



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 391, 19 January 2024

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

Warm words, cold comfort: UK Civil society's ongoing racism problem

https://www.acevo.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/ACEVO_V4CE_WarmWordsColdComfort_report_v1-1.pdf

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 21 Dec 2023)

This new report from ACEVO and Voice4Change England has been produced as part of the launch of “Home Truths 2” which is “[...] is a new programme of work [...] designed to challenge and support mainstream UK civil society to take serious practical action on anti-racism and race equity.” [Taken from:

<https://www.acevo.org.uk/home-truths-2/>]

“This report on the Home Truths 2 survey is the first major output of the Home Truths 2 programme. The insights and experiences of Black and Minoritised Ethnic people in the survey will guide the programme’s work to build a sector that takes meaningful action on anti-racism and race equity.

Overall, the survey offers glimpses of what an anti-racist future for mainstream civil society might look like. There are some signs that organisations are recentring themselves against the idea of racism but that this positioning is not reflected in practical steps. This means that the lived reality for most survey respondents is of mainstream civil society as a site of racism, not anti-racism.” [p7]

ACEVO is the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations.

Voice4Change England “[...] is a charity and national advocate for the Black and Minoritised Ethnic voluntary and community sector. As a leading national membership organisation, V4CE actively speaks to policymakers on the issues that matter to the sector, brings the sector together to share good practices and develops the sector to better meet the needs of communities.” [p5]

“Racial justice and the climate emergency”

https://www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/racial-justice-and-the-climate-emergency?utm_source=Equally+Ours+Newsletter+2024&utm_campaign=aac

[5ef2660-Newsletter+January+1+2024&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_93cf2d2bcb-aac5ef2660-120687778](https://www.equalitynews.org/newsletter/January+1+2024&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_93cf2d2bcb-aac5ef2660-120687778)

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 11 Jan 2024)

New blogpost from Runnymede Trust:

“Globally, entrenched racialised inequalities mean that people of colour and Indigenous groups are the most severely affected by the impacts of the climate emergency. In response [...] a parliamentary inquiry has been launched to examine the issues.”

Human Rights – Other Agencies

“Media research shows BBC is very far from ‘biased against Israel’”

https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/israel-palestine-bbc-news-coverage-bias-gaza-war/?utm_source=SEGMENT%20-%20Newsletter%3A%20oD%20weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=UK%20refuses%20to%20waive%20visa%20fees%20for%20Palestinians&_kx=1_8D1xQSf81SrwgQ7oVGBK2bIBk82Fazlk5OMY7463I%3D.YjCYwm

(Source: openDemocracy *Weekly Newsletter*, 6 Jan 2024)

Valuable academic analysis of media coverage.

As the article concludes:

“We did not write this article or engage in research to justify the use of violence by anyone in any circumstances. But we write in the knowledge that peace can only come when realistic negotiations take place between people who are actually fighting. For peace to have any chance, the reasons for conflict must be understood and seriously addressed.”

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

Children's Mental Health Week 2024 – library toolkit

https://tra-resources.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/entries/document/7113/Childrens_Mental_Health_Week_2024_-_library_toolkit.pdf

(Source: The Reading Agency *Children's Reading News*, 18 Jan 2024)

New from The Reading Agency (Reading Well) and Libraries Connected:

“A toolkit to support libraries to get involved with Children’s Mental Health Week (5-11th February 2024).

The toolkit includes useful information, resources, display and activity ideas and template social media copy.”

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

“UK life expectancy falls to lowest level in a decade”

https://www.theguardian.com/society/2024/jan/11/uk-life-expectancy-falls-to-lowest-level-in-a-decade?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

(Source: *Later Life AGEnda*, 12 Jan 2024)

Just in case you didn't see this news coverage of the latest stats.

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

“Seeing libraries differently with the RNIB”

https://www.cilips.org.uk/rnib/?utm_campaign=1004461_CILIP%20Scotland%20Newsletter%20January&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20%20Information%20Professionals&utm_i=6WFS,LJ1P,9VBO9,2SSAB,1

(Source: *CILIP Scotland Newsletter*, Jan 2024)

“Recently CILIP Scotland, CILIP Ireland and CILIP Cymru Wales met with Lara Marshall, Libraries Engagement Manager at the Royal National Institute for Blind People (RNIB). We discussed ways in which all Four Nations of CILIP can complement the activities of Lara and her team whilst widening awareness of the work that the RNIB already does to increase accessibility within libraries for blind and partially sighted people. Please read below to hear from Lara and discover the ways in which the RNIB can support your library in enhancing accessibility.”

Disability issues – Other Agencies

“Recruitment & retention of staff, volunteers and trustees: An online resource to support Disabled People’s Organisations (DPOs)”

https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/resources/recruitment-retention-staff-volunteers-and-trustees-online-resource-support-disabled?utm_source=Equally+Ours+Newsletter+2024&utm_campaign=aac5ef2660-Newsletter+January+1+2024&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_93cf2d2bcb-aac5ef2660-120687778#_Toc149040892

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 11 Jan 2024)

“These guidance notes are aimed at Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) and are divided into different sections for ease of use. They provide an explanation of the key principles with additional hyperlinks for those people wanting in-depth information and real-life examples.”

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

“Arrivals exhibition in Ipswich shares migration stories”

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-suffolk-67578917?fbclid=IwAR3tM3sL6ZbNWr5G0QumfpiTqWXbsWGL2glyTYOXrpsRJJhFAViA4iCgeql>

“A new exhibition is showcasing stories from people who migrated from across the world to make Suffolk their home.

The event, called Arrivals, at The Hold heritage centre in Ipswich explores experiences of migration to the county since the end of World War Two.”

