## LOGO

Sangini is a by and for Black women’s development organisation in Tyne and Wear with a track record stretching back nearly 20 years. Working mostly with Black and minority-ethnic women, Sangini combines health and arts, often combining the two in exploratory and participatory therapeutic creative and heritage projects, aiding personal and community development.

Sangini is the only arts-based community development organisation in the region tailoring its service and projects in consultation with black and minoritised women. Sangini offers practice led peer group forums that enable women to access safe spaces for self-expression, and to explore and develop cultural entitlement.

Sangini’s mission is, *‘to increase the quality of the lives of women in the North East by raising awareness about the issues of physical, mental and spiritual health, as well as promoting cultural diversity through artistic, educational, cultural and recreational activities’.*

Sangini’s work is characterised by its interculturalism (curiosity) and creativity in community development. Over 18 years it has developed both specialism and breadth in its work, its partnerships, and its areas of interest. Successes include annual International Women’s Day events which have attracted over 150 attendees, the 2018 year long *Women’s House* arts project, and close partnerships with local/ regional universities and cultural organisations.

The diversity and attitude of Sangini’s work was described by it’s Board in many words including: Everywoman, Holistic, Local but/and global, Lived and Learning, Welcoming, Resilient

Sangini itself has undergone a revolution in its identity and confidence in 2020 as a result of the global, national, regional and local impact of race equality activism and the COVID-19 pandemic, coming to better recognise its own resilience, value and authoritative position as an expert bridge across communities, cultures and sectors. With this, Sangini’s ambition has crystallised: to move from operating project-to-project to a sustainable model through which Sangini can realise greater impact and influence both at a grass roots and strategic partnership level.

Sangini’s history of activism from 2002 to present day can be reflected in the breadth of exploration and collaborative projects that it has engaged in with strategic partnership development at it’s core. Having a seat on the Board of Cultural Spring, the only organisation in the Sunderland area to hold the Cultural People Cultural Places Arts Council funding in addition to working actively with other women’s organisations both North and South of Tyne Sangini strives to bring visibility of the lived experience and cultural expression of South Asian diaspora women in various cultural exhibitions. Sangini’s expertise in leveraging creative disciplines and resources contributes to a narrative that challenges misconceptions about us, of multi-facteded identities, in our region and enables the organisation to learn, unlearn, grow and inform, teach and be taught. The conversation is two ways, as it always ought to be amongst friends.

To sustain a practice of platforming of black and minoritised women’s lives, Sangini will continue to be-friend, listen, platform, make visible and protect WOC’s interests, assuring the women we work with that they are never alone. 2022 marks the 20th anniversary of Sangini.

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