

BLG ANNUAL UK 4 NATIONS & GLOBAL CONFERENCE

TRACKS

Black
Leadership
Group

COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP
IN A FRACTURED WORLD

TRAILS

AND THREADS

THE BELFAST PROGRAMME

21ST MARCH 2024

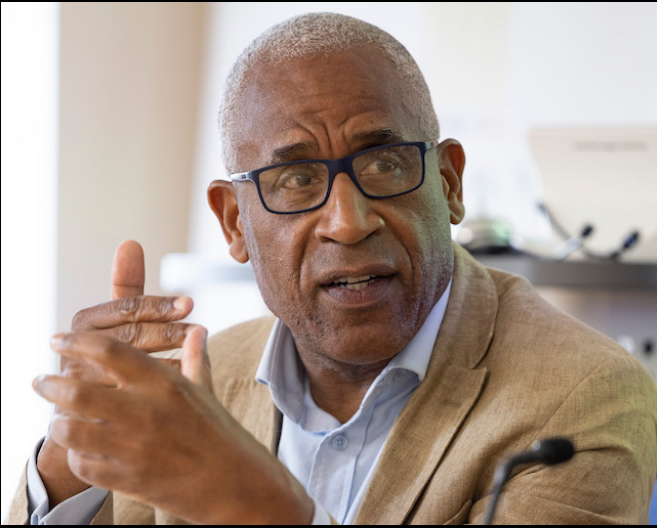
08:00 - 17:00

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OPENING KEYNOTE

Lord Woolley of Woodford CBE

The Principal, Homerton College,
University of Cambridge

CONFERENCE CHAIR

Robin Ghurbhurun

UK Managing Director – Jisc Further
Education, Skills and FE/HE Advice &
Training



BELFAST HOST

Naomi Shaw

*Black Leadership Group (BLG)



VENUE

**THE MAC, 10 EXCHANGE ST,
WEST, BELFAST, BT1 2NJ**
21 MARCH 2024
08:00-17:00

This unique and high profile hybrid event, on 21 March, coinciding with the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, will bring together people in-person and on-line, in each nation of the United Kingdom and international participants, to discuss and shape actions for achieving an anti-racist society and ethnic equity for all.

Through a thought-provoking blend of tracks, trails and threads, keynotes, provocations, roundtable conversations, case studies, collaborative research, and calls to action, the conference will:

- Explore the role and imperative of courageous leadership in the fight for an anti-racist world
- Showcase the trailblazers that are challenging the status quo, by pushing boundaries with initiatives on anti-racism that are making a difference
- Learn how system leaders are proactively applying the BLG 10 Point Plan to embed an anti-racist culture
- Discover how educational leaders are invested in co-creation using the anti-racist principles and tools developed to galvanise the energy and talent of teachers, students, and communities
- Provide opportunities to consider the applicability of the anti-racist lens within different global contexts
- Examine the role of artificial intelligence applications in profiling bias and racial prejudice in recruitment, promotion and training.

The Programme

08:00	Conference Lobby	Arrival and Registration Refreshments
08:45	Host Welcome	Naomi Shaw *Black Leadership Group (BLG)
SESSION 1 // WELCOME, OPENING KEYNOTE & PANEL DISCUSSION		
(This session will be livestreamed from London to all our conference venues – Belfast, Birmingham, Cardiff, Edinburgh and On-line)		
08:50	Headline Sponsor Welcome	Kirri Watson Google for Education
09:00	Welcome	Conference: Chair Robin Ghurbhurun , UK Managing Director – Jisc Further Education, Skills and FE/ HE Advice & Training
09:10	Conference Opening Keynote Address: Based on Lord Simon Woolley’s inspiring book, SOAR: My Journey from Council Estate to the House of Lords , the Keynote will set the tone for the conference in the context of the theme – Courageous Leadership in a Fractured World.	Lord Simon Woolley; The Principal, Homerton College, University of Cambridge
09:30	In Conversation with Simon: This fireside chat style conversation will be led by Robin Ghurbhurun. The panel members, who themselves are proven courageous leaders will discuss Simon’s Keynote, SOAR, and the anti-racism imperative, laying down initial tracks, trails, threads for further exploration during the day.	
Panellists		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lord Simon Woolley• Robin Ghurbhurun – Conference Chair• Chantelle Haughton – Principal Lecturer, Cardiff Met University• Ann Francke OBE CMgr – Chief Executive, Chartered Management Institute (CMI)		
10:30	Refreshment Break	

SESSION 2 // 11:00-11:20

BELFAST KEYNOTE: COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP IN A FRACTURED WORLD

TRAILBLAZER KEYNOTE SPEAKER

LOUISE WARDE HUNTER, Chief Executive, Belfast Met

SESSION 3 // 11:30-12:30

ROUNDTABLE WORKSHOPS: TRACKS, TRAILS & THREADS (Participants should register for ONE Roundtable Workshop)

Each Roundtable will feature a short presentation or interview, and interactive discussion. Participants will develop a summary and call to action to take forward to the Golden Threads Plenary.

Track 1 System Leadership

Leading Ant-racism across NI

Alfie Wong will provide a perspective on the challenges of racism in Northern Ireland context.

With the minority ethnic population here now at 8.1 per cent and annual Public Prosecution Service hate crime statistics continuing to show racially motivated hate crime at the top of the table, above sectarianism, the challenge is significant.

Alfie will speak about some of the initiatives and projects that are helping to promote inclusion and eradicate racism across diverse communities in Northern Ireland.

