

Dear Sable Radio,

We would like to respond to your social media post and open letter published yesterday, 4th June, which makes serious allegations about the conduct of the inner city electronic team and the way we work with artists and other contributors from backgrounds including BAME, people of colour, non-cis and queer. Firstly, as we have always done, we continue to listen, learn and strive to improve all aspects of the event, including the representation of artists and panellists from these and other backgrounds and we accept that there is always more work to be done.

However, we categorically deny the allegations of bullying, discrimination in any form including fees paid to artists, lack of local artist representation and lack of clarity regarding our charity partners contained in your letter.

The letter makes a broad claim of bullying without detailing any incident and no complaint has been received by anyone in our team. We have never asked any panel member to 'sanitize' their contribution. On the contrary, panel members are invited specifically for the unique perspectives they bring to our discussions. Members of Sable Radio itself have taken part in our panel events in every year of inner city electronic and we have always had productive and friendly relations with your team up to and including conversations during the last week.

It is not true that any artist was 'forced' to remove themselves from the inner city digital line up. Following the public announcement of one artist's cancellation others withdrew from the event, which we're extremely saddened by, as we looked forward to them joining us this weekend.

All artists on the inner city digital line up were being paid exactly the same performance fee.

As organisers of events in the Leeds and wider area collectively and individually for over 30 years, we have always passionately supported local artists at all levels and from all backgrounds, creating opportunities to perform and be paid fairly for their work.

inner city electronic was created expressly to provide Leeds with an event based on local talent, artists, creators and promoters, alongside some national and international headliners and a conference element that presents big name speakers and local contributors side by side. This weekend's inner city digital line-up was made up entirely of local artists living in the city. In addition, everyone behind the scenes connected to the curation and production of the event is Leeds-based.

Fund raising efforts in relation to this weekend's live streams have been made clear across our social media platforms and event artwork, including details of the charities we were inviting the audience to donate to if they were able. Donation links were also to be shared throughout the weekend when our audience were engaged with the event itself.

In the three years of inner city electronic we have worked hard to make the event inclusive for and representative of all members of the community. We have always invited and welcomed constructive criticism and positive co-operation.

We are deeply saddened by the false allegations made throughout this open letter but are confident that the people we work with to put our events together will know that these statements do not in any way represent the reality of how we operate.

Today we have announced the postponement of inner city digital to allow important voices to be heard. We are consulting widely and taking legal advice in relation to the allegations in the circulated open letter.

Due to the serious nature of these allegations, we have today spoken directly with The Racial Justice Network who we have invited to arbitrate this as an independent third party.

If you would like to discuss this matter further please contact us via info@innercityelectronic.com

Yours sincerely,

The inner city electronic team.