



# culture 21

UCLG Committee

## PEER-LEARNING VISIT MALMÖ

SEPTEMBER 2022



**MALMÖ**  
Leading City • culture 21



Malmö stad



**UCLG**  
United Cities  
and Local Governments



**culture 21**  
UCLG Committee



## ACTIVITY

Peer-learning visit

## DATES

21-23 September 2022

## PLACE

Malmö, Sweden.

## PEOPLE INVOLVED

### European Leading and Pilot Cities

**Núria Serra i Busquets** - Head of the Department of Interculturality and Religious Pluralism, Barcelona

**Iñaki López de Aguieta** - Director for Culture, Bilbao

**Mehriban Yanık** - Director of Urban History Department, Izmir Metropolitan Municipality

**Ertuğrul Akgün** - City Councillor, Izmir Metropolitan Municipality

**Gilda Smith-Leigh** - Senior Economic Development Officer, Economic Policy, Leeds City Council

**David Hopes** - Head of Service, Leeds Museums & Galleries, Leeds City Council

**Edison Huynh** - Councillor, Lewisham Borough, London

**André Dores** - Assessor para a Cultura, Câmara Municipal de Lisboa, Gabinete do Vereador Diogo Moura (GVDM), Lisbon

**Margarida Kol** - Director of the Monument to the Discoveries (Padrão dos Descobrimentos), Lisbon

**Marie-Odile Melançon** - Chief of Division, Support to Cultural Development, Ville de Montréal - Service de la culture, Montreal

**Elaine Gomes de Lima** - Project Manager at the City of São Paulo for the 2nd Expo Black Awareness Day, São Paulo

**Aryane de Jonas Godinho** - Chief of Communications Officer at the International Affairs Department of the City of São Paulo

**Domenica Ghidei Biidu** - Bureau member European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)

### Leading and Pilot Cities experts

**Jordi Baltà, Advisor** - Trànsit Projectes and Expert of the UCLG Committee on Culture

**Serhan Ada** - UCLG expert Leading City Izmir & Professor at the faculty of Arts and Cultural Management Department, Director of Cultural Policy and Management Research Centre, and Head of UNESCO Chair in Cultural Policy and Cultural Diplomacy at Istanbul Bilgi University

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## Malmö Leading City team

**Frida Trollmyr** - Chair of Malmö Culture Board, City of Malmö

**Fiona Winders**, Development Coordinator of Culture Department, City of Malmö

**Rena Baledi**, Culture Department, City of Malmö

**Jasmina Dizdarevic Cordero**, Culture Department, City of Malmö

**Anna Wahlstedt**, Culture Department, City of Malmö

## UCLG

**Marta Llobet**, Learning and Advocacy Officer, UCLG Committee on Culture

**Agnès Ruiz**, Officer, UCLG Committee on Culture

**Jordi Pascual**, Coordinator, UCLG Committee on Culture

## Local actors involved in the visit

**Carina Nilsson**, Chair of Malmö City Council

**Suzanne Sandberg**, Malmö City Archive, Malmö

**Aina Gagliardo**, Helamalmö Anti-racist Centre, Malmö

**Mats Stjernfeldt**, Director of Malmö Konsthall, Malmö

**Nadia Izzat**, Malmö Konsthall, Malmö

**Rickard Sjöholm**, KOLL Anti-racist Collective, Malmö City Library, Malmö

**Marit Merold**, KOLL Anti-racist Collective, Malmö City Library, Malmö

**Sarah Hirani**, KOLL Anti-racist Collective, Malmö City Library, Malmö

**Roland och Jonida Vishkurti**, Islamic Centre in Malmö



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# CONTEXT

The **Leading Cities** and **Pilot Cities** programmes are initiatives of the Committee on Culture of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), which aim to foster peer learning and capacity-building on culture and local sustainable development among cities worldwide. Alongside self-assessment, policy innovation and participatory governance, activities implemented in each city and peer learning activities enabling bilateral and multilateral exchanges are organised on a regular basis.

UCLG's Culture Committee has been working with the Department for Culture of the City of Malmö since 2016. In the year 2022, the work of **Malmö** as a Leading City was based on cultural policies and anti-racism, with a focus on combatting anti-Muslim and anti-black racism. In this context, a peer-learning visit to Malmö was organised on 21-23 September 2022. The activity combined visits to relevant cultural infrastructure, and a seminar on Islamophobia at the Malmö Old City Hall premises.

More specifically, the aims of the visit included the following:

- Present and discuss the **general context of cultural policies in Malmö**, and how they relate to local sustainable development.
- Disseminate **good practices** in Malmö's anti-racist work, and position Malmö's anti-racist initiatives nationally and internationally.
- Provide the opportunity to **learn from other cities** and cultural actors.
- Make visible and initiate more **collaborations**.
- Highlight the work and activities of **local independent actors**.
- Place the city's anti-racist work in a **larger context**.
- Highlight the **role of culture and art in anti-racism**.

