

# The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 201, 6 January 2016

## Events

**Events** have been added to the Courses & Events pages on The Network website – see: <http://www.seapn.org.uk/courses>.

## Tackling social and digital exclusion – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

### “There’s more than one way to run a prison”

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/dec/15/thameside-prison-privately-run-state-sector>

Article about the Serco-run prison, HMP Thameside, which has very positive comments about the library and librarian.

### “Who uses public libraries?”

[http://www.cilip.org.uk/blog/who-uses-public-libraries?utm\\_source=Communicator\\_membership\\_list&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_content=Untitled34&utm\\_campaign=Weekly+News+from+CILIP%2c+24+December+2015](http://www.cilip.org.uk/blog/who-uses-public-libraries?utm_source=Communicator_membership_list&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=Untitled34&utm_campaign=Weekly+News+from+CILIP%2c+24+December+2015)

(Source: *Weekly News from CILIP*, 24 Dec 2015)

Useful analysis by CILIP of the latest DCMS *Taking part* report

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/taking-part-201516-quarter-2-statistical-release>), which shows why:

“[...] reducing public library services will have a disproportionate impact on communities who depend on them for learning, social spaces, groups and activities and access to the Internet.”

### “Ambition, Opportunity, Strong Leadership, Innovation, Imagination and Bravery in the Public Sector”

<http://www.cilips.org.uk/cilips-blog/2015/12/10/ambition-opportunity-strong-leadership-innovation-imaginatio.html>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 21 Dec 2015)

Positive round-up of 2015 by Craig Green, Chair, Trustee Board CILIP

Scotland. Includes examples of innovative work by libraries, including North Ayrshire’s LCLA-winning “Appiness”.

## Digital Libraries Hub

<http://digitallibrarieshub.ning.com/>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 21 Dec 2015)

Subtitled “Supporting libraries to deliver digital inclusion”, this is a new Tinder Foundation forum for librarians.

## Tackling social and digital exclusion – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

### *State of the Nation 2015*

Report and summary: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-of-the-nation-2015>

Press release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/state-of-the-nation-2015-report-published>

BBC report: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-35120792>

(Source: email from Anne Harding, 17 Dec 2015)

The Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission has just issued its first report since the Election, which says that:

“There is a gulf between today’s divided Britain and the ‘one nation’ the Prime Minister desires to lead [...]”

According to the BBC summary:

- Only half the poorest children are deemed ready for school compared to two-thirds of others
- The poorest pupils are still lagging behind by the time they take GCSEs
- The poorest pupils are still half as likely to get five good GCSEs as their wealthier peers
- This, in turn, affects their chances of going to more selective universities.

### **Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies**

#### ***The 360 Project: addressing racism in Toronto***

[http://www.ryerson.ca/content/dam/diversity/reports/UARR\\_2015.pdf](http://www.ryerson.ca/content/dam/diversity/reports/UARR_2015.pdf)

(Source: email from Global Diversity Exchange, 21 Dec 2015)

“Addressing the Discrimination Experienced by Somali Canadians and Racialized LGBTQ Homeless Youth in Toronto’ was a one-year study conducted from July, 2013 to July, 2014 by the Urban Alliance on Race Relations (UARR) in collaboration with the Diversity Institute at Ryerson University.” [p viii]

“This report provides UARR with vital information about what is currently required to fulfill its mission of working to maintain stable, peaceful, and harmonious relations among the various groups that call Toronto home.” [p ix]

#### ***Living with difference: community, diversity and the common good***

<http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/uploads/Living%20with%20Difference.pdf>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 462, 14 Dec 2015)

Report of the Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life. It maps the changing face of faith in the UK, including the growth of different faith groups – and in the number of people who have no faith at all.

“**Learning to understand and live with differences** is the recurring theme throughout the report. It argues that religion and belief are a combination both of conscious choice and of the circumstances of birth, community and public perception. Whether or not we might want to, we cannot ignore or escape the differences that religious traditions make to our sense of personal identity, narrative, relationships and isolation. Religious and belief identities, the report points out, can serve as forces both for good and for ill.

