



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 300, 3 June 2020

Black Lives Matter

The killing of George Floyd in the US has suddenly brought to the fore (again) the ongoing issues around racism and some members of the police. A number of organisations has made commitments and powerful statements, including:

Joint statement of intent for the heritage sector

<https://gem.org.uk/joint-statement-of-intent-for-the-heritage-sector/>

“As the leading membership bodies representing the UK museums, galleries, heritage and archives we take responsibility for ending racism in the heritage sector. This work is overdue. This work is non-negotiable. It cuts across all aspects of our sector, from the collections we curate and preserve, the people who make up the heritage workforce, to the learning programmes we deliver.”

Statement signed by: the Group for Education in Museums (GEM), the Association of Independent Museums (AIM), the International Council of Museums UK (ICOM UK), the Museums Association, the Heritage Alliance, and Engage.

See also: “Sector bodies call for stand against racial injustice amid Black Lives Matter protests”, https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/01062020-call-for-collective-anti-racist-action-black-lives-matter-protests?utm_campaign=1753164_01062020%20MA%20newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,11KR0,27LU0M,3ZCEQ,1.

Migration Museum

From email sent 2 Jun 2020:

“The Migration Museum stands in solidarity with black communities – in the US, the UK and worldwide.

Challenging racial inequality and discrimination and emphasising our common humanity is at the core of everything that we do. The recent events in the US and the disproportionate impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on BAME communities in many countries – in particular the UK – have brought to the world’s attention the need for real change in how we address structural racism and racial inequalities.

These are deeply troubling times for everyone. But for black people who visit us, who we work with and make up our team, and whose stories we are honoured to share, the current situation is heartbreaking. Museums

and cultural institutions have an important role to play in recognising and challenging oppression, racism and injustice and highlighting issues that matter to our communities and audiences. We all can and should do more.

This is not a time to stay silent. It is only through speaking out and engaging that we can begin to move towards our vision of a diverse, tolerant and inclusive society that lives better together – not just on the topic of migration, but in all respects.”

LGBT Foundation: Black Lives Matter”

From email sent 3 Jun 2020:

“LGBT Foundation stands with Black communities in the UK and around the world fighting against racism, structural oppression and police brutality. This is our fight too – as an organisation, we believe that the only way we will ever eradicate racism is if we, as one community, collectively take a zero-tolerance policy and call out racism in all its forms.”

Climate emergency – Other Agencies

Faster, further, fairer: putting people at the heart of tackling the climate and nature emergency

<https://www.ippr.org/files/2020-05/faster-further-fairer-ejc-interim-may20.pdf>

(Source: email from IPPR, 27 May 2020)

“This interim report of the IPPR Environmental Justice Commission finds that to act with the ambition and at the scale that the climate and nature emergency demands, requires a new approach. An approach where we take faster action to tackle the climate and nature crisis, go further in the transformation of our economy and deliver a fairer transition for all. Central to the ethos of the commission is the recognition that there is an inextricable link between addressing the climate and nature emergency and tackling economic and social injustice.” [Taken from: <https://www.ippr.org/research/publications/faster-further-fairer>]

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

Coronavirus/COVID-19

“Taskforce to support reopening of cultural sector in England”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/taskforce-to-support-reopening-of-cultural-sector?utm_campaign=1747824_20052020%20MA%20newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,11GMO,27LU0M,3YU6W,1

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 20 May 2020)

“A UK government taskforce is being set up to help reopen the cultural sector in England alongside other recreation and leisure businesses.

The recreation and leisure taskforce will be overseen by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Chaired by a DCMS minister, its responsibilities will include tourism, culture and heritage, libraries, entertainment and sport.

It will work with the museum sector on the possible reopening of institutions in England in stage three of the UK government's plan for lifting lockdown restrictions. The earliest this could take place is 4 July.

The group will be one of five official taskforces helping develop new "Covid-19 secure" guidelines specific to different parts of the economy. The other taskforces will oversee pubs and restaurants, non-essential retail, places of worship and international aviation."

"New right, old racism – the battlefield of COVID-19"

<http://www.irr.org.uk/news/new-right-old-racism-the-battlefield-of-covid-19/>

(Source: *IRR News*, 6-20 May 2020)

Really interesting "Comment" piece by Health Activist, Wayne Farah:

"As Public Health England conducts its controversial rapid review into Covid-19 disparities, lurking in the background is a new school of 'race realists' whose retrogressive biological arguments must be tackled head-on."

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

"6000 new supported homes as part of landmark commitment to end rough sleeping" [press release]

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/6000-new-supported-homes-as-part-of-landmark-commitment-to-end-rough-sleeping?utm_source=3d29542c-8b7d-4730-9146-5a97205fa990&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

"By accelerating plans for the £381 million announced for rough sleeping services at Budget – now extended to £433 million – the funding will ensure that 6,000 new housing units will be put into the system, with 3,300 of these becoming available in the next 12 months. In addition to accelerating this capital spend for investment in housing stock, the government is also increasing the revenue support of the total programme by 37% to make sure that the rough sleepers have the support they need to stay off the streets for good."

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

The colour of money ...

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/2020%20reports/The%20Colour%20of%20Money%20Report.pdf>

(Source: email from the Runnymede Trust, 20 May 2020)

Subtitled *How racial inequalities obstruct a fair and resilient economy*, this important new report:

“[...] focuses on how economic and wider social inequalities affect Black and minority ethnic (BME) people in Britain.” [p3]

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

Often overlooked: young women, poverty and self-harm

<https://weareagenda.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Often-Overlooked-Young-women-poverty-and-self-harm-2.pdf>

(Source: Clinks *Light Lunch*, 636, 29 May 2020)

New research from Agenda (the alliance for women and girls at risk) and the National Centre of Social Research (NatCen).

