

# The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 404, 11 September 2024

## Events

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

## Equality Act 2010

### ***A better way to tackle institutional racism***

[https://raceequalityfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/A-better-way-to-tackle-institutional-racism-Alliance-for-Racial-Justice.pdf?utm\\_source=Equally+Ours+Newsletter+2024&utm\\_campaign=27d06da678-Newsletter+March+2+2024\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_93cf2d2bcb-27d06da678-120687778](https://raceequalityfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/A-better-way-to-tackle-institutional-racism-Alliance-for-Racial-Justice.pdf?utm_source=Equally+Ours+Newsletter+2024&utm_campaign=27d06da678-Newsletter+March+2+2024_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_93cf2d2bcb-27d06da678-120687778)

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 5 Sep 2024)

Important new report – with recommendations – from The Alliance for Racial Justice:

“In a brand-new report launched on 2nd September, The Alliance for Racial Justice, a coalition of leading race equality organisations, have called for equality laws to undergo major updates to tackle deep-rooted discrimination and inequality across Britain.

In ‘A better way to tackle Institutional Racism’, The Alliance for Racial Justice calls on the UK’s new government to commit to a major review of the Equality Act 2010.

Whilst a landmark piece at its inception, campaigners now believe this key piece of legislation has failed to safeguard against the spread of racism in the UK’s public bodies. This is in part due to a critical gap between the vision of the Equality Act 2010 and the ability for powers within the act to be implemented in practice. Funding cuts and an absence of political will have also been coined as key barriers to enforcing equality legislation.” [Taken from *Newsletter*]

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

## Funding & Opportunities

### **“CILIPS Research Fund opens for 2024”**

[https://www.cilips.org.uk/cilips-research-fund/?utm\\_campaign=1263957\\_September&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20Information%20Professionals&dm\\_i=6WFS,R39X,9VBO9,3MUH7,1](https://www.cilips.org.uk/cilips-research-fund/?utm_campaign=1263957_September&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20Information%20Professionals&dm_i=6WFS,R39X,9VBO9,3MUH7,1)

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

“The CILIPS Research Fund offers a unique opportunity to support research that contributes to Library and Information Sector advocacy in Scotland. The Fund was launched at our 2022 Annual Conference and

makes available up to £10,000 per year in funding for researchers, practitioners, activists, students and other interested professionals whose work seeks to advance library advocacy.”

Deadline for Applications: **31st October**

Funding: up to £10k

Apply here: <https://cilips.formstack.com/forms/researchfund>.

### **Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies**

#### ***An evidence-based plan for upskilling our children and young people for digital futures***

Full report: [https://www.n8research.org.uk/media/CotN\\_Digital-Futures\\_Report\\_7.pdf](https://www.n8research.org.uk/media/CotN_Digital-Futures_Report_7.pdf)

Children & Young People Now article:

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/digitally-excluded-children-at-greater-risk-of-fake-news-researchers-warn>

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Early Years and Education Bulletin*, 27 Aug 2024)

Important new report:

“The rapid advancement of digital technology is reshaping the lives of CYP, presenting both unprecedented opportunities and significant challenges. Some causes of digital exclusion are: unaffordable costs of connectivity and devices; lack of training and exposure to digital analytical and technical skills; and machine learning increasingly inviting more passive learning practices. While digital access enhances learning, socialisation, and access to services, a substantial portion of the youth population is left behind due to digital exclusion, which has profound implications for their educational outcomes, social inclusion, and future employment prospects.” [p16]

As the article spells out:

“A lack of digital skills is leaving children ‘more open to the risks of disinformation, fake news and other online harms’.”

### **Migration issues – Other Agencies**

#### **“No, ‘illegal immigrants’ don’t receive more benefits than pensioners”**

<https://fullfact.org/online/pensioner-refugee-claims-recirculating/>

(Source: *Later Life AGEnda*, 2 Sep 2024)

New from Full Fact, refuting claims on Facebook etc:

#### **“WHAT WAS CLAIMED**

Pensioners receive £6,000 a year in financial support from the government, and ‘illegal immigrants’ and refugees receive £29,900 a year.

