

BLG ANNUAL UK 4 NATIONS & GLOBAL CONFERENCE

TRACKS

Black
Leadership
Group

COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP
IN A FRACTURED WORLD

TRAILS

AND THREADS

THE EDINBURGH PROGRAMME

21ST MARCH 2024

08:00 - 17:00

HEADLINE SPONSOR

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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



EDINBURGH HOST

Dr Maxine Room CBE

*Black Leadership Group (BLG)



VENUE

**DYNAMIC EARTH, HOLYROOD RD,
EDINBURGH, EH8 8AS**
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	Dr Maxine Room CBE *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

EDINBURGH KEYNOTE: COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP IN A FRACTURED WORLD

TRAILBLAZER KEYNOTE SPEAKER

PROFESSOR GUS JOHN, International Consultant & Executive Coach

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	Courageous Leadership in times of conflict An invitation to consider the economic cost of racism and the crucial task of conflict transformation and peacemaking.	Mark Clark MBE, CEO, Transformational Ltd
Track 2 Educational Leadership	Nurturing and supporting the Black Talent Pipeline across Scotland This session aims to be a catalyst for real change, ensuring that Scotland's future workforce reflects the rich tapestry of its diverse communities. Despite progress in diversity and inclusion efforts, systemic barriers persist, hindering the advancement of Black Talent in various industries. Following a brief presentation on the work of DataKirk which aims to promote diversity and inclusion within the digital and data economy, Fash Fashoro will lead an interactive discussion on this crucial yet often overlooked topic.	Fash Fashoro, Director, DataKirk
Track 3 Trailblazers	Becoming an Anti-racist College The first in Scotland to affiliate with the Black Leadership Group, Edinburgh College will share their anti-racist journey so far and lead a conversation on using the BLG 10 Point Plan.	Jacki Jeffrey, Assistant Principal for Creative Studies, Edinburgh College Katie Willis Khan, HR Manager, Operations, Edinburgh College

**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.

Tiwonge Cohn
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.

Track 1 System Leadership	Making the most of an ethnically diverse Scotland Following an introduction by BLG ally and champion, Audrey Cumberford, Tiwonge Cohn will present BLG's Signature Keynote which makes the case for making the most of an ethnically diverse Scotland. They will be joined by Mark Clark and Shaheen Baber for a fireside style chat and discussion with participants.	Audrey Cumberford MBE FRSE, Principal & CEO Edinburgh College Tiwonge Cohn Black Leadership Group Mark Clark MBE CEO, Transformational Ltd Shaheen Baber Superintendent Police Scotland Policing Together
Track 2 Educational Leadership	The Higher Education Anti-Racist Toolkit (HEART)	Neelam Khosla- Stevens Higher Education Consultant and member, BLG HE Community Group
Track 3 Trailblazers	Inspirational Role Models What can we learn from the personal histories of inspirational leaders? Lisa Williams and Rianna Andrews will be interviewed by Ethelinda Lashley-Scott.	Ethelinda Lashley- Scott CEO, Multi-Cultural Family Base Lisa Williams, Founder, Edinburgh Caribbean Association Rianna Andrews, Intercultural Youth Scotland

**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.

Dr Ailsa Crum
Director of
Membership, Quality
Enhancement &
Standards,
Quality Assurance
Agency for HE

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

EDINBURGH CONFERENCE CLOSE

16:45 -17:00

Announcements, Appreciation & Close

Edinburgh Host
Dr Maxine Room CBE
Black Leadership
Group

