

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024



**DE MONTFORT
UNIVERSITY**
LEICESTER

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ABOVE: The launch of the SDG Fellows programme during COP 29.

LEFT: DMU was the global academic hub for SDG 16 for six years.

RIGHT: DMU is to be the global academic hub chair for SDG 11

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



2024: New global hub chair status and the launch of the SDG Fellows

It's been a year to remember

DE MONTFORT University has always understood the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals and that is why we have been collaborating with the United Nations for more than a decade. However, 2024 has been one of the most important and momentous years for our collaboration with the UN and working with the SDGs.

DMU has been the global academic hub chair for the UN's SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions since the programme's inception in 2019.

We have had two three-year terms in the role and have been the only university in the UK ever to be a global academic hub.

Our role as the global hub for SDG 16 came to an end in 2024, but we were delighted to be asked at the end of the year to take on a new role in the United Nations Academic Impact's (UNAI) expanded global hub scheme.

DMU from early 2025 will be the global academic hub chair for SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities working with three vice-chairs in research, outreach and partnerships, and teaching and education.

We are looking forward to the next three years and working with the three vice-chair universities in Vi-



LAUNCH: Dr Mark Charlton at the launch of the SDG Fellows programme in November

etnam, Germany, and Brazil. This maintains the momentum at the university working with the SDGs, which are now a cross-cutting theme in the university's long-term strategic plan that puts sustainability front and centre of everything we do.

The year 2024 was a busy one and came on the back of our participation at the COP 28 climate talks of world leaders in Dubai, where DMU was the only European university to have a dedicated pavilion in the Blue Zone.

One of our big invitations in 2024 was the foundation of the SDG Fellows programme, which is made up of researchers, lecturers, and professional services staff and aimed at raising the awareness and promoting the goals in their work. Since its inception in November, it already has more than 100 members and is growing rapidly.

I am delighted to present our 2024 Sustainable Development Goals report.

One aspect of the methodology for its reporting is that some research and news on the SDGs may appear more than once.

This is deliberate as we are keen to show that much of the valuable work done at DMU can encompass more than one of the SDGs.

**Dr Mark Charlton,
Associate Director
Head of the UNAI SDG Impact Hub**

Only 17% of SDG targets on course to be achieved — UN

THE United Nations progress report for 2024 on the Sustainable Development Goals ‘makes for sobering reading’, according to its Secretary-General.

The 17 SDGs introduced in 2015 were designed to improve the lives of billions of people by 2030 and contained a total of 169 aims. However, with just six years to go only 17% of those targets have been met or are on target to be met and just a further 18% are showing moderate progress.

A further 30% have shown marginal progress since 2015 but, worryingly, 17% have actually regressed in the past nine years and another 18% have stagnated and made no progress. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, said: “The scarring effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, escalating conflicts, geopolitical tensions, and growing climate chaos are hitting SDG progress hard.

“Furthermore, systemic deficiencies and inequalities in the global economic and financial system leave developing countries to tackle enormous and growing challenges with only a fraction of the international support they need and deserve. Inequalities keep growing.” The Secretary General pointed to the conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan and elsewhere that

have left an unprecedented 120 million forcibly displaced people worldwide.

The 2024 progress report does have highlights with reductions in child mortality, HIV infections, and the cost of remittances and improvements in access to water, sanitation, energy, and mobile broadband.

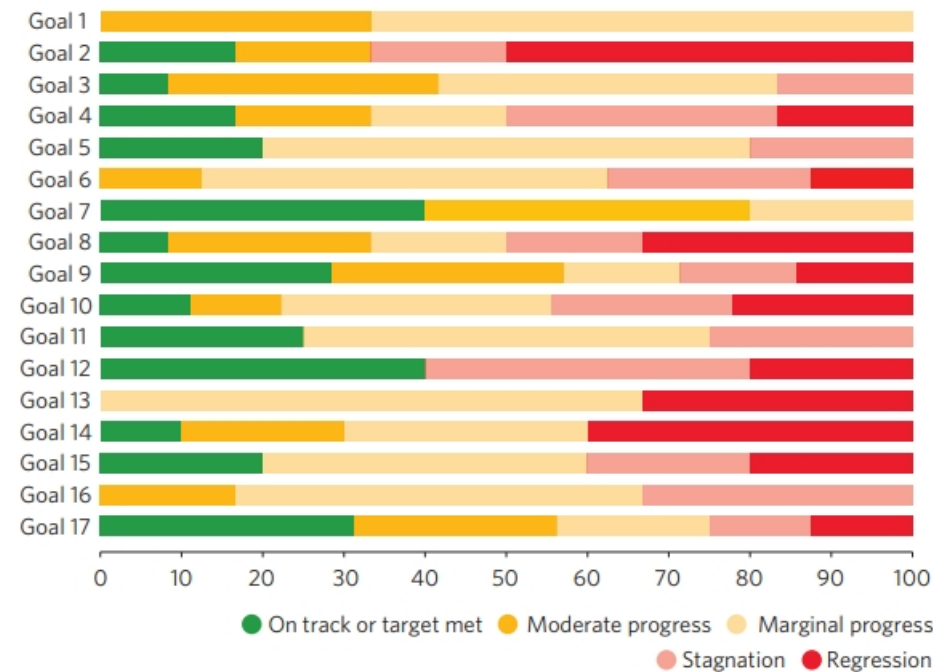
“To turn these green shoots into accelerated and transformative progress, bolder actions are required”, added the Secretary-General. He outlined a three-pronged strategy of peace, solidarity, and a surge in implementation of the SDGs.

The Secretary-General said: “We must resolve ongoing armed conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy.

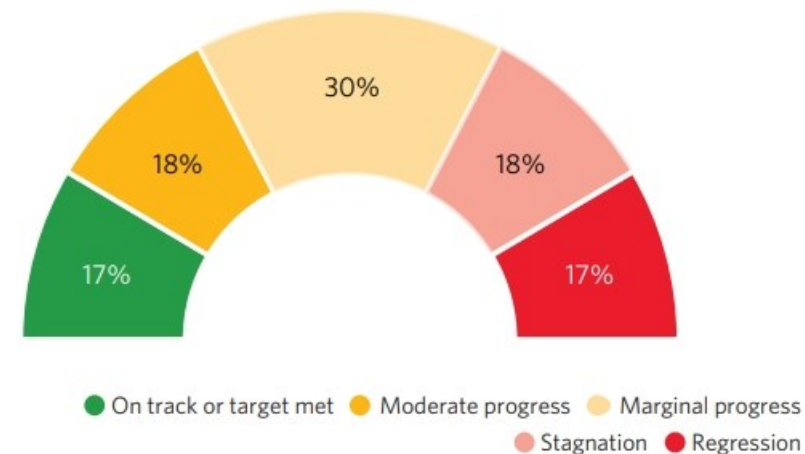
“Developing countries urgently require more financial resources and fiscal space. We must reform the outdated, dysfunctional and unfair international financial architecture to facilitate far greater investment in the SDGs.

“Massive investment and more effective partnerships are needed to drive critical transitions across food, energy, digital connectivity and more, unlocking progress right across the goals. We must not let up on our 2030 promise to end poverty, protect the planet and leave no one behind”.

Progress assessment for the 17 Goals based on assessed targets, by Goal (percentage)



Overall progress across targets based on 2015–2024 global aggregate data



UN PROGRESS REPORT ON SDG 1

Around 35% of the targets have shown moderate progress since 2015, and a further 65% have shown only marginal progress. None of the targets are presently on track to be achieved by 2030.

The UN report for 2024 states: “The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent shocks from 2020 to 2022 have hampered global efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. The global extreme poverty rate increased in 2020 for the first time in decades, setting back progress by three years.

“Since then, recovery has been uneven, with low-income countries lagging behind. By 2030, 590 million people may still live in extreme poverty if current trends persist.”

