



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 2020

- **TREC Information Disclaimer**

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- **Test And Trace Support Payments – Update**

Leicester City Council have implemented new measures and support for self-isolation. From 28th September, anyone who receives a positive Covid-19 test or is told to self-isolate by the NHS Test & Trace Service is required to do so by law, with fines starting at £1,000 and increasing to £10,000 for multiple or severe breaches. Adults who are employed or self-employed and on a low income asked to self-isolate from this date, who are unable to work from home and face a loss of income, may be entitled to a new £500 payment. This is claimed from the Council online. From Monday 12th October anyone who thinks they may be entitled to claim can complete a Test and Trace support payment application form on the Council website and find out how to get help for those unable to make an online claim. Further updates and information can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/y3yhvqj7>

### TREC News

- **ESOL Update**

TREC’s ESOL into Employment provision is not only continuing but expanding with a new focus. The ESOL team is in the process of setting up an ESOL and Horticulture project called ‘Growing Together’ to enable people to learn about growing fruit and vegetables, while improving their English language abilities. For more information please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/yybxqf7c>

## • **Black And British: A Forgotten History – Book Review**

Each year October is Black History Month, a time to focus on, and celebrate Black history, and culture, and its contribution to and impact on Britain. The history of Black people in Britain has been often ignored or outright erased from our school curriculum, and our common understanding of British history to the point where there are many people out there who honestly believe there were no Black people in Britain before World War II. There have been many historical texts which refute this and we at TREC have written a review of one such book, Black And British: A Forgotten History by David Olusoga to highlight both this ongoing erasure and one of many resources which exist to counter it. For more information, and to read our review please click here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y5nrxdgk>

## • **Life Chat**

TREC and friends of TREC are engaged with a recently created radio programme through Leicester Community Radio called 'Life Chat'. In this show the presenters will be talking to you and each other. They will be talking about life in Leicester to expose the parallels between what people have gone through and the contemporary experiences of others. It is because we are each expert in our own lives that this show was developed. We want to offer some insight into our lives and the lives of those around us and in doing so increase mutual understanding. Life Chat will broadcast every Thursday 12PM – 1PM. For more information on how the show works, and how you can get involved please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2uqwbmd> or email:

<https://onlineradiobox.com/uk/leicestercommunity/>

## • **The Racial Minority Voluntary And Community Sector (VCS) Assembly Update**

The Race Equality Centre have been enabled to re-establish its work with the Racial Minority Voluntary Sector Assembly through funding from Power to Change. There is now the ability to resume targeted and proactive interventions in accordance with need. We are now setting up the mechanisms to assist and develop small groups to reach their potential. We are currently offering grants ranging between £500-£1000 to Racial Minority voluntary sector organisations experiencing difficult times during Covid-19. This financial support is limited and will be on a first come first serve basis. For more information about the Assembly, how to join, or for an application form to access the fund please contact: Fiona Francis, (Racial Minority VCS Assembly) by phone: 0116 2042790 or email: [fiona.francis@theraceequalitycentre.org.uk](mailto:fiona.francis@theraceequalitycentre.org.uk) Or click this links: <https://tinyurl.com/y3zauluo>

## • **Chill And Chat Club**

TREC Chill and Chat Group: Good news, we are restarting this group which is aimed at supporting asylum seekers, refugees, and new arrivals to the UK. We will be providing a comfortable and safe space to talk and learn together. The focus is on helping with general health and well-being. The group sessions are being held every week, starting Thursday 22 October 2020 from 1.30 – 3pm. Please adhere to Covid19 advice and restrictions when attending as space is limited to 20 people. A face covering is essential to enter the building. This free group will be held at our offices at The Race Equality Centre, in the Highfields Centre Youth Wing, 1st Floor, 96 Melbourne Road, Leicester, LE2 0DS. If you or someone you know would like to attend there is no need to book a place or call ahead, just come along. Free refreshments such as tea, coffee, and biscuits will be provided. For further information please get in touch with Abida Hussain, Race Equality Officer for health and well-being. [Abida.Hussain@theraceequalitycentre.org.uk](mailto:Abida.Hussain@theraceequalitycentre.org.uk) or for a flyer please click here:

<https://tinyurl.com/yy68czcf>

- **Black People's Contribution To The UK: A Very Small Sample**

As it is Black History Month TREC is paying tribute to a small quantity of individuals who have contributed and are contributing to the UK as we know it by casting a light on them. Recognition of these, our heroes and sheroes should be forever in our minds and on our tongues and not merely dusted off and brought to the fore during Black History Month. If tribute were paid to 10 black women and 10 black men every week for one year, we would have countless more people to be added at the end of that time. For more information please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/y39nrbla>