Cities the world over have begun taking action in this field, with new initiatives, inspirational leadership and a will to change. The peer learning visit to Malmö was designed to connect those cities and to promote exchange and knowledge transmission. Thus, the visit involved participants from the cities of **Barcelona, Bilbao, Izmir, Leeds, Lewisham** (London), **Lisbon, Montreal** and **São Paulo**, as well as the host city and experts involved in the programme, and representatives of UCLG.



# CONTEXT

This report summarises the activities conducted, and highlights some of the lessons learned and comments made by participants following this seminar and peer-learning exercise. It also includes an annex with information on anti-racist initiatives provided by the participants after the visit. For further information, please visit the page of [Malmö as a Leading City](#).



UCLG Culture Committee



# PEER LEARNING. CULTURE AND ANTI- RACISM

## ANTI-RACIST INITIATIVES IN MALMÖ

On 21, 22 and 23 September, delegates from visiting cities took part in visits throughout the city to learn and discuss about policies and programmes addressing Islamophobia, anti-black and anti-Roma racism, as well as to explore the role of cultural infrastructures (archives, libraries, art galleries, museums, cultural centres, etc.), public art & youth to combat racism in the city of Malmö. The visits also included a Seminar on Islamophobia.

### Cultural policy framework in Malmö

In 2021, the Municipal Executive Board of the City of Malmö decided to launch several initiatives to combat racism, including instructing the Department of Culture to produce programmes and exhibitions which aim to counteract Afrophobia and Islamophobia to develop Malmö's position as an anti-racist and open city; build further internal and external commitment to issues of anti-racism; involve those sections of Malmö's civil society who work against anti-black and anti-Muslim racism and who represent relevant groups in this anti-racist work, and stimulate and create conditions for sustainable work against anti-black and anti-Muslim racism.

As regards the general work of the Culture Department and the cultural policy framework in Malmö, 2022 has seen a continuation of the anti-racist work based on international and national legislation for human rights, equality and democracy. Some initiatives to be stressed within its focus areas were:

- **Islamophobia and anti-Muslim racism**, providing assignments to practitioners from the independent culture sector and civil society, and offering relevant programmes and activities for the European Action Day Against Islamophobia (21 September).
- **Children and young people**, with the Young in Summer employment scheme Koll, run by the City Library and the anti-racist magazine *MANA*, or a workshop programme and summer holiday activities for the children and the youth at the City Art Gallery, closely connected to the anti-racist exhibition of William Scott.
- **The public realm** through the anti-racist monument, a multidisciplinary art exhibition to stretch the framework for how art can explore power structures in fields such as historiography, remembrance culture, racism and political geography, as well as with a programme series to, based on current research, understand art in the public realm.



# PEER LEARNING. CULTURE AND ANTI- RACISM

- **Positioning Malmö in the wider world** by receiving external monitoring and international inputs, as well as change, inspiration and collaborations to place Malmö's anti-racist initiatives nationally and internationally.
- **Mapping and quality assurance** of anti-racist activities and initiatives within the institutions through analysing and presenting results to ensure the quality of the work, and an action plan for internal development.
- **Further examples of activities and initiatives for 2022** related to education and research, internal training and good practices for the Culture Department, anti-racist author talks, initiatives with local Afro-Swedish actors, and initiative financing by free culture practitioners.

In the morning of 21 September, the programme started in the Old Town Hall with a seminar on Islamophobia / anti-Muslim racism in collaboration with relevant actors for both Malmö residents and City of Malmö employees. **Domenica Ghidei Biidu**, Bureau member European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), in her keynote speech highlighted the importance of local governments, in direct contact with citizens, and underlined the crucial role of intercultural dialogue at a local level. Ghidei Biidu also presented the document **ECRI General Policy Recommendation No. 5 (revised) on preventing and combating anti-Muslim racism and discrimination**, and underlined that anti-Muslim racism and discrimination are multi-layered and intersectional, often linked to other discriminations such as gender discrimination.

After taking part in the seminar, the delegation was welcomed by Frida Trollmyr, Chair of Malmö Culture Board, and parted to visit the premises of the **City of Malmö's Culture Department**, the local government's body in charge of cultural policy. There, Fiona Winders (Development Coordinator, Department of Culture, City of Malmö) welcomed all the participants and expressed the interest of the city of Malmö to learn about the approaches taken by other cities in terms of culture within a wider strategic policy around anti-racism, as well as from their successes and challenges. The conversation continued as an opportunity to introduce the expectations and interests of each delegate and to offer a glimpse of the cultural policies of each city.

The next visit of the delegation in this peer learning exercise was the **Malmö City Archive**, one of the most visited archives in Sweden, with a public library and generous opening hours. City archivist Suzanne Sandberg presented the work of the archive, focused on human rights, and its mission to engage especially with children and the elderly. Sandberg

also exemplified the role of city archives in creating cultural heritage and combating racism, and its relevance in the daily life of citizens, through talks, tours and exhibitions, and cooperation with schools. Moreover, she also provided examples of documented institutional racism, as shown in a racist-embedded document on genealogy filled with prejudices towards certain communities, which built on biases and preconceived misconceptions, while correlating them with the crimes committed in the city.



