

## Diversity & Inclusion Statement

### East Coast Dance Arts (ECDA): Commitment to Diversity, Inclusion & Accessibility

At **East Coast Dance Arts**, we believe in the power of **dance and film** to inspire, unite, and amplify diverse voices. Our commitment to **inclusion and accessibility** is at the heart of everything we do.

#### Our Goals:

- **Expanding Audiences & Participation:**  
We actively engage with **local and national institutions, schools, arts organisations, and minority groups** to encourage participation from underrepresented communities.
- **National & Cross-Border Collaboration:**  
We partner with dance organisations in **Belfast, Limerick, Cork, and Galway** to build connections across Ireland.
- **Diverse Representation:**  
Our programme includes artists from **a broad spectrum of backgrounds**, featuring works from refugee and displaced communities, LGBTQ+ artists, and those addressing themes of conflict, identity, and resilience.
- **Equal Access to Opportunities:**  
We strive to remove barriers to participation by providing **financial, logistical, and networking support** for selected artists.
- **Ongoing Strategic Development:**  
A key focus is to **expand festival outreach**, using surveys, case studies, and audience insights to enhance engagement and inclusivity.

#### How We Implement Change:

1. **Education & Outreach:**
  - School engagement programmes
  - Workshops with differently-abled dancers
  - Mentorships for emerging artists
2. **Programme Curation:**
  - Works are **selected based on artistic merit** rather than identity profiling.
  - The festival incorporates '**Arts in Times of Conflict**', a strand exploring creative expression from artists in exile or facing socio-political barriers.
3. **Community Partnerships:**
  - Collaborations with **Mermaid Arts Centre, Dance Ireland, Spotlight Dance Studios, BIFE, ICFE, and College of Dance** to support professional and student artists.
  - Links with **Ukrainian Supports Ireland, GOAL, and Irish Aid** to facilitate access for marginalised groups.

Our commitment to diversity is **ongoing and evolving**, ensuring **ECDA remains a platform for innovation, artistic excellence, and social impact.**

