



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.

### November 2017

### TREC Updates

- **News Annual General Meeting 2017**

On October 11<sup>th</sup>, TREC held its Annual General Meeting which also doubled as our 50th anniversary celebrations. It was an opportunity to reflect on the last half century of our work. Not wanting to rest on our laurels, it was also a time to recognise how far we still have to go and how much more is required as we move into the next fifty years. There was an awards ceremony as part of the evening and our speakers were: The Right Reverend Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester; and Mr Clive Lloyd, CBE. For more information on the evening, including who was presented with awards please click this link:

<http://trecblog.tumblr.com/post/166536134338/annual-general-meeting-2017>. The AGM was also covered in an article in the Leicester Mercury. To see a copy of that article in full please click here:

<https://archive.org/download/TRECs50thAnniversaryLM09.11.17/TREC%27s%2050th%20Anniversary%20%28LM%2C%2009.11.17%29.pdf>

- **Volunteer ESOL Assistant**

TREC has volunteer tutor assistant positions within our ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Language) programme. 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 engaging with learners from across 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-ir.org/opportunities/1709abc2-0021-44f7-877c-ab70a0e60bc1>

## Local News

- **'Radical action' needed to get BME staff into Leicester council's top paid jobs, says councillor**

Leicester City Council must take radical action to get more of its black and minority ethnic (BME) employees into its top paid jobs, a senior politician has said. Baljit Singh, Chairman of the Council's Overview Scrutiny Committee, said it is "totally indefensible" that there are so few BME staff in the top 5 per cent of earners at the council. Figures have revealed that 349 council employees fall into the highest paid bracket, defined at those paid more than £43,387 a year, but just 18 per cent of them are BME. For more information please click here:

<http://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/leicester-news/radical-action-needed-bme-staff-738676>

- **Highfields Centre – New Adult Learning Courses**

Highfields Centre is now offering new adult learning programme to meet the learning and training needs of local people through the Education and Skills Funding Agency. This funding allows the Centre the scope to design learning programmes that are needed locally to enhance learning at all stages, from first steps learning to skills based and qualification courses. For more information please click here to download a poster providing details of their courses starting in January 2018:

<https://archive.org/download/HighfieldsCentreCoursesSpringTerm2018Flyer/Highfields%20Centre%20Courses%20%20%20Spring%20Term%202018%20Flyer.pdf>

If you are interested, the enrolment session is planned for Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017. For further information please contact by phone: 0116 253 1053

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## National News

- **Only 5% Of People Referred To Prevent Extremism Scheme Get Specialist Help**

Recently released Home Office statistics have revealed that schools and colleges referred one-third of the 7,631 people for the government's Prevent programme in 2015-16, and 2,127 children under 15 were referred. However, only 5% of the total figure received specialist support to turn them away from terrorism. For more information please click here:

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/nov/09/only-5-of-people-referred-to-prevent-extremism-scheme-get-specialist-help>

- **Dawn Butler: Austerity "Hits Ethnic Minority Women The Hardest"**

Dawn Butler called on the Chancellor to publish an equality impact assessment of the Budget, ahead of his speech next Wednesday. Ms. Butler said: "Austerity is a failed Tory economic project, which has hit African, Caribbean and Asian women the hardest." She also claimed that women and those from racial minority backgrounds stood to lose the most from changes to universal credit. She pointed to analysis by the Women's Budget Group and the Runnymede Trust which suggests women living in households eligible for universal credit under 2013 rules will lose £4,406 a year by April 2021 resulting from the combined impacts of changes to benefits, income tax and the National Living Wage introduced in June 2010. Ms. Butler claimed black women stand to lose £5,030 a year. For more information please click here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-42025485?SThisFB>

- **Campaigners Raise Alarm Over 'Appallingly Disproportionate' Number Of Black And Minority Ethnic Children Being Arrested**

Black and minority ethnic children account for more than a quarter of all child arrests across England and Wales, new figures show, raising concerns of "appalling" disproportionality in the justice system. Data obtained through Freedom of Information law shows 26 per cent of all child arrests are youngsters from racial minority backgrounds — a figure which is more than double the proportion of black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) people in the population as a whole. For more information please click here: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/black-ethnic-minority-children-child-arrests-disproportionality-howard-league-a8075566.html>

- **Head Of Sky News Tells NCTJ Conference Lack Of Diversity Meant Brexit Vote Took Media By Surprise**

Head of Sky News, John Ryley said that British journalists were taken by surprise by the outcome of last year's Brexit vote because of lack diversity in newsrooms. He was speaking at the National Council for the Training of Journalists skills conference where he described this year's UK general election result as a "rage against the machine" of journalism at Westminster. He said: "To counter that, our newsrooms need to be populated by people who are in touch with what people are thinking." For more information please click here: <http://www.pressgazette.co.uk/head-of-of-sky-news-john-ryley-tells-nctj-conference-lack-of-diversity-meant-brexit-vote-took-media-by-surprise/>

- **Chinese Report Highest Levels Of Racial Harassment In UK**

Chinese people in Britain report higher levels of racial harassment than any other racial group, according to the first study of its kind to be undertaken. Research, which was recently published by the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex, suggests that 15% of Chinese men and women reported harassment last year, while between 4% and 10% of men and women from most racial minority groups said they experienced racial harassment in the same period. For more information please click here: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/19/chinese-community-reports-highest-proportion-of-racial-harassment-in-britain>

- **I'm Proud Of Britain's Black History Month. But Now It Needs A Rethink**

Linda Bellos, the politician responsible for introducing Black History Month to Britain wrote a piece for The Guardian reflecting on the last 30 years since she made it nationwide. In the piece she talks about why she focused on making it a reality, the social status of Black people in the 1980's, and the opportunities Black History Month has given to show a swath of history that had largely been hidden. While she looks at the positive she also looks at some of its failings with people doing things for Black History Month while clearly failing to understand the point of it. She concludes her piece by stating the Department of Culture Media and Sport should fund it, agree an annual theme or topic and, it should be overseen by a diverse black committee. To read the piece in full yourself please click here:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/oct/26/proud-black-history-month-30-years-rethink>