London ACEs Hub

In partnership with

THE LEATHERSELLERS' FOUNDATION

REFRAMING RACIAL JUSTICE IN THE CONTEXT OF ACES

Hosts

LAH Racial Justice Leads & Directors

Derek Williams, Joanna Oliver, and Tiane Graziottin

Opening Reflection

Leroy Logan MBE

November 2026

Wednesday, 25 Nov

Time

13:00 – 17:00
Doors open 12:30
Drinks Reception 17:00

Venue

The Leathersellers
St Helen's Place
London, EC3A 6AB

Fees

Free event
Places limited
Donations to LAH are welcome

IN PERSON EVENT

This grassroots, culturally informed event will create a safe space for connection, reflection and transformation. Together, we will explore racism as a cumulative adverse experience and consider how racial justice can be a vehicle for hope.
We will also have the opportunity to review the LAH Racial Justice Call to Action and help shape the next steps, with a particular focus on community engagement and trauma-responsive solutions.

Registrations

Eventbrite

www.londonaceshub.org

REFRAMING RACIAL JUSTICE IN THE CONTEXT OF ACES



Programme

12:30	Registrations
13:00	Greetings & Introduction
13:15	Keynote: Reframing Racial Justice in the Context of ACEs
13:50	Q&A & Reflections
14:00	Panel I: Implications for Social Care, Education & Housing
14:40	Q&A & Reflections
14:55	Stretch Break
15:10	Panel II: Implications for Criminal Justice & Community Engagement
15:50	Q&A & Reflections
16:05	Small Groups: Racial Justice Call to Action
16:25	Large Group: Moving forward
16:45	Final Remarks & Closure
17:00	Drinks Reception
18:00	End

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SPECIAL GUEST

Leroy Logan MBE — Opening and Closing Reflections



Leroy Logan M.B.E. is a retired Metropolitan Police Superintendent, co-founder of the Black Police Association, and co-founder and former Consultant Director of the London ACEs Hub (LAH) CIC. With decades of experience in policing and advocacy, Leroy is widely recognised for his work addressing racial inequality. A respected commentator on policing and Black communities, he has consistently called for fairness, accountability, and systemic reform. His lived and professional experience bring a vital perspective to conversations on racial justice and community cohesion.

Leroy is the author of Closing Ranks: My Life as a Cop, and his story inspired the acclaimed Red, White and Blue film in Steve McQueen's Small Axe series.

He has championed trauma-responsive approaches to public services, particularly policing, emphasising the role of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in shaping outcomes and building more compassionate and equitable systems and communities.

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SPECIAL GUEST

Dr Lucy Carter - Keynote Speaker



Dr Lucy Carter is a GP with extensive experience working in London since 2001.
Her qualifications span medicine, sociology, teaching, women's health and family planning.
She is also a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and a member of the Royal College of General Practitioners.
Lucy previously worked as a Senior Lecturer and Deputy Head of Programme for the Physician Associate MSc course at Queen Mary University, as well as teaching medical students.
Her clinical interests include lifestyle medicine, mental health, women's health, equality and diversity. She is proud to be a certified personal trainer, working with women over 50 to improve strength, health and longevity.
Lucy is a former trustee of Shoreditch Trust and a long-standing member of the London ACEs Hub, committed to supporting those affected by adverse childhood experiences.
Lucy values a Balint approach to reflecting on the cases she sees regularly in primary care, recognising the impact of trauma on patients' physical health and the symptoms they bring to their GP.
Lucy is an accomplished and enthusiastic runner of all distances, from 5K to marathons.

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SPECIAL GUEST

Shantel Thomas - Implications for Social Care



Shantel Thomas is a social work leader, activist, researcher and founder of the Anti-Racist Movement (ARM) CIC, an award-winning Black female-led organisation creating sacred spaces where Black women are seen, affirmed, connected and supported to thrive. Born in England and raised in South London, Shantel is the daughter and granddaughter of Jamaican migrants. Her career spans youth justice, safeguarding, social work education, academia, professional leadership and movement building. She is the Chair of the British Association of Social Workers (BASW) England committee and has previously led BASW UK's national anti-racism strategy.

Shantel is the MA Social Work Course Lead at Tavistock Education and Training and a doctoral researcher at the University of Sussex, exploring Black women's leadership through critical autoethnography and psychosocial methods. As a Black, neurodivergent woman, Shantel brings lived experience and professional knowledge to her extensive portfolio. Through ARM, her research and leadership, Shantel challenges racism and structural inequality while championing courage, connection, community and collective healing.

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SPECIAL GUEST

Marcia Brissett-Bailey - Implications for Education



Marcia Brissett-Bailey is an award-winning speaker, educator, dyslexic writer, and editor of Black, Brilliant and Dyslexic. A leading advocate for dyslexia and neurodiversity, Marcia's work is rooted in lived experience and driven by a deep commitment to equity, representation, and empowering underrepresented communities. She speaks from an intersectional lens that brings cultural insight, identity, and belonging to the forefront of every conversation.

