



## The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 369, 1 February 2023

### Events

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

### Black Lives Matter/Anti-racism

**“Titles from Akala, David Olusoga and Bolu Babalola part of Universal Music Group and The Reading Agency's Mark My Words library campaign”**

<https://readingagency.org.uk/news/media/titles-from-akala-david-olusoga-and-bolu-babalola-part-of-universal-music-group-and-the-reading-agen.html>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 29 Jan 2023)

Media release from TRA.

“The Reading Agency and Universal Music Group's (UMG's) UK Task Force for Meaningful Change, a team focused on the unique challenges facing the UK's Black community, have today announced the titles for 'Mark My Words', a national libraries campaign celebrating Black authors [...]

A set of the eight books will be given to 701 library branches across 31 authorities nationwide, including Bradford, East Lothian, Leicester, Newcastle, Rochdale and Jersey. The books, 5,608 in total, will be available to borrow from libraries from late January.”

### Funding & Opportunities

**“Libraries celebrate Levelling Up funding”**

<https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/news/libraries-celebrate-levelling-funding>

(Source: email from Libraries Connected, 25 Jan 2023)

“The library sector is celebrating today after seven public library services across the UK were awarded a share of £2.1 billion from Round 2 of government's flagship Levelling Up Fund.

Successful bids include a combined library, music and arts venue in Harlow, a state-of-the-art leisure centre, library and cultural space in Farnborough, a creative workspace and redesign at Hackney Central Library and a new modern library in Reading. In total over £135m has been awarded to projects involving libraries.”

## Cost of living crisis – Other Agencies

### “Helping organisations to provide safe warm spaces”

[https://www.zurich.co.uk/news-and-insight/helping-organisations-to-provide-safe-warm-spaces?WT.mc\\_id=affiliate\\_ncvo\\_cso\\_warmspacesrm&utm\\_source=ncvo&utm\\_medium=affiliate&utm\\_campaign=cso&utm\\_content=warmspacesrm&cldee=AzlszcyczCVfFa0v1WLJslI3CNyFF3QH0DAGIpdFXKvpAsqgBbUdDEWLPL8dN-hBa&recipientid=contact-449e2fd22746e411b4e4d89d6765e198-90828851abc2439ca34242f9f23a2e8a&utm\\_source=ClickDimensions&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=NCVO%3A%20Monthly%20Trusted%20Supplier%20bulletin&esid=4128b1ef-079b-ed11-aad0-000d3ab116a8](https://www.zurich.co.uk/news-and-insight/helping-organisations-to-provide-safe-warm-spaces?WT.mc_id=affiliate_ncvo_cso_warmspacesrm&utm_source=ncvo&utm_medium=affiliate&utm_campaign=cso&utm_content=warmspacesrm&cldee=AzlszcyczCVfFa0v1WLJslI3CNyFF3QH0DAGIpdFXKvpAsqgBbUdDEWLPL8dN-hBa&recipientid=contact-449e2fd22746e411b4e4d89d6765e198-90828851abc2439ca34242f9f23a2e8a&utm_source=ClickDimensions&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=NCVO%3A%20Monthly%20Trusted%20Supplier%20bulletin&esid=4128b1ef-079b-ed11-aad0-000d3ab116a8)

(Source: email from NCVO, 26 Jan 2023)

Brief guidance from Zurich Insurance on providing warm spaces (and it cites the CILIP guidance too!).

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

### “Why US libraries are on the frontlines of the homelessness crisis”

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/jan/24/us-libraries-homeless-crisis-social-workers>

(Source: LinkedIn)

US news item from *The Guardian*:

“Libraries across the US are increasingly on the frontlines of America’s homelessness crisis, especially during a winter marked by cold snaps and in the wake of the tailing off of the Covid-19 pandemic which has seen many public institutions reopen.”

## Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

### ***A patchwork of provision how to meet the needs of victims and survivors across England and Wales***

Policy report: [https://domesticabusecommissioner.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/DAC\\_Mapping-Abuse-Survivors\\_Long-Policy-Report\\_Nov2022\\_FA.pdf](https://domesticabusecommissioner.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/DAC_Mapping-Abuse-Survivors_Long-Policy-Report_Nov2022_FA.pdf)

Summary report: [https://domesticabusecommissioner.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/DAC\\_Mapping-Abuse-Survivors\\_Summary-Report\\_Nov-2022\\_FA.pdf](https://domesticabusecommissioner.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/DAC_Mapping-Abuse-Survivors_Summary-Report_Nov-2022_FA.pdf)

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 26 Jan 2023)

New report from the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, which maps provision across England and Wales. The report emphasises, amongst other things, the need for information and signposting.

