

Torbay Multicultural Network Newsletter

February 2022



Some incredible artwork produced by core member Keara!

Newsletter produced by
Engaging Communities
South West

in association with:

TORBAY COUNCIL



**DEVON &
SOMERSET**
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Introduction

Local organisation Engaging Communities South West have been developing a network to support the local ethnic minority community in Torbay's public, private and community sector, working alongside the Torbay Racism Review Panel.

If any organisations would like to join the Network, please email: torbaymulticulturalgroup@gmail.com.

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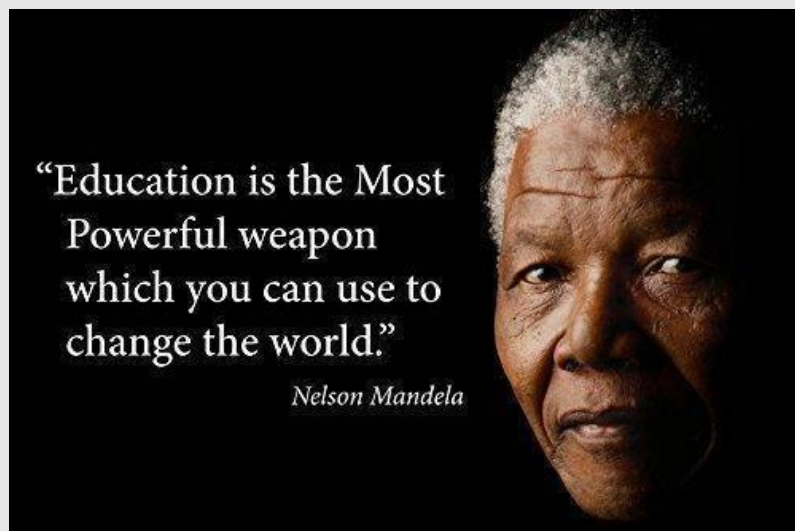
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February 2022

On the 1st February, the Torbay Multicultural Group met with Torbay Council and members of the Torbay Racism Review Panel to provide feedback about how it is to live and work in Torbay as an ethnic minority representative and what should be done to tackle racism and discrimination.

It was an extremely informative, insightful and moving meeting. The Torbay Racism Review Panel stated that the feedback shared will be invaluable in the Panel's attempt to understand the lives of the ethnic minority community in Torbay.

Along with the theme of the Network's January meeting, a key priority raised was making a change through education. The Group have started to make action plans to address this.



On the 2nd of February the network representative Bruno spoke at a meeting with the South Devon Police force. He talked about ways that the police can understand ethnic minority groups better and explained that the Torbay Multicultural Network are happy to work together with them to shape future public policies, ensuring the representivity of ethnic minority groups.

Cultural awareness in February

Due to the recent situation occurring in Ukraine, here is a piece from Bruno about his view on the situation, particularly about the refugee crisis that is already beginning to emerge:

On the 24th February we all woke up to the news that Russia had invaded Ukraine.

As I am sure you all are, I am horrified by the situation. My heart goes out to all the civilians caught up in a crisis and how they must be feeling right now makes me extremely sad.

By a major coincidence, I am actually only 3 hours from the Ukrainian border right now as I am currently in Warsaw, Poland. I am spending 3 weeks here at a local hostel volunteering to learn about the culture, meet new people and develop my personal skills.

Considering the proximity of where I am, I have begun to witness the refugee crisis unfolding. Each day, more and more people fleeing Ukraine are arriving in Warsaw. These people have spent days walking across the border and they arrive exhausted, upset and scared. It breaks my heart to see them arrive with just a single bag and they tell me how they have literally left everything (in some cases their family included) behind.

What has bought me hope amongst this time however is the attitude I have seen around Warsaw. There is a feeling of solidarity and unity. Facebook groups have been flooded with messages offering free accommodation and supplies for those crossing the border, including people offering to pick people up at the border.

What is more, local businesses such as the hostel I am at have displayed a Ukrainian flag and so have all the buses in Warsaw! I think this is an incredible example to us all as small gestures like this mean so much to people who are in a desperate situation. I have taken the 2 pictures below to show this:



In conclusion, just like the people of Warsaw right now, we all need to learn a lesson and be more open, welcoming and generous to those in need.



Job/volunteering opportunities

Plymouth and Devon Racial Equality Council would like to invite you to participate in any of the Spring activities listed below.