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## Local News

- **Black Presence Explored Project**

Leicester Museum are taking a series of artworks and sculptures depicting black people out of its stores and running a project in partnership with a local black poet 'The Orator' and Opal22Arts to create responses to these artworks in writing and poetry. Four workshops, each looking at different works of art, will be led by The Orator, and will produce writing that will become new labels for the works on display in the museum. These workshops will be held as 4 zoom meetings, every Tuesday in October from 5:30-7pm. For more information and to Book a place please email: A flyer for the project can be downloaded here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6mwmpgd>

- **Black History Month – Leicester 2020**

Black History Month (BHM) takes place each year in October. In Leicester, we mark the occasion with a programme of events that promote the history and contributions of African and Caribbean communities. Serendipity was awarded the tenure by Leicester City Council and has overseen BHM in Leicester since 2012. Each year their programming centres around a unifying theme. The theme for 2020 is Black British Theatre. As a result of the current pandemic this year's programme will mostly be held online. For more information, including the full programme of events please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/y3zkr9ha>

- **Highfields Centre – Homework Help**

If you or your child is aged 10 - 16 years and need support catching up on any missed schoolwork Highfields Centre is here to help. The Highfields Centre are starting a new Homework Club every Monday from 6PM to 8:30PM starting 5th October. They have a free internet connection, access to PC's and printing services, and one to one mentoring. The Highfields Centre is offering this new service at their address 96 Melbourne Road, Leicester, LE2 0DS. If you are interested call Fatimah Li on 0116 253 1053 to book a spot, or email: [info@highfieldscentre.ac.uk](mailto:info@highfieldscentre.ac.uk) for further details.

- **Sarah's Made Of The Write Stuff**

The winner and runners up of a short fiction initiative operated by Leicester-based diversity-led arts collective Serendipity and Writing East Midlands for writers from African and African Caribbean backgrounds have been announced. The winning entry – a fantasy story about friendship and self-empowerment entitled Yemi Can't Swim: Something in the Water, – was submitted by Sarah Kelly-Olatunji. For more information please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4rmnpdm>

## National News

- **UK's 'Only Black Farmer' Calls For Food Industry To Take Black Lives Matter Seriously**

One of the UK's only Black farmers is calling for the agricultural industry to do more to support the Black Lives Matter movement beyond 'internal HR fluff'. Wilfred Emmanuel-Jones, who is 63, was awarded an MBE for services to farming in the Queen's Honor's List this year. He was a child of the Windrush generation arriving in Britain from Jamaica at the age of four and has dedicated his working life to the UK agricultural industry, founding The Black Farmer brand. For more information please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/y33gff5f>

- **Investigation Launched After Black Barrister Mistaken For Defendant Three Times In A Day**

The head of the courts service in England and Wales has apologised to a black barrister after she was stopped and mistaken for a defendant three times in one day at court. Kevin Sadler, the acting chief executive of HM Courts and Tribunals Service, has condemned the "totally unacceptable behaviour" and promised to investigate the complaint made by Alexandra Wilson, who specialises in criminal and family cases. For more information please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4sbledd>

- **How Black Working-Class Youth Are Criminalised And Excluded In The English School System**

The Institute of Race Relations (IRR) has released a paper called How Black Working-Class Youth are Criminalised and Excluded in the English School System: A London Case Study. This paper reveals that over the past forty years, exclusion from mainstream school has coincided with systematic 'educational enclosure'. This report aims to support important on-going campaigns for education justice, by excavating the specific political conditions that have ushered in regressive reforms. For more information, and to read the report in full please click here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y3rnkvwx>

- **We Must Rebuild The Sport And Physical Activity Sector Better Than Before**

Dr. Marilyn Comrie, director of The Blair Project has written a blog post on why things must be different in the sport and physical activity sector following the coronavirus crisis and the Black Lives Matter movement. She uses this post to highlight some of the ways practical changes could make a big difference for the better to the sport and physical activity sector. We at TREC definitely feel its worth a read so for more information please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5qsyjts>

- **Legal & General Warns FTSE 100 Firms Over Lack Of Ethnic Diversity**

The UK's biggest fund manager has warned FTSE 100 companies with all-white boards that it will vote against those that fail to diversify their leadership teams by 2022. Legal & General Investment Management (LGIM), which has £1.2tn in assets, has also written to the bosses of S&P 500 companies in the US, saying it expects their boardrooms to include at least one black, Asian or other minority ethnic (BAME) member by January 2022 as well. For more information please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6bsfwcx>