



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 322, 25 February 2021

Events

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

Black Lives Matter

“Bristol following the fall of Colston”

https://irr.org.uk/article/bristol-following-the-fall-of-colston/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=progressive_extremism_casting_doubt_on_the_racial_justice_cause&utm_term=2021-02-11

(Source: *IRR News*, 11 Feb 2021)

Article looking at events in Bristol following the toppling of the statue (and a mention of the Government’s attitude as part of its ‘culture wars’).

Decolonising museums – new resource page from the MA

https://www.museumsassociation.org/campaigns/decolonising-museums/resources/?utm_campaign=1894682_23022021&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,14LY2,27LU0M,4CEYW,1

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 23 Feb 2021)

This is a really useful listing of resources – and the MA aims to keep it updated.

“Anti-Racism – Resources and Support”

<https://www.cilips.org.uk/about/anti-racism-resources-and-support/>

An important initiative by CILIP Scotland:

“CILIPS supports the #BlackLivesMatter movement and is firmly anti-racist. We recognise the need to educate ourselves as well as to raise greater awareness in our networks and communities. In order to do this, we have gathered some links and resources from Scotland and beyond together on this page. This is not an exhaustive list and we want to learn from others and update this as needed as we realise this requires ongoing action. If you would like us to add anything please email admin@cilips.org.uk.”

“Young ethnic minorities bear brunt of recessions, and it’s happening again – here’s how to stop it”

https://theconversation.com/young-ethnic-minorities-bear-brunt-of-recessions-and-its-happening-again-heres-how-to-stop-it-155902?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%2025%202021%20-%201873218268&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%2025%202021%20-%201873218268+CID_e60d3fe708b688c6cde37f7988def10c&utm_source=campaign_monitor

[uk&utm_term=Young%20ethnic%20minorities%20bear%20brunt%20of%20recessions%20and%20its%20happening%20again%20%20heres%20how%20to%20stop%20it](#)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 25 Feb 2021)

“The official unemployment figures that have just been published for the last quarter of 2020 reveal the continued economic impact of COVID-19 on Britain’s ethnic minority groups. Among all groups, Black African/Caribbean people fared worst, with unemployment rates reaching 13.8% in the period from October to December 2020. The White unemployment rate has not reached that level since the early 1990s, and was 4.5% in the same period.”

“Black and LGBT+ students ‘reduced to tears’ by vile racist, homophobic attack during Zoom meeting”

https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/02/18/edinburgh-university-zoom-homophobia-racism-students-zoom-bombing-zoombombing/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=PNnewsletter

(Source: *PinkNews*, 18 Feb 2021)

Just a shocking reminder of why we need to tackle hatred and discrimination ...

Coronavirus/COVID-19

Digital mental health services: the impact of Covid-19 on young people’s mental health

<https://www.thinknpc.org/resource-hub/digital-mental-health-services/>

(Source: New Philanthropy Capital *Weekly Update*, 15 Feb 2021)

New report from NPC, which looks at the provision of digital mental health services and:

“[...] reveals how the landscape has changed amidst the pandemic, and what challenges and opportunities there are for charities and funders to support young people with mental health issues.”

Key findings in relation to young people include:

- “The biggest increases in need from young people were related to anxiety and depression. Young people are fearful of the future, financial pressures, and prevailing uncertainty. One charity we spoke to said that the young people they supported were experiencing ‘skin hunger’, yearning for the physical contact (e.g. hugs) they used to have with others.
- School leavers and new graduates are pessimistic about getting a job in a Covid world or post-Covid world. They fear missing out on educational and professional opportunities.
- With schools shut, children have lost the coping mechanisms—private conversations with friends, sports and other hobbies, access to mental health support at school, etc.—that might have helped them maintain their emotional wellbeing and reduce anxiety. They might not even have realised that their peers were their support network until they were gone.
- Charities are seeing more calls relating to familial conflict; tensions rise when everyone is confined together. Children are more exposed to family

challenges, such as money troubles, and are increasingly expressing concern for their parents and other family members.

- The promise of making unique and lifelong friendships has been taken from those who were excited about university. Students feel dejected by missing out on the promised university experience that they have worked hard for.
- As the vaccine is rolled out, new anxieties are likely to emerge around the safety of re-entering spaces that have been 'off limits'. Having spent months being told not to go out, training oneself to feel safe may be a challenge.”

“Black LGBT+ youth hit hardest by COVID-19 mental health crisis, reveals devastating study”

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/02/22/black-lgbt-youth-covid-19-mental-health-just-like-us/>

(Source: Peter Tatchell Foundation *Weekly*, #139, 25 Feb 2021)

Reporting on a new study, *PinkNews* state:

“The mental health toll of the coronavirus pandemic has devastated young LGBT+ Black Britons [...].”

The study referred to is by Just Like Us – see: <https://www.justlikeus.org/single-post/black-lgbt-young-people-s-mental-health-particularly-impacted-by-pandemic>

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

“Children’s Commissioner for England criticises officials ‘lack of understanding’ of vulnerable children”

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/children-s-commissioner-for-england-criticises-officials-lack-of-understanding-of-vulnerable-children>

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Update*, 17 Feb 2021)

“[...] Anne Longfield has used her final speech in the role to launch a scathing attack on government officials’ lack of understanding of children.”

Ties into:

“Lords to examine ‘increasing lack of support’ for vulnerable children”

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/lords-to-examine-increasing-lack-of-support-for-vulnerable-children>

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Update*, 17 Feb 2021)

“A new inquiry by the House of Lords aims to find ways public services can improve the support they offer vulnerable children and their families, it has been announced.”

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

“The new Vision and Print Impaired People’s Promise”

<http://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/news/new-vision-and-print-impaired-people%E2%80%99s-promise>

Blogpost by Mark McCree (Chair, Share the Vision), which outlines the changes made to the former “Six Steps Promise” (which has now become the “Vision and Print Impaired People’s Promise”), and also:

- Has a reminder that the 2021 HiVIS fortnight will take place **7-20 June**
- Announces that Share The Vision and The Ulverscroft Foundation have established a three year strategic partnership, which will launch this year. The core aims being:
 1. To increase library staff understanding of the needs of people who are blind or have a vision-impairment, and the challenges they face in accessing library services
 2. To improve awareness among blind and vision-impaired people about the range of library services on offer
 3. To support the development and accessibility of these services and increase their take-up.

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

“LGBTQ+ History Month: gay victims and survivors of the Holocaust are often forgotten – we need to tell their stories”

https://theconversation.com/lgbtq-history-month-gay-victims-and-survivors-of-the-holocaust-are-often-forgotten-we-need-to-tell-their-stories-154417?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%2025%202021%20-%201873218268&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%2025%202021%20-%201873218268+CID_e60d3fe708b688c6cde37f7988def10c&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=LGBTQ%20History%20Month%20gay%20victims%20and%20survivors%20of%20the%20Holocaust%20are%20often%20forgotten%20%20we%20need%20to%20tell%20their%20stories

(Source: *The Conversation*, 25 Feb 2021)

An important reminder:

“Alongside the murder of six million Jews, the Holocaust saw the Nazis target five million other victims in their attempt to wipe out entire communities from Germany and beyond. These groups included Poles, Soviets, Roma, political prisoners, disabled people, criminals, Jehovah’s Witnesses and those seen as homosexuals. As with the other groups, gay men (and to some extent lesbians) were perceived as posing a threat to the ‘German people’. But to this day, many of these gay victims receive little attention.”