DMU NEWS ON SDG 1

Report reveals how Black and Asian-led social enterprises are responding and adapting to the UK cost-of-living crisis

THE issue of the cost-of-living crisis and how many communities face economic and psychological hardship is examined in a new report by experts, including two from De Montfort University.

The UK government offered a cost-of-living fund worth £26billion to low-income, working-age, and disabled people.

However, many communities still struggle to afford basic human necessities such as energy, food and travel.

Social enterprises have been addressing social and economic inequalities for decades. These organisations have been the solution to state provision fail-

ure, and the cost-of-living crisis is no exception.

A new Social Enterprise and Cost-of-Living Crisis project led by DMU experts explores how social enterprise founders and directors respond and adapt to the cost-of-living crisis.

The report focuses on the experiences of black and Asian social entrepreneurs. The co-authored report by a series of experts, including DMU’s Sally Kah and Olapeju Comfort Ogunmokun presents recommendations for social enterprise decision-makers, funding institutions, and government bodies.

DMU RESEARCH ON SDG 1

The impact of rural banks’ microfinance interventions on poverty reductions among the fishing communities in Ghana

(Thywill Mawuli Gbekle)

Three decades after the global community welcomed the advent of microfinance as a tool for poverty eradication, people in both the urban and rural areas in developing economies still live in extreme poverty.

A chunk of the population in rural Ghana still lives below the poverty line.

However, the findings of this study reveals that microfinance intervention has negative impacts on poverty reduction, empowerment and that the credit delivery model schemes have positive impacts on poverty reduction.

[THE IMPACT OF RURAL BANKS’ MICROFINANCE INTERVENTIONS ON POVERTY REDUCTIONS AMONG THE FISHING COMMUNITIES IN GHANA](#)



Local authority commissioning of employability support in Scotland and its impact on third-sector provision

(Jonathan Payne, Peter Butler, Jonathan Rose)

This research examines the impact that the loss of European funding and the transition to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is having on third-sector providers of employment support in Scotland.

The key findings are as follows:

- ⇒ Over 4 in 10 (44%) of survey respondents said that they had experienced a reduction in funding .
- ⇒ Among those which have lost funding, 37% said the loss was ‘very significant’
- ⇒ And a total of 53% said it was ‘quite significant’.

[DMU Scotland Employability Report](#)

UN PROGRESS REPORT ON SDG 2

Progress in SDG 2 is one of the worst across the SDGs with more than 50% of targets having regressed since 2015 and a further 15% stagnating. Around 20% of the aims should though be met by 2030 with a further 15% showing moderate progress.

The UN report states: "Global hunger and food insecurity remained persistently high and almost unchanged for three years after the Covid pandemic. In 2023, about 733 million people faced hunger, and 2.33 billion people experienced moderate to severe food insecurity. Despite progress, 148 million children under age 5 suffered from stunting in 2022. If current trends persist, one in five children under age 5 will be affected by stunting in 2030."

DMU NEWS ON SDG 2

DMU using AI to aid crop production and help farmers boost income

RESEARCHERS are helping farmers to predict and prevent problems with their crops using augmented AI technology.

De Montfort University Leicester (DMU) is working with partner university EAFIT in Colombia to apply risk and machine learning concepts to improve crops' environmental and financial sustainability, preventing vast plant crops being lost to disease. Work is led by Professor Juan Alejandro Peña Palacio, a visiting researcher at DMU, Institute of Artificial Intelligence, in collaboration with Professor Mario Gongora, Professor in Applied Intelligent Systems at DMU.

Disgust factor needs to be overcome before people will eat insects, survey finds

THE research, which explores eating insects as an option in the drive for more sustainable food production, was presented at this year's European Congress on Obesity in Venice this week.

Co-author Dr Maxine Sharps of DMU's Psychology team, said: "We know the problems which eating meat contributes to damaging the environment and insects are high protein, low fat and easy to farm. In some parts of the world, eating insects is common but we wanted to see how people felt about it in the UK."

The team came up with a survey which polled 603 UK adults. It asks questions about their age, gender, ethnicity and education level as well as their level of concern about the environment.

How DMU research is helping farmers cut pesticide use

RESEARCHERS have created an algorithm which can analyse images taken by low-altitude drones of the plants to spot signs of disease, allowing faster and more accurate diagnosis.

The programme is also able to predict how the problem spreads throughout the field, helping show where the issue may show up next and allowing the farmer to target treatment rather than using insecticides or pesticides on the whole plantation.

DMU's Professor Mario Gongora is working with colleagues in Colombia on the project, the early stages of which were funded by the Royal Academy of Engineering and the British Council.



International cookbook raises money and awareness of SDGs

STUDENTS and staff have produced an international cookbook to help raise funds and increase awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at De Montfort University.

A total of £414.20 was raised for the United Nations World Food Programme through cookbook sales and other activities, and also supported the Leicester South Foodbank, all aligning with addressing hunger and food security globally (SDG 2) and efforts to reduce inequalities (SDG 10).

Students from the faculty of Business and Law at DMU came up with a large variety of delicious dishes for the launch of the International Student Cookbook.

DMU RESEARCH ON SDG 2

Farmers' perceived effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and its relationship to preparedness and risk perception (Emmanouil Tyllianakis et al)

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic across the agri-food sector was significant and pervasive, challenging farmers' resilience through multiple disruptions to the supply chain. To support forward planning in face to future shocks, this research examines the perceived impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by farmers themselves, providing insights from the UK. Results indicate that perceptions of both the severity of the COVID-19 impacts and preparedness for such impacts in the future, were scaled down as the pandemic evolved. Findings suggest that a farmer feeling more prepared in the present to withstand shocks is positively influenced by them perceiving the impact of COVID-19's in their business as severe.

Government support moving forward should focus on strengthening and, perhaps, re-imagining the whole supply industry and re-defining the role of farmers as more than food producers, but also as stewards of climate and food resilience.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/56cedc15-be5a-4867-9711-2d7c99567427>

A systems approach in the prevention of undernutrition among children under five in Tanzania: Perspectives from key stakeholders

(Gasto Frumence et al)

Undernutrition among under-fives is one of the major public health challenges in Tanzania. This study



ON THE MENU: DMU students produced an international cookbook

aimed at exploring participants' experiential views regarding developing strategies for the elimination of child undernutrition for under-fives.

This study revealed that administrative systems should prioritize nutrition interventions in their plans, allocating adequate resources to implement culturally sensitive nutrition interventions, while national-level organs need to strengthen institutional capacity and ensure the availability of funds, skilled human resources and a legal framework for the effective implementation and sustainability of nutrition interventions at the district and lower-levels. This study highlights that for the successful implementation of culturally sensitive strategies towards the elimination of child undernutrition.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/3e3e950c-4870-4d06-a8d8-b470e232c16b>

Research on tomato disease image recognition method based on DeiT (Changxia Sun et al)

Tomatoes, globally cultivated and economically significant, play an essential role in both commerce and diet. However, the frequent occurrence of diseases severely affects both yield and quality, posing substantial challenges to agricultural production worldwide. In China, where tomato cultivation is carried out on a large scale, disease prevention and identification are increasingly critical for enhancing yield, ensuring food safety, and advancing sustainable agricultural practices.

Utilizing the improved DeiT model, a comprehensive tomato disease recognition system was developed, featuring modules for image collection, disease detection, and information display. This system facilitates an integrated process from image collection to intelligent disease analysis, enabling agricultural workers to promptly understand and respond to disease occurrences.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/d3fd6afb-b7ec-4d22-b79f-9bcefacf2b02>

UN PROGRESS REPORT ON SDG 3

The world is on target to reach just under 10% of the targets set for 2030, with another 30% showing moderate progress and a further 55% marginal progress. Around 15% of the targets have stagnated at their 2015 levels.

The UN puts this in bleak perspective in its 2024 report noting: “The COVID-19 pandemic has ravaged global health, undoing nearly 10 years of progress in life expectancy.

“While most health-related indicators are moving in the right direction globally, current trends are insufficient to meet targets set for 2030.