Contact Julie Paget for links
j.paget@plymouthrec.org

PDREC Spring Activities during February and March 2022

(Please note that all the activities are completely FREE OF CHARGE. Where activities are in person, we may be able to assist with transport costs.)

24th February 2022, 11 30am to 1pm.

An interactive workshop on stories and storytelling.

Following their acclaimed dramatic production of *Invisible Other*, (See description below for 8th March) Ruth Mitchell and Grace Adenubi will host an online storytelling workshop, 11 30 to 1pm.

8th and 11th March 2022, 10 30 am to 11 30am

Online Gentle Keep Fit.

Vicki will host 2 online Gentle Keep Fit workshops 10 30 to 11 30 each day.

8th March 2022: International Women's Day. In person at Plymouth Sherwell Church. 1 30pm to 2 30pm.

Full production of the presentation *Invisible Other*.

Ruth Mitchell and Grace Adenubi will perform the full version of their production, *Invisible Other*, at the Sherwell Church, 1 30pm to 2 30pm. Free of charge.

During Lockdown Ruth interviewed 20 women from diverse communities to gather stories and created a piece of theatre about the experiences and stories of these women. This will be a live performance and is a wonderful opportunity to see this award-winning play.

8th March 2022 International Women's Day, 6pm to 7pm.

Breathe: An online conversation about a piece of breath-taking art (a quilt) about racism, discrimination and our responses.

At 6pm to 7pm on 8th March, Melinda Sowak, an artist who lives near Dartmoor, will show a YouTube film of the amazing and thought-provoking quilt that she crafted following the murder of George Floyd and the response and re-emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement. Melinda will host a conversation, following the film, which we hope will be very interactive with our audience, to

discuss issues represented on her quilt, such as slavery, genocide, racism and our collective feelings about these issues. Melinda's piece is called "Breathe."

7th, 14th, 21st and 28th March 2022 2pm to 3pm every day

Art with Fatima

Fatima will lead 4-hour long art sessions on these dates, these will be online and filmed. She will show participants how to create a self-portrait, a picture in any media of our own "safe Space" and show us how to make our own watercolours using free natural ingredients from the outdoors. We hope that these first 4 art sessions will inspire the establishment of a PDREC online art group, where a theme is set for the month (such as flowers, sunsets, pets, abstract work), and then photograph it to share online with other participants.

Late March

We are planning a Beach Clean in late March, which will also incorporate an art workshop. Details are yet to be finalised



THEQUAY

EXETER CANAL & QUAY TRUST LTD



SUMMER AT THE QUAYSIDE

The Exeter Canal & Quay Trust are seeking applications from performers, artists and makers who are interested in providing heritage themed creative activities on the Quayside on a regular basis over the summer holidays.

The events must be family friendly, free to access (ECQT will cover your agreed fees and expenses) and held on Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 26th July - 31st August 2022. You can apply to do a one-off event, or a regular weekly session and all events will be held in the Transit Shed on the Quayside.



For full details, please email
info@annagilroy.co.uk

Deadline for applications -
28th February, 5pm

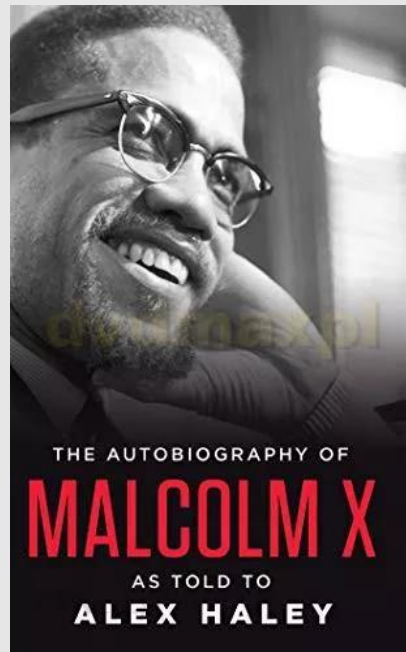
www.exeterquay.org

Anti-racism resources

Every month we would like to share some useful anti-racism resources with you!

These resources address race in an interesting and enlightening way and we hope you enjoy watching/reading them:

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MALCOLM X



“One of the most impactful books I’ll ever read, had a profound shift in mindset for the greater good. His loyalty to the liberation of the black man from the woes of a society directly opposed to them because of the obvious “by any means necessary” is beyond inspiring. It’s been said that a problem can’t be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it and so his efforts to instill a high degree of racial pride in the black man in order to operate from a higher conscious in the struggle for human rights is exemplary.”