



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.

### June 2019

## TREC Updates

### • **Racing Brexit – The More Things Change the more They Stay the Same**

TREC has written an article on Brexit and how it relates to and reflects upon issues of race and racism in Britain and examines the impact of racism in the Brexit discourse and process. The piece is a fascinating read going into detail on how racism is part of the British and European identity rooted in the imperialistic and colonialist essence of European history. It explores how the historical amnesia and cognitive dissonance of the White Western world affected the Brexit debate and talks about how the absence of public education about Britain's "colonial legacy" leaves institutionalised racism entrenched in society. The article asserts that instead of this narrative engaging with race as a fact and a construct is uncomfortable, but necessary. To read the article in full please click here: <https://trecblog.tumblr.com/post/185565249848/racing-brexit-the-more-things-change-the-more>

### • **TREC Health & Wellbeing Navigators**

For many years The Race Equality Centre (TREC) has actively promoted equality of opportunity and outcomes to enhance the quality of life for racial minority communities and groups. This work includes assisting refugees and new arrivals to the city. TREC receives individuals presenting as vulnerable, disempowered, socially isolated and lonely, not only from their communities also the wider society. TREC's Health and Wellbeing Navigators Jas Obhi – [Jas.Obhi@theraceequalitycentre.org.uk](mailto:Jas.Obhi@theraceequalitycentre.org.uk) and Jo Pinder – [Jo.Pinder@theraceequalitycentre.org.uk](mailto:Jo.Pinder@theraceequalitycentre.org.uk) are here to be of assistance, to help navigate clients through the various systems that are available within the communities and wider society. This includes accessing and liaising with voluntary and private sector organisations and, primary care services. For more information please click here: <https://trecblog.tumblr.com/post/185552041288/trec-health-wellbeing-navigators>

### • **TREC Is Moving**

TREC will be moving to the Highfields Centre, 96 Melbourne Road, Leicester, LE2 0DS on 4 July. Our telephone, and email contact details will remain the same: Telephone: 0116 204 2790 Email: [administrator@theraceequalitycentre.org.uk](mailto:administrator@theraceequalitycentre.org.uk) Web: [www.theraceequalitycentre.org.uk](http://www.theraceequalitycentre.org.uk). This move will be beneficial to clients, and service users as the fully accessible centre has facilities for the wider community including adult education, children and young people services, and a library facility next to the centre to give a few examples. We look forward to continuing to help existing clients, and service users as well as new ones from our new location soon.

- **TREC Crossword**

We at TREC are trying something new for our bulletin and are including a crossword puzzle. The clues to the puzzle are all based in race equality from common terms, to legislation, and historical events. To try it out and see how well you do please click here to download a copy:

<https://tinyurl.com/y4ef7xje> the answer key can also be downloaded here:

<https://tinyurl.com/yxasgout>. We hope you give it a try and see how you do.

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## Local News

- **Highfields Festival**

We are delighted to inform you that this year's Highfields Summer Festival is taking place on Saturday 13th July between 12noon and 6pm at the Highfields Centre 96 Melbourne Rd, Leicester LE2 0DS with activities and stalls between 12noon – 3pm and the live music performances from 3pm to 6pm. It's promising to be a fantastic event, with something for everyone and free sessions that truly celebrates the unity and diversity in the area. We're delighted that Banner Theatre's 1st of May Band (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0MzBQNEO2Yg> & <https://www.facebook.com/BannerTheatre>), will be headlining on the music stage and they will be well supported by local artists (Tann-I, Durgesh Parmar's Bollywood Grooves & Dreamettes), as well as other local (young) artists (including The Curve's Young Musicals).

- **Black Men It's Time For A Real Talk**

Leicester Black History Consortium and the African Heritage Community are holding an event for all Black Men between the ages of 18-80 called "Black men it's time for a real talk". This event will explore, talk and debate how Black Men can change the narrative of Black Men & Boy in today society. This FREE event will be taking place the day before Father's Day on Saturday 15th June 2019 at Leicester African Caribbean Centre, Maidstone Road, Leicester LE2 OUA.

Black Men Its Time for a Real Talk, will comprise of different speakers on the day, exploring the root aims on how to best foster and advance conversations about issues relevant to the Black Diaspora by presenting a variety of opinions from all perspectives. If you are interested in attending please confirm your place for this FREE event by emailing: [leicesterbhconsortium@hotmail.com](mailto:leicesterbhconsortium@hotmail.com) or by telephoning: 07827317952.

- **50-year celebrations for Equality Action**

Equality Action are holding a number of events to celebrate 50 years of hard work for the local community. These events will be held over the course of several days and will consist of a movie night on 29 June from 5 – 9PM, a family fun day on 30 June from 11AM-3PM, a community lunch on 1 July from 12 – 2:30PM, and an annual general meeting (AGM) and celebration on 3 July from 7 – 9PM. More details will be released in time. For more information please contact Equality Action by email: [contact@equalityaction.org.uk](mailto:contact@equalityaction.org.uk) or by phone: 01509 261651.