#### **OUR VERDICT**

These figures are incorrect. Pensioners on the full ‘new’ state pension get around £11,500 a year in support from the government. People who do not have a legal right to be in the UK can’t claim public funds, though asylum seekers can get some other financial support, for example with accommodation. Like UK citizens, refugees (who have leave to remain in the country) are able to apply for Universal Credit and other benefits.”

### ***Immigration raids: an anatomy of racist intimidation***

Full report: <https://migrantsrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/immigration-raids-report.pdf>

Web summary: [https://migrantsrights.org.uk/projects/hostile-office/immigration-raids-an-anatomy-of-racist-intimidation/?link\\_id=8&can\\_id=30e439a67211f81f4bbace156600453a&source=email-anti-migrant-hatred-is-racism-2&email\\_referrer=email\\_2436954&email\\_subject=immigration-raids-are-racist](https://migrantsrights.org.uk/projects/hostile-office/immigration-raids-an-anatomy-of-racist-intimidation/?link_id=8&can_id=30e439a67211f81f4bbace156600453a&source=email-anti-migrant-hatred-is-racism-2&email_referrer=email_2436954&email_subject=immigration-raids-are-racist)

(Source: Migrants’ Rights Network *Newsletter*, Sep 2024)

Important new report from MRN:

“Raids are an extension of colonial ‘divide and rule tactics’. They inflict a huge amount of suffering, implement borders in day-to-day life and turn neighbours against each other. Our research demonstrates not only the intimidatory nature of raids, but that they are specifically used to intimidate racialised and migrant communities.” [p20]

MRN have also just produced a statement on deportation, “Deportations are about to ramp up”, [https://migrantsrights.org.uk/2024/08/21/deportations-are-about-to-ramp-up/?link\\_id=10&can\\_id=30e439a67211f81f4bbace156600453a&source=email-anti-migrant-hatred-is-racism-2&email\\_referrer=email\\_2436954&email\\_subject=immigration-raids-are-racist](https://migrantsrights.org.uk/2024/08/21/deportations-are-about-to-ramp-up/?link_id=10&can_id=30e439a67211f81f4bbace156600453a&source=email-anti-migrant-hatred-is-racism-2&email_referrer=email_2436954&email_subject=immigration-raids-are-racist).

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

#### ***Bullying, harassment and discrimination of LGBT people in the workplace: a TUC report***

[https://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/2024-08/LGBT\\_Sexual\\_Harassment\\_Report\\_2024.pdf](https://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/2024-08/LGBT_Sexual_Harassment_Report_2024.pdf)

(Source: *PinkNews*, 28 Aug 2024)

Important, shocking new report:

“This research from the TUC provides a powerful and important insight into the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans plus (LGBT+) workers of bullying, harassment and discrimination at work [...]

The findings are stark. Over half of respondents told us that they had experienced at least one form of bullying or harassment at work in the last five years. Around one in five respondents (19%) had been exposed to verbal abuse about LGBT+ people in the workplace. And one in 20 respondents (5%) told us that they had experienced physical violence, threats and intimidation because they are lesbian, gay, bi or trans. These

findings mean that it is unsurprising to see that more than a quarter of LGBT1 people (29%) aren't open with anyone at work.

This research has also given us the opportunity to examine trends and patterns for different strands of the LGBT community. We've found that bisexual workers are less likely to be open with anyone at work about their sexual orientation with 39% saying this compared to 14% for lesbian and gay workers. We've seen that eight in 10 (79%) trans respondents had experienced bullying at work, compared with just under half (48%) of the full sample. We also gathered important information on the impact of bullying, harassment and discrimination. Four-in-ten respondents who had experienced bullying told us that their treatment at work had negatively impacted their mental health." [p3]

It also includes recommendations for improvement by Government, regulatory bodies, employers and Trade Unions.

**Blogpost: "Green and red flags from the new government so far on asylum"**

<https://www.rainbowmigration.org.uk/news/green-and-red-flags-from-the-new-government/>

(Source: email from Rainbow Migration, 6 Sep 2024)

Useful assessment by Rainbow Migration of the progress taken by the new Government so far.

