



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.

August 2020

TREC News

- **TREC Information Disclaimer**

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- **New Operating Arrangements For Clients**

Following Government guidance TREC has reopened its offices for clients with social distancing measures in place. If you have an appointment you will be placed in TREC’s reception area until taken into the youth wing for your meeting by the appropriate officer. The youth wing will have 4 tables with divider screens, and a hand sanitiser on each. People will access TREC’s floor by going up in the lift and down via the stairs.

In the case of a person arriving with an emergency and no appointment, the person will be guided to the concourse area until they can be seen. Should the required officer not be working on that day an appointment will be made and any documents placed into an envelope with officer/client details and the date they attended the office.

- **How To Be An Antiracist – Book Review**

Since the unfortunate and completely avoidable murder of George Floyd at the hands of (or more specifically the knee of) police in America, there has been a renewed focus on race, and police brutality in the public consciousness around the world. A question which has come up more and more, particularly from white people who may have been unaware of the injustices BAME people face every day is '**How or where can I educate myself on this subject?**'. In light of this, TREC would like to recommend 'How To Be An Antiracist' by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi. Our e-bulletin writer has written a review of this book which can be read here: <https://tinyurl.com/y397gukr>

- **Surinder Sharma Appointed To IAG Chair at Leicestershire & Rutland County FA**

TRECs own Surinder Sharma has been appointed as a Non-Executive Director and Inclusion Advisory Group Chair at Leicestershire & Rutland County FA (LRCFA). LRCFA has launched its Inclusion Advisory Group (IAG) with a view to further progress and streamline the work towards the objective of "Football for All". The IAG is an independent body which provides advice to the LRCFA Board on matters of equality, diversity and inclusion to ensure children, young people and adults of all backgrounds and communities can access high-quality opportunities across grassroots football. For more information please click here: <https://www.leicestershirefa.com/news/2020/jul/14/new-iag-chair-appointed>

Local News

- **Highfields Centre Job Ad**

The Highfields Centre has jobs available for 3 full time Development Workers. More specifically they are looking for an Arts Development worker, a Marketing and Social Media Development Worker, and a Racial Minority Groups Development Worker.

Further details and an application form (returnable by 5pm on Friday 28th August 2020 and interviews scheduled for Wednesday & Thursday 2nd & 3rd September 2020) are available from info@highfieldscentre.ac.uk and please specify which of the 3 posts you are interested in.

NB. The successful Racial Minority Groups Development Worker will be appointed to The Race Equality Centre's staff team. For more information on the jobs, their requirements and to download a flyer, please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/yyzq6alu>

- **Leicester Police Hate Crime Data**

Leicestershire Police's hate crime data for the period January 2020 to June 2020 is now available to view. There is data on the number of hate crimes recorded comparing types of hate crimes, a breakdown of religious hate crimes by faith, more detailed outcomes of those hate crimes including how many were cautioned, or charged, and crimes by hate crime type. For more information, and to download a Powerpoint presentation of this data please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4xv2272>

- **Judge Heavily Criticised For Freeing Racist Who Told Stranger He 'Should Be Lynched'**

A judge has been heavily criticised after he freed a Leicester man who called a man the n-word and told him he should be lynched. Liam Daw, who grew up in Leicester, was drunk and walking down a street in Torquay in Devon when he saw the victim through a window of a ground floor room. The victim was in his own property and had never seen Daw in his life before, reports Devon Live. Daw kicked at the window to attract his attention and shouted racial abuse through the glass until the owner came out. Daw moved down the road shouting 'you f***ing n****, you should be lynched'. For more information please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/y27hd4en>

- **Leicestershire Schools United – Anti Racism Pledge**

In the wake of the recent Black Lives Matter protests, we as educators and people with an interest in the education and welfare of young people in Leicester, feel a sense of responsibility to take leadership at this moment to challenge racism and improve the curriculum.

We understand this is a highly challenging time for schools, but feel it is crucial they acknowledge that students, parents, governors and staff are affected by two pandemics; Covid-19 and racism. These pledges alone are seen as a starting point to show a school's willingness to engage in dialogue and begin their journey to becoming an Anti-Racist School.

We call on schools to:

1. Release a statement in support of the BLM movement.
2. Display clear information on how to report racist incidents & commit to releasing data in relation to this.
3. Carry out Equality Impact Assessments on all school policies and practices and review and rewrite accordingly.
4. Redesign the curriculum to include the teaching of racism, migration, Empire and colonialism.
5. Provide training for all staff & Governors focusing on "racial literacy" i.e. an understanding as institutional & structural and the history behind it so enabling them to see and respond to, the ways the education system can and does reproduce racism and racial inequalities.

