



Equalities Newsletter

May to August 2021



Welcome to the May-August 2021 Equalities newsletter!

So, we've reached the last Equalities Newsletter for this session, a wee bit behind schedule, for which we hope you'll forgive us. It's been quite a year! Just 4 weeks to go till the summer holidays—and counting!

In this issue, we focus on **Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month (1st—30th June)** and **Refugee Week (14th—20th June)**.

We're also sharing some great practice from James Gillespie's PS UNCR materials, Royal High Primary School's affinity groups and Gracemount Primary School's Eid celebration.

Thank you for all you're doing to promote equality, diversity and inclusion. We hope you have a hugely well-deserved rest over the summer. Stay safe and see you in August!

In this issue...

- **Calendar of events** for May, June, July and August with links to selected resources
- **Equalities Training Opportunities**
- **Information for Staff**—improving diversity in Scottish education
- **Sharing Good Practice**—James Gillespie's PS, Royal High PS and the Gracemount Community
- **Focus on** Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month and Refugee Week
- **Additional information and resources**

We hope to put together

The Best of International Refugee Week and GRT History Month 2021

Sharing practice supplement

We're looking forward to hearing about what's happening in your school!

Please send in your contributions by Friday 25th June.

PLEASE NOTE

While we aim to check all information, resources, events, website links and social media sites, we suggest that you explore these to ensure that they are suitable for your settings and communities. Please do let us know if we have missed anything!

We welcome your feedback and suggestions for items to include. Please send these to: Nikhat.Yusaf@ea.edin.sch.uk

Calendar of Events



MAY

1st—31st	Scottish Mental Health Awareness Month
1st-31st	International Maternal Mental Health Month
4th-9th	Deaf Awareness Week
5th	World Asthma Day
9th	World Fair Trade Day
11th – 16th	ME Awareness Week (UK)
13th	Eid al-Fitr 2021 (Islam)
17th	International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
21st	World Day for Cultural Diversity, Dialogue and Development
25th	Africa Day
26th	Wesak (Buddhism)

JUNE

1st-30th	Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month (see FOCUS on page 9)
1st-30th	LGBT Pride Month
14th-20th	Refugee Week (see FOCUS on page 10)
20th	World Refugee Day
21st	Summer Solstice/Litha (Wicca/Pagan)
21st	World Humanist Day
23rd	International Women in Engineering Day

Selected Resources

MAY

4th-9th Deaf Awareness Week [The National Deaf Children's Society](#) presents a wealth of resources for professionals, families and young people. Check out the Deaf Awareness Week hub to find training courses on offer as well as tips, events and videos that show how to better communicate with deaf young people and champion inclusivity.

12th-13th Eid al-Fitr 2021 (Islam) Every year, Muslims across the globe gather to celebrate Eid as the month-long fasting of Ramadan comes to a close. Eid al-Fitr translates from Arabic as the "festival of breaking the fast" and sees the entire Muslim community come together to celebrate the completion of this annual act of devotion.

[Twinkl Classroom resources](#) [BBC Bitesize Class Clips](#)

[Resources and Information Ramadan and Eid on the Inclusion Hub, Equalities section](#)

17th May International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia Aims to celebrate sexual and gender diversity, and campaign against the violence and discrimination experienced by LGBTI people internationally.

[Stonewall](#)

[LGBT Youth Scotland](#)

JUNE

1st-30th LGBT Pride Month

[Stonewall](#)

[LGBT Youth Scotland](#)

14th-20th Refugee Week This year's theme is 'We Cannot Walk Alone' - see 'Focus on Refugee Week' section.

[World Refugee Day Activities](#)

[More from Twinkl](#)

[UNHCR](#)

20th Summer Solstice /Litha (Wicca/Pagan) Midsummer, the longest day of the year.

[Assembly pack](#)

23rd International Women in Engineering Day. The theme of this year's International Women in Engineering Day (INWED) will be 'Engineering Heroes'. Celebrating the amazing work that women engineers around the world are doing not just to respond to the pandemic but also to support lives and livelihoods every day .