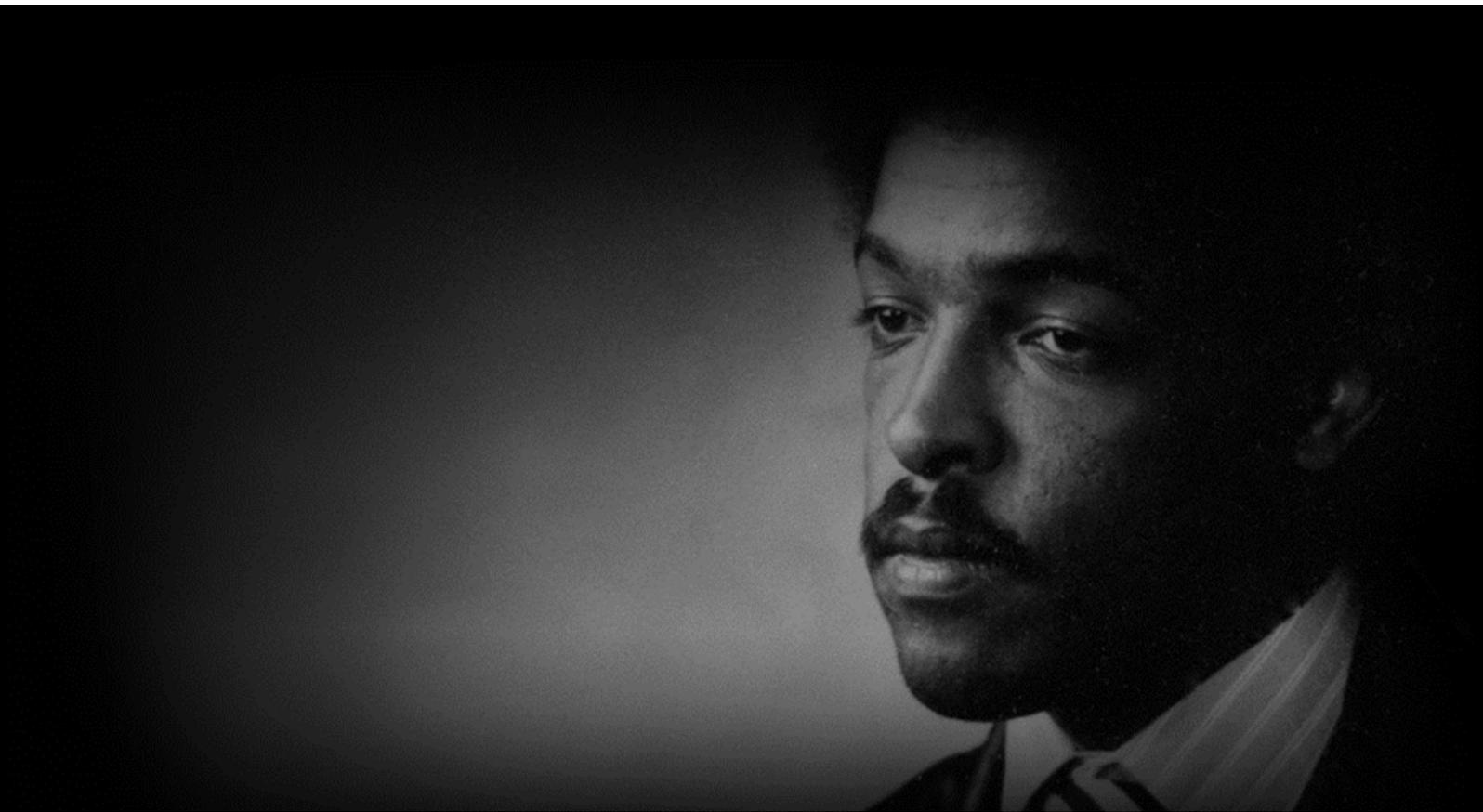
Malmö City Archive

In this context, the following work of the Malmö City Archive can be highlighted:

- Using the records to cooperate with the Jewish Community to promote the initiative Stopersteine.
- Developing a strategy to include all people by collecting archives from NGO's while cooperating with civil rights and LGBTQ movements, Black archives, the Finish-Swedish minority, as well as establishing dialogues with the Romani community.

This visit also included a presentation by Jasmina Dizdarevic Cordero, from the Culture Department of the City of Malmö, on the [Dawit Isaak Library](#), a freedom of expression library dedicated to free speech, being the first and only international collection of banned literature available to the public in the world. The library features a large percentage of unique titles of authors and artists who are combating racism and racialized writers, and offers programmes and exhibitions, as well as a sanctuary programme for persecuted artists.

The Dawit Isaak Library is a collaboration between Malmö City Archives, Malmö Libraries, Swedish PEN and ICORN (International Cities of Refuge Network). In 2021 it was chosen as a good practice of the Agenda 21 for culture, and it is available online at the UCLG Culture Committee's [OBS](#) of good practices.