With a career spanning education, SEND advocacy, careers guidance, and community leadership, Marcia has become a trusted voice in shaping inclusive practice across schools, organisations, and public spaces. Her storytelling blends personal narrative with professional expertise, challenging stereotypes and widening the path for neurodivergent people particularly those from Black and global majority backgrounds whose experiences are often overlooked.

Marcia is also the co-founder of Black Leadership & Excellence in Neurodiversity (BleND) CIC, a pioneering organisation dedicated to creating culturally informed frameworks, support networks, and leadership opportunities that centre Black neurodivergent experiences and build environments where neurodivergent individuals can thrive unapologetically.

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SPECIAL GUEST

Kingsley Bempah - Implications for Housing



Kingsley Bempah is CEO of Ark Resettlement Services (ARKRS), which aims to reduce reoffending in communities across London, through the provision of housing and social services for people transitioning from the criminal justice system.

Kingsley has worked in probation and the voluntary sector for over 15 years. He has held various positions as policy worker, frontline worker, hostel manager and director. Kingsley is a regular guest lecturer at several London universities in social entrepreneurship and management studies. He has worked in 10 local authorities as specialist offending group officer such as Prolific Priority Offenders (PPO) now integrated Offender Management (IOM) and Multi Agency Public Protection arrangement (MAPPA). This experience was a deciding factor in him being a co-founder of ARKRS in 2014.

Kingsley has established strong working relationships with statutory providers including probation services, Local Authority, Police, Health professionals and other voluntary sector organisations ensuring non-duplication of provision. He has worked with various charities in developing services and for vulnerable groups, including the homeless and people with substance dependency.

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SPECIAL GUEST

Shyronie Davis - Implications for Criminal Justice



Shyronie Davis is a BACP-registered and accredited psychodynamic psychotherapist and the Founder and CEO of Rooted Wisdom CIC, a trauma-informed organisation supporting young people and young adults affected by adversity, criminalisation, exploitation and the criminal justice system. Through Rooted Wisdom, she developed the Rooted Resilience Programme, delivered with young men in prison. The work creates space to explore trauma, identity, survival responses, relationships and experiences beneath offending and other behaviour often viewed only through the lens of risk or criminality.

Shyronie also works therapeutically with children and young people in education and community settings, providing training and reflective practice to professionals.

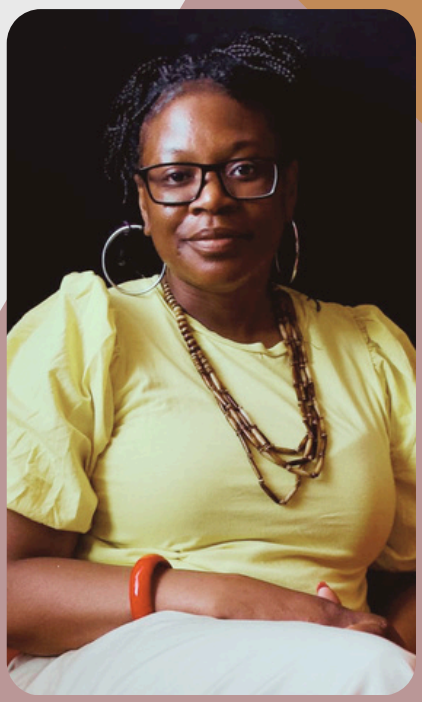
Her wider interests include adverse childhood experiences, intergenerational trauma, race, identity and belonging. She is particularly passionate about moving conversations beyond labels, asking not simply "What is wrong with this young person?" but "What has happened to them, how have they learned to survive, and what do they need in order to thrive?"

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SPECIAL GUEST

Aku Adjei - Implications for Community Engagement



Aku Adjei is a community leader, advocate and partnership builder with a strong commitment to tackling inequality, strengthening community voice and creating opportunities for underrepresented communities.

With a background spanning the voluntary and community sector, criminal justice, community engagement and partnership development, Aku has spent much of her career building relationships between grassroots organisations, public institutions and wider partners to create meaningful and lasting change. Her work champions the importance of lived experience, inclusion and ensuring that communities have a genuine voice in decisions that affect their lives.

Aku has recently joined Clinks' Reducing Reoffending Third Sector Advisory Group (RR3) as the Race Seat Holder, bringing her experience and perspective to national discussions on racial inequality, criminal justice policy and the role of the voluntary sector in addressing systemic barriers.

At the Racial Injustice and ACEs event, Aku will bring a community-centred perspective to the conversation, exploring the importance of recognising the impact of inequality, listening to lived experiences and ensuring that the voices of racially minoritised communities help shape the systems and services designed to support them.