Calendar of Events



JULY

- 15th **World Youth Skills Day**
- 17th **World Day for International Justice**
- 17th - 22nd Hajj (Islam)
- 18th **International Nelson Mandela Day**
- 19th-23rd Eid-Al-Adha (Islam)
- 24th **Dharma Day (Buddhism)**
- 30th International Day of Friendship

AUGUST

- 9th International Day of World Indigenous Peoples
- 9th-10th **Al –Hijra (Islamic New Year)**
- 12th International Youth Day
- 17th Birthday of Marcus Garvey (Black Civil Rights activist)
- 19th World Humanitarian Day
- 22nd Raksha Bandhan (Hinduism)
- 23rd International Day for Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
- 30th Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)

Social Media

Some interesting accounts to follow on Twitter:

[@DavieDonaldson](#) Gypsy Traveller activist

[@NUthmani](#) Teacher and BAME activist

[@SirGeoffPalmer](#) Professor Emeritus and human rights activist

[@migrant_edu](#) Teaching that Matters for Migrant Students

NOTE: views expressed on Twitter are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Equalities Newsletter editors.



Selected Resources

JULY

15th World Youth Skills Day This day highlights youth skills development and draws attention to the critical need for marketable skills to reduce unemployment and underemployment for youth across the globe.

[Worldskills](#)

17th World Day for International Justice [This film](#) is made by school children in India explaining the principles of this day.

18th Nelson Mandela International Day Nelson Mandela's birthday and a day designated by the UN to recognise the contribution that he made to the culture of peace and freedom.

[Global dimension](#)

[British Council](#)

[Cafod](#)

24th Dharma Day (Buddhist) This day celebrates Buddha's teachings of peace and enlightenment.

[BBC Bitesize](#)

AUGUST

9th-10th Al-Hijra (Islamic New Year) Al-Hijra is the Islamic New Year. It occurs on the first day of the month of Muharram, which is the first month in the Islamic lunar calendar.

[Twinkl](#)

19th World Humanitarian Day Commemorates humanitarian workers killed and injured in the course of their work.

[United Nations](#)

23rd International Day for Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition This day is a reminder of the tragedy of the slave trade and asks people to consider the collective impact of the historic causes, the methods and the consequences of this tragedy.

[UNESCO](#)

Equalities Training Opportunities

Check out the Edinburgh Learns Equalities Tile for Professional Learning opportunities:

[Equalities - Professional Learning](#)

Working with Gypsy Traveller Children and Families

Click here for training recently delivered for Edinburgh schools by STEP and MECOPP

[Gypsy Travellers - Professional Learning](#)

Supporting Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Introductory module on CECiL 'Working with Refugee and Asylum Seeker Children and Families'

PACT Anti Poverty Professional Learning

[PACT](#) is an EIS-Scottish Government PL programme addressing the nature, causes and consequences of poverty. It is open to all and features webinars, resource packs, videos and reports.

LGBT Youth Scotland Free RSHP or LGBT+ training for anyone working with primary aged children.

Please contact Ann.Marriott@lgbtyouth.org.uk

Information for staff

Improving Diversity in Scottish Education

The Diversity in the Teaching Profession Working Group, convened to investigate the underrepresentation of minority ethnic teachers in Scotland's schools, initially reported in November 2018. Now, its final report with group chair Professor Rowena Arshad saying: "There is still much to do for Scotland's teaching workforce to better reflect the diversity of children and young people in Scottish schools." [Read the TES article here: TES Diversity in Teaching report - key messages](#)

BAME staff consultation— invitation to take part in the survey!

Our Education and Children's Services department is committed to increasing the ethnic diversity of Education staff (teaching, school support and other staff who work with children and young people) in schools, Early Learning and Childcare and Lifelong Learning. We are also committed to increasing the representation of people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds in promoted posts.

During June, we're launching a survey in which we seek to learn more about your experiences and to gather your views and suggestions for addressing barriers and achieving our goal. We invite all BAME colleagues to complete the survey which is anonymous. If you're interested in taking part in a follow-up focus group, please follow the link at the end of the survey.

Thank you in advance for your time—your responses are important to us.

Sharing Good Practice

James Gillespie's Primary school—UNCRC Incorporation materials

To mark the exciting news that the Scottish Parliament's MSPs voted unanimously for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill to become law, Colin McLean, Head Teacher at James Gillespie's Primary School shares some helpful resources. Please see the school's [Children's Rights page](#) for more information.

Royal High Primary School Affinity Groups: Virtual Community Connection

During the Coronavirus school closures, home-schooling our children whilst also managing wellbeing, became a major concern for our families. We flocked to online forums, to support and advise each other, while offering a (virtual) listening ear.



In this situation, Affinity Groups can be a useful resource for our most vulnerable community members.

As a PSA at the Royal High Primary School, when the opportunity to create such a group for our school came along, I used cultural awareness, as a member of the BAME community myself, to design a virtual, culturally-sensitive space that our families could conveniently connect within. The idea of an 'RHPS Affinity Group' had come from a recognition of an evolving and increasingly diverse community, but faced with a global pandemic, it gained further impetus.

