



The Race Equality Centre in Leicester and Leicestershire

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

Twitter: @TREC1967

Facebook: TREC The Race Equality Centre

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.

February 2017

TREC Updates

- **Avtar Sadiq Singh We Salute You**

Avtar Sadiq Singh 13/04/41– 28/01/18.

Avtar is an individual who was instrumental in creating our organisation back in 1967. Following an illness Avtar resigned his official position as vice chair but returned recently to being an active board member. He was respectfully awarded TREC's plaque for challenging race discrimination for 50+ years.

Those of you who know Avtar will be in agreement that he lived to champion 'racial justice' in all its guises. This is evidenced through Avtar's timeless publications, his attraction to meaningful campaigns, his addresses from multiple platforms, the use of the pen in poetry, and the numerous meetings attended here and abroad.

After a sudden illness and subsequent heart failure, this remarkable man is no longer with us in person but this legend will remain present through our memories and his countless material.

The Race Equality Centre pays respect and offers our condolence to Avtar's wife Gurdarshan and their son Arvinder during this sad time.

To see video of Avtar accepting his plaque from TREC please click here:

<https://www.facebook.com/trec.leicester1/videos/831759697012411/>

- **Volunteer ESOL Assistant**

TREC has had some voluntary positions open up with our ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Language) as volunteer tutor assistant. It could be a great opportunity for successful volunteers to gain experience and develop new skills while making a difference to peoples' lives. By volunteering with The Race Equality Centre individuals will gain experience of teaching, operating as part of a team and with learners from all over the world. Individuals will also develop communication, presentation and organisational skills. For more information, including the requirements for potential applicants, more about the role and its opportunities, the times you would need to be available, and to apply, please click this link: <https://do-it.org/opportunities/1709abc2-0021-44f7-877c-ab70a0e60bc1>

• **Leicester Civil Rights Movement – Public Meeting**

The Leicester Civil Rights Movement is holding a public meeting at TREC's office, 3rd Floor Phoenix Yard, 5-9 Upper Brown Street, LE1 5TE on, Wednesday 21st February at 7.00pm. TREC's own Tahera Khan will be speaking about refugees and destitution. Eric Nkundumubano from Leicester British Red Cross too will be speaking. His topic will focus on asylum seekers destitution and rough sleeping and, working in partnership to resolve the problem. Shaun Kirkpatrick of Action Homeless will also be there speaking on refugees and Homelessness. There will also hopefully be a refugee or asylum seeker speaking about their experience and fears.

Local News

• **The Urban Equestrian Academy Crowd Funding**

The Urban Equestrian Academy needs help. They are crowd funding to raise £8300 for a minibus to help connect inner-city communities to the equestrian world. Having their own minibus will be integral in helping with costs, capacity and accessibility when connecting with the equestrian world. It will also mean greater consistency, greater capacity and even more service users. If you want to you can help by:

- Making a pledge! There is no limit to the amount that you need to pledge. Any pledge, large or small.
- Providing/Donating materials, skills, advice or expertise.
- Advertising The Urban Equestrian Academy's Services within/through your business
- Match Fund - Sponsorship - Donations - Investments

The end date for pledges is 25/ 09/ 18. For more information you can contact them at their office number: 01162042792, mobile number: 07479 708 009, Email: urbanequinez@gmail.com, or their website: www.urbanequestrian.co.uk. To pledge go to www.spacehive.com/urban-Equestrian their company number is 09700436

• **Windrush – Movement Of The People**

The award-winning Phoenix Dance Theatre presents a major new dance production for 2018 Windrush: Movement of the People, running 9 February – 10 March. A lively celebration of the rise of multicultural Britain, Windrush spans the spirit, history and heritage of British Caribbean culture, celebrating the 70th anniversary of the arrival of SS Empire Windrush bringing Caribbean migrants to the UK. Choreographed by Artistic Director Sharon Watson, the work features an uplifting soundtrack from calypso and jazz to RnB and drum-n-bass by award winning composer Gary Crosby.