Dawit Isaak Library — City of Malmö

At the [Malmö Art Museum](#), on the 22 September, Fiona Winders presented the work carried out by the municipality to address Islamophobia and Afrophobia through a cultural lens. She explained the approach taken, which placed the focus on involving civil society, connecting public art to these issues, and responding to the responsibility of developing partnerships, thus enabling the accumulation of knowledge provided by communities and actors of the civil society, while creating stronger links with citizens.

Specific initiatives undertaken include:

The **Anti-racist Monument**, a project that offers public talks and the installation of temporary and permanent public artworks to address racism and promote a co-creative memorial work within the public space of the city. This initiative responded to the call of civil society, given that there was a gap within the public service in Malmö in this regard. The t Monument contributes to the debate discrimination and racism, promotes a co-creative memorial work, and commemorates the memory of the victims, while also shaping the public culture memory of the city.

As an example of this initiative, Rena Baledi and Anna Wahlstedt, from the Culture Department, presented the exhibition “**The whole city is a monument**” — which emerged from the lack of public and collective processing of Peter Mang’s crimes in Malmö, a series of shootings motivated by racism — and that offered a space for the memory of the victims of these acts of violence that shook Malmö as a city. This initiative includes artworks emerged out of a research process, underlines the impact of racist structures in the creation of the city’s stories, and provides new perspectives on the role of public art in public space.

This presentation was followed by a subsequent discussion with all the delegates on public art and the collaboration on anti-racism initiatives between independent actors and the municipality.

Following the aforementioned visit to the Malmö Art Museum, the group headed towards **Malmö Konsthall**, one of the Northern Europe’s largest art showrooms and



part of the local cultural administration. This contemporary art gallery presents three to four exhibitions per year with both local and international artists. Its director, Mats Stjernfeldt showed and presented the **temporary exhibition “A Glimpse of Ceija Stojka”**. There, the delegates were told about the Ceija Stojka education programme to combat anti-Roma racism and they were able to witness, through her artwork legacy, the testimony of a Roma artist who survived three concentration camps in World War II.

This initiative responded to the challenge to bring the Konsthall closer to the Roma people, raising awareness about their history and making visible and condemning the repression suffered by this community, especially during World War II. Also, this exposition would tear down potential barriers and facilitate community engagement through a sense of belonging and co-ownership of the cultural space, with art and memory as key elements to address historical relations of oppression and discrimination. In this regard, the Konsthall works towards the promotion of cultural rights of the Roma people by including them within the wider process of the activities and development of the exposition, while ensuring that they could participate in the city’s cultural life. In this context, the following aspects can be highlighted:

- The collaboration with the Ceija Stojka International Fund for the production of the exhibition, as well as the involvement of the Roma Information and Knowledge Centre (RIKC) of Malmö.
- Activities, such as guided tours and lectures, carried out in Malmö Konsthall within the frame of the exhibition, with the aim of raising awareness on the Roma history and culture in Sweden. These initiatives were developed as part of Öppna Malmö, a project initiated by the city of Malmö to address discrimination and racism.

