.

Tibor Hajsz, who was born in Hungary in 1982 and works as a chemical engineer, has been living in Duisburg, Germany, since 2014.



## Mariam of Isa

Luke Gray

In Islam, Mariam is the mother of Jesus and one of the most important and respected women in the religion. She is the only woman mentioned by name in the Quran. The artist believes Mariam, or Mary as she is called in Christianity, is a subconscious archetype of the God mother seen in various cultures and religions around the world.

Luke Gray is a London-based nomadic surrealist painter specialising in large scale paintings on walls and canvas. Being colour blind, the artist was forced to use an almost exclusively black and white palette, working with patterns and textures rather than colour.

Instagram [@lukegrayart](https://www.instagram.com/lukegrayart)



## She Whispers

Ally Zlata

'She Whispers' focuses on capturing the diversity of female voices and the difficulties they endure to promote equity and freedom. The artist draws on experience as a member of a family with displaced origins to reflect the struggles of forming an identity as a migrant woman, including becoming accustomed to different cultural traditions, and dealing with language barriers.

Ally Zlata is the founder of The Starving Artist, an artist initiative that helps broaden perspectives on eating disorders and mental illness. The artist is the recipient of The Princess Diana Legacy Award 2021, Y20 Award Finalist for Diversity and Inclusion (Youth 20 by G20 Summit) and also special recognition from The British Citizen Award 2022.

Instagram [@allyzlata](https://www.instagram.com/allyzlata)



## I Am Still Me

Wulan

The artwork speaks of the hope that a person is seen for who they are on the inside, and not for the clothes they wear or their skin tone. The artist started by applying thick-body acrylic paint on the 30x40 cm wooden panel before using plaster-based mixture to create 3D effects for the head cover and the coat. Wulan believes using such textures allows stimulation of not only the vision but also the tactile sense to evoke emotional connection.

Wulan, from Indonesia, is a self-taught texture artist who works as a doctor specialising in cancer. Being a woman of colour, Wulan wears a hijab and faced an adjustment moving to the UK.

Instagram [@studiowulan](https://www.instagram.com/studiowulan)



## Freedom of Choice III

Asma Istwani

The artist has layered different headscarves and hairstyles to showcase the diversity and beauty of head coverings in this collage. The intention is to remind viewers that head coverings are not exclusive to Muslim women and how people choose to style themselves is important to identity and sense of self. The artist is interested in adding to the larger narrative surrounding beauty standards, identity and heritage.

Asma Istwani is a self-taught, early career artist working in London. Combining found images, magazine editorials as well as graphic design, the artist creates artworks using a variety of traditional and contemporary collage styles and techniques.

Instagram [@asmaeatsart](https://www.instagram.com/asmaeatsart)