“Based on new analysis of data from more than 20,000 people it shows that young women (aged 16 to 34) living in the most deprived households are five times more likely to self-harm, compared with those in the least [...]

Agenda is calling on all mental health strategies and policies to consider the impact of poverty and inequality on girls and young women’s mental health, especially at a time when the coronavirus outbreak is likely to make those inequalities worse.” [Taken from press release, <https://weareagenda.org/often-overlooked-pr/>]

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

Health equity in England: the Marmot Review 10 years on

<https://www.health.org.uk/sites/default/files/upload/publications/2020/Health%20Equity%20in%20England%20The%20Marmot%20Review%2010%20Years%20On%20full%20report.pdf>

Important reassessment of progress on health and health equity:

“England is faltering. From the beginning of the 20th century, England experienced continuous improvements in life expectancy but from 2011 these improvements slowed dramatically, almost grinding to a halt. For part of the decade 2010-2020 life expectancy actually fell in the most deprived communities outside London for women and in some regions for men. For men and women everywhere the time spent in poor health is increasing.

This is shocking. In the United Kingdom, as in other countries, we are used to life expectancy and health improving year on year. It is what we have come to expect. The UK has been seen as a world leader in identifying and addressing health inequalities but something dramatic is happening. This report is concerned with England, but in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland the damage to health and wellbeing is similarly nearly unprecedented [...]

The evidence we compile in this ‘ten years on’ report, commissioned by the Health Foundation, explores what has happened since the Marmot Review of 2010. Austerity has taken its toll in all the domains set out in

the Marmot Review. From rising child poverty and the closure of children's centres, to declines in education funding, an increase in precarious work and zero hours contracts, to a housing affordability crisis and a rise in homelessness, to people with insufficient money to lead a healthy life and resorting to foodbanks in large numbers, to ignored communities with poor conditions and little reason for hope. And these outcomes, on the whole, are even worse for minority ethnic population groups and people with disabilities [...] We cannot say with certainty which of these adverse trends might be responsible for the worsening health picture in England. Some, such as the increase in child poverty, will mostly show their effects in the long term. We can say, though, that austerity has adversely affected the social determinants that impact on health in the short, medium and long term. Austerity will cast a long shadow over the lives of the children born and growing up under its effects." [p5]

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

"Picture books about flowers and gardening and their value for children's wellbeing"

<http://www.anneharding.net/3094/picture-books-flowers-gardening-value-childrens-wellbeing/>

(Source: updates from Anne Harding Training, 22 May 2020)

In her latest blogpost for Mental Health Awareness Week, Anne Harding recommends "picture books that explore the healing power of flowers and gardens, and that offer positivity and optimism."

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

"Written evidence submitted by Migrants' Rights Network and Just Fair"

https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/3466/pdf/?mc_cid=f63666f6c8&mc_eid=17c19d737e

(Source: *Just Fair Newsletter*, May 2020)

Joint submission from MRN and Just Fair to the Housing, Communities, and Local Government inquiry into the impacts of COVID-19 on homelessness and the private rented sector.

Key issues raised include:

- Migrants are more likely to live in private rented accommodation or in overcrowded accommodation.
- Many migrant women experiencing domestic abuse are not able to get a place in a shelter due to their immigration status, leaving them to choose between staying with their abuser or destitution and homelessness.
- COVID-19 has raised particular challenges for migrant communities notably being disproportionately impacted by drops in income; limited access to welfare; and barriers for homeless migrants in accessing housing support. [taken from *Just Fair Newsletter*]

Looked-after children & young people issues – Other Agencies

Care-experienced young people and higher education

https://whatworks-csc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/WWCSC_Care-experienced_Young_People_and_Higher_Education_report_May2020.pdf

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Update*, 20 May 2020)

New research report – key findings include:

“The study confirmed that young people who were in care or care experienced at 13-14 years of age had significantly lower expectations of attending university than peers who had not entered care. These lower expectations remained even when other factors such as Special Educational Need, school exclusions, and family benefit levels were taken into account. In addition, of all the young people who when in Year 9 said they thought they were likely to apply for university, those who had care experienced were much less likely to be in higher education at age 20 than those who had never been in care. This was true even when factors such as SEN, history of exclusions and family benefits were taken into account.” [Taken from: <https://whatworks-csc.org.uk/research-report/care-experienced-young-people-and-higher-education/>]

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

“The UK was once ranked the most LGBT-friendly nation in Europe. This year, it's not even close”

https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/05/14/rainbow-map-2020-lgbt-rights-equality-europe-uk-ilga/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=PNnewsletter

(Source: *PinkNews*, 14 May 2020)

Just in case you haven't seen this *Pink News* piece about the latest ILGA-Europe assessment and ranking of European countries – it also has links to the ILGA-Europe website where you can access the Rainbow Map of Europe and ILGA's latest report.

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“I had two separate lives': LGBT teachers learn to speak up and get promotion”

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/may/19/i-had-two-separate-lives-lgbt-teachers-learn-to-speak-up-and-get-promotion>

(Source: *The UoP Equality & Diversity Newsletter*, 21 May 2020)

Just in case you didn't see this interesting article about leadership training & support for LGBTQ+ teachers.