

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 402, 8 August 2024

Introduction

In the light of the far-right attacks over the last few days, and the increasing levels of racism and Islamophobia, this Ebulletin will focus on that and draw together some resources which I hope will be of help ...

As always, any comments welcome.

Practical advice

“CILIP statement on the fire damage at Spellow Hub Library in Liverpool”

<https://www.cilip.org.uk/news/news.asp?id=679057>

(Source: email from Louis Coiffait-Gunn to librariesandmuseumssofsanctuary.@jiscmail.ac.uk, 6 Aug 2024)

“CILIP expresses solidarity with the library staff and users of Spellow Hub Library that was severely damaged during scenes of violent disorder on Saturday 3 August 2024.

This public library opened in Spring 2023 as a fully accessible 'library of the future', offering a free 'education to employment' service for people of all abilities, to support local people in education and through to routes into work.

Spellow Hub Library also provides a warm hub in the winter, a cool hub in the summer, and a place for children to use the internet and do their homework.

Across the country, public libraries should be safe, welcoming and inclusive communities, open to all free of charge.”

Also includes links to:

- “STOP-VERIFY-CORRECT: How to combat misinformation online and beyond”, <https://www.cilip.org.uk/news/679140/STOP-VERIFY-CORRECT-How-to-combat-misinformation-online-and-beyond-.htm>

“This guide breaks down the processes of how mis- and dis-information works, and how it is able to use emotion and deception to spread across social media, the internet, and the press.”

- “Information literacy and facts matter, a lot”, <https://www.cilip.org.uk/news/679139/Information-literacy-and-facts-matter-a-lot.htm>

“Information and media literacy are cornerstones in the fight against dis/mis-information. CILIP continues to lead campaigns and projects to raise awareness of their value, especially in light of the recent attack on Spellow Hub Library in Liverpool.”

Louis also forwarded some info about a fundraiser for Spellow Hub Library – see: https://www.gofundme.com/f/books-for-spellow-lane?utm_source=Community+Managed+Libraries+National+Peer+Network&utm_campaign=811173ceaa-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_11_11_2022_11_58_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_577d4ece1b-811173ceaa-325855371.

“England riots – statement from NCVO's chief executive”

<https://ncvo.org.uk/news-and-insights/news-index/england-riots-statement-from-ncvos-chief-executive/#msdyntrid=jIP5FYOekKMLLraH2gqhbRCEZXjbpUp0zOty67bmlrM>

(Source: email from NCVO, 7 Aug 2024)

Statement of solidarity with “[...] people who have chosen to live in the UK, both recently and past generations.”

Also has a list of links to resources, including:

- “How to manage risk”, <https://www.ncvo.org.uk/help-and-guidance/governance/responsibilities-for-boards/helping-your-board-meet-their-responsibilities/how-to-manage-risk/>
- CIPD’s “Supporting your workforce through a crisis event”, <https://www.cipd.org/uk/knowledge/guides/crisis-events-support/>

Hope not hate resources

- *Community engagement: filling the information vacuum to stop the far right*, https://hopenothate.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/HnH_community-engagement_2023-12-v2.pdf

“This resource is for local authorities and community organisations who want to know more about how to engage the community more effectively to reduce risk of far-right agitation. In this resource you will find:

- Information on community engagement and its different types
 - Advice on how to make engagement sessions safe and effective
 - Case studies of community engagement” [p2]
- *Acts of solidarity: a powerful response to the far-right*, <https://hopenothate.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Acts-of-solidarity-HOPE-not-hate-resource.pdf>

“An act of solidarity is an event or action that shows support for a marginalised group. They can be a great way to show that a community supports groups like asylum seekers or drag queen performers who are targeted by the far-right, and they provide a powerful contrast against extreme views. Sometimes the views of

the community are side-lined by a vocal minority – acts of solidarity can realign the conversation to include those who have been left out. This resource will help you plan acts of solidarity in your community to help you tackle signs of hate or far-right ideology that you see in your local area.” [p2]

“How to help refugees in the UK”

https://www.unrefugees.org.uk/how-to-help-refugees-and-asylum-seekers-in-the-uk/?utm_source=UPDATE&utm_medium=email&utm_content=https%3a%2f%2fwww.unrefugees.org.uk%2fhow-to-help-refugees-and-asylum-seekers-in-the-uk%2f&utm_campaign=GB_PS_EN_UPDATE_general_Statement-from-UK-for-UNHCR_AUG24_Master-List

(Source: email from UK for UNHCR, 6 Aug 2024)

Info and advice on supporting refugees and people seeking asylum in the UK.