“The maternal mortality ratio is largely stuck at a level more than three times the 2030 target. Under-5 deaths reached an historic low in 2022, but progress has slowed - 35 million children will not live to see their fifth birthday by 2030”.

DMU NEWS ON SDG 3

**Hello Monica! Can you check my health please?
AI assistant for older people is being developed
with DMU researchers**

IT SOUNDS like the stuff of science fiction but an artificial intelligence assistant called Monica, which chats with elderly patients and monitors their progress after being discharged from hospital, is being developed with the help of De Montfort University Leicester researchers.

The joint research project by DMU's Centre for Primary Care Research, AI experts MiiCare and Connected Places Catapult, is developing, testing and assessing additional capabilities in Monica - a voice-

based virtual assistant and digital companion - to see if she can speed up the move from hospital to home for older people, and help prevent unnecessary re-admissions.

New research reveals the effects of living with antibiotic resistance

ONE of the first studies in the UK into what life is like for people living with antibiotic resistant infections has revealed new ways that could help support those living with debilitating conditions.

The research led by Dr Ryan Hamilton, Associate Professor of Antimicrobials at De Montfort University, Leicester (DMU) is the first of its kind to provide a comprehensive understanding of the long-term impact of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) upon people's daily lives, particularly on the wellbeing of individuals and the support they need from healthcare professionals.

DMU researchers help charity create 'digital postcards' for women to be treated for hard-to-detect breast cancer

A SET of 'digital postcards' which can be accessed by patients to ensure they ask the correct questions about a cancer often hard to diagnose, has been co-designed by patients with researchers at De Montfort University.

Lobular Breast Cancer accounts for 15 per cent of all breast cancer diagnoses but grows like a net rather than appearing as a lump and often does not show up on mammograms and scans in the early stages.



New teaching approach to address healthcare inequalities outlined by DMU experts

“IN PUBLIC health, we look at social determinants like education, water sanitisation and unemployment as causes of differing levels of health. But we don't explicitly mention race among these and we should.” Professor Ivan Browne was joined by Professor Simon Oldroyd, Dean of Health and Life Sciences at DMU, who spoke about the ways healthcare education could be changed to better reflect the social conditions and demographic graduates would encounter.

He said that, at DMU, nearly 50% of all Health and Life Sciences students come from Leicester postcodes, and of those who graduate from many

healthcare subjects, 80% go on to work in the local health and social care system.

Healthcare research nominated for national award

GROUND-BREAKING research into infection control practices for laundering in care and nursing homes has been shortlisted for a national award.

Professor Katie Laird, of De Montfort University Leicester's School of Pharmacy, carried out a national study of more than 1,000 care home managers and healthcare workers which revealed critical gaps in laundry practices and the need for improved training and support.

This research was funded by the Textiles Service Association as a social consciousness project to aid care homes in their infection control of laundry post-pandemic.

New research to make medicine cheaper and more effective for patients

A £1.1 MILLION project could make it easier and cheaper for pharmaceutical companies to develop new medicines that work effectively for patients. De Montfort University Leicester Professor Mingzhong Li and Professor Walkiria Schlindwein were awarded more than £674,890 by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council for the project, working alongside a team at the University of Surrey which received £409,247.

The team aims to create models that can accurately predict how medicines are released from immediate release tablets, which are designed to release the active ingredients rapidly once swallowed.

Hygiene education experts help break Guinness World Records title for educating youngsters

THE record-breaking event, held to mark Global Handwashing Day, brought together children from schools across the country for an online hand hygiene lesson. With thousands of youngsters participating, the attempt successfully surpassed the previous record set in India in 2018, officially logging 4,492 children taking part at the same time.

The monumental event was not just about setting records—it was a fun, engaging, and educational experience that emphasised the vital role of hand-washing in staying healthy.

The interactive lesson based on research conducted at DMU by the Germs Journey project, included a story focused on hand hygiene, puppets to engage the children, and a practical demonstration using "glow gel" under UV light to show the presence of germs.

Research aims to improve health outcomes for pregnant women in Kenya

A NEW project aims to protect pregnant women and their babies from a common – but dangerous – infection while addressing the growing global threat of antibiotic resistance.

Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs) are a major cause of mortality in expectant mothers and their children in parts of Kenya. Doctors have struggled to treat the infections partly due to lack of diagnosis and rising levels of antimicrobial resistance, where bacteria become unaffected by antibiotics.

Now, researchers at De Montfort University Leicester (DMU) and the University of Kenya have teamed up to



NATIONAL NOMINATION: Professor Katie Laird

help improve health outcomes working first in Kisumu County, Kenya, which has a population of more than 1.1 million people. The project has been awarded nearly £80,000 by the International Science Partnership Fund, run by the British Council.

Nursing academic set to share decades of experience in transforming the healthcare workforce

THE power of communities to address major healthcare challenges will be at the heart of a free

public lecture by a De Montfort University (DMU) nursing expert with decades of experience. With over 30 years of experience, including pioneering community mental health care initiatives, DMU's Professor Tania Hart has led numerous healthcare workforce transformation projects creating innovative roles and ways of working.

£3m research to assess global impact of climate change on human health

RESEARCHERS have begun work on a pioneering study to investigate how climate change is affecting healthcare system resilience around the world. The £3m project, called RESHAPE – RESilience in HeAlth Post-Extreme weather events – brings together academics and communities from around the globe to explore the different ways in which people are responding to environmental challenges that affect hospitals and healthcare providers. The team are working on the ground in Malawi, Vietnam, Tanzania, and Uganda, each of which faces an increase in extreme weather events associated with climate change and threaten the provision of critical healthcare to millions of people.

DMU RESEARCH ON SDG 3

Interventions to promote the health and well-being of children under 5s experiencing homelessness in high-income countries: a scoping review (Raghu Raghavan et al)

Homelessness among families with children under 5 residing in temporary accommodation is a growing

global concern, especially in high-income countries (HICs). Despite significant impacts on health and development, these 'invisible' children often fall through the gaps in policy and services.

This review highlights effective interventions for promoting the health and well-being of children under 5 experiencing homelessness, including educational sessions and home visits. Research has supported the importance of home visiting to be instrumental in breaking down language, cultural and health literacy barriers.

[Interventions to promote the health and well-being of children under 5s experiencing homelessness in high-income countries: a scoping review | BMJ Open](#)

The Impact of the National Health Insurance Scheme on Financial and Health Outcomes in Ghana (Patronella Ganza)

This study examines the impact of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) on financial and health outcomes in Ghana.

The study results show that financial affordability and the NHIS benefit package positively impact both financial and health outcomes.

The path analysis shows that private hospitals positively influence the relationship between financial affordability and catastrophic health expenditure, while ambulance services were found to have a direct impact on improved maternal health.

The study adds to the body of knowledge on health financing and health service delivery by incorporating the role of service providers as it influences both financial and health outcomes.

[The Impact of the National Health Insurance Scheme on Financial and Health Outcomes in Ghana](#)

Social Determinants of Severity in Sickle Cell Disorders

(Maria Berghs, Bola Ola, Bassey Ebenso)

Sickle cell disorders (SCD) are complex multi-system inherited blood conditions affecting 300,000 to 400,000 new-borns annually globally, with 82% being in Sub Saharan Africa. SCD is characterised by anaemia, severe unpredictable pain episodes, stroke and organ damage.

This chapter adopts a 'social determinants of health' (SDH) lens to understand and explain sociocultural, environmental, economic and political factors which can worsen the impact of SCD for people. It also proposes innovative ways of working with inter-disciplinary and cross-sectoral actors to provide person-centred management of SCD that meets the needs of different people while increasing accessibility to care for SCD.

[Social Determinants of Severity in Sickle Cell Disorders](#)



UN PROGRESS REPORT ON SDG 4

More than half the targets are either regressing on 2015 or stagnating (15% regressing, 35% stagnating). Around 15% of the targets look set to be reached by 2030, 20% show moderate progress and 15% marginal progress and the UN has even revised the original targets set in 2015.

