



The Race Equality Centre in Leicester and Leicestershire

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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.

## October 2017 TREC Updates

### • **TREC Annual General Meeting 2018**

This year TREC's Annual General Meeting was held at our offices on 24 September 2018. It was a success with a full audience is attendance of around fifty individuals and our keynote speaker Reverend Canon David Jennings. It was an evening of healthy debate and discussion with the audience, our chair and Reverend Jennings. To read an overview of the evening's events please click here: <http://trecblog.tumblr.com/post/179228479733/trec-agm-2018> For a copy of our 2017/18 Annual Report please click here: <http://www.theraceequalitycentre.org.uk/pdf/annual-report2017-2018.pdf>

### • **What Is Unconscious Bias – A discussion**

TREC is hosting a discussion with Leicester Social Forum. The discussion will be on unconscious bias. It will look at what "unconscious bias" is, and if it is a useful concept in the struggle against discrimination. It will be an informative and enlightening evening for all who attend. It is being held 30 October 2018 from 7PM to 9PM at TREC, The Race Equality Centre, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 5-9 Upper Brown St, Leicester LE1 5TE. The discussion will be led by Iris Lightfoote, CEO of The Race Equality Centre, and Chris Willars, President of the Leicester & District Trades Union Council. For more information please click here:

[https://www.facebook.com/events/151763009098163/?active\\_tab=about](https://www.facebook.com/events/151763009098163/?active_tab=about) or call: 0116 204 2790

### • **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 and operating as part of a team 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>

## Local News

### • Black History Month 2018

Black History Month (BHM) is held each year in October, with a programme that promotes the history and contribution that African and Caribbean communities have made to Leicester, helping to understand the present through our past. To mark Nelson Mandela's centenary year the 2018 programme will reflect upon representation and free speech. It will also focus on a female to coincide with the 30th anniversary of 'Sisters of the Long March' touring the UK and the 60th anniversary of the founding of The West Indian Gazette by Claudia Jones. 2018 will also reflect on the African and African Caribbean contribution to the First World War (marking the centenary of the end of the First World War) and the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the Empire Windrush. For more information including the full programme for BHM's events please click here:

<https://serendipity-uk.com/black-history-month-leicester/>

### • Highfields Festival 2018

On Saturday 18th August 2018 Highfields Centre held their annual Highfields Festival. It was by all accounts a success with artist Lowkey giving a powerful & fitting performance, linking his commentary and music to global struggles for freedom & justice and the vital role fulfilled by Highfields Centre in providing much needed community (education and development) services in severely disadvantaged areas, especially when faced with cuts from central and local government. The Centre have made available online a video, sharing the highlights from this year's festival. For more information and to see the highlight video please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/yba6jqs7>

### • The Crisis of British National Identity

The University of Leicester's Unit for Diversity Inclusion and Community Development (DICE) are holding an event titled The Crisis of British National Identity. It will be a lecture given by Lord Bhikhu Parekh and is being held at 6pm, Thursday 1st November 2018 at the Peter Williams Lecture Theatre, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH. Lord Parekh will look at how the current controversy about Britain and the European Union reflects two conflicting ways of seeing British national identity. For Brexiteers, Britain is both singular and global, having a history and a geography of its own that marks it off from the rest of the world. For Remainers, Britain has always been an integral part of Europe, and it is precisely its European roots that marks its character and global reach. Its membership of the European Union both expresses and reinforces British identity. He wants to ask what the debate about Brexit means for Leicester's diverse communities today. If you are interested in attending you can book a place here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-crisis-of-british-national-identity-speaker-lord-bhikhu-parekh-tickets-51018910936> Or for more information please click here: <https://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/sociology/dice/events/event-lord-bhikhu-parekh/lord-bhikhu-parekh-2018the-crisis-of-british-identity2019>

### • The Great Debate – Black History Season

As part of Black History Season Leicester Central Library, Bishop Street, Leicester is holding a debate hosted by Opal22 Arts and Edutainment. It will take place on the 24<sup>th</sup> October from 6:30 PM to 9PM. The debate will embrace those that were not afraid to document their truths and memories of black oppression and civil rights, at a time that it was not safe for them to do so. Featured speakers will focus on Toni Morrison and Edlridge Cleaver. For more information please click here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1857364874317355/> To book a place call: 0116 2995 401.

