

BLG ANNUAL UK 4 NATIONS & GLOBAL CONFERENCE

TRACKS

Black
Leadership
Group

COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP
IN A FRACTURED WORLD

TRAILS

AND THREADS

THE ON-LINE 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



ON-LINE HOST

Stella Mbubaegbu CBE

*Black Leadership Group (BLG)

VENUE

ON-LINE VIA YOUTUBE

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	Stella Mbubaegbu 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

UNITED NATIONS DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION KEYNOTE: COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP IN A FRACTURED WORLD

TRAILBLAZER KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DR ELIZABETH HENRY, Racial & Social Justice Consultant, Activist & Campaigner (interviewed by Stella Mbubaegbu CBE)

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

Morgan Hunt Case Study: Organisational Allyship

Clare Keniry will provide an overview of the ongoing Morgan Hunt partnership with the Black Leadership Group – beginning in 2020 with Morgan Hunt as an original signatory to the Open Letter calling on the government to recognise race inequality in the education system and to work collectively to act. The session will explore our experiences over the past few years, the ongoing challenges, the benefits of organisational allyship and our current collaboration to build the re-launched Black Leadership Job Board with the aim to assist engaged employers in promoting their leadership opportunities to talented Black professionals across the UK.

Clare Keniry, Board Director, Morgan Hunt

Reece Turner, Morgan Hunt

Luke O'Neill, Morgan Hunt

Track 2 Educational Leadership

Race and Education: Bringing Theory and Practice to Life

Jonah Ulebor and Penny Rabiger will explore the question of what race and racism are for, what they do, and how we can use what we know to work against them. Drawing on their different research projects looking at race and education, the session will bring theory and practice to life. This is your invitation to investigate the foundations for the work you do, and the imperative for action as leaders seeking to disrupt everyday racism.

Penny Rabiger, PhD Researcher

Jonah Ulebor, PhD Researcher

**Track 3
Trailblazers**

Wales: Anti-racist Trailblazer Nation

Prof Emmanuel Ogbonna is Co-chair, External Accountability Group, Welsh Government Anti-racist Wales Action Plan (ARWAP). He will highlight private and public sector contributions to ARWAP, the work of the Accountability Group and lead a discussion on the applicability of Wales’ trailblazer anti-racist ambition and approaches to nations and cities, globally.

Prof Emmanuel Ogbonna
PhD, FAcSS, FBAM, FCIPD, FLSW
Chair in Management and Organisation,
Cardiff Business School,
Cardiff University

**Track 4
Research & Innovation**

Safety Lab: multi-stakeholder innovation process to systemically enhance safety in South London’s Black communities and new approach to participatory grant making

Yannick Wassmer,
Reos Partners

In this highly interactive sessions, Yannick will share the key insights of the Safety Lab: an 18-month multi stakeholder innovation lab aimed at working systemically and collaboratively to enhance safety in Black communities across South London. The Lab brought together a diverse group of community leaders from different backgrounds to develop a portfolio of innovations addressing some of the root causes in relation to (un)safety in Lambeth and Southwark. The Safety Lab, funded by Impact On Urban Health, also became a promising new approach to participatory grant making. Come join us for a creative conversation and learn more about this work!

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	Jisc's Anti-racism Manifesto Case Study Jisc, a not for profit organization that provides IT and digital resources to support further and higher education, became the first national organisation in the UK to affiliate with the Black leadership Group. Using case study material from Jisc, we will explore organisational leadership of Anti-racism. We will draw on other case material including Anti-racist Wales 2030 – trailblazer nation.	Stella Mbubaegbu CBE Director, Black Leadership Group
Track 2 Educational Leadership	The BLG Higher Education Anti-Racist Toolkit (HEART) Launched today by Professor David Mba, Vice Chancellor, Birmingham City University, HEART's purpose is to help inform, guide and challenge Higher Education (HE) Providers (HEP) and Higher Education Professional Bodies (HEPB) to integrate anti-racism at institutional, faculty and school level. This Roundtable will focus on how HEART can be used to embed anti-racism into various aspects of the higher education system by concentrating on cultures, processes and frameworks that influence student experience, staff experience, teaching and learning, research, pedagogy and curriculum, governance, operations, and strategy.	Dr Arun Verma, Head of Inclusion, University of London; Member, Black Leadership Group
Track 3 Trailblazers	Ubele Initiative's RSA funded Mek Wi Chat project Learn about the Mek Wi Chat project which utilises art and storytelling to simulate visions in the public imagination about the future of black leadership in Britain and to create new narratives about the future of that Leadership.	Yannick Wassmer, Reos Partners
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.	Manuel Vietze, Unyted

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

ON-LINE CONFERENCE CLOSE

16:45 -17:00 Announcements, Appreciation & Close

On-Line Host
Stella Mbubaegbu
CBE
Black Leadership
Group