The UN reports: “Progress towards Goal 4 has been slow, with only 58 per cent of students worldwide achieving a minimum proficiency in reading by 2019. Recent assessments reveal a significant decline in math and reading scores in many countries, highlighting a set of factors beyond the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on global education.

“Many countries face challenges such as inadequate education infrastructure, teacher shortages and insufficient teacher training. While technology has expanded educational opportunities, it has also widened inequalities, leaving millions of people, especially in marginalised and low-income communities, without access to education.”

DMU NEWS ON SDG 4

Grant will expand DMU project to create anti-racist schools in Leicester and Leicestershire

A RESEARCH project which is working to create anti-racist environments in schools has been awarded a grant which will be used to offer the De Montfort University Leicester (DMU) programme to primary-age pupils.

Teaching to Transform and the Racial Literacy Project – run by DMU’s Stephen Lawrence Research

Centre (SLRC) – have been a huge success in secondary schools around Leicester and Leicestershire.

DMU invited to speak at international conference on block teaching

HAVING been a key part of DMU’s early adoption of block teaching, Professor Alasdair Blair, Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic for DMU, has been invited to speak at the International Block and Intensive Learning and Teaching Association (IBILTA) Research Conference 2024.

The three-day event is being held at Victoria University, in Melbourne, which has been teaching in the block format since 2018.

United Nations praises faculty mission to embed sustainability in business education

DE MONTFORT University Leicester Faculty of Business and Law has been praised by the United Nations for excellence in reporting its vision to put sustainability at the heart of its mission.

The faculty was one of only eight organisations from around the world to be recognised in the 2024 Recognition of Excellence in SIP (Shared Information on Progress) Reporting which asks organisations to evaluate their progress in supporting sustainable and ethical business and future plans.

DMU to train sustainable leaders of the future in new London campus

THE new London campus will take this dedication further, offering postgraduate students a concen-



trated focus on sustainable practices through the launch of three UN-inspired programmes:

- ⇒ MSc International Business and Sustainability Management
- ⇒ MBA Global with Responsible Leadership
- ⇒ MSc Responsible Data Analytics

Each programme will integrate sustainability into its teaching, aiming to equip professional managers and aspiring leaders with the skills to manage businesses ethically and lead with social responsibility, underpinned by DMU’s commitment to the UN Principles for Responsible Management Education

DMU RESEARCH ON SDG 4

“Bye-Bye Germs”: Respiratory Tract Infection Prevention—An Education Intervention for Children
(Sarah Younie et al)

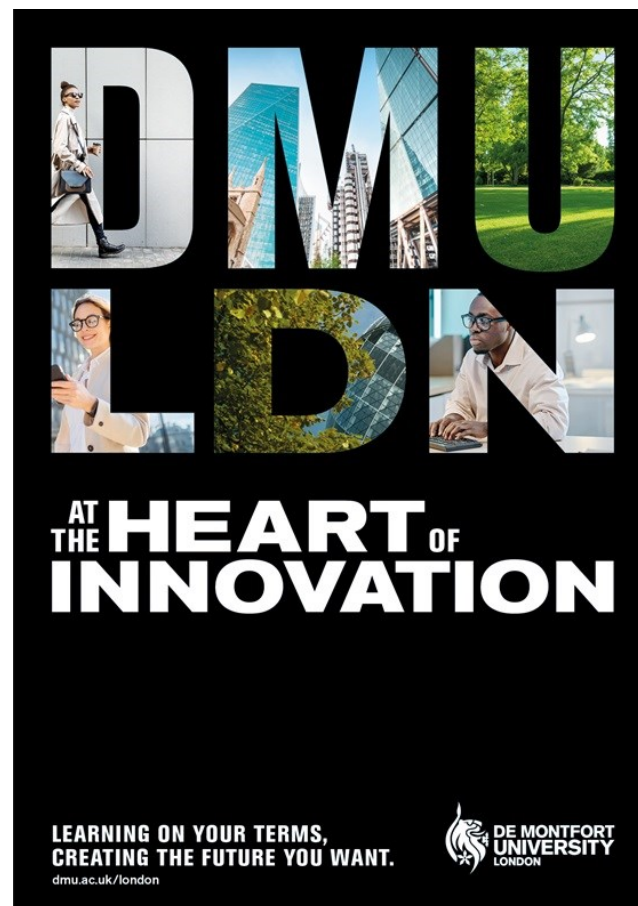
Becoming one of the first studies in the field to do so, specially developed educational interventions (Germ's Journey), designed to teach children about respiratory tract infection prevention, were delivered to 273 pupils aged five to six across five primary schools in the U.K. The intervention aimed to increase understanding of pathogens and respiratory tract illness, transmission and infection prevention, and preparedness for future pandemics due to a lack of such resources for young children at present.

The consistent use of teaching resources and interventions such as Germ's Journey should be implemented in the school curriculum in order to increase understanding and reduce the transmission of respiratory tract illness. Specially designed activity-based workshops using a range of learning skills can help young children to understand the link between pathogens, and infection transmission and control.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/f4272bf0-6207-437d-bfb8-fc7cc37c743b>

Understanding the Association Between Education and Wellbeing: An Exploration of the Gallup World Poll (Angelina Wilson Fadji and Tim Lomas)

Although evidence supporting higher educational levels as being beneficial for wellbeing is significant, there are still contradictory findings, necessitating further exploration into this relationship. Moreover, current evidence seems to focus mostly on data derived from Western samples and have adopted limited measures of wellbeing. The findings indicate



CONFERENCE: Sustainability is at the centre of the new DMU London campus and its innovative modules and teaching

that overall participants with higher levels of education fare better than those with lower levels of education. However, disaggregation and comparison across key social indicators, specifically, country/region of residence, sex and age showed that there were instances where higher levels of education were less beneficial for wellbeing. While acknowl-

edging the importance of education for wellbeing, our findings suggest the need to consider how unique socio-cultural factors might further complicate the benefits of education.

We also suggest that governments might need to consider what policies are necessary to make the benefits of education more apparent and ubiquitous.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/f2aed439-3d40-475b-9f9d-1c33eef14e6>

Exploring Teacher Attrition, through the Lens of Resilience: A Qualitative Study (Elizabeth Miller)

Despite a wealth of research surrounding high teacher attrition and several government initiatives aimed at overcoming the enigma, the latest data from the Department for Education reports that teacher attrition, excluding retirement, in England, is at the highest point in a decade.

Resilience was found to have importance when considering potential policies and initiatives that could reverse the trend of high teacher attrition.

However, more than adopting teacher training programmes to build resilience, it is of greater importance to establish a school culture that nurtures teacher resilience.

This thesis found that high teacher attrition is the consequence of micro-management that imposes a workplace culture which generates teacher disillusionment and the consequential erosion of individual teacher resilience.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/67c4e008-2e01-46e5-9eef-a12586cc8916>

UN PROGRESS REPORT ON SDG 5

Almost 20% of the targets in SDG 5 are on track to achieve their aims and a further 60 per cent have shown marginal progress, while around 20% show a stagnation on the 2015 baseline.

The UN report: "Harmful practices are decreasing but not at a rate keeping up with population growth. One in five girls still marry before age 18.

"A staggering 230 million girls and women have been subjected to female genital mutilation. Violence against women persists, disproportionately affecting those with disabilities.

"Parity in women's participation in public life remains elusive, and in management positions, at current rates, parity will require another 176 years".

DMU NEWS ON SDG 5

Pharmacy school renews bronze Athena Swan award

DE MONTFORT University Leicester's School of Pharmacy has successfully renewed its Athena Swan Bronze Award.

Led by colleagues in the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, the school has been awarded for its commitment to gender equality, which has been implemented through its five-year action plan.

All four schools within the faculty currently hold an Athena Swan bronze award with the Leicester School of Pharmacy becoming the first one to make a successful renewal submission since first achieving its award in 2019.

Celebration of International Women's Day

TO CELEBRATE this year's International Women's Day (IWD), DMU Women hosted a series of online and in-person events.