For more information, and to buy tickets please click here: <http://www.curveonline.co.uk/whats-on/shows/windrush-movement-of-the-people/#.WmdLNqmGe0U.facebook>

National News

- **Introducing the International Migration Institute Network**

The International Migration Institute network – IMIn – was launched recently. As an offshoot and international continuation of the International Migration Institute, the IMIn will continue the work and mission of the International Migration Institute (IMI), which was established in 2006 at the University of Oxford. Due to Oxford University's decision to close IMI's doors in 2017, researchers decided to continue IMI as an international research network to allow research collaboration to flourish more freely across the many countries and institutions in which former and current IMI collaborators are now based. Initially, IMIn focuses on consolidating existing initiatives such as the working paper series, information on current and past research projects IMIn fellows are involved in, and the archive of databases and project materials that they have built up. But the network also has ambitious plans for the future. For more information on The International Migration Institute network please click here: <https://migrantsrights.org.uk/blog/2018/01/23/introducing-international-migration-institute-network/> You can also keep up to date with its activities on the new IMI network website, www.imi-n.org

- **Black Panther Early Review**

Black Panther, the first major super hero film featuring a black lead in many years, and easily the most high profile, not to mention the first with Africa as its main setting, is due for release at the cinema soon. Reviews from critics have started to be published and we want to link The Guardian's review to highlight the fact that such a culturally important film is coming out. The reviews so far have been positive across the board, and the review from The Guardian is no exception. For more information please click here:

https://www.theguardian.com/film/2018/feb/06/black-panther-review-marvel-wakanda-chadwick-boseman?CMP=share_btn_fb

- **First modern Britons had 'dark to black' skin, Cheddar Man DNA analysis reveals**

A groundbreaking DNA analysis of Britain's oldest complete skeleton has revealed that the first modern Britons, who lived about 10,000 years ago, had "dark to black" skin. The fossil, known as Cheddar Man, was unearthed more than a century ago in Gough's Cave in Somerset. Intense speculation has built up around Cheddar Man's origins and appearance because he lived shortly after the first settlers crossed from continental Europe to Britain at the end of the last ice age. People of white British ancestry alive today are descendants of this population. It was initially assumed that Cheddar Man had pale skin and fair hair, but his DNA strongly suggesting he had blue eyes, a very dark brown to black complexion and dark curly hair. For more information please click here: https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/feb/07/first-modern-britons-dark-black-skin-cheddar-man-dna-analysis-reveals?CMP=share_btn_fb

- **Kick It Out finds 38% increase in discrimination in Premier League and EFL**

Anti-racism body Kick It Out has said incidents of racism; homophobia and other forms of discrimination are up by 38% in England's top four leagues compared to this time last term. Lord Ouseley, chair of Kick It Out, said the figures "should act as a wake-up call to everyone in the sport". Overall there has been a 59% increase in incidents of discrimination this season across the top four leagues as well as in the top four tiers of non-league football, the grassroots game and social media. Racism was again the highest reported form of discrimination, followed by homophobia, biphobia and transphobia (HBT) and anti-Semitism. For more information please click here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/42968215>

- **'Shamefully small' number of BAME charity leaders, finds Acevo survey**

The charity sector has failed to significantly increase the proportion of chief executives coming from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, according to Acevo's latest Pay and Equalities survey. Some 95 per cent of chief executives that responded to the umbrella body's 2018 survey were from white backgrounds. Although this was a slight dip from the 97 per cent received in the 2017 survey, the figure is similar to when Acevo first published ethnicity data in 2008. Back then, 4.2 per cent of respondents reported being from a BAME background. The data was drawn from the contributions of 540 third sector chief executives last year. This was up from 473 responses in the previous year's survey. The report was produced in association with the Charities Aid Foundation and supported by ACOSVO in Scotland and C03 in Northern Ireland. For more information please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/yb9zhwxw>

- **BME people severely underrepresented in top English arts bodies**

People from black and minority ethnic (BME) backgrounds and disabled people are significantly underrepresented in England's arts organisations, data has revealed. Arts Council England (ACE) on Monday published its annual diversity report, which outlines signs of progress but contains alarming bottom-line figures. In the nation's working-age population, 16% of people are from BME backgrounds. But they make up only 11% of staff at publicly funded national portfolio organisations (NPOs), 4% at major museums, and 9% of staff at ACE itself. The disabled statistics are worse. In total, 20% of the working age population identify as disabled but they make up 4% of staff at NPOs and major museums and 6% at ACE. For more information please click here: <https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2018/jan/15/bme-people-underrepresented-top-english-arts-bodies>