The Summary Report is also available in: Easy Read; Welsh; Polish; Arabic; French; Spanish; Portuguese; Urdu; Gujarati; Chinese (simplified). Download from: [https://domesticabusecommissioner.uk/national-mapping-of-domestic-abuse-services/?utm\\_source=Equally+Ours+Newsletter+2022&utm\\_campaign=4de3ae6e0c-](https://domesticabusecommissioner.uk/national-mapping-of-domestic-abuse-services/?utm_source=Equally+Ours+Newsletter+2022&utm_campaign=4de3ae6e0c-)

[Newsletter+January+2+2023&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_93cf2d2bcb-4de3ae6e0c-120687778](https://theconversation.com/newsletter+January+2+2023&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_93cf2d2bcb-4de3ae6e0c-120687778).

**“Solving period poverty is about more than just making products free”**

[https://theconversation.com/solving-period-poverty-is-about-more-than-just-making-products-free-195245?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20January%2025%202023%20-%202524625349&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20January%2025%202023%20-%202524625349+CID\\_eb640f466f099d966fb24bf1f0538411&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_uk&utm\\_term=Solving%20period%20poverty%20is%20about%20more%20than%20just%20making%20products%20free](https://theconversation.com/solving-period-poverty-is-about-more-than-just-making-products-free-195245?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20January%2025%202023%20-%202524625349&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20January%2025%202023%20-%202524625349+CID_eb640f466f099d966fb24bf1f0538411&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Solving%20period%20poverty%20is%20about%20more%20than%20just%20making%20products%20free)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 25 Jan 2023)

Important article that outlines some initiatives to tackle period poverty, but also argues that:

“Research shows, however, that money is only part of the problem. Many women and girls are socially disadvantaged, with information and education about periods seriously lacking.”

### **Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies**

**“Hearing is believing: the talking books sharing HIV information in South Africa – a photo essay”**

[https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/dec/27/talking-books-sharing-hiv-information-in-south-africa?source=email&utm\\_campaign=newsletter&utm\\_content=168073&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=email\\_95](https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/dec/27/talking-books-sharing-hiv-information-in-south-africa?source=email&utm_campaign=newsletter&utm_content=168073&utm_medium=email&utm_source=email_95)

(Source: *ONE Round Up*, 29 Jan 2023)

Just in case you didn't see this terrific article:

“Solar-powered devices are bringing life-saving knowledge to people in remote areas, where access to the internet or clinics is limited”

**“Plan will put everyone in England within 15 minutes of green space – but what matters is justice not distance”**

[https://theconversation.com/plan-will-put-everyone-in-england-within-15-minutes-of-green-space-but-what-matters-is-justice-not-distance-198938?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%202%202023%20-%202532225443&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%202%202023%20-%202532225443+CID\\_2a52b51b7bc2118d1c80c78cdf2e9f03&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_uk&utm\\_term=Plan%20will%20put%20everyone%20in%20England%20within%2015%20minutes%20of%20green%20space%20%20but%20what%20matters%20is%20justice%20not%20distance](https://theconversation.com/plan-will-put-everyone-in-england-within-15-minutes-of-green-space-but-what-matters-is-justice-not-distance-198938?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%202%202023%20-%202532225443&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%202%202023%20-%202532225443+CID_2a52b51b7bc2118d1c80c78cdf2e9f03&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Plan%20will%20put%20everyone%20in%20England%20within%2015%20minutes%20of%20green%20space%20%20but%20what%20matters%20is%20justice%20not%20distance)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 2 Feb 2023)

Very interesting article that argues that not all green spaces are equal (for example, not equally cared for) and “[...] our experiences of the outdoors are shaped by privileges of wealth and health.” It goes on to argue that:

“Green and blue spaces in disadvantaged areas need more care, and that requires time and money. As Public Health England noted, access to good quality green spaces is worse in more disadvantaged areas.

Third, simply being in a space won’t necessarily bring you all the benefits a space can offer. For people suffering from anxiety or depression, for example, more structured activities might be more helpful.”

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

#### ***Safe and legal routes to the UK for people seeking protection***

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9630/CBP-9630.pdf>

(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 30 Jan 2023)

New HOC Library “Research Briefing”.

“‘Safe and legal’ routes are sanctioned immigration provisions that provide access to the UK for humanitarian reasons. They are often referred to in discussions about how people seeking asylum can come to the UK.

Safe and legal routes take various forms. Successive recent UK governments have expanded UK refugee resettlement schemes. They have also created extra immigration routes in response to deteriorating security and human rights in Hong Kong, Afghanistan, and Ukraine [...]

