

August 2024

Our solidarity, care, and thoughts are with all affected by the recent Islamophobic and racist attacks by the far right that have taken place across the UK and threatened our beautiful city of Newcastle Upon Tyne.

These attacks deeply affect our communities from staff members and students to those in Newcastle and across the Northeast, especially from Muslim, racialised, immigrant and international backgrounds. We have seen mosques, asylum-seeker accommodation, and cultural centres targeted.

NCLA stands together with all our artistic and audience communities against far-right violence and in support of all our students, colleagues and wider communities affected by these unconscionable attacks.

Cultural spaces play a role in offering communities safe and enlivening places to share, discuss and debate. NCLA is currently on summer hiatus; when we open again in October, we will continue to welcome writers, audiences, and audiences locally and internationally, from all backgrounds, in an atmosphere of care and understanding. We will not tolerate racism or any form of identity-based discrimination in our spaces.

We will continue to support our visibly minoritized students and local communities who belong as integral parts of our city and culture, through our programming, through our platforms and through the warm and safe welcome we give to all who attend our events.

Preti Taneja and Alex Pheby,

Co Directors, NCLA