EmpathyLab “Don’t hate, educate”

<https://www.empathylab.uk/don-t-hate---educate>

(Source: email from EmpathyLab, 7 Aug 2024)

Includes info about their recommended reads

City of Sanctuary and partners “Building solidarity locally: Responding to hostility”

pdf: https://cdn.cityofsanctuary.org/uploads/2023/04/responding-to-far-right-attacks_2023-04-v2-1.pdf

Web: <https://cityofsanctuary.org/2023/04/19/building-solidarity-locally-responding-to-hostility/>

“HOPE not Hate tracked a 102% increase in anti-migrant far right activity in 2022, with frequent demonstrations across the country taking place outside asylum accommodation. In response, we have worked with Together With Refugees, HOPE not hate, and IMIX to put together this 10 point plan of what local organisations can do if any similar situations happen in their area.”

Other resources include:

- *Staying safe amidst far right violence*, <https://cdn.cityofsanctuary.org/uploads/2024/08/Staying-safe-amidst-FR-violence-FINAL.pdf>
- “Start having courageous conversations about refugee rights”, <https://cityofsanctuary.org/2024/04/17/start-having-courageous-conversations-about-refugee-rights/>

Statements of solidarity and support

“Libraries Connected statement on Spellow Hub Library”

<https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/news/libraries-connected-statement-spellow-hub-library>

(Source: LinkedIn)

"Public libraries are particularly vulnerable during this kind of disorder as they are often in prominent locations and are, rightly, easily accessible.

Yet they are also symbolic of community safety and cohesion – open and free civic spaces where everyone is welcome. We will be working with our members to ensure they have the support and advice they need to protect their buildings, staff and users."

“Sector organisations condemn far-right violence across the UK”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2024/08/sector-organisations-condemn-far-right-violence-across-the-uk/#msdyntrid=SMCJjghGkERoeVAKPJOMpb7-Plb_NNiDsVhj9rHQb48

Includes a link to a statement from National Museums Liverpool, <https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/news/press-releases/racist-no-place-in-our-society>:

“We stand with these communities and we want to reassure them that the actions of a minority don’t represent the views of the majority. Despite the disgraceful scenes, our city region’s true character shone through when local residents united to protect mosques from attack and came together in large numbers to clean up the damage [...]

As a Museum of Sanctuary, National Museums Liverpool works with City of Sanctuary UK to foster supportive and welcoming spaces for people seeking sanctuary in our communities. We will continue to focus our efforts on ensuring our museums and galleries are a safe space and we will not tolerate hate of any kind.”

Also includes comments from Hull and Rotherham, and the Public and Commercial Services Union.

City of Sanctuary statement: “Solidarity with everyone affected by this weekend’s appalling violence”

<https://cityofsanctuary.org/2024/08/05/solidarity-with-everyone-affected-by-this-weekends-appalling-violence/>

“This must be a turning point. We need political leadership that does more than just condemn these far-right mobs. We need leadership which stamps out systemic racism; tackles the real issues facing us all and inspires belief in a better world.”

Background info/explainers

“Riots in the UK: online propagandists know how to work their audiences – this is what we are missing”

https://theconversation.com/riots-in-the-uk-online-propagandists-know-how-to-work-their-audiences-this-is-what-we-are-missing-236084?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%204%202024%20-%203054431142&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%204%202024%20-%203054431142+CID_a7fea51712850859d21550defe782925&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Riots%20in%20the%20UK%20online%20propagandists%20know%20how%20to%20work%20their%20audiences%20%20this%20is%20what%20we%20are%20missing

(Source: *The Conversation*, 5 Aug 2024)

There have been hundreds of opinion-pieces & explanations – this seems a really useful piece of analysis:

“The tough truth is that in seeking to fact check misinformation and force social media companies to remove hateful content, we are doing it wrong. Another message will simply pop up in place of each that is removed. The people who plant propaganda are far more advanced in their methods than the people trying to stop them. They are not thinking about messages but about audience. Hate is clickbait. And social media algorithms put it on steroids.”

We need to work much harder – and in different directions – to start to have an effect ...

“Middle-aged radicalisation: why are so many of Britain’s rioters in their 40s and 50s?”

https://theconversation.com/middle-aged-radicalisation-why-are-so-many-of-britains-rioters-in-their-40s-and-50s-236263?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%206%202024%20-%203056731173&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%206%202024%20-%203056731173+CID_cb8c9346c906c4782011ab1cdacc5f42&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Middle-aged%20radicalisation%20why%20are%20so%20many%20of%20Britains%20rioters%20in%20their%2040s%20and%2050s

(Source: *The Conversation*, 7 Aug 2024)

Important article that starts to look more deeply at the current news:

“Look closely at the pictures of the violent unrest that has spread across England and Northern Ireland and you will notice something that is not being spoken about. The rioters seen fighting, attacking police and setting fire to buildings are often middle aged – people in their 40s, 50s and 60s, screaming racist abuse and fighting with police.”