As a part of Women's History Month (which took place from Friday 1 March to Sunday 31 March), IWD celebrated the achievements of women and promoting gender equality. This year's theme was Inspire Inclusion.

Nicky Hudson, Shalini Bisani, and Marie Josee Bisson, co-chairs of DMU Women, said: "International Women's Day is a really important date in the calendar to celebrate the achievements of women, raise awareness about historic and current issues of gender inequality and promote equality for all."

Commitment to gender equality earns DMU Bronze Athena SWAN award

PRAISED for its commitment to championing gender equality, De Montfort University Leicester has successfully renewed its Bronze institutional Athena SWAN award.

The prestigious award, given by Advance HE, recognises DMU's work to advance gender equality after going through a rigorous process to assess its staff lifecycle across the institution, looking at representation, progression, career journey and the working environment.

The university's approach to Equality Diversity and Inclusion through its Empowering University strategy, increased visibility of female staff and work-related issues through its DMU Women staff network and commitment to addressing the underrepresen-



tation of black female professors were among those commended by the panel.

DMU professor investigates how to help more female entrepreneurs enter business in Africa

GROWING up in a poor rural area of Ethiopia and seeing the chasm between rich and poor in East Africa is driving a De Montfort University Leicester (DMU) academic's efforts to encourage more women to become entrepreneurs.

Kassa Woldesenbet Beta, Professor of Inclusive Entrepreneurship at DMU, is already running a project to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Leicester procure goods and services from large local businesses and public services to help boost the economy. While a project to help SMEs draft bids

for new business has helped 220 local businesses so far.

Now Professor Kassa is looking toward Ethiopia and Zambia to see how his research into inclusivity can help more women become entrepreneurs.

Droughts in Zambia have led to crop failures, food and water shortages, livestock deaths and reduced economic growth, while Ethiopia is still suffering from the fall-out of ongoing conflict and natural disasters.

VC calls for change at Invest in Women Taskforce

BUSINESSES in Leicester have showed their support for a new taskforce which aims to address funding inequalities for female-founded businesses.

At the moment just 2% of all venture capital invested in new businesses goes to female-run companies – and 86% of all the millions invested this year has gone to all-male teams.

The Invest in Women Taskforce aims to create the world's largest investment fund for female founders – and just a week after it was backed by Chancellor Rachel Reeves, the team came to Leicester for an evening championing women and also calling for change.

Organised by Poonam Sharma, the manager of Barclays Eagle Lab based at De Montfort University Leicester (DMU) and led by Hannah Bernard OBE, co-chair of the taskforce and head of Business Banking at Barclays, it provided a platform to talk about the challenges and barriers facing women trying to access finance and support.

DMU RESEARCH ON SDG 5

You feel like you're fairly disadvantaged with an advert over your head saying, "in final years of reproduction": Social egg freezing, dating and the (unequal) sexual politics of reproductive ageing (Kylie Baldwin)

This paper explores the way in which contemporary middle-class professional women make decisions about partnering and parenthood which are shaped by a contemporary neoliberal feminist discourse which articulates the possibility of 'having it all' by engaging in careful life planning, appropriate self-investment and through drawing on new technologies of reproductive biomedicine.

In doing so it explores how gendered cultural dating scripts and unequal gender power relations shape the formation and progression of intimate relationships which sometimes work to disempower women as they age. It therefore questions whether egg freezing may be the 'great equaliser' that some may otherwise have hoped.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/32bfae63-3dbc-4434-819b-a0a333fc0099>

Women's Enterprising in Africa: A Systematic Literature Review (Natasha Katuta Mwila et al)

The chapter provides important insights into the context in which African women entrepreneurs operate; their motivations, orientations, and competence to venture into business. The chapter further provides insights into the enabling and/or constraining roles of the embeddedness of African women entrepreneurs in multiple contexts (i.e., economic, cultural,

family, social and legal). We found that many studies lack qualitative exploration of women's enterprising and instead sought to identify factors such as traits, characteristics, access to various resources, etc., that account for gender gap in enterprising and firm performance.

The chapter argues that better understanding of women's enterprising in Africa can only be achieved by theories and methods which consider the multiple embeddedness of women's enterprising in their contexts.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/6e1231d0-6868-4226-92ad-0c197dd2ca56>

Women in Forensic Science (Emma Johnston and Leisa Nichols-Drew)

This discussion examines the role of women in forensic science. Featuring Dr Emma Johnston and Leisa Nichols-Drew, both senior lecturers at De Montfort University, who shared their experiences and insights into this vital field.

The discussion highlighted the noteworthy representation of women in forensic science, a field where women are more prevalent compared to other STEM areas. Emma and Leisa explored possible reasons for this trend, such as the profession's alignment with helping roles and the impact of having strong female role models.

Despite the progress, they acknowledged ongoing challenges, including gender pay gaps and the under-representation of women in leadership roles.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/de4cfaf5-7992-4fd2-bb3e-38c9c0aee06b>

UN PROGRESS REPORT ON SDG 6

Progress remains ‘insufficient’ on SDG 6 with none of the targets for 2030 set to be achieved and moderate progress on 15% and marginal progress on a further 50% of the aims. This means that 25% of the targets are at a stagnation level and 10% have actually regressed on the 2015 baseline assessment. The UN reports: “At the current speed, in 2030, 2 billion people will still live without safely managed drinking water, 3 billion without safely managed sanitation and 1.4 billion without basic hygiene services. In 2022, roughly half the world’s population experienced severe water scarcity for at least part of the year. One quarter faced “extremely high” levels of water stress. Climate change worsens these issues, posing significant risks to social stability”

DMU NEWS ON SDG 6

DMU students join forces to tackle litter in and around the city's waterways

STUDENTS from De Montfort University (DMU) have helped fill 35 bags worth of rubbish from around a local river to help clean up the city's waterways and stop plastics reaching our seas and oceans.

A group of volunteers from the university helped clear piles of waste from the banks of the River Soar, including shopping trolleys, a bike, a grandfather clock and car keys.

More than 20 students joined forces with Leicester City Council and the Canal and River Trust for the annual litter pick, which was timed to coincide with the COP29 climate change talks taking place in Baku, Azerbaijan.

DMU RESEARCH ON SDG 6

Monitoring Hazards in Dam Environments Using Remote Sensing Techniques: Case of Kulekhani-I Reservoir in Nepal

(Bhagawat Rimal and Abhishek Tiwary)

Maintaining the operability of a hydroelectric power station at a scale originally designed is being compromised by continuous reservoir sedimentation. The hydropower projects in the low-to-mid mountain regions of Nepal are witnessing a combination of these phenomena, affecting their optimal performance in meeting long-term sustainable power supply targets. This paper presents a combination of geo-spatial analysis and field evaluations to identify the trends from Kulekhani-I, one of the oldest storage-type hydropower projects in Nepal, using long-term time series remote sensing satellite imagery from 1988 to 2020.

This study has identified an urgent need for addressing the following two key contributory factors through an effective control mechanism to avoid rapid sedimentation in the reservoirs: natural—landslides and floods leading to mainly silt deposition during heavy rainfalls; and anthropogenic—road construction materials dumped directly in the reservoir. Effective implementation of a remote sensing monitoring scheme can safeguard future damages to dam environments of more recently built storage-type hydropower projects.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/739424ce-2281-40d0-99e4-1ea38c2742af>
<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/739424ce-2281-40d0-99e4-1ea38c2742af>



Oil spill classification using an autoencoder and hyperspectral technology (Maria Gema Carrasco-Garcia, Lipika Deka and David Elizondo et al)
Hyperspectral technology has been playing a leading role in monitoring oil spills in marine environments, an issue of international concern. In the case of monitoring oil spills in local areas, hyperspectral technology of small dimensions becomes the ideal solution. This research explores the use of encoded hyperspectral signatures to develop automated classifiers capable of discriminating between polluted and clean water, and even distinguishing between various types of oil.