All schools signing will be invited to contribute to the development of next steps and will receive support and resources as required.

All staff and Governors should be made aware of why these actions are necessary and Black students, wherever possible, should be given priority to express their opinions.

Educators and school leaders, we care deeply about all our young people and want them to feel safe and welcome in school. This feels like a significant moment and we want to take the lead and carry the momentum into the new academic year.

For more information contact **Ruth Sinhal at ruthsinhal@gmail.com**

National News

- **Two Thirds Of Minority Ethnic People In Britain Believe Police Are Biased Against Them, Poll Shows**

Two thirds of black and minority ethnic people in Britain believe the police are biased against them, a new survey by the charity Hope Not Hate has found. The poll has revealed that four out of five black respondents think the police are biased against people of their ethnicity, as do the same number of respondents from Bangladeshi backgrounds. In total, 65 per cent of those who took part in the survey, all of which are from ethnic minority backgrounds, agreed the police were biased against people from their ethnic group. For more information please click here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y2ybpvax>

- **Tightening Oldham Lockdown Would Fuel Racism And 'Cripple' Economy, Says Council**

Forcing Oldham into a tighter lockdown would not only “cripple” the local economy but fuel racial tensions, the council’s deputy leader has warned the government. Officials from the Cabinet Office toured Oldham on Wednesday, led by local politicians and health experts desperate to avoid a “Leicester-style” lockdown. Arooj Shah, Oldham’s deputy leader, told the Guardian that racism was on the increase in the district after it was singled out as an infection hotspot three weeks ago, with the Pakistani community particularly badly hit. For more information please click here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y6d2fxmm>

- **Met Police: 'Knee-On-Neck' PC Subject Of Assault Investigation**

A police officer has been told he is the subject of a criminal investigation over an arrest in which a black man appeared to have his neck knelt on. The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) is investigating the actions of two Met Police officers who detained Marcus Coutain on 16th July. It is looking at whether the use of force in the arrest was "appropriate". Mr Coutain was filmed telling officers to "get off my neck" as he was arrested in Finsbury Park, north London. For more information please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxgkmamm>

- **The Racism Faced By Teenagers In The UK: New Research**

The popular narrative is that that racism is not as big an issue in Britain as it is in the US. New research by Sarah Page, Senior Lecturer in Sociology and Criminology at Staffordshire University disputes this idea. With a team of research assistants, she investigated teenagers’ personal experiences of victimisation and the effects this had on their health and wellbeing. The young people they worked with, who were all from the Midlands region of England, encountered racism and discrimination at school, on social media, and in their wider community. Their research findings show that racism sadly remains an issue for young people in British society. For more information please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/y52eo9m4>

- **The Hidden Epidemic Of Racism In UK Schools**

Intisar Chowdhury, a teenager whose father sadly died from Covid-19 earlier in the pandemic has worked to produce a dossier detailing the stories of BAME teenagers and the racism they face at school. This dossier presents a horrific indicator of the abuse and even assaults dished out to black and Asian children by their peers and sometimes teachers in English schools. This collection gives a record by BAME students who usually don't have a voice on the public stage of their daily humiliations, the sort of thing that teens don't tell their parents, out of guilt or a sense of isolation. For more information please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4gyflda>

- **Young, British, And Black**

The death of George Floyd in the US sparked the UK's biggest anti-racism protests in centuries, and young people have been some of the loudest voices behind the UK's recent anti-racism protests. The Guardian has run a special feature where they have spoken to 50 young Black Britons at the heart of these rallies. This collection of some of their thoughts and stories is well worth a read giving a snapshot of some of their experiences living in this country and, acting as a reminder of what the protests have been and continue to be about. For more information please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2uzm4u6>

- **The Black Curriculum**

The Black Curriculum is a social enterprise founded in 2019 by young people to address the lack of Black British history in the UK Curriculum. They believe that by delivering arts focused Black history programmes, providing teacher training and campaigning through mobilising young people, they can facilitate social change. Their programmes are for all young people aged 8-16 and aims to equip young people with a sense of identity, and the tools for a diverse landscape. They are working towards changing the national curriculum and building a sense of identity in every young person in the UK. For more information on this group, and on their campaign please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/ycp7jxq7>