

Mission Statement

Surviving Universal UK is the UK's only Black-led specialist organisation dedicated to addressing spiritual and cultic abuse. Survivor-led and safeguarding-focused, we work to prevent abuse, support those affected by it, strengthen professional responses and drive greater recognition and accountability across the systems and institutions in which harm occurs.

We exist because spiritual and cultic abuse remain significantly under-recognised within mainstream safeguarding and abuse-response systems, and because Black survivors in particular are too often overlooked, misunderstood and underserved. Our work brings a culturally competent and anti-oppressive lens to the specific racial, cultural and structural dynamics that can shape abuse, including the misuse of faith, spiritual authority, tradition and culture to control individuals, silence victims and survivors, and evade accountability.

Our commitment to Black survivors is not exclusionary, it is corrective.

While we intentionally centre the experiences of Black and other underrepresented communities, we support victims and survivors of spiritual and cultic abuse from all backgrounds, regardless of race, culture, faith or belief, gender, sexuality or identity. No survivor should be excluded from support because of who they are or where their abuse occurred.

Surviving Universal UK is explicitly anti-racist, anti-oppressive and LGBTQ+ inclusive. We recognise that abuse does not occur in a vacuum and that racism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, disability, socioeconomic inequality and other forms of marginalisation can intersect with spiritual and coercive control, compounding harm and creating additional barriers to safety, support and justice.

Our work spans specialist survivor support, advocacy, training and education, safeguarding, research and evidence-building, professional consultation, public awareness, policy influence and systemic accountability. We equip professionals and organisations to recognise and respond more effectively to spiritual and cultic abuse, amplify survivor expertise, challenge harmful practices and work with partners across safeguarding, government, law, health, education, faith and the wider voluntary sector to improve responses.

Surviving Universal UK champions the right of people of all faiths, spiritualities and beliefs, as well as those with none, to live free from abuse, exploitation and coercion. We challenge harm within religious, spiritual and other high-control environments without condemning faith or belief itself, recognising that everyone deserves safety, dignity and freedom of thought, whether they choose to believe, belong, leave or not believe at all.

Our mission is to shift power back to survivors, strengthen the systems responsible for protecting them, challenge abuse carried out in the name of belief or authority, and build a society in which spiritual and cultic abuse is recognised, responded to and taken seriously.

Accountability Is Not Persecution®.

Rachael Reign
Founder & Chief Executive Officer
Surviving Universal UK

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reign' with a stylized initial 'R'.

Surviving Universal UK Community Interest Company No. 15815968

United Kingdom

Website: Survivinguniversaluk.com

Email: info@survivinguniversaluk.org

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