## Nothing to Prove

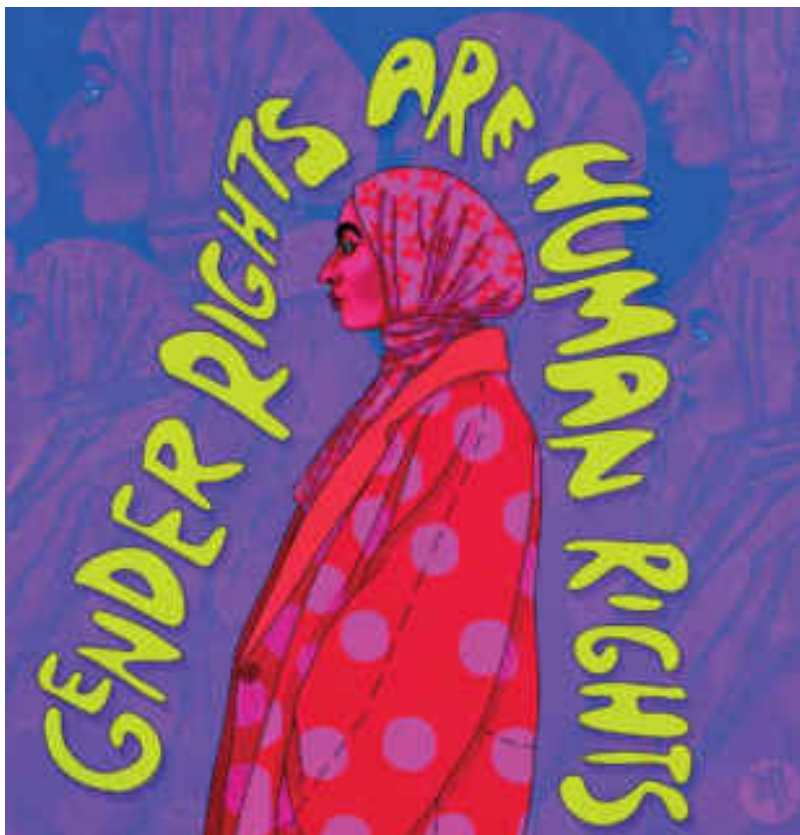
Jordan Awori

'Nothing to Prove' is a celebration of people of all races, religions and gender identities who know their worth and don't need others' validation. Specifically, it celebrates those who identify as women because that is the artist's focus. Living in Europe, the artist sees confident people living their diverse, brave, unapologetic truths daily.

Jordan Awori is a black, queer Kenyan woman living in Frankfurt, Germany, who creates art and short films that provoke hard conversations and silent contemplation to catalyse change. The artist believes art has an enormous potential to shift society, challenge thoughts and beliefs and leave people changed and inspired.

Instagram and Twitter [@jordanawori](https://www.instagram.com/jordanawori)





## Gender Rights Are Human Rights

Maanya Dhar

This artwork serves as a reminder that gender rights ARE indeed human rights and the two cannot, and should not, be separated from each other, as they are directly linked.

Maanya Dhar is an illustrator and graphic designer based in India whose work revolves around themes of feminism, social justice, marginalised communities, climate change, self-love and acceptance. Through personal experiences living in India, the UK, and the UAE, the artist has come to the realisation that all worlds are essentially the same. In order to be heard and seen, one has to be exceptionally loud and persistent, and the abundant use of bright colours and bold visuals are bound to grab people's attention, making beliefs and causes more visible.

Facebook [@maanyart](#)  
Instagram [@maanya\\_dhar](#)  
Twitter [@DharMaanya](#)



## We are not stopping you from wearing ..... Don't question our choice.....!

Payal Chakraborty

The artwork explores the debate about wearing a headscarf, despite it being common practice in most religions in their earlier days, when it was considered a sign of modesty. The piece, which includes head coverings from diverse religions across the globe, questions the meaning of choice. The artist believes accepting differences and acknowledging the need for harmonious co-existence is one of the key factors for peace.

Payal Chakraborty is a visual artist, curator, and art educator, who focuses on the dynamics of the structural fabric of humans and cultural interconnectedness. The artist examines our existence as a progressive society in current times while ignoring and acknowledging diverse cultural practices.

Instagram [@paayal\\_art](https://www.instagram.com/paayal_art)



## Empower

Ismini Teligioridou

People across the world cover their bodies in a way that satisfies their spiritual and stylistic requirements for reasons of faith or religion. In this work, the artist is not trying to debate religious traditions or obligations, but rather point out that people have the right to choose the way they express themselves and their beliefs and that they deserve to be respected and maintain their dignity.

Ismini Teligioridou was born in Thessaloniki in 1990, and has participated in exhibitions, events and residencies in Greece and abroad. The artist was awarded the “Versiona Thyssen” prize by the Thyssen Museum in Madrid in 2019.

Instagram [@ismini\\_teligioridou](https://www.instagram.com/ismini_teligioridou)



## I am Hybrid, 2017

Samiya Younis

'I am Hybrid, 2017', is part of a series titled Hybrid Wardrobe, which centres on garments and shoes investigating and questioning the artist's British and Pakistani identity and sense of cultural displacement. The artwork hybridises normative Western-dress styling with regional Pakistani signifiers; traditional salwar kameez with the Union Jack. The two items were then worn in site specific performances, documented through photography and video.

Samiya Younis is a British-Kashmiri-Pakistani artist, curator, educator and advocate for women's empowerment and liberation, based in London. The artist has taught Fine Art programmes in Oxford and Edinburgh, has exhibited work in London and China, and is a mentor and lecturer supporting students in Art and Design at Higher Education Colleges.

Facebook [@samiya.younis](#) Instagram and Twitter [@samiya\\_younis](#)



## Choice

Mihály Kós

The artist believes diversity enriches culture and human relationships and choosing which faith to follow is always a difficult decision, even at an early age. At the same time, what really matters is that whatever you choose, it should not harm anybody.