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SPECIAL GUEST

Ayana Bailey - Implications for Community Engagement



Ayana Bailey is an aspiring Casting Director with a passion for storytelling, representation and empowering young people. Ayana completed a Level 4 Production Management qualification at the London Screen Academy (LSA), where she was one of only three students to receive an Outstanding Achievement Award. Combining her experience in media, acting, and photography, Ayana hopes to use her work to share diverse stories that reflect the richness of communities across the UK and, in the future, internationally. She has a love of travel and enjoys learning about different cultures, identities and histories, which continue to inspire her creative work.

Ayana works as a florist and has a deep love of nature, plants, and visual creativity, which began in primary school when she created positive affirmation cards to encourage her friends during their SATs exams. This led to the launch of *Yani Creation*.

Ayana is a dedicated advocate for young people and neurodiversity, contributing to numerous youth empowerment committees and advisory boards, including the Black Cultural Archives, ans speaking in Parliament about her experiences of dyslexia and navigating education as a neurodivergent young person. Ayana is passionate about creating inclusive spaces where everyone feels seen, valued and represented.

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SPECIAL GUEST

Sienna Crick - Implications for Community Engagement



My name is Sienna Crick. I'm 18, and I grew up in South East London. I am of St Lucian and Trinidadian descent and of mixed racial heritage. I was raised in a community that felt like the whole world in one postcode. West Africans, South Americans, people who weren't born in the UK but made it home. The differences in our cultures, our food, our music, our stories and particularly language, they didn't divide us. They made me curious.

I wanted to talk to my friends properly, not just in English, but in their language. So I taught myself Spanish and Portuguese. It taught me that language is how you show someone: I see you, I respect you, you matter.That love for language has taken me to study languages at a Russell Group university, but for me it was never just about words on a page. It was about connection.

I've always loved debating too. I love the fight of an idea, the power of speaking up when something isn't right. It's close to my heart because I've seen what happens when people don't have a voice. That's why I want to work in immigration law. I want to stand with the downtrodden and the disadvantaged, the people who are so often overlooked, misjudged, or silenced. I want to use what I've learned, my languages, my voice, my passion, to help build a society that is truly equitable.This isn't just a career plan for me. It's a fundamental part of my identity.

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SPECIAL GUEST

Shay Gibbs- Implications for Community Engagement



Shay's journey is a powerful example of how the right support, guidance and opportunities can change the direction of someone's life.
Having previously been involved in county lines, Shay reached a point where he recognised that the choices he was making could negatively impact his future. Determined not to let his circumstances or past experiences define him, he began taking steps towards positive change.
A significant part of this transformation has been the support of his mentor, Joey from Spark2Life. Through consistent mentoring, encouragement and guidance, Joey helped Shay recognise his potential, build confidence and explore opportunities beyond the environment he had previously known.
With this support, alongside his own commitment and determination, Shay has made significant progress in rebuilding his life and establishing a positive future.
Today, Shay is employed full-time as a civil servant, demonstrating just how far he has come and what can be achieved when individuals are given the opportunity and support to succeed.
His story highlights the importance of positive relationships, mentorship and believing in people's ability to change. Shay is living proof that your past does not have to determine your future and that, with the right support and personal commitment, a different path is always possible.

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SPECIAL GUEST

Mark Crick - Chair



Mark Crick was born and raised in Bermondsey in the 1970s, and grew up as part of one of the first Black families in an area marked by economic decline and rising racial tension, with the National Front active nearby.

These early experiences shaped his understanding of systemic racism and the realities of navigating institutions that often positioned Black people at a disadvantage.

As a first-generation British-born individual of St Lucian heritage, his journey has been one of resilience, adaptation, and purpose. He learned early the need to exceed expectations and navigate different spaces with care.

Mark now works within Children's Services, where he focuses on addressing the impact of racial inequality and building local anti-racist practice.

He is committed to creating pathways for future generations and challenging the narratives that divide communities. His work is grounded in a clear belief: that meaningful change requires honest conversations about race, equity, and justice.

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SPECIAL GUEST

Dez Brown - Chair



Dez Brown is the Founder and CEO of Spark2Life, a charity working across London with people in the criminal justice system and via detached work in the community, with young people deemed medium to high-risk. Spark2Life is one of the leading Black-led charities in London, with a reputation for working at significant transition points, including 18-25 years and through the gate resettlement.

Spark2Life was birthed out of a church youth ministry in 2006 and exists to Prevent Harm & Promote Life.

At 17, Dez went through the criminal justice system for manslaughter — an experience that led him to find faith while on bail and, in time, to become an ordained minister. He is a qualified therapist who has served as a Prison Therapist and a sessional Prison Chaplain, and he trains professionals on trauma awareness.

A cultural architect and gifted communicator, Dez has spent over 20 years delivering workshops and training sessions for professionals, parents, carers, and volunteers. He is the author of the autobiography, 'Convicted or Condemned', which charts his journey from conviction to calling.