



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 373, 11 April 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

“How Black children in England’s schools are made to feel like the way they speak is wrong”

https://theconversation.com/how-black-children-in-englands-schools-are-made-to-feel-like-the-way-they-speak-is-wrong-198830?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20March%2026%202023%20-%202582025965&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20March%2026%202023%20-%202582025965+CID_713917f872670a55345ac4d6c4a12b6d&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=How%20Black%20children%20in%20Englands%20schools%20are%20made%20to%20feel%20like%20the%20way%20they%20speak%20is%20wrong

(Source: *The Conversation*, 27 Mar 2023)

Important article which looks critically at the way young people’s speech & language are controlled in school:

“Whiteness is an invention of the modern, colonial age. It refers to the racialisation of white people and the disproportionate privilege – social, linguistic, economic, political – that comes with this. Crucially, as an invention, whiteness is not innate – it is taught.”

“Why diversity tactics in the creative industries continue to fall short”

https://theconversation.com/why-diversity-tactics-in-the-creative-industries-continue-to-fall-short-197654?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%203%202023%20-%202587826023&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%203%202023%20-%202587826023+CID_373446afa7fa6bf9dd6cf4984de3763d&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Why%20diversity%20tactics%20in%20the%20creative%20industries%20continue%20to%20fall%20short

(Source: *The Conversation*, 3 Apr 2023)

Interesting article that argues that there are “shortcomings” in how diversity is practised, and that a more radical, anti-racist approach is needed:

“For a truly representative, competitive and ambitious cultural sector, its organisations need to be bold, uncompromisingly anti-racist and open to re-imagining their structures and thinking.”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“Young offenders warn settings are ‘too risky’ for their families to visit”

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/young-offenders-warn-settings-are-too-risky-for-their-families-to-visit>

(Source: *Children & Young People Now Update*, 29 Mar 2023)

Shocking news-story, based on a report from the Children’s Commissioner for England (see: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/family-contact-in-youth-custody/>).

UK Poverty 2023: the essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK

https://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/default/files/jrf/uk_poverty_2023_-_the_essential_guide_to_understanding_poverty_in_the_uk_0_0.pdf

(Source: Joseph Rowntree Foundation *Newsletter*, 30 Jan 2023)

Latest report from JRF:

“The UK has entered 2023 at a moment of profound challenge. After a long period of persistently high poverty rates and increasing levels of deep poverty across the UK, both the Covid-19 pandemic and the historically high inflation rates that increased the prices of energy, food and other essentials in 2022 have hit poorer households the hardest. This winter, 7.2 million low-income households are going without essentials – hungry, cold, without basics like showers, toiletries or adequate clothing – and 4.7 million are behind on their bills.” [p3]

The report identifies which groups are at highest risk of poverty (including, for example, “Around half of all people in households headed by someone of Bangladeshi ethnicity were in poverty in 2020/21, with rates for people in households headed by someone of Pakistani or Black ethnicity also having very high poverty rates of more than 4 in 10, more than twice the rate of people in households headed by someone of white ethnicity.” [p6]). It outlines the impacts of this, and then goes on to recommend what should happen next.

The web version is available at: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/uk-poverty-2023#what-needs-to-happen-now>.

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

“Communities pull together as Midsomer Norton Library runs story time with Ukrainian translation”

<https://www.mnrjournal.co.uk/news/communities-pull-together-as-midsomer-norton-library-runs-story-time-with-ukrainian-translation-594448>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 18 Feb 2023)

Great positive library story, including:

“As part of local support for Ukrainian families Midsomer Norton Library is running a Storytime with Ukrainian translation on February 16 from 11.30am-12.30pm. No booking is needed for the session which is aimed at 0-6-years-old but older siblings are welcome. Bath Welcomes Refugees conversation club and English support group also runs every

Thursday from 10-11.30am. The sessions are drop in and anyone is welcome.”