Mihály Kós studied architecture in India and Hungary although drawing and painting was always a favourite pastime. As well as designing and constructing buildings, the artist illustrates magazines and books and has been an active cartoonist. Chosen as secretary of the Hungarian Cartoonist Association in 2019, the artist has also had solo and group exhibitions in various Hungarian towns and cities.





## Two Guys Under Menorah's Light

Max Dalí - Kamilla Kulova

The artwork is quite didactic, showing two men of different ethnicity embracing and kissing under the moonlight and the light of a menorah, which has the colours of the LGBTQIA+ flag.

Max Dalí - Kamilla Kulova is an Italian, non-binary, multidisciplinary artist, representative of Techspressionism world art movement, and activist for LGBTQIA+ rights. The artist works with media including digital drawing and painting, photography, AI, gif and video editing, and glitch art. The artist's double name masculine/feminine was chosen to highlight the need for tolerance and inclusion in society.

Instagram [@maxdali\\_kamillakulova](https://www.instagram.com/maxdali_kamillakulova)

Twitter [@KulovaMax](https://twitter.com/KulovaMax)





## We Belong To Each Other

Eva Lilienfelde

The artist wants viewers to imagine a world where all children feel safe in their bodies regardless of their race, colour or religion, and there is a strong sense of love and belonging. The belief is that teaching children they belong to their body is a precious gift and nurturing this journey as a strong community, builds the future for generations to come.

Eva Lilienfelde is a UK-based, Latvian artist who has been a practicing artist since 2008. The artist continually refines and redefines a balance between traditional and contemporary arts, using light to reveal the multi-layered relationship between emotional, mental, and physical perceptions of the world.

Instagram [@eva\\_lilienfelde](https://www.instagram.com/eva_lilienfelde)



## The Pursuit of Paradise

Latifah A Stranack

'The Pursuit of Paradise' was inspired by the garden of Eden, and the artist used local parks as a visual reference for the painting. Growing up with a mixed heritage made the artist passionate about creating a dialogue with the viewer that promotes a sense of tolerance, empathy and harmony between different religions and cultures.

Latifah A Stranack's work is about diversity, identity and the female gaze. The artist creates compositions using archival imagery, historical art references, fashion magazines, her body and people she knows, often weaving mythology, current affairs and history through the pieces.

Instagram [@latifah\\_s\\_art](https://www.instagram.com/latifah_s_art)



## Multidiverse and multicultural city of Zamosc

Adam Gawryluk and Nosizo Zondo

The photo, taken in Zamosc, Poland, was modified to depict a diverse multicultural and multi-religious community. In the photo, two Catholic nuns walk by, completely oblivious to one Jewish rabbi who is distracted by two little Shinto girls playing next to him, meanwhile there is a Muslim man walking past with his son, who seems unconcerned by his surroundings and is just enjoying the company of his child. Not far from them an Orthodox priest, seated by the city bench, is reading a newspaper.

Adam Gawryluk and Nosizo Zondo create their artworks together, equally contributing different aspects to each project. They aim to spread the message of tolerance, peace and diversity to the world, encouraging people to be more respectful of each other regardless of their religion, race, background, and nationality. They use different media including music, graphic design, articles, videos, podcasts and paintings as a tool to amplify their goals.

Instagram [@ms\\_npz](#)



## 'Where Are You From?'

Jessie (CaDoodler)

'Where Are You From?' was created from a real-life situation that left the artist with a feeling of not belonging in an environment that they are usually very comfortable in. The work is about segregating YOU and US because we're not dressed the same; it's about not listening to what is being said and not getting the hints that it's not okay. It's about, sometimes, just minding your own business.

