

## Education4Change Bulletin 8

The purpose of the bulletin is for Newham educators to use it as a vehicle to keep anti-racist conversations going in a focussed way. E4C ambassadors are invited to share it with their staff teams.

In this edition discussion is focussed on what changes have happened in society since one year on from **George Floyd's murder (25th May)** and the **BLM protests**; and **celebrating Windrush Memorial Day (June 22nd)**.

### What has changed?



25th May 2021 marked the one year anniversary of the murder of George Floyd, an event which launched protests against police brutality, and institutionalised racism.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson acknowledged that *“people from black and minority ethnic groups do face discrimination: in education, in employment, in the application of the criminal law.”*

**E4C discussion point:** One year later, has any change impacted on our daily life?

Within education, programmes have been launched to build an anti-racist curriculum such as the [Diverse Curriculum](#) and our very own *Education4Change*. Yet the government has not taken any steps of its own to address teachings about race in schools. It is up to us as educators in schools to ensure that anti-racism is integrated into our curriculum, for example teaching about British colonial history as a strategy to challenge unconscious racial bias.

### Who has pledged to change?

#### In business

Where there has been palpable change is how businesses are being far more open with addressing racial inequality.

- British Tea companies **Yorkshire Tea, PG Tips, Twinings, Tea Pigs** have got together as **Solidaritea** and have spoken out saying: “We stand against racism”, and have urged [anti-racist critics to boycott their teas](#). The move prompted a flurry of support online, with some saying the brands had made them feel proud to be British.

**We notice that the company says that they will ‘educate themselves’. Education is not just for schools.**

- YouTube** has invested in a \$100 million fund to support and promote the work of black creators and artists.
- Nike** has pledged \$40 million (£32 million) to support the Black community, and committed to investing in **“organisations that put social justice, education, and addressing racial inequality in America at the centre of their work”**.
- Amazon** boss Jeff Bezos shared an email exchange with a customer who had criticised his firm's support of anti-racism and said: “This sort of hate shouldn't be allowed to hide in the shadows. **You're the kind of customer I'm happy to lose”**



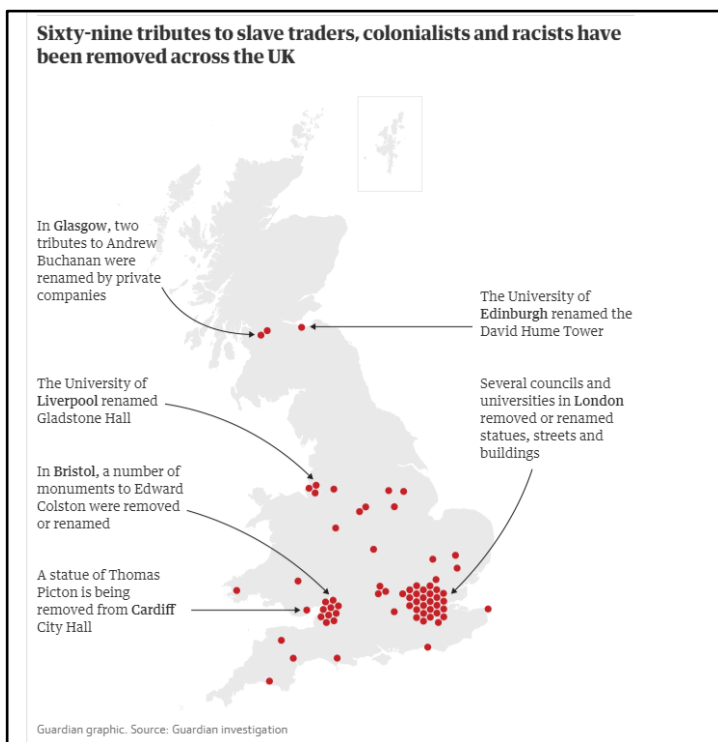
- **Yelp**, the local search and review website, is to label pages of businesses accused of racist behaviour. The platform, which lets users rate bars, restaurants and attractions, said the alerts would require "resounding evidence", in the form of public attention and "floods of reviews".