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

“Refugee ‘sanctuary’ councils invest pension funds in Israel-linked arms firms”

https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/palestine-solidarity-campaign-divest-council-pensions-israel-weapons/?utm_source=oD%20Daily%20SEGMENT&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Public%20sector%20workers%E2%80%99%20pension%20money%20being%20invested%20in%20companies%20arming%20Israel&_kx=1_8D1xQSf81SrwgQ7oVGBK2bIBk82Fazlk5OMY7463I%3D.YjCYwm

(Source: openDemocracy *Daily Newsletter*, 10 Jan 2024)

“Over £1bn of public sector workers’ pension money has been invested in companies aiding Israel’s attacks on Gaza – including by councils that boast about providing sanctuary for refugees [...]

Analysis by openDemocracy has found at least 42 of the councils with pension cash tied up in weapons and systems firms are also part of the ‘City of Sanctuary’ network, recognising their work to welcome and support refugees, or have said they welcome and support refugees.”

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“Who is Welcome: Disability + Migration”

<https://migrantsrights.org.uk/projects/who-is-welcome/disability-and-migration/>

(Source: Migrants’ Rights Network *Newsletter*, Dec 2023)

Migrants’ Rights Network is developing its intersectional work, and this webpage looks at issues around migration and disability as well as announcing its continuing work in this area.

There is also a zine available:

disability + migration: a “who is welcome” zine

<https://migrantsrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Copy-of-DISABILITY-ZINE.pdf>

(NB it’s 59.7mb)

“Who is Welcome: Gender, Queerness + Migration”

<https://migrantsrights.org.uk/projects/who-is-welcome/who-is-welcome-gender-queerness-migration/>

(Source: Migrants’ Rights Network *Newsletter*, Dec 2023)

Similarly, MRN have launched a new section in their “Who is Welcome” campaign to explore how constructions of masculinity, queerness and gender identity intersect with immigration status.

Child Migrant Voices in Modern Britain – oral histories from 1930s to the present day

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/child-migrant-voices-in-modern-britain-9781350332607/>

“Almost half the people displaced worldwide are under 18, yet their voices are rarely heard. This book throws a spotlight on children arriving

in Britain from Hitler's Europe in the 1930s to those escaping war in Ukraine in 2022. It follows the journeys of war traumatised children from Mogadishu to Mile End and from Syria to a Scottish isle. Some followed their parents to the 'motherland' from the former British Empire. Others came independently to escape forced marriage or military conscription. These powerful testimonies shed light on children's motivations, trials and achievements, including in adult life, providing critical insight into how the British – both individually and collectively – have welcomed or shunned child migrants. Importantly, Eithne Nightingale links these stories with contemporary issues such as the Windrush Scandal and Britain's Illegal Migration Act 2023.

Situated in its historical and political context *Child Migrant Voices in Modern Britain* makes vital reading for those studying modern British history, migration and human rights as well as those working with child migrants. It will also appeal to a general audience interested in inspirational life stories."

To be published Feb 2024.

The author is "Eithne Nightingale [who] has over forty years' experience of working on equality issues in the education and cultural sectors. As the V&A's Head of Equality and Diversity she co-produced the World in the East End gallery that became the inspiration for her PhD in child migration and the films Child Migrant Stories <https://childmigrantstories.com/>. A trustee of BAOBAB Centre for Young Survivors in Exile, Eithne is an award-winning writer, photographer and filmmaker and lives in Hackney, East London."

NB charged-for publication.

Use the following discount code to save 20% - UK, Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia, South and Central America: **GLR AQ7**

"Migration can be a good thing for the environment – here's how"

https://theconversation.com/migration-can-be-a-good-thing-for-the-environment-heres-how-221281?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20January%2019%202024%20-%202853328938&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20January%2019%202024%20-%202853328938+CID_2ebf908c9fd3f0eae133debd6766ffe&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Migration%20can%20be%20a%20good%20thing%20for%20the%20environment%20%20heres%20how

(Source: *The Conversation*, 19 Jan 2023)

Very interesting article which concludes:

"Ultimately, we need to reset how migration is discussed in society – away from simple tropes that paint it as a threat, towards using evidence of its consequences for economies, environments and social cohesion."

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

“Museums under threat as councils prepare for new wave of austerity”

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2024/01/museums-under-threat-as-councils-prepare-for-new-wave-of-austerity/#>

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 9 Jan 2024)

“Several museums are under threat of closure as a new wave of austerity hits local government.”

This article has brief info about some of these. In addition:

“Museums Journal is tracking council spending cuts to museums and galleries across the UK.

Email our news editor Geraldine Kendall Adams at geraldine@museumsassociation.org to let us know if your organisation is affected by local authority cuts.”

Broader issues – Other Agencies

“How liberal conspiracy theories can be just as destructive as their extremist counterparts”

https://theconversation.com/how-liberal-conspiracy-theories-can-be-just-as-destructive-as-their-extremist-counterparts-215424?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20January%209%202024%20-%202844028829&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20January%209%202024%20-%202844028829+CID_d5a89156481820e9e65c6ca014d2dc37&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=How%20liberal%20conspiracy%20theories%20can%20be%20just%20as%20destructive%20as%20their%20extremist%20counterparts

(Source: *The Conversation*, 9 Jan 2024)

Useful (and interesting) reminder of the dangers of conspiracy theories – and the importance of facts-based work.

“UK’s elderly moving back to towns and cities, data shows”

<https://www.carehomeprofessional.com/uks-elderly-moving-back-to-towns-and-cities-data-shows/>

(Source: *Later Life AGENDA*, 15 Jan 2024)

Interesting article:

“Towns and cities across the UK are set to benefit from an upsurge in Baby Boomers who are ‘boomeranging’ back from rural areas to embrace an urban lifestyle.”