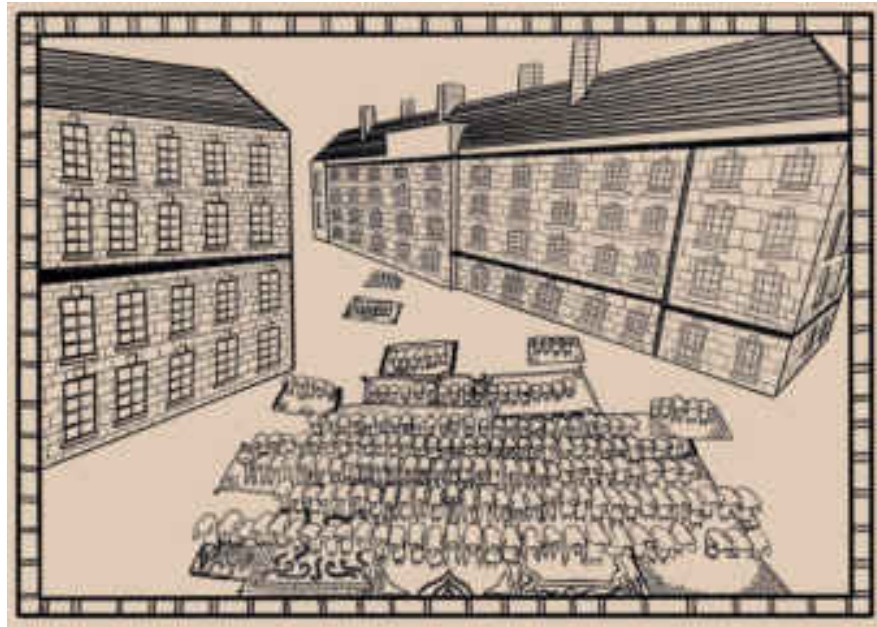
Jessie, known by the artistic name Cadoodler, is a twenty-something year old trying to bring awareness to the problematic taboos centred on the Asian community through humorous comics and stories.

Instagram and Facebook [@cadoodler](#)





Scan the QR code to listen to the soundtrack which accompanies this artwork.



## BBC Community Centre

Alaa Alsaraji

This artwork is part of the 'Mapping Sanctuaries project' and is based on the spaces where British Muslims feel a sense of belonging and safety. After conducting a series of interviews with Muslim members of the public, the artist created a series of illustrations and accompanying sound pieces. 'BBC Community Centre' is based on a particular interview, describing a small community centre holding Juma prayers near 'the City'. Due to it getting so busy on Fridays, the prayer would spill out to the streets, temporarily taking over the area.

Alaa Alsaraji is a Newham-based visual artist, designer, and creative facilitator whose work is centred on belonging and re-imagining space and community. The artist, who is the Arts Editor of Khidr Collective, has delivered collaborative projects with young people and community groups, working with the Museum of London, Museum of the Home, and various London councils.

Instagram [@alaa\\_alsaraji](https://www.instagram.com/alaa_alsaraji)



## Faith - Quaker

Ann Petruckevitch

'Faith - Quaker' is a photograph taken at the Friends House, reflecting the layout the artist found the space. The artist chose a through-the-door image to accentuate the Quakers' accessibility to all who wish to be involved without prejudicial judgement. The piece is part of project studying the different types of places of worship in Brighton, UK.

Ann Petruckevitch has a variety of photographic-based interests, and likes to explore image interpretation by using an array of techniques including camera-less, analogue and digital media. Many of the artist's photographic projects originate from a desire to invite the viewer to witness some of the subtle unseen details of their environment.

Instagram [@annpetruckevitch](https://www.instagram.com/annpetruckevitch)





## The Arch

Beatrice Dina

'The Arch' is the artist's interpretation of a spiritual portal; an inner bridge where interconnectedness can thrive through tolerance for all the colours of the spectrum. It's a safe space where different faiths and atheism, ancient cultures and conflicting histories can elevate one another to a higher consciousness, rather than be perceived as threats to our core identities. It allows complex individualities and belief systems to mix in a mosaic of endless possibilities.

Beatrice Dina was born in Italy in 1976 and has a diverse body of work including documentary films, drawings, paintings, sculptures, and textile art. The artist's work explores themes of cross-cultural identity, religion, philosophy and spirituality. Vivid paintings merge lyrical abstraction with subtle representation, with the intention of connecting with our deepest emotions and fears.

Instagram [@beatricedina](https://www.instagram.com/beatricedina)



## We Are Bigger

Sammi Drawz

'We Are Bigger' explores how we already have the tools we need to overcome adversity. Borders, religion, and race continue to divide, but we are bigger. The work depicts a group of people treating the land as their playground. Geographical differences can be the difference between opportunities, safety and, ultimately, life or death, but in the piece borders, though highlighted, become insignificant as the characters go about their tasks and have fun.

Sammi Drawz seeks inspiration from people and surrounding environments, creating vibrant artworks that reflect our colourful world. Eclectic design and patterns are native to the artist's Zimbabwean heritage and bleed into design choices. Diversity and inclusion are key elements.