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

***Public libraries and the creative industries: briefing note August 2024***

<https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/sites/default/files/Libraries%20and%20creative%20industries%20briefing%20-%20final.pdf>

(Source: *Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance Bulletin*, Sep 2024)

New from Libraries Connected, this Briefing brings together 7 case studies with commentary and policy proposals; these are:

Central Government

- "Labour's Plan for the Arts, Culture and Creative Industries should be developed to recognise the role of libraries in supporting and widening access to the creative industries.
- Library services should be included in the Government's new Cultural Infrastructure Map. In those areas identified as 'cultural deserts', libraries should be at the forefront of efforts to develop the local creative economy
- Library services should have equal access - alongside other arts organisations - to any additional funding the government sources from investors and donors through its new cultural strategy."

Local Government

- Councils should ensure libraries are included in their cultural strategies, particularly for their role in developing skills, supporting creative businesses and widening access to culture.
- Councils should put public libraries at the heart of culture-led regeneration, drawing on their unique role as local cultural catalysts.” [p4]

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

#### **“Home education: why are so many parents choosing it over mainstream school?”**

[https://theconversation.com/home-education-why-are-so-many-parents-choosing-it-over-mainstream-school-228164?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20September%202%202024%20-%203082631419&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20September%202%202024%20-%203082631419+CID\\_18efd80e34f70eb7f94d39969fbdce06&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_uk&utm\\_term=Home%20education%20why%20are%20so%20many%20parents%20choosing%20it%20over%20mainstream%20school](https://theconversation.com/home-education-why-are-so-many-parents-choosing-it-over-mainstream-school-228164?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20September%202%202024%20-%203082631419&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20September%202%202024%20-%203082631419+CID_18efd80e34f70eb7f94d39969fbdce06&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Home%20education%20why%20are%20so%20many%20parents%20choosing%20it%20over%20mainstream%20school)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 2 Sep 2024)

Very useful background article – and we may be meeting/providing for more and more home-schooled young people.

#### **“Bookshops are bucking the high street trend. There are lots of reasons why”**

[https://theconversation.com/bookshops-are-bucking-the-high-street-trend-there-are-lots-of-reasons-why-237278?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20September%203%202024%20-%203084631439&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20September%203%202024%20-%203084631439+CID\\_d45dc3ebd52bd8f711fd214ae3882fb3&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_uk&utm\\_term=Bookshops%20are%20bucking%20the%20high%20street%20trend%20There%20are%20lots%20of%20reasons%20why](https://theconversation.com/bookshops-are-bucking-the-high-street-trend-there-are-lots-of-reasons-why-237278?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20September%203%202024%20-%203084631439&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20September%203%202024%20-%203084631439+CID_d45dc3ebd52bd8f711fd214ae3882fb3&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Bookshops%20are%20bucking%20the%20high%20street%20trend%20There%20are%20lots%20of%20reasons%20why)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 3 Sep 2024)

Interesting article, exploring why bookshops are continuing to develop – and also suggesting that they are becoming community hubs as libraries “decline”.

#### ***Creating confident communicators: how the government can help every child find their voice***

[https://nlt.cdn.ngo/media/documents/Creating\\_confident\\_communicators\\_-\\_How\\_the\\_government\\_can\\_help\\_every\\_child\\_find\\_their\\_voice\\_4zRs95n.pdf](https://nlt.cdn.ngo/media/documents/Creating_confident_communicators_-_How_the_government_can_help_every_child_find_their_voice_4zRs95n.pdf)

(Source: National Literacy Trust *Monthly Newsletter*, Sep 2024)

Key new report from the NLT:

“Our argument is quite simple: if, as a country, we want more young people to leave the education system with confident speaking skills, then they need to be able to access an integrated pathway of speech, language and communication support from birth to 18. Whilst the school

curriculum is important, what happens before school – in a child’s first 1,001 days – is critical.” [p8]

“We define oracy as the range of skills and techniques used to express thoughts verbally, including how well we listen, understand and can respond. Strong oracy skills enable individuals to articulate their ideas, opinions and understanding to others in a clear and compelling manner.

We believe that every child deserves a high-quality oracy education, as it is the key to developing the literacy skills that are needed to thrive in the modern world. Children should be taught explicitly how to express their thoughts, learn, collaborate, listen with understanding and empathy, engage critically with the world around them, seek clarification or further information, and advocate for their civic rights and the rights of others. They should have opportunities to celebrate the language(s) that they speak, develop confidence in communicating across difference settings, registers and genres, and learn how to build and maintain happy and healthy relationships.” [p9]