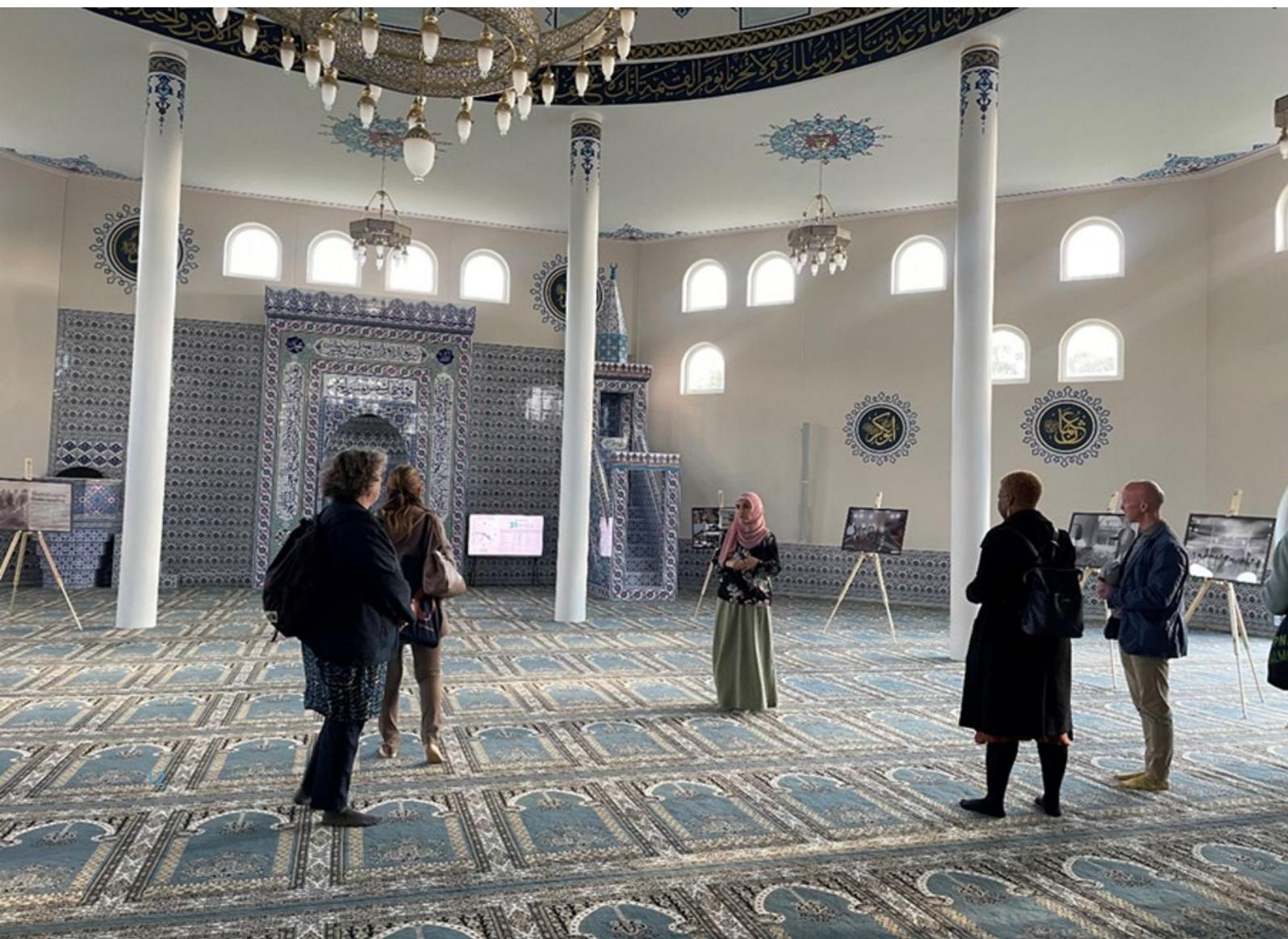


After these visits, presentations by local actors continued in the Islamic Centre, where Roland and Jonida Vishkurti offered a tour of the facilities, including the central mosque in Malmö. Beyond the religious function of the building, they explained:

- How the centre works as a meeting point between cultures and religions, and how it helps Muslims to live in a non-Muslim country.
- The many activities carried out for the community, such as: capacity building, educational projects or counselling, among others.
- The link with education through the Ögårdsskolan, a school run by the Islamic Centre which follows the Swedish curriculum, includes Islamology, and is open to everyone regardless of religious affiliation.

The last stop in the visit was a bench that was part of the aforementioned Anti-Racist Monument, located in the park that surrounded the Islamic Centre, from which Peter Mangs attempted a murder. The bench commemorates and raises awareness about this attack with the aim of combating racism collectively through a cultural lens. It also facilitates the engagement of artists and citizens on this issue, while promoting the public debate on anti-Muslim violence and discrimination through the implication of art in public space.

UCLG Culture Committee





Department of Culture — City of Malmö

On the morning of the 23 September, the delegation visited **Helamalmö**. Based in Nydala, Helamalmö (Whole Malmö) is an organisation which engages with the neighbourhood by creating relationships among citizens in an often considered politically neglected area. Aina Gagliardo, Head of Programmes för Helamalmö provided an overview of the purpose of the organisation's work, namely:

- Satisfying the basic needs of the people, primarily the youth, through services such as offering free breakfast.
- Providing counselling or book lending.
- Focusing on building opinion and addressing the causes of poverty and racism.
- Offering opportunities for generations to meet through different activities. One example of this is the creation of podcasts of oral history where the youth carried out interviews and recorded them, thus learning and disseminating life stories of the neighbourhood.

To finalise this visit, the delegates took part in a collective and dynamic exercise. All the participants were invited to close their eyes and were asked to think of, for instance, how a "the typical Swedish or immigrant person in Sweden would like". Based on these leading questions, the delegates shared with the group the first images that came to their minds. Subsequently, all the answers were gathered in a blackboard and the result showed the inherent and unconscious - but evident - racism embedded in our society.

The activities of Helamalmö constituted an example on the ground of the fact that the work of the city of Malmö is in line with the mission of UCLG in terms of placing people, rights

and care at the centre, and leaving no-one and no place behind. This work resonates with the concept of “conviviality”, which was particularly addressed during the [launch of the 4th UCLG Culture Summit in Izmir](#) and online, on 10 June 2021, and in the [Summit](#) as well. Conviviality is key to jointly build our society with citizens, promote cultural diversity, and dissipate the fear of alterity by providing an opportunity for exchange, bringing communities together, as well as creating inter-relationships and cohesion through cultural participation and collective action.



UCLG Culture Committee

The last visit of this peer learning programme was in KRUT, a meeting place for young people and its network-based work located in the [Malmö City Library](#). There, Rickard Sjöholm, Marit Merold and Sarah Hirani provided an overview on the task carried out by the Koll t Collective to engage with teachers and schools, and presented the anti-racist magazine *MANA*, which involved a wide range of actors, activists and experts to educate the youth against racism. Among the examples of partnerships developed, the collaboration with the anti-racist centre Helamalmö was mentioned.

MANA, alongside the City Library, also carried out the KOLL Summer employment scheme for 16-19- year olds, which proved to be useful for them to raise awareness and gain in-depth knowledge of racism and discrimination, and offer resources for young people to have more confident discussions, express their opinions, and be able to inform other people about this subject.