Instagram [@sammie.drawz](https://www.instagram.com/sammie.drawz)  
[@sam\\_anthadee](https://www.instagram.com/sam_anthadee)



## The Fishers of Men or The Saved and the Drowned

O Yemi Tubi

'The Fishers of Men' is a phrase used in the gospels to describe the mandate given by Jesus to his first disciples. This painting honours the refugees seeking safety and a better life, and the people who welcome them with open arms.

O Yemi Tubi has exhibited works worldwide and received numerous awards, including American Art Awards (2014 to 2022), best show at the 2022 Urbanization and Health International Art Exhibition, Talent Prize Award in PORTRAIT 2022 International Art Competition, and 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the International Art Competition by Tall Sequoia Gallery (2020).

Facebook [@yemi.arts](#) Instagram [@oyemit](#) Twitter [@OyemiartsOyemi](#)



## Woman at the Cemetery

Marilena Grispou

'Woman at the Cemetery' depicts a woman visiting the cemetery where her daughter is buried. It is part of a photographic project called Muslim Minorities in Greece - "Pomaks".

Marilena Grispou, from Greece, works in documentary photography and has also worked as a video editor, graphic designer, and in fine art printing services. After starting studies in product design, the artist switched to photography at Preston, later completing studies at Leica Academy, Athens.

Facebook [@marilena.lou.1](#) Instagram [@marilenalou816](#)





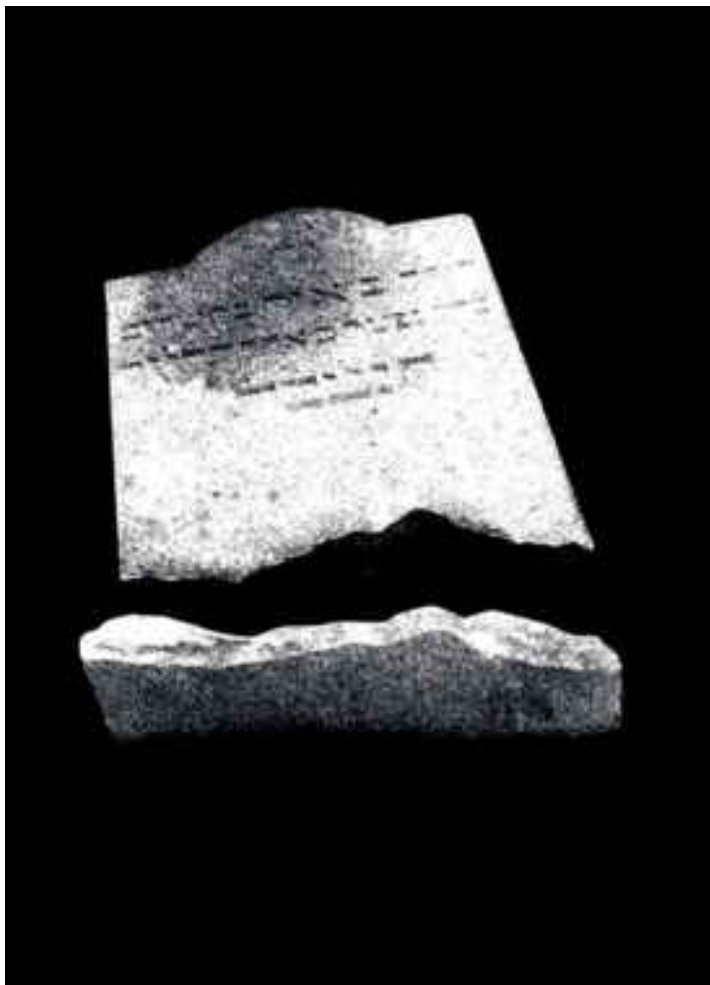
## Temporary Shrine 2

Shengjia Zhang

'Temporary Shrine 2' is part of a series of installations documented by photography. The artist placed incense burners in front of some architectural negative spaces in London to create shrines. The absence of deities is intended to make people rethink the object of worship and the nature of their faith. The artist was inspired by the small shrines commonly found in southeast China, which reflect the piety of the people's faith.

Shengjia Zhang is a video and installation artist based in London and Guangdong, China. The artist's works have been exhibited in Germany, UK, France, Thailand and China and recent research interests include Chinese folk beliefs, immigrant communities and Orientalism. Shengjia Zhang currently holds the Mona Hatoum Bursary and Turing Scheme.