## National News

### • **Black Doctors Paid Thousands Less Than White Colleagues**

Black medical professionals in the NHS are being paid thousands of pounds less than their white colleagues. Black doctors are paid on average around £10,000 a year less than their white peers, while black nurses are earning £2,700 less than their white colleagues, a study by NHS Digital has found. The figures show that compared to their white counterparts, black female doctors earn £9,612 a year less, black male doctors £9,492 less, black female nurses and midwives £2,700 a year less and black male nurses and midwives £1,872 a year less. For more information please click here: <http://www.voice-online.co.uk/article/black-doctors-paid-thousands-less-white-colleagues>

### • **Target Oxbridge**

Target Oxbridge is a free programme that aims to help black African and Caribbean students and students of mixed race with black African and Caribbean heritage increase their chances of getting into the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge (known collectively as Oxbridge). Since launching in 2012, Target Oxbridge has helped 81 students to secure Oxbridge offers. The programme is open to UK-based students in Year 12 (as well as, in certain circumstances Year 13). The students accepted onto the programme will be high attainers – they will ideally have achieved, 5 grades at A\*, 9, 8 or 7 at GCSE. In the case of students hoping to study Medicine, they will ideally have achieved 8 grades at A\*, 9 or 8 at GCSE. For more information please click here: <https://targetoxbridge.co.uk/index.html>

### • **New civil service economics apprenticeship**

Young people from all walks of life who want to be economists could get a salaried government apprenticeship while studying for their degree, with the launch of a new career opportunity. People can apply for the first ever civil service economics apprenticeship with successful candidates being offered a starting salary of more than £20,000 (£22,000 in London) with a minimum age of 17 for applicants. Around 75 new starters will take up their posts across government from Autumn 2019. The apprenticeship is part of the government's drive to open up opportunity – and follows the new T-levels which aim to create a world-class technical education system to help people succeed in the economy of the future. For more information please click here: <https://www.wired-gov.net/wg/news.nsf/articles/New+civil+service+economics+apprenticeship+offers+young+people+job+route+into+government+29092018091400?open>

### • **Obesity Figures On Black And Asian Children 'Being Buried'**

Black and Asian children are being put at risk because health chiefs are “burying” statistics that reveal the rate of obesity among ethnic minorities, it has been reported. The health of tens of thousands of black and Asian children is being put at risk by health chiefs, according to an investigation by The Mail on Sunday. In comparison to their white classmates, around twice the numbers of black and Asian children are obese by the time they leave primary school. For more information please click here: <http://www.voice-online.co.uk/article/obesity-figures-black-and-asian-children-being-buried>

- **'Cyber-racism': UK Black History Month website attacked**

The UK Black History Month website has been brought down by hackers for a second time in 24 hours in what its editors believe to be a case of "cyber-racism". The website, which includes resources for schools and details of forthcoming events, first fell prey to a cyber-attack at 8.45am on Monday. Its IT team worked through the night and the site came back online on Tuesday morning, but was attacked again. It was again restored on Tuesday afternoon, but the website's editors warned that further attacks were possible. For more information please click here:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/oct/02/cyber-racism-uk-black-history-month-website-attacked>

- **As Glasgow University owns up to slavery wealth, others urged to follow**

A report has been released which details how Glasgow University benefited from the proceeds of slavery. The report, published recently by Glasgow University, is based on more than two years of research and reveals that the institution benefited directly from the slave trade in Africa and the Caribbean in the 18th and 19th centuries to the tune of almost £200m in today's money. The university has now launched a wide-ranging and ambitious "reparative justice programme". Ironically, the university was at the forefront of the movement in the 19th century to abolish slavery. It will now create a centre for the study of slavery and a memorial or tribute in the name of the enslaved. It is also working to establish ties with the University of the West Indies. For more information please click here: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/sep/22/glasgow-university-wealth-from-transatlantic-slave-trade-reparations>

- **MP Calls For Mary Seacole To Be First Black Brit On Bank Note**

Labour MP Wes Streeting has called for Mary Seacole to become the first black person to feature on a bank note. The call follows news that the Bank of England will be rolling out a new £50 note in plastic material polymer. They have requested nominations from the public for the characters who will appear on the new note, which is set to be released after the £20 note in 2020. The current £50 note features James Watt and Matthew Boulton and was issued on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011. For more information please click here: <http://www.voice-online.co.uk/article/mp-calls-mary-seacole-be-1st-black-brit-bank-note>