[Oil spill classification using an autoencoder and hyperspectral technology](#)

The role of emotional appeal in water conservation communication: a framework for social media engagement (David Proverbs et al)

Amidst growing concerns about water shortages, harnessing the potential of social media emerges as a crucial strategy in attempts to conserve consumption. While informative messaging in environmental communication has been widely acknowledged, the role of emotional appeal remains underexplored.

By applying Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) to a dataset containing 443 responses, the analysis reveals that emotional appeal, when evoked through creativity, not only positively influences individuals' attitudes but also extends to shape perceived behavioural control.

These findings further emphasise the ability of emotional appeal to serve as a complementary aspect that enriches individuals' motivational framework and influences their inclination towards engaging in the intended behaviour.

The study has important implications for improving current marketing efforts and encouraging behavioural shifts among water consumers.

By including emotional appeal in social media communication strategies, environmental communicators can build empathy and promote sustainability more effectively.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/a2bfe9f7-e862-4028-8dd4-8ab601098ce5>

Nearest-better network assisted fitness landscape analysis of contaminant source identi-

cation in water distribution network (Yiya Diao, Shengxiang Yang et al)

Contaminant Source Identification in Water Distribution Network (CSWIDN) is critical for ensuring public health, and optimization algorithms are commonly used to solve this complex problem. However, these algorithms are highly sensitive to the problem's landscape features, which has limited their effectiveness in practice.

Our analysis reveals for the first time that CSWIDN exhibits the landscape features, including neutrality, ruggedness, modality, dynamic change, and separability. These findings not only deepen our understanding of the problem's inherent landscape features but also provide quantitative insights into how these features influence algorithm performance.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/ab965d9d-8152-4ab3-8eb1-d47652500d5b>



DMU and UN—a relationship aimed at changing the world in 2024

- ⇒ DE MONTFORT University (DMU) is the only UK higher education institution ever to be a global academic hub for the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals since their introduction in 2019.
- ⇒ DMU was the global academic hub for SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions for two three-year terms from 2019-2024.
- ⇒ In January 2025, DMU will become the global academic hub chair for SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities under an expanded UN programme.
- ⇒ DMU will lead three other vice-chairs from universities in Brazil, Vietnam, and Germany on SDG 11 across research, teaching and education, partnership and outreach.
- ⇒ In 2024, DMU was in the world top 100 for its work on three SDGs – 11 Sustainable Cities, 12 Responsible Consumption and Production, and 13 Climate Action, according to the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.
- ⇒ This meant that since 2019 DMU had featured 32 times in the world top 100 across 10 different SDGs in the THE Impact Rankings.
- ⇒ During the COP 29 talks of world leaders in November, more than 500 DMU students and staff took part in events on its Leicester campus aimed at raising awareness and promoting climate action.

UN PROGRESS REPORT ON SDG 7

SDG 7 is the best performing of all 17 goals at present and 40% of the targets are on track to achieve their aims. Another 40% have made moderate progress since 2015 and the final 20% have shown marginal progress.

The UN reports: “Considerable strides have been made in achieving sustainable energy targets. The number of people lacking access to electricity dropped from 958 million in 2015 to 685 million in 2022. The number without clean cooking fuels declined from 2.8 billion to 2.1 billion over the same period. Global capacity to generate electricity from renewable energy has begun expanding at an unprecedented rate, a trend expected to continue”.

DMU NEWS ON SDG 7

Can old electric car parts bring green power to energy-deprived parts of Africa?

AN INTERNATIONAL research project plans to turn a growing global stock of old electric vehicle parts into affordable renewable energy for sub-Saharan Africa, where 50% of the population still have no electricity.

The £3.5 million project brings together UK based researchers from De Montfort University Leicester (DMU), the University of Warwick, and Chatham House.

They are working in collaboration with universities, governments, and industries from Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa and Namibia to address these pressing energy challenges.

The new project, Circular Microgrids: Circular Economy Pathways for Renewable Microgrids in Africa, led by Muyiwa Oyinlola, Professor of Innovation for Sustainable Development at De Montfort University (DMU), focuses on repurposing electric vehicle components—such as lithium-ion batteries, power converters, and motors—for microgrids.

New research could make turning waste cooking oil into biofuel easier and quicker

RESEARCHERS at De Montfort University Leicester have pioneered a new manufacturing process which could make the creation of biofuel from waste cooking oil faster and more efficient.

Professor Katherine Huddersman, Dr Rawaz Ahmed, Saana Rashid, and Ketan Ruperalia, all based in a team of experts from DMU's Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, have created a new fibrous mesh-based catalyst which drives the reaction that separates vegetable oil and animal fats into biofuel and glycerol.

This new method avoids many of the issues found in traditional production methods. Although sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide catalysts are cheap and widely available, they react with the free fatty acids in the oil to create soap, and settle in the glycerol, needing to be removed. Metal oxide catalysts are powders and are difficult to handle, needing to be filtered out at the end of the process.

New sustainable heating system slashes university carbon output

DE MONTFORT University has switched its first



building to a greener heating system, cutting its annual carbon footprint by 30 tonnes.

Leicester Media School, which houses the university's Game Art and Animation courses, is the first building on campus to move from natural gas heating, to being heated using zero-carbon electricity and renewable energy sources.

The university was awarded over £176,718 to install the new carbon-cutting heat pump to power its media school from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

The fund is managed for the Department on behalf by Salix - as part Phase 3b of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, aimed at supporting the public sector switch to sustainable energy sources.

DMU RESEARCH INTO SDG 7

Agent-Based Modelling for Electrification in Sub-Saharan African Urban Informal Settlements

(Daniel William Kerr)

In recent decades, urbanisation in developing countries has increased dramatically. Across the developing world, urban populations have been rising rapidly, and the capacity of governments to service these growing populations has not met demand. Growth in informal settlements has accompanied urban population growth: 1.03 billion people lived in informal settlements in 2018 according to the United Nations, 233 million in Sub-Saharan Africa.

From the literature review and primary research, access to capital, political economy barriers, and technical challenges contribute to high incidences of illegal access, and the agent-based model gave new insights into the relationships between income, demand, satisfaction, access to the network and density in informal settlement electrification. Addressing these barriers will lead to higher formal access rates and more reliable electricity services for residents.

[Agent-Based Modelling for Electrification in Sub-Saharan African Urban Informal Settlements](#)

Strengthening commercial viability through greater inclusiveness in rural mini-grid deployment: Insights from Nigeria and Kenya

(Temilade Sesan, Daniel Kerr, Subhes Bhattacharyya et al)

Amidst the prevalence of energy poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, mini grids have emerged in recent years as a promising solution, not only to bridge lin-

gering electricity access gaps, but also to revitalise rural economies. The realisation of this promise however depends on the extent to which business models, i.e., the value that mini-grid companies offer to different customer segments, are able to respond to the peculiar needs of the largely low-income, agrarian contexts in which they operate.

Our paper analyses how two private mini-grid developers in Nigeria and Kenya have approached this challenge, introducing business models that address the needs of small-scale farmers for growth while targeting increased revenue for their respective companies.

These cases provide evidence for the added value of employing a “Key Starter” model – one in which developers begin to facilitate inputs early on in agricultural value chains, in addition to the latter-stage investments emphasised in conventional approaches to powering the agriculture-energy nexus.

[Strengthening commercial viability through greater inclusiveness in rural mini-grid deployment: Insights from Nigeria and Kenya](#)

A comparative analysis of off-grid photovoltaic (PV) systems & businesses performance in The Gambia and Kenya (Sylvia Delpratt)

This thesis addresses a critical challenge in the off-grid energy sector of the Developing World, aiming to uncover the root causes of the frequent failures of solar photovoltaic energy systems (PVESs) and related businesses in off-grid rural communities. The findings reveal that while Kenya's more developed PV sector offers valuable lessons on profes-

sionalisation and investment, The Gambia's emerging efforts reflect the difficulties of operating within a weak regulatory environment. The study also conducts a comprehensive sustainability assessment using 41 indicators across eleven critical domains: technical-business, economic-financial, social-ethical-cultural, ecological, and institutional-legal-regulatory.