Alfie Wong MBE, ,
Northern Ireland
Civil Service Race
and Ethnicity
Champion and Head
of Racial Equality
Delivery Team at the
Executive Office

Track 2 Educational Leadership

Decolonising the Curriculum

Decolonising the Curriculum (DtC) is about identifying, acknowledging and challenging the ways in which colonialism has impacted upon perceived knowledge and learning. By decolonising the curriculum, we uncover unconscious biases. This session will focus on how students' intellectual vision can be broadened to include diverse ethnic, racial, social and cultural perspectives.

Dr Eiman Abdel
Meguid
Senior Lecturer
(Education)
Queen's University
Belfast and member,
African Scholars'
Research Network

**Track 3
Trailblazers**

Designing Different Directions in a fractured world

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” – African Proverb

Courageous leadership is about thinking , talking and stepping out in a different direction. It is about recognising the values of Ubuntu –“I am because we are” and designing a new language that instils equity and inclusion. The destination is a world that is designed to reflect all of us , encourage different perspectives and hear all voices .

This workshop will amplify courageous leaders, shine the light on collective thinking and collaborative partnerships and design new directions.

Lori Gatsi-Barnett
Founder / Director,
JoinHer Network

**Track 4
Research &
Innovation**

Listening to *Black Student and Staff Voices: Findings & Recommendations from Commissioned Action Research Studies in 10 FE Colleges

Over the past three years, BLG has been commissioned to undertake quantitative and qualitative research on the lived experiences of *Black students and staff, by a number of FE colleges. This session provides an Overview Study of our Research Findings incorporating key themes and messages for system leaders and their organisations.

Dennis Francis
Black Leadership
Group

12:30 -13:15

Lunch and Networking

SESSION 4 // 13:30-13:50 AI PROVOCATION KEYNOTE:

Can Artificial Intelligence help to combat systemic racism?

This session will be livestreamed from London to all our conference venues – Belfast, Birmingham, Cardiff, Edinburgh and On-line

PROVOCATEUR, TRAILBLAZER & KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

PROFESSOR S. CRAIG WATKINS

Director of Media Innovation, University of Austin, Texas

SESSION 5 // 14:00-15:00

ROUNDTABLE WORKSHOPS: TRACKS, TRAILS & THREADS (Participants should register for ONE Roundtable Workshop)

Each Roundtable will feature a short presentation and interactive discussion. Participants will develop a summary and call to action to take forward to the Golden Threads Plenary.

<p>Track 1 System Leadership</p>	<p>Reframing, rethinking and reconstructing accounts of colonial experience Actively engaged in decolonizing education and working with communities and researchers, Agrippa will share experience of trying to educate people in Northern Ireland through better access to accounts of the economic, social, cultural and psychological aspects of colonialism. An experience that continues to impact on the mental health of families with colonial history.</p>	<p>Agrippa Njanina, Community Engagement Officer, National Museums, NI</p>
<p>Track 2 Educational Leadership</p>	<p>BLG 10 Point Plan Case Studies Initially developed as a gift to the FE system, the BLG 10 Point Plan Diagnostic Toolkit has been adapted by experts to enable different educational institutions and business organisations to undertake a comprehensive audit of their anti-racist practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BLG 10 Point Plan 1.0 • BLG 10 Point Plan for Early Years, Primary and Secondary • BLG 10 Point Plan Diagnostic Toolkit for Business • The Higher Education Anti-racist Toolkit (HEART) <p>Hear from practitioners and find out how the 10 Point Plan is being used across the UK and how your organisation can join a vibrant, learning community of anti-racist practice.</p>	<p>Dennis Francis Black Leadership Group</p>
<p>Track 3 Trailblazers</p>	<p>Working collaboratively to facilitate belonging and integration through arts, educational and cultural programmes and exchanges</p> <p>Hear from African and Caribbean Support Organisation Northern Ireland (ACSONI), an autonomous community-based Organisation and join in a discussion to co-create fresh solutions.</p>	<p>Takura Makoni, ACSONI</p>

**Track 4
Research &
Innovation**

Response to AI Provocation

A short showcase presentation by the Roundtable leader will be followed by an interactive discussion in response to the provocation keynote.

Fintan Donohue
OBE,
Director at Success
Through Leadership

15:00-15:15

Break

SESSION 6 // 15:30-16:30 GOLDEN THREADS PLENARY & CALL TO ACTION

This not-to-be-missed session will be livestreamed from London to all our conference venues – Belfast, Birmingham, Cardiff, Edinburgh and On-line.

Robin Ghurbhurun, Conference Chair, will be joined by the Conference Hosts to:

- Synthesize the learning, information and reactions to the provocative and optimistic insights from our inspiring speakers across the day
- Extract the 'golden threads' that align with the conference themes of courageous, decent, and competent leadership
- Reprise the conference narrative to explore how we use collective wisdom to innovate and deliver change

Conference Hosts

Belfast – Naomi Shaw

Birmingham – Robin Landman OBE

Cardiff – Yusuf Ibrahim

Edinburgh – Dr Maxine Room CBE

London – Amarjit Basi

On-line – Stella Mbubaegbu CBE

16:30 -16:45

Call to Action

Conference Chair
Robin Ghurbhurun

BELFAST CONFERENCE CLOSE

16:45 -17:00

Announcements, Appreciation & Close

Belfast Host
Naomi Shaw,
Black Leadership
Group