And so the challenge for policy-makers is to create an environment in which differences enrich society rather than cause anxiety, and in which they contribute to its common good.” [p7]

## Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

### “Books on Prescription: the story so far”

[http://www.youngminds.org.uk/news/blog/3105\\_books\\_on\\_prescription\\_the\\_story\\_so\\_far](http://www.youngminds.org.uk/news/blog/3105_books_on_prescription_the_story_so_far)

(Source: *YoungMinds Newsletter*, Nov 2015)

Update on progress with the YoungMinds/Reading Agency BoP project, involving six YoungMinds Young Advisers.

## Disability issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

### “Somerset autism collection”

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2015/12/10/somerset-autism-collection/>

Posting on the Task Force blog about this new collection:

“The Somerset Autism Collection is a project funded by Department of Health and Somerset County Council (SCC) and delivered in partnership between SCC Children’s and Adults’ Social Care, Public Health, Somerset Libraries and Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group.”

### “Museums and Autism”

<http://museumsandautism.tumblr.com/>

(Source: email from Sally Fort, the creator of the blog, to National Alliance for Museums, Health and Wellbeing, [MUSEUMSANDWELLBEINGALLIANCE@JISCMAIL.AC.UK](mailto:MUSEUMSANDWELLBEINGALLIANCE@JISCMAIL.AC.UK))

A new blog “about how museums can improve support for autistic spectrum visitors, with practical advice and examples from museums and autistic people.”

## Migration issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

### “Refugees Supported by Public Libraries in Europe”

<http://publiclibrariesonline.org/2015/11/refugees-supported-by-public-libraries-in-europe/>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 26 Nov 2015)

Article on *Public Libraries Online*, which outlines some of the work going on across Europe, including mentioning the post on our website

(<http://www.seapn.org.uk/post/how-can-the-cultural-sector-support-refugees>).

## Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

### “Half of all Scottish Councils already resettling refugees”

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Half-of-all-Scottish-Councils-already-resettling-refugees-2071.aspx>

(Source: MEMO [*Minority Ethnic Matters Overview*], 463, 21 Dec 2015)

“Half of Scotland’s local authorities have now received refugees in their areas, and the other half have indicated a willingness to support refugees affected by the current humanitarian crisis.”

## Migration issues – Other Agencies

### *Flight and freedom: stories of escape to Canada*

<https://btlbooks.com/book/flight-and-freedom>

(Source: email from Global Diversity Exchange, 18 Dec 2015)

“In *Flight and Freedom*, Ratna Omidvar and Dana Wagner present a collection of thirty astonishing interviews with refugees, their descendants, or their loved ones to document their extraordinary, and sometimes harrowing, journeys of flight. The stories span two centuries of refugee experiences in Canada: from the War of 1812—where an escaped slave and her infant daughter flee the United States to start a new life in Halifax—to the War in Afghanistan—where asylum seekers collide with state scrutiny and face the challenges of resettlement.”

NB Charged-for publication.

**“How do you prove you are gay? A culture of disbelief is traumatising asylum seekers”**

[http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/nov/24/gay-asylum-seekers-sexuality-home-office?utm\\_source=LGBT+Foundation+weekly+bulletin&utm\\_campaign=cdf62f6f55-LGBTFoundationBulletin24112015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_43f936b912-cdf62f6f55-197315569&mc\\_cid=cdf62f6f55&mc\\_eid=a859be8b1c](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/nov/24/gay-asylum-seekers-sexuality-home-office?utm_source=LGBT+Foundation+weekly+bulletin&utm_campaign=cdf62f6f55-LGBTFoundationBulletin24112015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_43f936b912-cdf62f6f55-197315569&mc_cid=cdf62f6f55&mc_eid=a859be8b1c)

(Source: LGBT Foundation *Bulletin*, 24 Nov 2015)

Just in case you missed this *Guardian* article:

“People who have been persecuted because of their sexuality are facing Home Office officials who refuse to believe them, use explicit questioning and make stereotyped assumptions.”

**“Lifeline Syria”**

<http://lifelinesyria.ca/>

(Source: *Cities of Migration Newsletter*, Dec 2015)

Important support network being established in Canada:

“Lifeline Syria recruits, trains and assists sponsor groups as they welcome and support 1,000 Syrian refugees coming to Canada as permanent immigrants to resettle in the [Greater Toronto Area] over the next two years.”