- **Intersectionality In The City**

The Centre for Urban Research on Austerity and the Stephen Lawrence Research Centre are holding a keynote address by Dr Azeezat Johnson of Queen Mary University of London. Entitled 'Materialising visibility: Black Muslim women at work.' Dr Johnson's address is at 5pm on Wednesday 19 June at the Hugh Aston Building, Room HU3.05, De Montfort University and is part of 'Intersectionality and the City'. As a social geographer, Dr Johnson is 'interested in developing conversations about Black (and) Muslim geographies which pushes against the racialisation of our bodies as Other to a neutralised White Self.'

The keynote address is open to all. If you're interested in attending, you can book a place here: <https://tinyurl.com/yx8jsfr8>

- **How many times police carried out stop and searches across Leicestershire in the space of 1 month**

In April this year, the most recent set of data released on the force's activities, there were some 211 uses logged, at locations across the force area. The Leicester Mercury has plotted these out on an interactive map. Each red dot represents a stop and search incident. Click on one and you'll see when each one was carried out. Also detailed are the gender of the suspect, how old they were, and what ethnicity they are. The reason for the searches is logged, what the outcome of the search was, and if the suspect was required to remove more than just outer clothing. For more information and to use the map for yourself please click here: <https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/leicester-news/how-many-times-police-carried-2948537>

- **The Color Purple**

The Curve Theatre are putting on a production of the musical adaption of The Color Purple from 28 June to 13 July. It follows Celie, as she journeys through joy, despair, anguish and hope in her own personal awakening to discover her unique voice in the world. With a score that draws inspiration from jazz, ragtime, gospel and blues, this moving family chronicle set in racially divided southern America, celebrates life, love and the strength to stand up for who you are and what you believe in. Suitable for ages 14+. Please note that this production contains themes of rape, abuse and incest, with overt racism and sexism. For more information, and to buy tickets please click here: <https://www.curveonline.co.uk/whats-on/shows/the-color-purple/>

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## National News

- **Commonwealth citizens without status**

The Government has provided guidance for Commonwealth citizens - known as 'Windrush' cases - which outlines the current position, what individuals can do next and the type of information that can be provided to secure status. Individuals also can contact a dedicated Windrush taskforce via 0800 678 1925 or [commonwealthtaskforce@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:commonwealthtaskforce@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk). For more information please click here: <https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/communities/commonwealth-citizens-without-status>

- **Destitute children unlawfully denied support by local councils**

Local councils are unlawfully denying destitute children support because their parents' immigration status is under suspicion. Families whose immigration status becomes insecure can quickly become destitute because they lose their right to work and access benefits. Such families who have dependent children can seek support under section 17 of the 1989 Children Act, which states that local councils have a duty to provide cash or accommodation to ensure a child's immediate needs are met. Hundreds of these families have been unlawfully denied this support since 2010 because local authorities have focused on the parents' immigration background. For more information please click here: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/may/26/destitute-children-unlawfully-denied-support-local-councils-immigration-status>

- **Home Office sending modern slavery victims back to addresses where they were abused, lawyers warn**

Human rights lawyers accuse the Home Office of incompetence and a disregard for the safety of victims of trafficking, after several cases emerged in which vulnerable women, following release from immigration detention, were told to return to addresses where they had been enslaved. For more information please click here: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-modern-slavery-trafficking-victims-abuse-address-immigration-detention-a8937036.html>

- **Facial recognition must not introduce gender or racial bias, police told**

During a landmark court hearing in Cardiff, the independent London policing ethics panel says that live facial recognition technology should only be used by police if they can prove that it won't introduce racial or gender bias into operations and if the overall benefit to public safety outweighs public distrust. For more information please click here: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2019/may/29/facial-recognition-must-not-introduce-gender-or-racial-bias-police-told>

- **Children whitening skin to avoid racial hate crime, charity finds**

Using official police figures, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has found that in 2017-18 there were over 10,000 racially motivated hate crimes against children under 18, adding new evidence of rising racism in British society. Children report being told to go home and being insulted for their skin colour, with some telling counsellors they conceal the pain from their parents to avoid upsetting them. For more information please click here: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/may/30/children-whitening-skin-to-avoid-racial-hate-charity-finds>

- **NHS drive for diversity in key roles 'going backwards'**

The NHS' commitment to diversity and inclusion has been called into question, after a new report revealed that fewer people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds and women are being appointments in key roles running NHS trusts. The findings were discovered in a report by the NHS Confederation, which represents 85% of local health service bodies in England. In the report, it reveals that the proportion of chairs and non-executive directors of NHS trusts in England who are from an ethnic minority has almost halved from 15% in 2010 to just 8%. The proportion of women in those posts has also fallen from 47% in 2002 to only 38%, despite an increase of initiatives aiming to improve women and BME representation in senior NHS roles. For more information please click here: <https://www.voice-online.co.uk/article/nhs-drive-diversity-key-roles-%E2%80%99going-backwards%E2%80%99>