For families overwhelmed by the impact of Coronavirus; requiring translation support; requiring sign-posting and reminders for important dates; needing support with navigating the digital world of remote-earning; experiencing social isolation, our Affinity group space offered that support and more.



Renata, a member of our Affinity Group said, 'I am thankful for a group that is a great source of information and helps me a lot, especially if school is closed.'

Rizwana expressed that, 'Being able to converse in Urdu helped me to understand and express myself easily.'

It 'takes a village to raise a child' and our RHPS Affinity Groups are exactly that; inclusive and respectful 'villages' providing ongoing support for our diverse school community.

Sabeena Mughal, Pupil Support Assistant



Sharing Good Practice

Gracemount Community Eid Celebration

On Friday 14th May 2021 3-5pm Gracemount HS and Gracemount PS celebrated Eid with their local community. The celebration took place in the Primary School Playground. It was a free event and open to everyone in the community. The afternoon included food, henna, music and a few surprises and saw an amazing turnout of families socialising with each other and enjoying themselves.

In their own words—Gracemount Primary and Gracemount High School believe in promoting equality and as part of this we held our first Eid Lunch Stop. With the support of Unity, South House foodbank and our local Tesco we held an Eid celebration for everyone in the community. We provided ambient food, fresh fruit and vegetables, toiletries, traditional tea, cakes, treats, toys and gifts as well as traditional hot food to take away and not forgetting the very popular Henna art.

We have a progressive outlook and we are proud to mark the day and bring the whole community together. It was an incredible atmosphere with pupils and staff from both schools supporting the running of this event.

It was extra special to see contributions from local Muslim families and children having a great time. Parents commented on the event:

"Thank you all and those who have done this wonderful work" and "Thank you Gracemount for the amazing feeling and thank you for bringing our community together."

In such a divided world, this celebration felt very important.



Focus on: Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month

Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Month recognises the history and celebrates the cultures, traditions and contributions of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in Scotland and across the UK. GRT communities in Scotland are integral to both rural and urban economies and to cultural life. GRT History month is a way of raising awareness of these communities and their contributions to society, and to offset negative stereotyping and prejudices. Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Month aims to:

- Promote knowledge of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History, Culture and Heritage
- Disseminate information on positive Gypsy, Roma and Traveller contributions to Scottish and UK society
- Support Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people to build awareness of and have confidence in their cultural heritage
- Celebrate Gypsy, Roma and Traveller culture and heritage

GRT Identities and Education

Today, the identity of Gypsy/Travellers can take many forms: some families are constantly on the road, some only travel for part of the year and others live in 'bricks and mortar' – houses. However, regardless of lifestyle and upbringing, members of the Gypsy/Traveller community share a strong sense of cultural identity – which continues to thrive through traditional crafts and fairs, and via the oral mediums of storytelling and music. Travelling culture emphasises the importance of passed-down skills, caring for your family and learning through a rich oral culture. Without an understanding of the Gypsy/Traveller culture, schools will find it difficult to develop personalised learning which meets their needs



Follow the links in this article to begin your learning journey and remove barriers to learning for GRT learners in your school community.

[GRT History Month Website](#)

[A Road Less Travelled](#) is a resource created by Article 12 in Scotland in collaboration with young people from GRT communities. It offers a window into the centuries old culture and traditions of the Gypsy/Traveller community in Scotland and the issues the community has faced over the centuries.

[The Traveller Movement](#) is an award winning leading national charity committed to the fulfilment of human rights for ethnic minority Gypsy Roma and Traveller people.

[Global Dimension](#) signposts you to various learning resources around GRT History Month. The [Amnesty International UK](#) website has [lesson plans on Travellers' Rights](#) suitable for Senior Phase learners. (You will need to sign up.)

The [Holocaust Memorial Day Trust](#) website has [an article exploring the story of Europe's nomads](#). This [resource created by The Traveller Movement and TES](#) provides an informative power point to be used in assemblies to explain Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month's background and purpose. Suitable for Primary and BGE.

[Romani Arts](#) presents a fantastic collection of resources, including film clips about history and culture of various GRT communities in the UK and worldwide. Includes resources which explore what it means to belong to a GRT community and **identify as LGBT+**.

[Lancashire Grid for Learning](#) offers lesson plans, film clips and links to other useful resources

[STEP](#) (based at the University of Edinburgh) is a national knowledge exchange centre supporting equitable access to education for mobile communities. Their website offers a wealth of information, professional insights and learning resources.