***This is still about us: why ethnic minorities see immigration differently***

<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/Race-and-Immigration-Runnymede-Report-final.pdf>

(Source: Migrants Rights Network *Weekly Update*, 4 Jan 2016)

Important new report from Runnymede:

“Our key message is indicated by this report’s title: that many Black and minority ethnic people still feel that discussions about immigration are about *them*, but that their views about the topic are not effectively or proportionally represented in British public or policy debates about immigration. We do not argue that all BME people hold the same views about immigration or are all pro-immigration, but that they are more likely to see its benefits, and to feel personally anxious or even threatened by some aspects of public debate.

Furthermore, probably because of their personal experience of immigration, BME Britons are more likely to focus on the decision-making processes of the immigration system itself, with many expressing frustration with visa, citizenship, family reunification, and other immigration policies and procedures.” [p2, emphasis theirs]

### ***Keeping memories: Rwandans in the UK***

<http://ryico.org/keepm/book/>

(Source: email from Simon Wallace)

“In this rich, important and thoroughly human book, members of the Rwandan diaspora who have settled in the UK commemorate the past by sharing their experiences and insights and celebrating a positive future for Rwandans.

This book does not attempt to present a cohesive history, an academic analysis or an argument. It offers the reader a diverse tapestry of personal stories, it emphasises the importance of learning directly from individual experiences to gain understandings of large-scale, complex events.”

The book is available for free to charities, NGOs, community groups, community centres, libraries, schools, colleges and universities. To request a copy, contact [info@ryico.org](mailto:info@ryico.org).

### **LGBTQ issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government**

***Protecting persons with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities: a global report on UNHCR's efforts to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex asylum-seekers and refugees***

<http://www.refworld.org/publisher,UNHCR,,,566140454,0.html>

This new report:

“[...] presents key findings from a project undertaken globally between July 2014 and May 2015 to assess progress made by UNHCR country and regional operations to effectively protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) asylum-seekers and refugees [...]

The report concludes, *inter alia*, that a large majority of the challenges surrounding protection work focused on LGBTI persons of concern stem from the criminalisation of LGBTI identity, expression, and association in many countries of operation. It also notes that although UNHCR has published several policy, procedural, and operational guidelines relating to LGBTI persons of concern and asylum claims related to [sexual orientation and gender identity], offices need to be better supported and trained to translate these macro-level guidelines into concrete, implementable protection measures. The report further calls for an expansion of participatory engagement with LGBTI persons of concern to more fully map protection challenges, as well as targeted trainings addressing reception and registration staff.” [p1]

## **LGBTQ issues – Other Agencies**

### ***LGBT youth homelessness: a UK national scoping of cause, prevalence, response, and outcome***

[http://www.akt.org.uk/webtop/modules/\\_repository/documents/AlbertKennedy\\_ResearchReport\\_FINALInteractive.pdf](http://www.akt.org.uk/webtop/modules/_repository/documents/AlbertKennedy_ResearchReport_FINALInteractive.pdf)

(Source: email from Sajid X Khan, 31 Dec 2015)

New report from the Albert Kennedy Trust, which argues that “[...] LGBT young homeless people continue to be one of the most disenfranchised and marginalized groups in society.” [p2]

It makes recommendations for central and local government and other housing providers – and provides valuable background info to support our own work.

## **Broader issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations**

### ***Using Quality Principles in work for, by and with children and young people: results of a pilot study***

<http://www.nfer.ac.uk/publications/ACYQ01/ACYQ01.pdf>

(Source: NFER *Direct*, Oct 2015)

This report gives the results of the pilot study, and is recommending the wider roll-out of the use of Quality Principles with young people:

“Between 2012 and 2015, NFER and Shared Intelligence worked collaboratively with Arts Council England and the arts and cultural sector to develop and pilot seven Quality Principles (QPs) for work for, by and with children and young people.

The pilot phase involved 51 lead organisations working with over 800 organisations as partners. Over 9,350 children and young people were involved. The pilot organisations tested the QPs in a range of innovative and creative ways.” [Taken from:

[http://www.nfer.ac.uk/publications/ACYQ01/ACYQ01\\_home.cfm](http://www.nfer.ac.uk/publications/ACYQ01/ACYQ01_home.cfm)]