



Supporting Anti-racism

Creating Change – A reflection, Shaheen Mogradia, Bolton Library and Museum

I first heard about Museum Detox at the Museum Association Conference of 2021, after asking Kehinde Andrews if he knew of any support systems in place for people of colour who already work in museum spaces.

My question came from a place of feeling isolated as the only full-time South Asian person in my current workplace. It was a relief to find the MA conference making space for conversations on decolonial practices on a wider scale as quite often I have felt a deep sense of isolation and emotional exhaustion in my own decolonial practices within my workspace.

Connecting with the Detoxers at the conference made me feel as though I had found a sanctuary from the oppressive systems that I felt burnt-out from, a space of understanding and solidarity. I feel it is important to collaborate with others in creating change for anti-racism because those with privilege may not see just how imbedded institutional racism is while those of us who experience it and are trying to dismantle these structures need the support from our peers.

My advice to people who want to act on anti-racism is this, we all have a responsibility to regularly educate ourselves on anti-racism and put that knowledge into practice. Do not expect the people of colour in your workplaces to do the brunt of the work, be open to the discomfort of recognising your individual privileges and be active in making safe spaces for those who need them.