



The Race Equality Centre in Leicester and Leicestershire

Trec Blog: <http://trec1972.wordpress.com>

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## The Race Equality Centre

The Race Equality Centre actively promotes, seeks, and implements a racially just, fair and equitable society, which will enhance the quality of life for all citizens of Leicester and Leicestershire.

**April 2019**

### **TREC Updates**

- **Kill The Black One First**

Kill The Black One First is a memoir written by Michael Fuller who was Britain's first Black Chief of Police before his retirement. His memoir follows his life from his childhood in care to his time in the police as he rose through the ranks to become Britain's first Black Police Chief. The book doesn't shy away from the constant institutional racism of the police force as a whole, and the casual racism of his fellow officers and the effect it had over the course of his career. TREC bought a copy to read and review. To read some of our thoughts please click here:

<http://tinyurl.com/y2luksby>

- **ESOL Wish List**

TREC's ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Language) classes have so far helped over 200 clients and counting. We want to go on helping even more people and have a wish list of study materials and supplies we need on Amazon which would make our classes more efficient which would lead to further success for our clients. The list contains items which range in price but start from only a few pounds. We understand that times are hard for everyone right now but if you could take a look and maybe buy something we would greatly appreciate it. To see our wish list in full please click here: [www.tinyurl.com/trecsolwishlist](http://www.tinyurl.com/trecsolwishlist)

- **TREC On Instagram**

TREC is pleased to announce that we have started our own Instagram page. We plan to use it in conjunction with our other social media to provide further updates regarding TREC's events and activities. For more information please click here: <http://tinyurl.com/y5aux22x>

- **TREC Welcomes New Colleagues**

With support from The Big Lottery Fund TREC recently hired two new equality officers, Joe, and Jaz. They will be working together as health navigators to set up and deliver a mental health support service. Their programme will provide support, assessment, advice and guidance sessions enabling participants to enhance and develop their mental health and well-being strategies to access services. They also plan to assist with demystification of mental health with community organisations through training and support and advise health care professions. We would like to

take this opportunity to extend our warmest welcome to our new colleagues. It is still early days yet for their work but we will provide more information on this new programme when it is developed.

- **Walter Tull Event Update**

Walter Tull was one of the first Black professional footballers in Britain. He was also the first Black person to serve as an officer in the British Army. He was killed in action on 25 March 1918, during the First Battle of Bapaume. TREC held an event to celebrate and discuss his life last year. As part of it we held an art project to produce a commemorative banner. As a minor update TREC is proud to have received an award for our art project. The banner was made by some of our ESOL learners and volunteers. To see a photo of the banner please click here: <http://tinyurl.com/y37cw9lt>

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## Local News

- **Leicester Women's Evening**

Leicester's African Caribbean Centre are holding a Women's Evening on Saturday April 6 from 5PM to 11:30PM. This empowering and celebrating event will be free to enter and will feature inspirational talks, networking opportunities, music, workshops, stalls, activities, and African Caribbean food. It will also feature healing and massage sessions @ £7 per person which can be booked on the day. The event will be held at the African Caribbean Centre, Maidstone Road, Leicester, LE2 0UA. For more information please call: 0116 221 1793 or click here to visit their Facebook page: <http://tinyurl.com/y3y633wy>

- **Imperial Typewriters Project**

The Strike at Imperial Typewriters Project is Heritage Lottery Funded project which is collecting stories about the 1974 Leicester Typewriter Strike. They want to hear from anyone who worked at Imperial Typewriter Co. on East Park Road in 1974 or was somehow involved in the strike. They are also interested in photos, film, memorabilia, or strike protesters from the event. For more information please contact by email: [imperial@b3media.net](mailto:imperial@b3media.net) Or contact Writer and Researcher Divya Ghelani by phone: 07366280884 to book your appointment and have your story heard.

- **Reach Society**

Reach Society is a prominent social enterprise working to encourage, motivate and inspire young people, especially Black boys and young men, to develop their talents to make viable transitions into adult life. There is a motivational employability event that the University of Leicester (UoL) and the Foundation for Reach Society (<http://reachsociety.com/>) are organising at UoL on 29 May 2019. The event will enable school students aged 10-19 within the region to interact with Black role models in various professions, and a broad range of exhibitors from the public and private sectors. The event is free to exhibitors. If you are interested in being a Role Model, an exhibitor, providing names and contact details of other professionals who may wish to be Role Models, or to tell us of any local employers that you know who might wish to be exhibitors please contact us by phone: 0116 204 2790, or email: [administrator@theraceequalitycentre.org.uk](mailto:administrator@theraceequalitycentre.org.uk)