Instagram [@zhang.shengjia](https://www.instagram.com/zhang.shengjia)



## Kristallnacht - International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism, 2020

Witold Popiel

The artwork was designed to commemorate the anniversary of the "Kristallnacht", the first mass act of physical violence by the Third Reich against the Jewish population, and the prologue to the Holocaust. Hundreds of synagogues were destroyed and thousands of Jewish shop windows were smashed. Witold Popiel's image was used to commemorate the International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism in 2020, and was created for the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association in Poland.

Witold Popiel is an artist and activist for the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association. He is a graduate of the Faculty of Graphic Arts at the Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts. He graduated in 2004 at the studio of prof. Rafal Strent and studied painting under the supervision of prof. Zygmunt Magner. He is fascinated by and looks for inspiration in Jewish culture.

Facebook [@witold.popiel.grafik](https://www.facebook.com/witold.popiel.grafik)





## Pain into Power

Sefira Lightstone

'Pain into Power' shows an exploding suitcase with barbed wire and a flower emerging from it. The artist's message is that we have an opportunity to create new paradigms and use it to shine our light. Sefira Lightstone says many Jewish people feel like they are carrying a national trauma and it is important to acknowledge that trauma in order to move into healing and empowerment.

Sefira Lightstone is an illustrator, visual-artist, and activist living in Israel. Creating and selling soulful artistic products that empower Jews and women to embrace their identity, the artist's goal is to create artwork that speaks to her values and reflects important issues, as well as the beauty found in the community.

Facebook, Instagram and Twitter  
[@sefiracreative](#)



## Silent Witnesses

Birgitta Volz

'Silent Witnesses' (2021, size: 97 x 97 cm, oil colour on Chinese paper) is a print from the roots of trees, which have witnessed the secret cremation of hundreds of murdered prisoners by the Nazis in 1944-45 at the KZ Schupf memorial site in Bavaria, Germany. The 'Schupf' memorial site features a large stone urn containing some of the ashes of the victims, and Brigitta Volz printed the roots on the pathway to the memorial. The artwork is a warning that the atrocities of the past shall never happen again, and that Europe should stand for tolerance and diversity on all levels.

Birgitta Volz is an artist with major international recognition, credited with 109 solo exhibitions and 235 group exhibitions in 22 different countries. With a career starting in 1985 as the youngest member of the Association of Professional Artists in Nuremberg, Germany, the artist received her BA from Würzburg College and her MA from the University of Modern Arts in Kassel. Between 1996 and 2000, Birgitta Volz lectured at art colleges in India, Portugal and Ghana. Research of the Invisible is her main field of interest.

Facebook, Instagram and YouTube  
[@birgittavolz](#)

# Action Against Hate: Diversity & Religion Closing Night

## The Film makers and Films

The closing night film screening showcases four films: *A Wanderer*, *Suitcases*, *Bamba's Story - Migrant Lives in Pandemic Times* and *GURI*, providing a platform for underrepresented stories about migration and identity. These films were selected by our expert jury panel out of 29 that were submitted in response to our open call as they highlight the experiences of marginalised communities that rarely receive a platform in the mainstream media or online platforms.

We are proud to share them with audiences in the hope that it brings about more understanding and connection with the often-unseen rich lives of some in our society.



Watch the films  
[bit.ly/ActionAgainstHateFilms](https://bit.ly/ActionAgainstHateFilms)



## A Wanderer

### Rafael Klein

Rafael Klein's desire to find out what happened to his family resulted in the film 'A Wanderer'. Klein was born in Brooklyn to Jewish Polish parents, but while growing up, nobody spoke about what happened to the family left behind in Europe. The filmmaker set about the task of learning what it was like when Jews hid in forests, attics and holes in the ground and during the research process discovered that a grandmother came from Łomża, Poland. The filmmaker imagines what might have happened to her and other family members.

Rafael Klein's work is held in public collections at the Tate, the British Library, MoMA and the Brooklyn Museum. Award-winning films have been featured in *la Repubblica*, the Times and the BBC, and book readings have taken place at the British Library, Dulwich Picture Gallery, and the Millennium Library, Norwich. The artist and filmmaker attended the University of Chicago before moving to London in 1984, has taught Sculpture at City and Islington College, and has had over 55 solo exhibitions in the US, UK and Europe.