**E4C discussion point:** How long lasting will these effects be? Will we see the impact of their support?

## The media



- More people are speaking out about the everyday racism and discrimination they have faced. Clara Amfo was praised for speaking openly about the impact George Floyd's death had on her and her mental health. She said what happened had reinforced a feeling among black people "that people want our culture, but they do not want us. In other words, you want my talent, but you don't want me," she added.
- More representation on our screens. Some of the conversation focused on how Black people in the country are represented across media, whether it be on TV or in the music business.
- Networks, awards shows and record labels were among the bodies who pledged to do better for diversity and inclusion in regards to race. However, there have been some dark moments over the past year, for example: Piers Morgan.



## What else has changed?

In Britain, what was described by historians as an "unprecedented" public reckoning with Britain's slavery and colonial past, an estimated 39 names - including streets, buildings and schools - and 30 statues, plaques and other memorials have been or are undergoing changes or removal since last summer's protests.

- Imperial College London has stopped using its Latin motto, which can be translated as "scientific knowledge, the crowning glory and the safeguard of the empire"
- London Metropolitan University and University of East London renamed schools associated with Sir John Cass

- Some streets in London, such as Havelock Road, Black Boy Lane and Cassland Road Gardens - are being renamed.

In America, Black Lives Matter Plaza is now the name of the street in Washington DC leading up to the White House. The City painted the 35 feet letters so that the then President could not avoid seeing it. BLM Plaza is a permanent art installation ‘for people around the world to see.’



**E4C discussion point:** Black Lives Matter DC criticised the renaming as a ‘distraction from real policy changes.’ Is the renaming of street names and institutions, tokenistic or a constant reminder that racism is still yet to be beaten?

## What has changed in Newham?

Newham made its own plans to tackle racism in October 2020, with “*Challenging inequality, racism and disproportionality (TRID) being at the heart of Newham Council’s renewed commitment to making the borough a fairer place.*”

Newham has now committed to removing the term ‘BAME’ from its vocabulary as it begins to implement the changes in its original pledge. The pledge and attached workstreams represents how forward thinking and progressive Newham is. Furthermore their commitment to building an anti-racist borough is shown by their endorsements for E4C, after visiting one of the lead E4C schools, Maryland Primary. Officers had this to say:

### Children’s Commissioner - Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney

“ Every time I hear more about the E4C programme the more I am enthused by the possibilities and reach this will have for our children and young people.”



### Director of Education - Anita Stewart

“Hearing about and seeing what is on offer with the curriculum domain of E4C is exciting and I am very much looking forward to the launch of the platform for our education community here in Newham.”



### Introducing...Bernard Bruce

Bernard has recently joined Newham as the new programme manager for Tackling Racism, Inequalities and Disproportionality, (TRID).

As part of this programme, he has organised a series of **Community Time To Talk** Sessions being held over Zoom for Newham residents. He has posed some challenging questions based on recurring themes:

1. Communities and agencies: In terms of tackling racism, inequality and disproportionality, what should agencies (council, police, health, voluntary sector etc.) do to help and what role can communities play?
2. Young people: How can young people be supported to overcome the challenges caused by racism whilst also helping them feel connected to their communities?
3. Trust: How do we increase trust between agencies and Black, Asian and other communities?
4. Access: Based on recent evidence during the Covid-19 pandemic, how do we improve access to agencies for people from Black, Asian and other communities?
5. Recovery: How do we help ensure all communities in Newham recover from the impact of the pandemic?
6. Culture: What else can we do to ensure the cultural diversity of Newham is represented in Newham's celebration of heritage and history?

## Windrush Day 22nd June

**Official Website** [www.windrushday.org.uk](http://www.windrushday.org.uk) The government has committed to embedding 22nd June as national Windrush Day 'to honour and recognise the outstanding resilience, innovation and creativity of the Windrush Generation and their descendents. The date celebrates the arrival of the Empire Windrush in 1948 at Tilbury Docks in Essex. The Caribbean people that emigrated here 73 years ago, brought an 'explosion' of music and culture, but most of all, workers to rebuild the UK after the damage caused by the war.