“Asylum seekers aren’t ‘taking your jobs’ – but it would be better for all of us if they could work”

https://theconversation.com/asylum-seekers-arent-taking-your-jobs-but-it-would-be-better-for-all-of-us-if-they-could-work-229547?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%206%202024%20-%203056731173&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%206%202024%20-%203056731173+CID_cb8c9346c906c4782011ab1cdacc5f42&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Asylum%20seekers%20arent%20taking%20your%20jobs%20but%20it%20would%20be%20better%20for%20all%20of%20us%20if%20they%20could%20work

(Source: *The Conversation*, 7 Aug 2024)

“Amid the racist, far right violence sweeping the UK this week has been a theme present in anti-immigration politics around the world: the idea that

immigrants are “taking” jobs that would otherwise go to native-born residents. The economics of labour migration are complicated, and there has been plenty of research over the years that shows this trope is not true.

The violence targeting asylum hotels is particularly horrific, as well as misguided. The UK currently has one of the strictest bans in Europe on asylum seekers entering the labour market. Put simply: asylum seekers aren't ‘taking’ British jobs – they aren't allowed to.

Giving asylum seekers the right to work, however, would improve society for the whole of the UK, bringing economic benefits and enabling better integration of newcomers.”

“Great Replacement & boogaloo – the ideology driving the modern far right”

https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/far-right-riots-great-replacement-boogaloo/?source=in-article-related-story&utm_source=Newsletter%3A%20oD%20daily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=As%20the%20far%20right%20riots%20in%20the%20UK%2C%20India%20offers%20a%20cautionary%20tale&_kx=1_8D1xQSf81SrwgQ7oVGBK2bIBk82FazIk5OMY7463I.YjCYwm

Important article from OpenDemocracy, looking at the modern far right's beliefs and racist aims.

“The networked nature of the modern far right means that rather than coalescing around a physical leader, they instead organise around a shared ideology and aim: the Great Replacement conspiracy theory, which can be defeated via a race war.”

“Some are calling these far-right riots an outpouring of legitimate anger. They are not”

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/article/2024/aug/05/far-right-riots-legitimate-anger-racist-violence>

Important article by Joe Mulhall (Director of Research at Hope not hate):

“These events made up just a fraction of what is probably the worst week of far-right violence since the second world war. With no central organiser or single group behind this wave of hate, it reflects the nature of the contemporary far right, where trouble on our streets is planned and encouraged by vast decentralised networks of activists online. But while the role of the far right is fundamental, this racist violence has emerged out of an existing climate of prejudice stoked by more mainstream actors [...]

Many people, including media commentators and even politicians, have sought to frame this week of far-right riots as an outpouring of legitimate anger. It is not. There is nothing ‘legitimate’ about trying to burn down a hotel with asylum seekers inside. There is nothing ‘legitimate’ about hurling bricks at mosques or attacking people of colour. This is far-right

violence, motivated by a climate of hate and prejudice, and all of those responsible must be held accountable.”

“Refusing to call out Islamophobia has emboldened the far right – and the current violence is the result”

https://theconversation.com/refusing-to-call-out-islamophobia-has-emboldened-the-far-right-and-the-current-violence-is-the-result-236259?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%207%202024%20-%203058931193&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%207%202024%20-%203058931193+CID_b9abe18c7aa0224c4404ca975b266852&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Refusing%20to%20call%20out%20Islamophobia%20has%20emboldened%20the%20far%20right%20%20and%20the%20current%20violence%20is%20the%20result

(Source: *The Conversation*, 8 Aug 2024)

Important background article:

“As someone who has researched Islamophobia in Britain for a quarter of a century, it is clear to me that the current violence on the streets of Britain is an example of it [...]

Acknowledging that Islamophobia exists would mean having to do something about it. And as we know, this has never happened.

Few politicians can be seen to truly care about Islamophobia. As a result, it is rendered unimportant by most politicians and the parties they represent. Despite some paying lip service to the matter, it always quickly disappears from the political agenda.”

“The hypermasculine far right: how white nationalists tell themselves they are ‘protecting’ women and children when they riot”

https://theconversation.com/the-hypermasculine-far-right-how-white-nationalists-tell-themselves-they-are-protecting-women-and-children-when-they-riot-236250?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%207%202024%20-%203058931193&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%207%202024%20-%203058931193+CID_b9abe18c7aa0224c4404ca975b266852&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=The%20hypermasculine%20far%20right%20how%20white%20nationalists%20tell%20themselves%20they%20are%20protecting%20women%20and%20children%20when%20they%20riot

(Source: *The Conversation*, 8 Aug 2024)

“Many of the people rioting in towns and cities in England and Northern Ireland claim that their violent acts are their way of ‘protecting’ Britain’s children. It’s a confusing paradox, but one that must be understood to get to the bottom of what has happened.

‘Protecting’ women and children is central to nationalist rhetoric. This is why the Southport attack that killed three young girls proved an instant

trigger for the violence that subsequently unfolded. The death of three small girls struck to the heart of ultra-nationalist, anti-immigrant narratives about the threat posed by immigrant men.”