- **UK Asian Film Festival Leicester**

The UK Asian Film Festival is coming to Leicester for the third year from April 3 to April 6. The festival will celebrate the very best in films from South Asia and the many dimensions of its vibrant culture. Across the festival they will be showcasing a curated programme of various films from

contemporary South Asian cinema. For more information including a full list of all films and showtimes please click here: <https://www.phoenix.org.uk/event/uk-asian-film-festival-leicester/>

## National News

### • Grenfell children 'didn't know where to turn', says damning report

The Equality and Human Rights Commission have released an assessment of the State's response to the Grenfell Tower fire. The assessment found that the best interests of children affected by the disaster were neglected, breaching international obligations. The report highlights inadequate mental health and education support, as well as discriminatory practices among immigration officials. For more information please click here: <http://www.irr.org.uk/news/calendar-of-racism-and-resistance-6-march-19-march-2019/>

### • Birstall Traveller's Site Petition 'Racist', Says Campaigner

A petition signed by over 5000 people opposed to the building of a new 'travellers' site' in Birstall, West Yorkshire has been branded racist by anti-gypsyism by law-student Brigitta Balogh, who hopes to become the UK's first Roma barrister. The petition was started in opposition to Kirklees Council's plans to allow a 'traveller's site' close to the Showcase Cinema complex at Birstall Retail Park. For more information please click here: <https://www.batleynews.co.uk/news/birstall-traveller-site-petition-racist-says-campaigner-1-9650068>

### • Students Occupy Goldsmiths In Protest At Institutional Racism

Students have occupied a key building at Goldsmiths, part of the University of London, demanding an institution-wide strategy to tackle racism which they say is undermining the experiences of black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) students. Protesters belonging to Goldsmiths Anti-Racist Action began their occupation of Deptford town hall more than a week ago, after a candidate in the student elections complained she had been subjected to racist abuse. For more information please click here: <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/mar/20/students-occupy-goldsmiths-in-protest-at-institutional-racism>

### • Amber Rudd says sorry to Diane Abbott for calling her 'coloured'

The Work and Pensions Secretary, Amber Rudd, has apologised to Diane Abbott for "clumsy language" after describing the Shadow Home Secretary as "coloured" in a radio interview. In a tweet after the interview, Abbott said the use of coloured was an "offensive and revealing choice of words". The comment came during an interview with Jeremy Vine on BBC Radio 2, in a section of the discussion connected to the abuse and online trolling suffered by many MPs. For more information please click here: <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/mar/07/amber-rudd-apologises-to-diane-abbott-for-calling-her-coloured>

### • First Slavery 'Super-Complaint' Accuses Police Of Fuelling Victims' Trauma

Categoric police failings are hindering the prosecution of human traffickers and barring victims of modern slavery from the support they are legally entitled to, according to a new super-complaint to the HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services. The super-complaint – the first on modern slavery – has been submitted by London-based charity Hestia. It outlines how some police officers are not reporting cases of modern slavery to the Home Office and that a failure to

sensitively handle cases of modern slavery is discouraging victims across England and Wales from supporting criminal investigations against their exploiters. The super-complaint system allows organisations to raise concerns on behalf of the public and confront fundamental issues. For more information please click here: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/mar/25/first-slavery-super-complaint-accuses-police-of-fuelling-victims-trauma>

- **Ethnic Minorities Are Not 'More Sensitive Than Others'**

A new study by Dr Keon West from Goldsmiths, University of London shows there is no evidence that ethnic minorities are more sensitive than other groups to supposedly trivial insults or invalidations, but they do experience them more often. The study tested the arguments of those who dismiss negative responses to potential slights as 'hypersensitivity' and claim that ethnic minorities' responses to these events are excessive, or even pathological. A report of the research is published in the journal Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin. For more information please click here: <https://www.voice-online.co.uk/article/ethnic-minorities-are-not-more-sensitive-others>

- **Fund Helps BME Women With Vital Financial Assistance**

A series of projects to help BME women and girls across the UK have been boosted massively after a year of funding from the Tampon Tax Fund. Real Change Collective (RCC) has given hundreds of women vital healthcare, benefits advice and help to get work. RCC is a partnership of six diverse and separate charities working to provide services to BME clients - often refugees and migrants. Each organisation has been able to use the money from the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's Tampon Tax Fund to add to and improve their areas of expertise. For more information please click here: <https://www.voice-online.co.uk/article/fund-helps-bme-women-vital-financial-assistance>