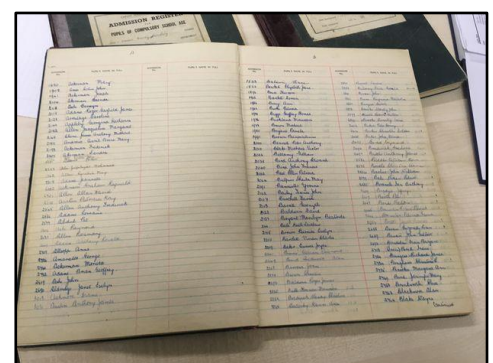
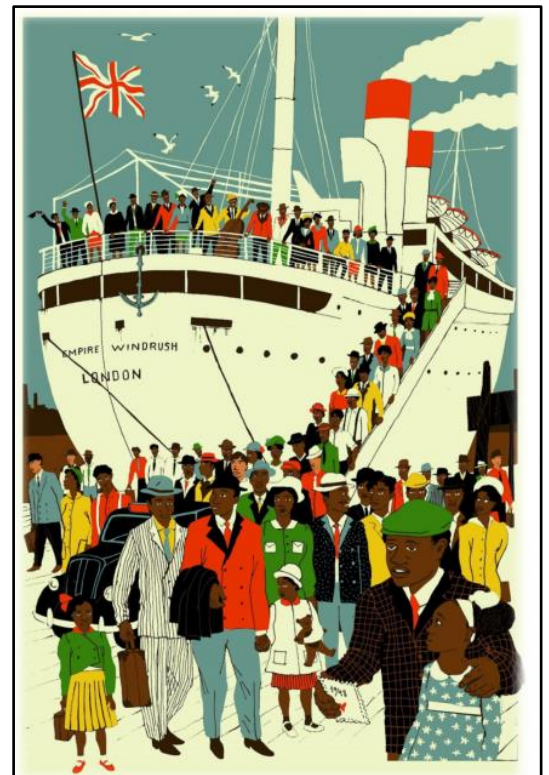
**From a warm welcome...to a hostile environment.**

### The Windrush Scandal

In 2012, ironically when black sportspeople were winning medals for the UK at the London Olympics, legislative measures came in to make it as difficult as possible for the Windrush generation to stay here. Although arriving as British citizens in the postwar years, they were denied healthcare and benefits and in some cases being deported if they did not have naturalisation papers. Several died whilst waiting for justice.

### A heartwarming Newham Windrush story:

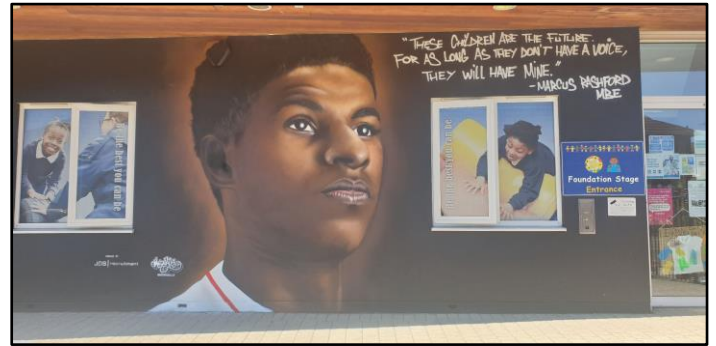
A few years ago, an elderly gentleman arrived at a Newham Primary school with his adult daughter. He was being threatened with deportation back to Jamaica as he had no papers to prove how he got into the country. His last hope was the entry in his old Primary school register from back in the 1960's. The school still had the old registers from that time in their local history archives and his name, and that of his sister, was found clearly handwritten. That photocopy of the school admissions book provided the evidence he needed for the Home Office and he was saved from deportation. A few months later, a crate of Prosecco arrived at the school with a thank you note - beautifully handwritten of course.



## Let's hear from Newham schools:

**Gainsborough Primary school** has recently had a mural painted in honour of Marcus Rashford. He was chosen by the students at Gainsborough due to his work ensuring no child

went hungry, and more recently, how he has promoted combating online hate speech, which he has described as *"humanity and social media at its worst."*



Headteacher Lisa Christall said: *"The children really wanted to pay tribute to Marcus Rashford for all the incredible work he has done with his campaigning for free school meals during lockdown and the school holidays. I can't thank him enough. This has really helped our families."*

Mr Rashford has proved himself an incredible role model for children and adults alike, and this mural demonstrates how the work of one person can begin to bring about change. The school is now fundraising to pay for a protective coating for the mural.