This presentation was followed by a round of reflections and concluding remarks by all delegates of the visiting cities, experts, and local actors. As UCLG representatives, Marta Llobet and Jordi Baltà thanked all the participants for taking part in this peer-learning exercise and concluded the visit by summarising the inputs raised, as well as the main takeaways, and finished by putting forward ideas for further discussion in the future.



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Cities over the world have begun taking action on culture and anti-racism, and Malmö has shown a strong leadership in this regard, an outstanding work that the UCLG Culture Committee undoubtedly recognises and congratulates. During this seminar and peer-learning exercise, Malmö presented inspirational initiatives to all the visiting cities, connected them to local actors and stakeholders, and offered a highly enriching and remarkable human experience to all delegates and UCLG representatives.

The UCLG Culture Committee aims to carry out different peer-learning exercises hosted in other member cities in the future. These activities will focus on an issue, chosen from a wide and cross-sectional range of topics, that is in line and coherent with the needs of the hosts and the other participant cities, thus creating a space of international exchange and debate with culture at its heart.



# REFLECTIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

As the visit came to an end, participants were invited to reflect on the conclusions they had extracted. Here are some of their views:

Our sincere thanks to Fiona Winders and her team that worked with excellence to organise the Culture and Anti-racism Seminar & Peer-Learning Session in Malmö. The enormous effort behind each presentation, workshop, oral session, and meal was hugely appreciated. From the beginning, it was clear that the organising team had thought carefully of the welfare and safety of all attendees. Thank you for inviting Leeds!

## **Main impressions**

The range of cities represented was brilliant and allowed us the opportunity to make some excellent new contacts and to learn so very much. We were pleasantly surprised by the diversity of the city of Malmö, by its art and the passion of its civic partners. We loved the bold and unapologetic approach that the Cultural Strategy Unit in Malmö has chosen in addressing the challenges and inequities that have arisen due to high levels of immigration and tensions between communities, while championing and embracing the opportunities that a diverse society brings.

The programme of activities was insightful and thought provoking, really giving delegates a balanced view of the structural problems, and evidencing the urgency in addressing the challenges faced by non-white communities in the city. We were also given the opportunity to see illustrations of hope and resilience in the face of Islamophobia, Afrophobia and xenophobia and the power that can be generated when an individual or group stands against racism.

## **Learning**

The talks were exceptional from beginning to end – starting with the Seminar on Islamophobia all the way through to the presentations at Malmö City Library.

## **Our main takeaways**

- The importance of public art as a way of starting difficult conversations, helping us all to connect to people's lived experiences and allowing us to engage with different communities
- The need for public figures, like politicians and high-ranking officials, to stand against hate speech and racism
- The advantages of intercultural and interreligious dialogue
- The importance of exploring history through an anti-racist lens

- Who and what is represented in the public realm is an important democratic and anti-racist function: the connection made in Malmö between democracy and anti-racism is a powerful way of driving efforts to combat racism. This makes it apolitical and puts the onus on all politicians to do something about it
- Creating new ways for people to experience art so it plays a more active role in society
- Exploring the concept of invisibility in history thus giving a voice to those that do not speak
- Key that organisations acknowledge structural racism and its effects and appoint resources to dismantle it
- Importance of curating oral history
- Understanding the intersectionality of culture and how it links with economic inequality
- The importance of working closely with civic partners to achieve positive outcomes
- A dedicated budget is essential to ensure work gets done

#### **Ideas for further discussion**

- The importance of structure and accountability – how can we ensure decision-making bodies that are not diverse, make decisions that account to a more diverse society? Openness, participation, measurable actions
- Exploring the link between democracy and racism
- Further collaboration between Leeds and Malmö
- Sustainability and dedicated resources for initiatives

**David Hopes and Gilda Smith-Leigh, Leeds**

To represent our country in this peer-learning visit is very important, especially in this cause: the fight against racism. We wanted to express our gratitude for this experience, and say that this formation needs continuity. We are indeed taking a “big encyclopaedia” home.

There are many people who fight for their life and freedom. In this way, we can change the history of a story that has not been told yet, and work on target emancipation and solidarity as humans. We have to fight, and it is urgent that we are united in this. During the pandemic, we had a lot of online activities but nothing can replace looking at everybody’s eyes and exchanging experiences. We often think that we are trying to address a problem of our own, feeling isolated, but this visit is a proof that there are other people that are in the same fight with us.

In Brazil, we work with the four “D”. Our guides are: democratic, decolonial, dialogical and disobedient. After the experience in the Islamic centre, and the activity we took part in at the Anti-racist centre Helamalmö, we realised that when we closed our eyes, racism was there. That is why we need disobedience. We need to teach ourselves to disobey these even unconscious racist and sexist ideas.

### **Ideas for the future**

In São Paulo, we are now working on the Exhibition of Black Consciousness. This visit has given us hope for future collaborations and joint initiatives to show our work and what we are all doing to combat racism. It is mind-blowing and a great opportunity to see all the different types of complexities among these very different cities, while also being able to learn from, take and export these initiatives.