Facebook, Instagram and Twitter [@rafkleinart](#)

## Suitcases

Hamza Ali

Using spoken word from the play 'Daytime Deewane' by Azan Ahmed, 'Suitcases' explores an act of faith in an ever-shifting landscape of suitcases. The audience is invited to question one's positionality on migration and assimilation as we see the artist's physical position shift through contemplation and surrender. 'Suitcases' brings to light the fluidity of identity and the complexities and contradictions in how one expresses identity as a British Muslim.

Hamza Ali is a director, performer and facilitator who was recently cast as the lead performer for Waswasa (Birmingham Hippodrome). Other credits include Statues (Barbican Centre) and Daytime Deewane (Half Moon Theatre / UK Tour), as well as movement direction and teaching at various London drama schools. The artist is a graduate of the MA in Movement from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, and a National Youth Theatre associate artist.

Instagram [@sha.movement](https://www.instagram.com/sha.movement)







## Bamba's Story - Migrant Lives in Pandemic Times

Migration Matters, CERC Migration, Araia Tamayo Alvarez

This documentary short offers a first-hand glimpse into the life of a Senegalese street seller and singer, Bamba Donde, living in Bilbao, Spain. When Bamba's street stall was forced to close due to Covid-19 restrictions, he had to find other ways to make a living and maintain a healthy state of mind in the depths of lockdown, including speaking regularly with his family and singing among the Senegalese Islamic Baye Fall community and 'Migrant Lives in Pandemic Times' recorded during the summer of 2021.

Migration Matters is a non-profit organization based in Germany, that promotes nuanced and evidence-based public debate on migration, belonging, and diversity to combat increasing polarization and discrimination in society. The Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Migration and Integration program builds on Toronto Metropolitan University's strengths and commitments in the area of immigration and settlement studies. Araia Tamayo Alvarez is a communication specialist with more than ten years of professional experience in the creation of audio-visual content.

[migrantlives.net](https://migrantlives.net)

Facebook [@MigrationMatters](https://www.facebook.com/MigrationMatters) [@CERCmigrationFB](https://www.facebook.com/CERCmigrationFB)

[@araiatamayoalvarez](https://www.facebook.com/araiatamayoalvarez)

Instagram [@migrmatters](https://www.instagram.com/migrmatters) [@cercmigration](https://www.instagram.com/cercmigration) [@araiatamayoalvarez](https://www.instagram.com/araiatamayoalvarez)

Twitter [@migrmatters](https://twitter.com/migrmatters) [@cercmigration](https://twitter.com/cercmigration)



## GURI

Yasmin Ali

Translated to 'house' or 'home' in Somali, 'GURI' is a body of work that uses film and photography to explore the idea of identity and belonging. The work features a woman as she retraces her steps across iconic Liverpool landmarks, such as the Liver Building and Albert Dock, in traditional Somali attire. The filmmaker invites each audience member to write their own letter to home, prompted by some questions raised in the film, and 'post it' in the letterbox. Find an accompanying print for 'GURI', here [aliyasmin.com/artwork](https://aliyasmin.com/artwork)

Yasmin Ali is an artist and freelance creative working across multiple platforms including television, theatre, film and journalism to shine a light on under-represented voices and experiences. The artist's work explores the theme of identity by connecting strands of often clashing or opposing ideals.

Instagram [@shotbyyasmin](https://www.instagram.com/shotbyyasmin)

Twitter [@itsyasminali](https://twitter.com/itsyasminali)



# The Panel Discussion: Action Against Hate

Research shows that ethnic minority communities working in the media, including the arts, are underrepresented and under-resourced.

At this panel, scholars, practitioners and activists from the media and arts sectors will examine the role of creative industries in shaping everyday society, looking at narratives around diversity, with a focus on religion.

The panel will try to answer some of the key questions related to the problem. How can underrepresented artists and media practitioners be better supported? What are the voices, narratives and stories missing in the media and cultural sectors and what impact is that having on the members of diverse communities? How can institutions address exclusion and discrimination in a more radical and sustainable way?

Using examples of inclusive approaches across the creative industries, the panellists will discuss how the arts and media can be used to counter hate speech and toxic narratives while uplifting oppressed groups.



The Panel  
Moderator

**Dr Roza Tsagarousianou** is a Reader in Media and Communication at the Westminster School of Media and Communications of the University of Westminster and the Research Lead of the University of Westminster's Diversity and Inclusion Research Community. In this role, Roza develops the University's research policy in the area of Diversity and Inclusion.