## Monega Primary school

Headteacher of Monega Liz Harris and teacher Tyrique Solomon were invited to attend an event at Downing Street in recognition of the school's work during the pandemic. Whilst at the drinks reception with Boris Johnson, in the garden of number 10, our representatives from Newham took the opportunity to talk about the importance of diversity and role models in education. Tyrique was a previous pupil of both Central Park School and St. Bonaventure's.



## Another Newham celebration for Mr

Clive Douglas Chair of the Boleyn Multi Academy Trust of schools who received an MBE for services to education. He is particularly proud of his work in supporting leaders from black and minority ethnic backgrounds. Clive said, 'I feel very humbled and honoured to be awarded an MBE for services to education as part of the Queen's birthday honour list. It has been a privilege to be able to make such a positive contribution through my role as Chair of the Boleyn Multi Academy Trust of schools. Mentoring and supporting all our leaders and future leaders has always been important to me.' Congratulations Clive.



**E4C discussion point:** What should an E4C school look like and sound like?

An E4C school promotes change through **conversation and curriculum**, where discussions around race are comfortable for staff and children alike. Our aim is that issues of race are not taboo, where staff can openly discuss race with their colleagues to challenge racism

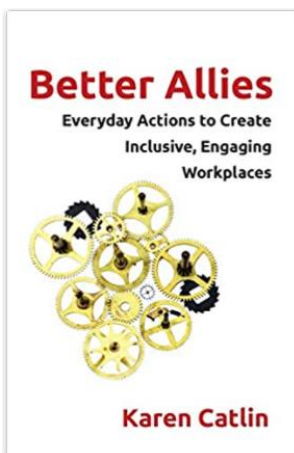
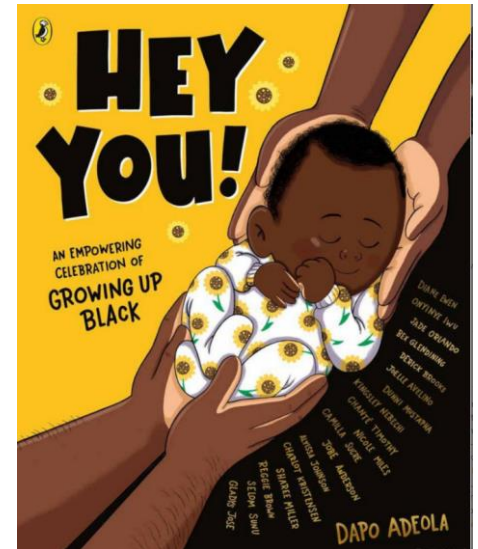
and ensure everyone is well informed.

In an E4C school staff can support each other, help to spot mistakes and ensure that anti-racism is a permanent part of the conversation, rather than an issue that arises as a result of a crisis. An **E4C Racial Literacy Conversation Kit** is being written to support schools. Every bulletin comes with an invitation for Newham schools to contribute and share their stories, recommended reading, podcasts or achievements.

## Recommended books

*Hey You!* written by Dapo Adeola (illustrator of *Look Up* and *Clean up*) is creating a stir as it is one of the first books that explores what it's like to grow up as a Black child, acknowledging the possible difficulties and challenges that may be ahead. *Hey you!*, written for children of all ages and backgrounds. Each page is filled with amazing artwork from 16 different illustrators (based around the world) reminding black children to dream, to stand up for what they believe, to be the best version of themselves, a theme that is universal.

Throughout the book sunflowers appear on various items symbolising *hope and overcoming adversity*.

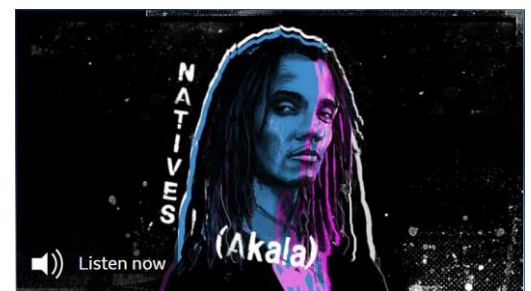


*Better Allies* written by Karen Caitlin

A practical book, full of real life scenarios on how to promote a diverse and inclusive environment as recommended by a Newham Headteacher.

*Natives: Race & Class in the ruins of empire* by Akala.

E4C bulletin has recommended this book in previous editions. An edited version is now available for free as a podcast on BBC sounds.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000wl4m>

## Bulletin Contact information

If any educators would like to contribute to the next E4C bulletin, please email:

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