



## The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 387, 18 November 2023

### Events

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

### Black Lives Matter/Anti-racism

**“Notes on Nature interviews: Sy Joshua for Black History Month”**

[https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/news/black-history-month?utm\\_source=notes\\_on\\_nature\\_20231111&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=notes\\_on\\_nature&utm\\_content=27&utm\\_campaign=notes\\_on\\_nature](https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/news/black-history-month?utm_source=notes_on_nature_20231111&utm_medium=email&utm_term=notes_on_nature&utm_content=27&utm_campaign=notes_on_nature)

(Source: RSPB *Notes on Nature*, 11 Nov 2023)

Just in case you haven't seen this interview with Sy Joshua, RSPB's Senior Race Equity Specialist:

“[...] Black and ethnic minority people are disproportionately affected by climate change, significantly under-represented in the conservation sector workforce and often not in the room when responses to the nature and climate emergency are being discussed. My role is to drive change towards achieving race equity ensuring that we at the RSPB, save nature through people: all people.”

### Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

**Children, violence and vulnerability 2023**

<https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/reports/children-violence-and-vulnerability-2023/> [the full report is available to download if you provide them with contact details]

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Update*, 13 Nov 2023)

This is the second Youth Endowment Fund “Children, violence and vulnerability” report which “[...] includes survey responses from over 7,500 teenage children aged 13-17 in England and Wales about their experiences in the past 12-months.”

The findings are frightening:

- “16% of teenage children had been a victim of violence in the last 12 months
- 47% of teens had been a victim or witness of violence in the last 12 months
- 68% of children that were victims said they'd experienced violence that led to physical injuries

- 60% of children saw real-world acts of violence on social media, increasing to over 85% of children most at risk of involvement with violence. 29% had seen content relating to weapons.
- 47% of children reported that violence and the fear of violence impacted their day-to-day lives
- 20% of children (1 in 5) said they'd skipped school due to feeling unsafe.
- Victimization rates were 31% among those now using foodbanks
- 62% of children thought that drugs were a major factor and half thought gangs were – the two highest drivers.”

### Health & Wellbeing issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

#### Grief Awareness Week 2023: library toolkit

[https://reading-well.org.uk/resources/7070?mc\\_cid=e2eca8e5a4&mc\\_eid=3fa1d39831](https://reading-well.org.uk/resources/7070?mc_cid=e2eca8e5a4&mc_eid=3fa1d39831)

(Source: The Reading Agency *Children's Reading News*, 16 Nov 2023)

The Reading Agency have put together this toolkit to support libraries get involved in Grief Awareness Week, 2-8 December 2023.

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

#### “All In”

<https://allin.online/>

(Source: Arts Council update 9 Nov 2023)

“All In believes creativity and culture should be accessible to everyone.

That's why we are developing a UK-wide access scheme led by Arts Council England in partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Arts Council of Wales, Creative Scotland, and the British Film Institute (BFI).

We are committed to improving the experience of D/deaf, disabled, and neurodivergent people when attending creative and cultural events. As a disabled-led team, we bring lived experience as well as industry knowledge of access and inclusion to each stage of development.”

NB Fuller assessment to appear in *The Network Newsletter*.

### Migration issues – Other Agencies

#### **Why the changes to the “move-on” period mean more refugees are facing homelessness and destitution**

<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Move-on-briefing-and-destitution-Oct-2023.pdf>

(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 13 Nov 2023)

Briefing from the Refugee Council and others on the impact of the changes to the “[...] move-on period – the name given to the 28 days given to someone who gets a positive decision on their asylum claim before the financial support they had been receiving from the Home Office stops and they need to leave their asylum accommodation.” [p1]

### **“How the Welsh language is being promoted to help migrants feel at home”**

<https://theconversation.com/how-the-welsh-language-is-being-promoted-to-help-migrants-feel-at-home-211686>

(Source: email from Mike Chick to [ESOL-RESEARCH@JISCMAIL.AC.UK](mailto:ESOL-RESEARCH@JISCMAIL.AC.UK), 16 Nov 2023)

“In recent years, the Welsh government has looked for ways to use its powers to help refugees and migrants integrate into Welsh society, taking into account the role of the Welsh language.

Overall, this is an approach that seeks to create a welcoming and supportive environment in Wales.”

### **“Braverman had no evidence for ‘fake gay asylum seekers’ claim”**

[https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/suella-braverman-fake-gay-asylum-seekers-home-office-rwanda-refugees/?utm\\_source=SEGMENT%20-%20Newsletter%3A%20oD%20weekly&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Home%20Office%20forced%20to%20admit%20no%20evidence%20for%20Braverman%27s%20claims&\\_kx=18D1xQSf81SrwgQ7oVGBK2bIBk82Fazlk5OMY7463I%3D.YjCYwm](https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/suella-braverman-fake-gay-asylum-seekers-home-office-rwanda-refugees/?utm_source=SEGMENT%20-%20Newsletter%3A%20oD%20weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Home%20Office%20forced%20to%20admit%20no%20evidence%20for%20Braverman%27s%20claims&_kx=18D1xQSf81SrwgQ7oVGBK2bIBk82Fazlk5OMY7463I%3D.YjCYwm)

(Source: openDemocracy *Weekly Newsletter*, 18 Nov 2023)

“Suella Braverman had no evidence for her claim that ‘many’ people pretend to be gay in order to ‘game’ the UK asylum system, the Home Office has been forced to admit.”