[westminster.ac.uk/about-us/  
our-people/directory/tsagarou-  
sianou-roza](https://westminster.ac.uk/about-us/our-people/directory/tsagarousianou-roza)

# The Sneakers



## **Suyin Haynes**

is Head of Editorial at gal-dem, an award-winning publication dedicated to sharing the perspective of people of colour from marginalised genders. She was previously a senior reporter at TIME magazine and was based in both London and Hong Kong.

[suyinhaynes.com](http://suyinhaynes.com)



## **Khadija Said**

is a digital communications specialist who works in the refugee sector. Before her time working in the third sector, she worked in politics as a community organiser which developed her passion for grassroots work and creating more inclusive spaces. She is an illustrator and activist who uses digital art to counter narratives. Her art features themes on Islam, political activism and community.

Instagram @khadijadraws



## **Rabbi Alexander Goldberg**

is the Dean of Religious Life and Belief at the University of Surrey, leading a team of 25 from eight world faiths and the humanist tradition serving a community of 22,000 staff and students. He is the only rabbi within this role in Europe. He is a barrister, a rabbi and has worked most of his life promoting good community relations in inter-governmental, governmental and community roles. He contributes regularly to BBC Radio 2's Pause for Thought, is an advisor to the UK Religious Media Centre and chairs the FA's Faith and Football Group.

[alexgoldberg.eu](http://alexgoldberg.eu)

# Acknowledgements

## Get The Trolls Out! Project team



**Giulia Dessi**  
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**Hana Kojakovic**  
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**Geena Patel**  
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Communications Co-ordinator

## University of Westminster's Diversity and Inclusion Research Community team

**Dr Roza Tsagarousianou** Reader in Media and Communication at the Westminster School of Media and Communications and Research Lead of the Diversity and Inclusion Research Community

**Rafaela Tripalo** Research Communities Facilitator

## Action Against Hate: Diversity & Religion exhibition

**Tanya Sakzewski** Editor and Proof-reader

**Milos Petrov** Graphic Designer

**Filip Pervan** Video Editor

## Thank you to...

All of the artists and film makers included in the exhibition and film screening:

Adam Gawryluk and Nosizo Zondo, Alaa Alsaraji, Ally Zlatar, Ann Petruckevitch, Araia Tamayo Alvarez, Asma Istwani, Bamba Donde, Beatrice Dina, Birgitta Volz, CERC Migration, Eva Lilienfelde, Fred Fabre, Hamza Ali, Ismini Teligioridou, Jessie (CaDoodler), Jordan Awori, Latifah A Stranack, Luke Gray, Maanya Dhar, Marilena Grispou, Max Dalí - Kamilla Kulova, Migration Matters, Mihály Kós, O Yemi Tubi, Payal Chakraborty, Rafael Klein, Samiya Younis, Sammi Drawz, Saturninus, Sefira Lightstone, Shengjia Zhang, Tibor Hajsz, Witold Popiel, Wulan, Yasmin Ali.

Diana Ali, Diana I. Popescu, Dr Nitasha Kaul and Giulia Dessi for making time to judge the artwork and films.

Suyin Haynes, Alex Goldberg and Khadija Said for making our panel discussion so exciting.

Beth Russell and everyone at Regent Street Cinema.

The Media Diversity Institute staff, especially Milica Pesic, Debbie Solomon, Marianna Karakoulaki, and Hannah Ajala, for supporting the *Get The Trolls Out!* team in the organisation and promotion of the exhibition.

*The Get The Trolls Out!* partner organisations that helped with the promotion of the exhibition.

Particular thanks to Geena Patel for going to great lengths to organise the exhibition and closing night event.

And Special thanks to Dr Roza Tsagarousianou, Rafaela Tripalo, Dr Peter Bonfield and everyone at the University of Westminster for all of their support in making this exhibition possible including the Internal Communications team, the Press team, the Social Media team, CAMRI, the Photography Technician Team at Harrow Campus, New Cavendish Street Hospitality and Estates Planning & Services at Regent Street campus.

# This exhibition brings together 29 emerging and established artists who explore the theme of religion and diversity in society.



Some artworks examine the lived experience of religious minorities, some empower the individual, some imagine a society where multi-cultural communities live in harmony, and others reflect on historic discrimination and hate.

These ideas are explored in a wide range of media and styles. The thread which draws these artworks together is the respect for equality, diversity and inclusion in society.