This analysis uncovers the persistent impact of colonialism, post-colonial governance failures, and regulatory inefficiencies on the success of renewable energy (RE) initiatives. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated these challenges, threatening progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7), particularly in rural and underserved regions.

[A comparative analysis of off-grid photovoltaic \(PV\) systems & businesses performance in The Gambia and Kenya](#)



UN PROGRESS REPORT ON SDG 8

A total of 50% of the targets in this SDG show stagnation or an actual regression (30% regression, 20% stagnation) with the UN reporting that ‘fundamental labour rights have deteriorated’. Only 10 per cent of the targets are on track, with 25% showing moderate and 15% marginal progress . The UN reports: ‘Trade tensions, rising debt in developing countries, conflicts and geopolitical strains are collectively threatening global economic growth. Global unemployment hit a historic low of 5% in 2023 yet persistent roadblocks remain in achieving decent work. Women and youth face higher unemployment rates. Informal employment poses a significant global challenge, with over 2 billion workers in informal jobs lacking social protection. Alarming, over one in five young people are not in education, employment or training.”

DMU NEWS ON SDG 8

Applications open for Crucible, DMU's business incubation programme

CALLING all entrepreneurial final-year students, graduates, staff and alumni – applications are now open for places on Crucible, De Montfort University Leicester (DMU)'s award-winning programme to support and nurture new businesses.

The year-long programme is free and offers a comprehensive package of support including mentoring, office space, funding, monthly masterclasses from industry experts and access to a prototyping lab and makers' space on campus.

DMU Made Creative Industries programme returns for its biggest year yet

MEDIA personalities, entrepreneurs, and freelancers converged on Leicester as part of a two-month programme aimed at helping De Montfort University students and graduates break into the creative industries.

The DMU Made Creative Industries Programme comprises a series of hybrid workshops to support budding entrepreneurs and freelancers who are interested in pursuing a career across a range of cultural industries including music, performing arts, digital journalism and YouTube.

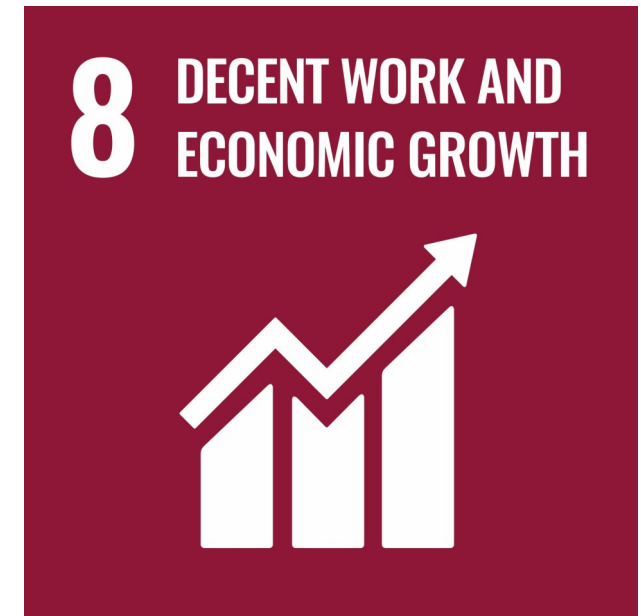
KISS FM's Sam Darlaston, Radio 1's Calum Leslie, local blogger 'Cool As Leicester' and graphic designer James Mobbs – who designs on-screen graphics for MOTDX, The BRITS, Radio 1 and more – are among the guests leading sessions in this year's series of events.

DMU RESEARCH ON SDG 8

The spatialization of decent work and the role of employability empowerment for minority ethnic young people in emerging economies

(Tony Wall, Peter Stokes et al)

Global rises in precarious labour conditions have prompted further empirical work in Decent Work, a special category of employment characterised by equitable pay, treatment, and healthy working conditions. Despite this, research has tended to be conducted in developed countries with privileged groups such as those with typical working arrangements



and rely on psychologically framed individual characteristics to explain marginalising factors. We propose a more sociologically framed, spatialised perspective on Decent Work which posits that marginalising factors are spatially variable and determined but moderated by employability empowerment. We measure our propositions across three spatially different sites of Vietnam through...

- ⇒ A survey of minority ethnic students and graduates (N=1071) and:
- ⇒ A survey of stakeholders involved in the recruitment and employment of this group (N=204). We find support for most of our propositions and call for more spatialised empirical work in the field of Decent Work.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/4a020205-723a-4860-9a9d-3877848f798d>

UN PROGRESS REPORT ON SDG 9

Around 30% of the targets are on track to be achieved by 2030, with another 30% showing moderate progress on the 2015 baseline figures. There has been only marginal progress on another 15%, 10% show stagnation and another 15% actual regression from the 2015 levels.

The UN report states: “Manufacturing sector growth has plateaued at around 2.7 per cent, a level expected to persist due to the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical tensions. The air transport industry is rebounding strongly. Small enterprises continue to face hurdles such as limited access to credit, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and the less developed countries; only around 17 per cent has access to loans or credit lines”.

DMU NEWS ON SDG 9

Host of events to mark decade of Leicester Business Festival

TOP tips on pitching, scaling up your business and innovation vouchers to kick-start new business initiatives were just some of the events being run by De Montfort University as part of this year’s Leicester Business Festival.

The festival marked its 10th anniversary this year. It was set up to celebrate the work being done by businesses in the region, highlight its investment potential and create a platform for sharing best business practices.

DMU is proud to have been part of the festival since the very beginning,” said Helen Donnellan, director of Research, Business and Innovation at DMU. “The fes-

tival brings together so many people – businesses, public sector organisations and universities all working together to support the development of our economy.”

Leicester Business Festival had more than 70 free events taking place across the two weeks.

Pro Vice-Chancellor calls for construction sector to focus on UN's Sustainable Development Goals

DE MONTFORT University Pro Vice Chancellor for Research and Business Innovation, Professor Mike Kagioglou, has been unveiled as the new president of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB).

Throughout his year in office, Mike plans to use his platform as CIOB President to drive greater focus on the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Speaking at CIOB’s annual Members’ Forum event held in Cape Town, South Africa, Professor Kagioglou said the sector needs to focus on targets like building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and fostering innovation.

“In 2015 – what seems like a lifetime ago – the United Nations adopted the SDGs to guide how, as a global community, we tackle humanity’s biggest challenges,” he said.

Can old electric car parts bring green power to energy-deprived parts of Africa?

AN INTERNATIONAL research project plans to turn a growing global stock of old electric vehicle parts into affordable renewable energy for sub-Saharan Africa,



where 50% of the population still have no electricity. The £3.5 million project brings together UK based researchers from De Montfort University, the University of Warwick, and Chatham House.

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DMU RESEARCH ON SDG 9

Development of enzyme-based bioprocesses for recycling and reuse of wool blended fabrics to support the textiles industry transition to a circular system (Jinsong Shen et al)

Enzyme-based biotechnology has demonstrated its potential to provide innovative solutions to improve textile performance properties and reduce the negative impact of textile production on the environment. In this current research, enzyme-based biotechnology processes were explored for recycling and reuse of wool/bast fibre blended fabrics from post-consumer and/or manufacturing waste streams. Individual fibre components were separated and recovered for re-processing back into yarns for fabric production.

The current research has also demonstrated the potential to extract and reuse dyes from waste textiles for textile coloration. These research outcomes demonstrate potential opportunities to reduce the environmental impact of textile production and support the global textile industry transition to a circular system.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/c3d6f11c-6aaa-4065-86ba-46b3b29486fc>

How and when do an organization's social sustainability orientation and green human resource practices enhance its sustainable performance? (Muhammad Umer Azeem et al)

This study investigates how and when organizations' strategic intent of social sustainability orientation translates into their sustainable firm performance. In



DEVASTATING: Forest fires

doing so, we explain the mediating role of the collective affective commitment of employees and the moderating role of green HRM policies.