### **LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies**

#### **“Twenty years after section 28 repeal, lessons still need to be learned from UK’s homophobic law”**

[https://theconversation.com/twenty-years-after-section-28-repeal-lessons-still-need-to-be-learned-from-uks-homophobic-law-210928?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%2017%202023%20-%202797328307&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%2017%202023%20-%202797328307+CID\\_f58f8b2d227fb6e55b3b2a7965b6c71f&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_uk&utm\\_term=Twenty%20years%20after%20section%2028%20repeal%20lessons%20still%20need%20to%20be%20learned%20from%20UKs%20homophobic%20law](https://theconversation.com/twenty-years-after-section-28-repeal-lessons-still-need-to-be-learned-from-uks-homophobic-law-210928?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%2017%202023%20-%202797328307&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%2017%202023%20-%202797328307+CID_f58f8b2d227fb6e55b3b2a7965b6c71f&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Twenty%20years%20after%20section%2028%20repeal%20lessons%20still%20need%20to%20be%20learned%20from%20UKs%20homophobic%20law)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 17 Nov 2023)

A moving article with a grim conclusion:

“Looking back, section 28 was a result of a fight between the right and left of British politics. Now, as the left and right battle to win the next general election, schools, teachers and LGBTQ+ identities are again under the spotlight.

We still await promised government guidance for teachers on gender identity in schools. Once again, they are not being trusted to talk to young people about gender and sexuality.

It is with a heavy heart that I await the political debates that will start as soon as the general election date is set. Spare a thought for those of us listening who are LGBTQ+. We are real people and who we are and who we love should not be used for political point-scoring. Let us at least learn that lesson from section 28.”

There is also a thoughtful article, “**20 years after Section 28, why repealing anti-LGBT law wasn’t enough**”, which argues that the impact is still very much with us:

“The impacts were ‘of course devastating’, one queer elder told openDemocracy this week. Section 28, repealed in Scotland in 2000, helped legitimise ‘really harmful views’ about queer people. Two decades on, these views continue to inform UK health and education policy, he explained, impacting queer and trans people’s safety in their communities, experiences at work and school, and access to healthcare.”

See: [https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/5050/section-28-anti-lgbt-20-years-anniversary-repeal-not-enough/?mc\\_cid=90770880ad&mc\\_eid=e91604b40f](https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/5050/section-28-anti-lgbt-20-years-anniversary-repeal-not-enough/?mc_cid=90770880ad&mc_eid=e91604b40f).

### **Broader issues – Other Agencies**

***‘This is the thought police’: the Prevent duty and its chilling effect on human rights***

[https://www.amnesty.org.uk/files/2023-11/Amnesty%20UK%20Prevent%20report%20\(1\).pdf?VersionId=.hjlwRZuHiGd1\\_IECXroFwg25jyBtwur&ml\\_subscriber=2344442878412985475&ml\\_subscriber\\_hash=k3k6&utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=anti\\_palestinian\\_racism\\_central\\_to\\_new\\_counter\\_extremism\\_proposals&utm\\_term=2023-11-09](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/files/2023-11/Amnesty%20UK%20Prevent%20report%20(1).pdf?VersionId=.hjlwRZuHiGd1_IECXroFwg25jyBtwur&ml_subscriber=2344442878412985475&ml_subscriber_hash=k3k6&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=anti_palestinian_racism_central_to_new_counter_extremism_proposals&utm_term=2023-11-09)

(Source: *IRR News*, 9 Nov 2023)

Important new report from Amnesty International, which reassesses the Prevent strategy and argues that:

“The UK’s Prevent strategy violates some of our most fundamental rights. Its stated purpose is to ‘stop people becoming terrorists’. To do so it requires schools, hospitals, local councils, universities, and other institutions to refer to the police people who they think might be drawn to terrorism – even though those individuals have not committed any crimes.

A person referred to Prevent – and their relatives – can experience life-changing impacts: a loss of trust in state institutions; stress, anxiety and other mental health consequences; unmanageable financial costs associated with challenging referrals; and worries over their privacy and data protection. Poor transparency surrounding Prevent and barriers to redress compound these effects.

Efforts by institutions and individuals to comply with Prevent are leading to violations of people’s rights to freedom of expression, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of peaceful assembly, and critically, the right to equality and non-discrimination.” [p3]

You can see Liberty’s views on this too at:

[https://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/fundamental/prevent/?mc\\_cid=017c01887f&mc\\_eid=e91604b40f](https://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/fundamental/prevent/?mc_cid=017c01887f&mc_eid=e91604b40f).