**Elaine Gomes de Lima and Aryane de Jonas Godinho, São Paulo**

Izmir is a Leading City of the UCLG Culture Committee located in Turkey, which is a country where the majority of the population is Muslim. Due to this fact, Islamophobia is not an issue but alterophobia could indeed be a problem, as it may also happen in other cities. In this regard, we all have similar types of problems that are increasingly imposed on us all, and that is exactly why we need to keep contact. The world is but one country, and we need to search to live in it in equity and trying to understand the other, which is not always easy. A striking example of this that I wanted to share with you is a graffiti that I saw in Venice that said: “the country will be when we will be all foreigners”. It may be the way but it will take time.

As for Malmö, I am impressed by the work carried out by the municipality, its way to keep on with this, as well as by the will of the citizens to be part of it. With this work, the city of Malmö will facilitate that the wide Malmöits are part of it somehow. For instance, Helamalmö, the anti-racist centre that we visited on the 23 December, is doing an extraordinary work with the community and I believe that it should be considered as one of the good practices of Agenda 21 for Culture. Within this work direction, there are also some internal bridges still to be built among great initiatives that we have seen in the city that combined could even multiply their impact. On this, we should remind ourselves that we all have a common problem, and we are facing several issues indeed, but the more we will comment and share, the more we will learn.

**Serhan Ada, Izmir, Expert of the UCLG Committee on Culture**

During these days, we have been inspired to creatively think how we can provide a better use of the spaces of the city. Among the visits in this peer-learning exercise, witnessing the bench at the Islamic centre and discovering the initiative “the whole city is a monument”, as well as learning its underlying meaning and value, triggered the question of what opportunities are we providing to residents to create and experience art throughout the city. Also, it is important to underline how the experience at the Anti-racist centre “Helamalmö” used the expression “politically neglected” to refer to the area where this infrastructure was located rather than the usual “socially deprived”, therefore putting the focus on the politicians.

Another of the things to be highlighted is the importance of “place”, as well as the need for culture to be more accessible. The fact that the archives were not at the library responded to this, in the same way that a lesson learned is that “the archives are for the living, not for the dead”. In this way, we can rethink how we can use archives in an accessible manner, especially to be reachable by communities that have been often hindered in accessing this kind of cultural infrastructure.

**Edison Huynh, Lewisham, London**

The mandate given to the City of Malmö’s Department of Culture by the Municipal Executive Board in order to combat racism, with a particular focus on counteracting Afrophobia and Islamophobia, stands quite significantly in today’s local cultural policy. Here, cultural policy aims to actively engage with structural aspects of culture and society, including the imbalances which have contributed to defining local cultural life today. It also understands culture as the terrain of deep-rooted tensions, and sees cultural policy as one relevant tool to address them. This contrasts significantly with cultural policies that focus primarily on the organisation of events and activities.

While giving the cultural realm pre-eminence in combatting Afrophobia and Islamophobia is an ambitious move, it also raises some questions about how to make it operationally effective. One of them concerns the potential need to strengthen collaboration with other policy departments. Seeing “the whole city as a monument”, for instance, involves the need to address aspects like urban planning, mobility and community development, for instance. In the long term, therefore, it will be interesting to observe how policy evolves, and I would encourage stronger cross-departmental collaborations, with specific budgetary allocations to this end.

The observation of the policy framework and programmes in Malmö also raised some questions about the use of language. Making the anti-racist commitment explicit in policy objectives is a welcome decision, but it is likely

to generate unease and resistance among many. This is not easy to solve – it seems necessary to make policy priorities explicit, but at the same time I would argue that some measures adopted in related areas (e.g. those that foster social cohesion and intercultural relations, the recognition of diversity, equality, etc.) may also contribute to the goal of combatting racism. Do we need a more complex understanding of how these different measures complement one another? And should we modulate language depending on the specific contexts and stakeholders with whom we interact?

Moving into the more specific approaches and programmes, I found Malmö's approach to anti-racist public art very interesting. While I am not an expert in the field, the combination of permanent and temporary works, public talks and guided tours to contextualise and discuss the works on display, and the potential of digital technology to provide additional information (e.g. through QR codes) stands out to me as a way to increase opportunities for engagement and meaning among local communities, as well as to present diverse, changing narratives.

In terms of governance, the strengthening of a cultural approach to anti-racism acknowledges the important role of civil society organisations, including those that represent minority groups and are the target of Afrophobia and Islamophobia. This is well aligned with participatory and multi-stakeholder governance, recognising both the knowledge and experience of specific communities and the need to engage them in the policymaking process, and could inspire similar developments elsewhere.

Finally, in keeping with the peer-learning methodology, I appreciated the diversity of the group of participants. Several of the participating cities had significant previous experience in related areas (e.g. Barcelona, Leeds, Lewisham, Lisbon, Montreal, São Paulo), which they were able to share during the event. This is therefore an issue of common interest, while also reflecting the point, made by Domenica Ghidei Biidu during her presentation on 21 September, that racism is highly context dependent and involves different policy responses. Exchanging experiences, however, provides inspiration and learning and may enable us to strengthen the set of policies and measures that could be relevant in this field.