Migration issues – Other Agencies

What does the Anti-Refugee Bill mean for people's human rights?

https://www.bihr.org.uk/media/hb0hjicf/what-does-the-anti-refugee-bill-mean-for-peoples-human-rights.pdf?utm_source=Equally+Ours+Newsletter+2022&utm_campaign=db6f518141-Newsletter+March+2+2023&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_93cf2d2bcb-db6f518141-120687778

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 23 Mar 2023)

“This guide offers a plain language breakdown of our human rights concerns with the Anti-Refugee Bill, including our concerns with the process, principles and a right-by-right analysis linked to specific clauses of the Bill.” [p2]

“How to counter the hostile anti-migrant narrative”

<https://westcountryvoices.co.uk/how-to-counter-the-hostile-anti-migrant-narrative/>

(Source: *West Country Voices*, 51, 16 Mar 2023, <https://westcountryvoices.co.uk/>)

Very useful basic information to counter hostile anti-migrant narratives.

Sanctuary, safety, solidarity: a guide for service providers working with LGBT asylum seekers and refugees

<https://www.equality-network.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Sanctuary-Safety-Solidarity-2022-01-20.pdf>

(Source: email from the Equality Network, 29 Mar 2023)

Just in case you missed this updated resource from the Equality Network, published in 2021 (and highlighted on the Equality Network’s new website, <https://www.equality-network.org/>).

Hostile accommodation: how the asylum housing system is cruel by design

<https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Hostile-Accommodation-Refugee-Action-report.pdf>

(Source: *MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview]*, 784, 27 Mar 2023)

New report from Refugee Action:

“The reality behind what we call ‘asylum accommodation’ in the UK is a system in which tens of thousands of people are living for many months and years in conditions that actively harm their physical and mental health and violate their basic human rights. At the time of writing there are 105,522 people in asylum accommodation. They are detained indefinitely, segregated from communities, do not have access to legal or welfare services and have limited contact with the outside world due to restrictions and the cost of transport and communications. They live in an environment of fear of attacks by racist groups stoked by dangerous, inflammatory, racist language of politicians and sections of the media. In

this system, people who came to the UK seeking safety are forced to live in conditions so bad that they present a clear threat to their lives.” [p5]

“Attacks on asylum housing: fighting the weaponisation of gender-based violence”

https://irr.org.uk/article/from-ireland-to-knowsley-attacks-on-asylum-housing-and-the-weaponisation-of-gender-based-violence/?ml_subscriber=2161820865782617494&ml_subscriber_hash=h1k4&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=attacks_on_asylum_housing_from_ireland_to_knowsley&utm_term=2023-03-31

(Source: *IRR News*, 2 Mar 2023)

Important article from IRR:

“Sophia Siddiqui investigates what is underpinning the violent targeting of accommodation housing asylum seekers in Ireland and across the UK and how feminists, anti-racists, migrant solidarity and trade union groups are fighting back to resist the weaponising of gender-based violence.”

“‘It’s like you’re a criminal, but I am not a criminal.’ First-hand accounts of the trauma of being stuck in the UK asylum system”

https://theconversation.com/its-like-youre-a-criminal-but-i-am-not-a-criminal-first-hand-accounts-of-the-trauma-of-being-stuck-in-the-uk-asylum-system-202276?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%209%202023%20-%202594526097&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%209%202023%20-%202594526097+CID_82bfc81fef2a4bdcd066a1a33c402f12&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Its%20like%20youre%20a%20criminal%20but%20I%20am%20not%20a%20criminal%20First-hand%20accounts%20of%20the%20trauma%20of%20being%20stuck%20in%20the%20UK%20asylum%20system

(Source: *The Conversation*, 11 Apr 2023)

“Warning: this story contains graphic descriptions of violence.”

This powerful article revisits research carried out in 2020 “[...] amid current widespread concerns about the record numbers, welfare and experiences of asylum seekers detained in the UK immigration system.”

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

“An open letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Education”

https://www.cilips.org.uk/cilips-letter-education/?utm_campaign=649721_CILIP%20Scotland%20Newsletter%20March%202023&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20%20Information%20Professionals&dm_i=6WFS,DXBT,9VBO9,1PHL8,1

(Source: *CILIP in Scotland Newsletter*, 1 Mar 2023)

Just in case you didn’t see this important letter, raising the key issues around some recent and proposed cuts to school libraries in Scotland.