[In Dec 2022] Rishi Sunak announced that the Government now intends to make further legislative changes so that ‘the only way to come to the UK for asylum will be through [sic] safe and legal routes’. He said that the Government would create additional legal routes ‘as we get a grip on illegal migration’ and would introduce an annual quota for refugee resettlement.

Refugee rights campaigners have previously called for an annual target for refugee resettlement. But they have also cautioned that safe and legal routes are not available to everyone who needs protection. Consequently, they want them to be provided alongside an accessible in-country asylum system [...]

The UK currently operates several safe and legal immigration routes:

- The UK Resettlement Scheme, Community Sponsorship, and the Mandate Scheme are refugee resettlement programmes.

- Refugee family reunion visas are available to people who were immediate relatives of people granted refuge in the UK, before they left their country of origin (known as pre-flight relatives).
- Nationality-specific bespoke immigration routes are available to some Afghans, Ukrainians, and people from Hong Kong.

Each route has eligibility criteria and conditions attached to the permission to stay. Not all the routes give beneficiaries refugee status and the associated rights and entitlements specified in the 1951 Refugee Convention.” [pp4-5]

**“The changing picture of long-term international migration, England and Wales: Census 2021”**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/thechangingpictureoflongterminternationalmigrationenglandandwales/census2021>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 776, 30 Jan 2023)

Latest “Analysis of the migrant population of England and Wales and how it has changed looking at the characteristics of country of birth and passports held.”

Headlines include:

- “In 2021, 10.0 million (16.8%) usual residents in England and Wales were born outside of the UK, an increase of 2.5 million from 2011.
- The proportion of non-UK-born residents has increased across all regions of England, with London (positive 3.9 percentage points), East of England (positive 3.9 percentage points) and the East Midlands (positive 3.8 percentage points) showing the largest increases since 2011; Wales (positive 1.4 percentage points) also saw an increase, but this was much lower comparatively.”

**Migration issues – Other Agencies**

**“Revealed: scores of child asylum seekers kidnapped from Home Office hotel”**

[https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jan/21/revealed-scores-of-child-asylum-seekers-kidnapped-from-home-office-hotel?CMP=Share\\_AndroidApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jan/21/revealed-scores-of-child-asylum-seekers-kidnapped-from-home-office-hotel?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other)

(Source: Freedom United News Digest, 29 Jan 2023)

Horrific story:

“Dozens of asylum-seeking children have been kidnapped by gangs from a Brighton hotel run by the Home Office in a pattern apparently being repeated across the south coast, an Observer investigation can reveal.”

**“How to apply for asylum”**

<https://www.rainbowmigration.org.uk/how-to-apply-for-asylum/>

(Source: email from Equality Network, 30 Jan 2023)

Rainbow Migration's guide has just been updated and is available in English, Albanian, Arabic, Bengali, Spanish, Farsi, French, Mandarin, Urdu, Pashto, and Portuguese.

***The truth about Channel crossings***

<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Refugee-Council-Truth-About-Channel-Crossings-briefing-2023.pdf>

(Source: *Left Foot Forward*, 31 Jan 2023)

Important new Refugee Council "Briefing".

"During 2022, 45,746 men, women and children crossed the Channel in a small boat to reach the UK. Each of those people will have had their own experiences before, during and after making that crossing. Many will have been very traumatic.

This briefing uses published Home Office data to set out who these people are, where they are from, and how many are permitted to stay in the UK as refugees. It also looks at the reduction in safe routes and how they have no option but to take dangerous journeys to reach the UK.

Finally, it looks at the potential impact of the Government's plans to prevent all people arriving across the channel from applying to stay in the UK as refugees."

**Press release: "The WI pledges a warm welcome to refugees by setting up a network of Conversation Cafes across the country"**

<https://www.thewi.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases>

(Source: *City of Sanctuary Newsletter*, 30 Jan 2023)

"The Women's Institute is mobilising its network of 190,000 women to offer refugees a warm welcome when they arrive in the UK. The organisation is encouraging its network of 5,500 WI groups to set up Conversation Cafes in their own communities to offer refugee women a place to come together to meet others and learn new skills.

The scheme has been set up in response to a huge outpouring of support from the WI network in response to the recent refugee crises in Afghanistan and Ukraine. The WI has had a flood of requests from WI members who wish to take practical steps to support and welcome refugees to their communities.

The scheme which is being launched today (Monday 12th December 2022) will see WI members working with refugee organisations, local authorities and communities to set up the Cafes. It builds on the WI's long history of working to support refugees, including its work in 1972 to welcome Ugandan refugees."