Focus on: Refugee Week 2021



14th– 20th June 2021

<https://refugeeweek.org.uk/about/>

Refugee Week takes place nationwide in the week around World Refugee Day (20th June) and is part of a wider global movement. It highlights a nationwide programme of cultural, educational and arts events that celebrate the contribution refugees make to the UK and aims to encourage understanding between communities.

“Refugee week is an invitation to extend your hand to someone new. Someone who is outside your current circle, has had an experience you haven’t, or is fighting for a cause you aren’t yet involved in.”

This year the theme is **We Cannot Walk Alone**. This theme will be familiar to us all given the world events we are all living through. We have all become aware of the fragility of our lives and the impact of events out with our control. The future feels uncertain for many of us and we are more aware than ever of the need to stand in solidarity with others and recognise the supportive power of communities.

“There is a moment in Martin Luther King’s historic ‘I have a dream’ speech when he turns his attention to the White people who, realising their destiny and that of their Black fellow citizens was intertwined, joined the movement for equal rights.

“They have come to realise that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom,” he said. “We cannot walk alone.”

[Refugee Week 2021](#)

Given the ongoing restrictions due to Covid-19, the Refugee week programme this year is a virtual one which includes [Moving Worlds](#) - a specially curated film programme to watch at home or in school. Please familiarise yourself with the content first to ensure it is suitable for your learners.

The programme of features and shorts explores personal experiences of forced displacement, stories of unexpected alliances, unlikely friendships and stories that celebrate difference, while inviting us to focus on how we can walk alongside one another.

Film Screening in Conversation with Maryhill Integration Network—For Refugee Week Scotland 2021, the EIS is hosting a film screening and discussion for EIS members, of the *Good Lie* (2014). The event will be an opportunity to discuss media and film portrayals about migration journeys, and be a forum to share methods and resources for teaching about the issue.

Please register your interest via the [online booking form](#).



Still from *Mary Meets Mohammed* (Australia, 2013)

Additional Resources and Information

National Deaf Children's Society PL opportunities

Please see the website for a selection of new online PL courses running in June 2021 and throughout next session. Book soon as these courses are always very popular.

LGBT Youth Manifesto

LGBT Youth Scotland's vision is that Scotland is the best place to grow up for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex young people. Through extensive consultation, [LGBT Youth Scotland's Manifesto](#) reflects the views and experiences of LGBTI young people and enables their voices to be heard. This document covers the expected parliamentary term of 2021-2026 and sets ambitious but achievable asks. Consultation and writing of the manifesto took place throughout lockdown in 2020-2021, and whilst the impacts of Covid-19 are included, it goes beyond this period and sets aspirations for the future.

TIE Time for Inclusive Education—new resources coming soon!

[TIE - Time for Inclusive Education](#) aims to combat homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying in schools with LGBT Inclusive Education. "We work with teachers and national stakeholders, provide free pupil workshops and teacher training in schools, and develop high quality curriculum materials to achieve this. We have **new resources coming soon** - all fully linked to Curriculum for Excellence - including: detailed lesson plans, new workbooks, new posters, and curriculum packs.

Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) elections November 2021

The SYP represents Scotland's young people. Democratically elected members listen to and recognise the issues that are most important to young people, ensuring that their voices are heard by decision-makers. All young people aged between 14 and 25 years old can stand for election to the SYP. More information is available on the [SYP website](#).

Manchester Children's book Festival

Author interview, panel discussion and Secondary teaching resource on [Boy, Everywhere by A.M. Dassu](#).

Jewish Objects for Education in Scotland (JOES BOXES):

[The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities](#) provides resource boxes to all local authorities to be used in the classroom. JOES boxes [come with instructions](#) on how to utilise the provided Jewish artefacts as learning tools within the religious education curriculum. If you have any questions on how to use these resources or how to locate them, please contact education@scojec.org.

FREE Film Screening License 'In My Blood it Runs'

For a limited time only [Together Films](#) is offering their educational licence to schools for FREE (usually £50). An intimate and compassionate observational documentary from the perspective of Djuwan, a 10yr-old Aboriginal boy in Alice Springs, Australia, struggling to balance his Arrernte/Garrwa history, culture, and identity with a state education, *In My Blood It Runs* is a fantastic resource for teachers looking to decolonise their curriculum. Watch the trailer [here](#).

Teaching that Matters for Migrant Students (TEAMS Project)

Increasing global migration brings considerable challenges for schools and teachers. Teaching that matters for migrant students aims to understand and help teachers meet the needs of migrant students. The project focuses on the work of teachers within different schools and different support systems that are available to students and teachers in Sweden, Finland and Scotland. Check out their [website and blog](#) for further information.