**Jordi Baltà, Expert of the UCLG Committee on Culture**

It was very inspiring for me too. I didn't realize that my work with museums, theatres, cultural institutes would be of any interest during my visit to Malmö while discussing the importance of tackling anti Muslim racism and discrimination.

**Domenica Ghidei Biidu, Bureau member European Commission  
against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)**



# ANNEX

## **Documents concerning Montreal's process on fighting systemic racism and discrimination (provided by Marie-Odile Melançon from Montreal):**

- The report on the public consultation on systemic racism and discrimination within the jurisdiction of the city of Montréal (in French) by the *Office de consultation publique de Montréal (OCPM)*
- <https://ocpm.qc.ca/fr/actualite/rapport-consultation-publique-sur-racisme-et-discrimination-systemique-en-questions> (It is possible to read the English version of this report, but you would need to write directly to the OCPM through their website)
- The bureau of the Commissioner for the fight against systemic racism and discrimination (in French only) : <https://montreal.ca/unites/bureau-de-la-commissaire-la-lutte-au-racisme-et-aux-discriminations-systemiques>
- 12 engagements of the City for an inclusive transition (French only) : [http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/page?\\_pageid=5798,42657625&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL&id=34300](http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/page?_pageid=5798,42657625&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&id=34300) or [https://portail-m4s.s3.montreal.ca/pdf/vdm\\_-\\_transition\\_inclusive.pdf](https://portail-m4s.s3.montreal.ca/pdf/vdm_-_transition_inclusive.pdf) (french version)
- Public meeting – report of the City : <https://montreal.ca/en/events/public-meeting-achievements-to-fight-systemic-racism-and-systemic-discrimination-27297>
- Call for projects on cultural mediation and resilience (in French only): <https://montreal.ca/programmes/appel-de-projets-montreal-culturelle-verte-et-resiliente>

## **Documents about Interculturality and Anti-racism in Barcelona (provided by Núria Serra from Barcelona):**

- Barcelona Interculturality Plan: [https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/bcnacciointercultural/sites/default/files/documentos/barcelona\\_interculturality\\_plan\\_2021-2030.pdf](https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/bcnacciointercultural/sites/default/files/documentos/barcelona_interculturality_plan_2021-2030.pdf)
- Espai Avinyó: <https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/bcnacciointercultural/es/espai-avinyo>
- The Religious Affairs Office (OAR): <https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/oficina-afers-religiosos/en/>
- The Barcelona Municipal Council for Roma People: <https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/consell-municipal-poble-gitano/en/>
- Anti-rumours network: <https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/bcnacciointercultural/es/estrategia-bcn-antirumores/que-hacemos-estrategia-antirumores>
- Article: Anti-rumour strategy: Taking stock of a 10-year-old policy conceived in Barcelona ([https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/dretssocials/sites/default/files/revista-ingles/011\\_exp\\_nuria\\_serra\\_bcn28\\_ang.pdf](https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/dretssocials/sites/default/files/revista-ingles/011_exp_nuria_serra_bcn28_ang.pdf)).

**Exposition Atlântico Vermelho (provided by Margarida Kol from Lisbon):**

- Exhibition Atlântico Vermelho (Red Atlantic) from the extensive research developed by the artist Rosana Paulino, at Padrao dos Descobrimentos (Monument of the Discoveries). [In Portuguese] – see <https://padraodosdescobrimentos.pt/evento/atlantico-vermelho/>

**Information on other initiatives in Lisbon (provided by André Dores from Lisbon):**

- Festival “TODOS” (ALL). Promoted by the Academy of Cultural Producers and the Lisbon City Council, it has contributed to ending territorial ghettos associated with immigration, inviting audiences to coexist in the Portuguese capital with cultures from all over the world. It takes place in different parts of the city with a diversified program that includes music, theater, guided tours, cinema, dance or gastronomy – see [www.festivaltodos.com](http://www.festivaltodos.com).
- Festival “Lisboa Criola” (Lisbon Creole). Its mission is to mix and share a part of diversity to and through culture, including creative areas of arts such as music, gastronomy and fashion, among others – see <https://www.lisboacriola.pt/>.
- Museu de Lisboa (Lisbon Museum) is a cultural institution of Lisbon Municipality managed by EGEAC. It promotes thematic exhibitions and related publications, itineraries around the city dedicated to themes such as Muslim, African and Jewish Lisbon, and spaces associated with slavery, among others, while illustrating the historical and cultural diversity of the city, which must be part of its present and future development – see <https://museudelisboa.pt/en>.

**Documents on art initiatives combatting racism in the UK (provided by Jordi Baltà, Expert of the UCLG Committee on Culture):**

- Anti-racism touring rider, developed by touring theatre companies in the UK, - <https://anti-racismtouringrider.co.uk/>
- Information found via the Creative Equity Toolkit, an excellent portal developed by Diversity Arts Australia and the British Council, which includes an ‘anti-racism’ section among others – see <https://creativeequitytoolkit.org/>



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