

# Equality Newsletter - Northern Region April 2014

# International Women's Day at Coach Lane Campus, Northumbria University

Friday  $7^{th}$  March, the eve of International Women's Day, saw the launch of "My Roots, My Culture" a photography exhibition that ran until  $4^{th}$  April. The exhibition was organised by The Angelou Centre (Newcastle) in partnership with Northumbria University to celebrate the research and development phase of the BAM! Sistahood! Project.

This project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, has used digital technologies to unravel, map and archive the last seventy years of black, Asian, minority ethnic and refugee (BAMER) women's history and heritage. This fascinating history traces the integration of generations of BAMER women who have worked, lived and raised families in the North East of England.

The exhibition, which included stunning portraits and informal friendship groups, followed the last six months of the project and featured photography by regional participants, as well as North East artists Phyllis Christopher, Kate Sweeney, Lalya Gaye and Kay Donnelly.







Ladies of Midnight Blue with enthusiastic dancers

Following the official opening of the exhibition we were treated to delicious samosas and lively entertainment was provided by the fantastic "Ladies of Midnight Blue."

For more information about the BAM! Sistahood! Project please go to:

http://www.bamsistahoodproject.org.uk/

More information about the Angelou Centre can be found here: http://www.angelou-centre.org.uk/

## Holocaust Memorial Day

#### The Anne Frank Exhibition

This was in the Learning Centre at the Caterpillar Plant in Peterlee, and was on display at the start of the year as part of remembering the Holocaust on HMD (Holocaust Memorial Day).

The exhibition was a series of photos, extracts from Anne's diaries, and the historical background at the time to give some overall context. It is a simple idea to put on an exhibition in this way, but delivering it and making it so powerful is another thing altogether. Those who put it together have done a superb job. If you ever get the chance - go and see it.





When you first walked in, all you could think about was that you were in a factory as there was lots of machinery everywhere. You soon forgot where you were as you became absorbed in the story of Anne Frank and the tragedies that followed for her and her whole family. Her plight was unique in many ways, but the terrible loss of life as a result of the policies and practices of Nazi Germany affected so many more, and it is right that we take the time to reflect and remember on Holocaust Memorial Day.

#### Ethnic Cleansing in Burma

Giving a modern day slant to HMD, Mick Bowman from UK-Burma Trade Union Solidarity Network gave an interesting and informative presentation on Ethnic Cleansing in Burma at the last UCU Northern Regional Meeting on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January.

For further information please go to: <a href="http://www.burma-uk-trade-union.org.uk/">http://www.burma-uk-trade-union.org.uk/</a>

#### The Northern Region Black Members' Network

The Northern Region Black Members' Network met after the Regional Meeting on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January and have arranged an event in Newcastle on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. 3pm-5pm: Room: *G*.33 Bedson Teaching Centre, Newcastle University, Queen Victoria Rd, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU. Contact Mehdi Husaini Husaini@mehdihusaini.plus.com Tel: 01642 590880

#### International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO)

Don't forget IDAHO Day on  $17^{th}$  May - though, as this is a Saturday, it is likely that many events will take place on Friday  $16^{th}$  May. There will be rainbow flag-raising ceremonies at civic centres throughout the region.

Following on from some successful LGBT information stalls run by: Sunderland Pride; MESMAC; Albert Kennedy Trust (LGBT Homelessness Project) and We'Ar Out; during LGBT History Month, Sunderland Pride are working with Sunderland College to organise a Question Time style event on LGBT issues on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May. Please check the weekly regional bulletin for more details.



Staff and Students at Shiney Row, Sunderland College mark IDAHO May 2013 with flags decorated by students.

A simple idea to mark IDAHO Day is for staff and students to sign and/or write messages on rainbow flags to demonstrate solidarity with campaigns against homophobia.

http://dayagainsthomophobia.org/

### **EQUALITY KEY DATES** 15th April - 20th July Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO Day) http://www.homophobiaday.org/ Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May Newcastle event for International Day Against Homophobia http://www.northern-pride.com/event/idaho2013 Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> & Friday 30<sup>th</sup> UCU Congress, Manchester http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=6887 May Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June Cumbria Pride, Carlisle http://www.cumbriapride.org/ 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> July Northern Pride, Newcastle upon Tyne http://www.northern-pride.com/