The findings from both studies provide support for our predictions and reveal that a key reason why organizations with a social sustainability orientation achieve higher sustainable performance is that their employees develop a shared belief that environmental conservation initiatives are both valued and expected.

Moreover, this process is more salient in organisations that have adopted green HRM policies.

That is, green HRM policies reinforce that the organization is particularly concerned about social sustainability, therefore, employees become more committed to serving this cause.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/d87a8def-b6ac-4773-97fc-2bae98c1976c>

Forest Fire Detection Utilizing Ghost Swin Transformer with Attention and Auxiliary Geometric Loss (Francois Siewe et al)

Forest fires are a devastating natural disaster. Existing fire detection models face limitations in dataset availability, multi-scale feature extraction, and locating obscured or small flames and smoke. To address these issues, we develop a dataset containing real and synthetic forest fire images, sourced from a UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) perspective. Additionally, we propose the Ghost Convolution Swin Transformer module to extract multi-scale flame and smoke features from different receptive fields by integrating parallel Ghost convolution and Swin Transformer. Extensive experimental results demonstrate that our method provides a significant improvement in accuracy and real-time performance.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/9aa7441d-3a24-4199-811a-068c2382dd4f>

UN PROGRESS REPORT ON SDG 10

More than 45% of the targets set for 2030 are either stagnating on the 2015 baseline, or actually regressing (25% stagnation, 20% regression). Around only 12.5% of the targets set look like being achieved in the next six years, 12.5% have shown moderate progress and 30% marginal progress

The UN report states: “The global share of people living on less than half the median income has been declining due to social assistance programmes. However, workers’ wages have not kept pace with productivity, and labour’s share of GDP has resumed its long-term decline. The economies of half the world’s most vulnerable countries have been growing at slower rates than those of wealthy countries. More people died on migration routes in 2023 than in any other year on record. The number of refugees worldwide reached a historic high”.

DMU NEWS ON SDG 10

DMU ‘a beacon for inclusivity’ as university is ranked 2nd in the UK for supporting the LGBTQ+ workforce

DE MONTFORT University Leicester (DMU) has been ranked 2nd in the UK for being a welcoming place to work for LGBTQ+ staff, making it ‘a beacon for inclusivity

LGBTQ+ charity Stonewall’s Top 100 Employers 2024 list, published today, puts DMU ahead of some of the UKs biggest legal, health, construction, finance and charity organisations for supporting everyone ‘to bring their full selves to work’.

It is the best result DMU has ever had in the Stone-

wall Top 100, beating last year’s previous high when the university was ranked 27th in the UK, and makes DMU the highest placed university. DMU has also received a gold award for its work.

Grant will expand DMU project to create anti-racist schools in Leicester and Leicestershire

A RESEARCH project which is working to create anti-racist environments in schools has been awarded a grant which will be used to offer the De Montfort University programme to primary-age pupils.

Teaching to Transform and the Racial Literacy Project – run by DMU’s Stephen Lawrence Research Centre (SLRC) – have been a huge success in secondary schools around Leicester and Leicestershire.

New teaching approach to address healthcare inequalities outlined by DMU experts

“IN PUBLIC health, we look at social determinants like education, water sanitisation and unemployment as causes of differing levels of health. But we don’t explicitly mention race among these and we should.” Professor Browne was joined by Professor Simon Oldroyd, Dean of Health and Life Sciences at DMU, who spoke about the ways healthcare education could be changed to better reflect the social conditions and demographic graduates would encounter.

He said that, at DMU, nearly 50% of all Health and Life Sciences students come from Leicester postcodes, and of those who graduate from many healthcare subjects, 80% go on to work in the local health and social care system.



DMU highly commended in International Green Gown Awards

A MISSION to decolonise and decarbonise De Montfort University has earned the institution a highly commended award at the prestigious International Green Gown Awards.

The Decolonising and Decarbonising DMU entry highlighted the work to challenge racism and build an anti-racist university that creates fairness for all staff and students and showed how this was incorporated into the work of DMU’s Sustainable Development Team. The project was launched to dismantle racist barriers and structures so that staff and students could succeed, by challenging racism, changing cultures and behaviours and improving representation, progression and talent.

New DMU-Cuba network to make society more inclusive for disabled people

INNOVATIONS to help make society more inclusive for disabled people are set to arise from a new partnership at De Montfort University Leicester (DMU). For 18 months, education experts at DMU and the Universities of Nottingham and Sheffield Hallam, have been working with counterparts and disabled-led organisations in Cuba to share ideas on how to ensure disabled people are at the heart of inclusive social development.

The relationship has already led to many innovations, including the creation of methods for developing sustainable and inclusive children's playgrounds, and new Easy Read materials about finding and navigating employment, co-created with learning-disabled workers.

Happy Birthday DMU Pride – 10th anniversary launch starts month of celebrations to showcase the LGBTQ+ community

The 10th [DMU Pride festival](#) has been launched on campus to mark the start of a month of celebrations showcasing the university's support and unity with the LGBTQ+ community.

A crowd of students and staff met in the De Montfort University Leicester (DMU) Campus Centre atrium at midday yesterday to mark the launch, which coincides with LGBT History Month – an annual observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history, and the history of the gay rights, and related civil rights, movements.

DMU RESEARCH ON SDG 10

Docked bikeshare: A review of the interrelationship between socio-economic disadvantage and the built environment (Patrick Moore et al)

Promoted for their contribution towards decarbonising transport, encouraging modal shift, and improving health outcomes, bikeshare schemes (BSS) have developed worldwide. However, evidence suggests that fixed docking stations are often disproportionately located in white, high-income and high employment areas.

Interrelated issues concerning the built environment and socio-economic disadvantage include inequities related to population and residential accessibility, cycle lane access, docking station density and location, integration with public transport, access to city centres, universities, and unsafe areas. The paper reviews these aspects and discusses their implications for docking station planning practices that incorporate built environment insights and facilitate equitable access and use.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/978745e8-afa6-423c-b954-315d523b7f04>

Breaking Borders, Building Bridges

(Indrani Lahiri and Meredith Wilkinson)

As academic research increasingly transcends national and cultural boundaries, the impacts of globalisation on inclusivity become apparent, presenting hurdles tied to economic inequality, cultural homogenisation the loss of national sovereignty. The examination aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of their implications for knowledge produc-

tion while proposing strategies and initiatives to enhance inclusivity in academic research. It recognises the interconnected nature of the global academic landscape and the necessity of addressing barriers to inclusivity. .

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/ef2b7ebd-7f25-41b2-8274-28071a761582>

Addressing racial disparities in maternal outcomes for the population of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (Bertha Ochieng et al)

Between 2016 and 2018, 34 Black women died among every 100,000 giving birth. The figure for Asian women was 15 and 8 white women died among every 100,000 giving birth (UK, 2021). Women from Black and minoritised groups have a higher maternal mortality rate than white women.

The overall wellbeing of the Black and minoritised populations are at higher risk of suffering health inequalities primarily because of systemic and institutional racism, direct and indirect discrimination, stigma, fear, and trust. Racism is the biggest driver of health inequalities whilst also exposing other intersecting determinants of health such as low socioeconomic states.

Structural racism further exacerbates the inequities faced by non-White women in maternity care. Socio-economic factors, such as limited access to healthcare facilities, affordable transportation, and housing instability can create barriers to receiving appropriate prenatal and postnatal care.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/873a9627-a6d5-45ed-b536-17b29766a672>

UN PROGRESS REPORT ON SDG 11

A total of 25% of the targets in SDG 11 are set to be achieved by 2030, although 25% also show stagnation on the 2015 baseline figures. The remaining 50% of targets are showing only marginal progress. The UN 2024 reports: "Globally, approximately one quarter of the urban population lives in slums, with the total slum population reaching 1.1 billion in 2022. The lack of equitable access to public transportation is a significant concern, particularly in less developed countries, where only 4 in 10 individuals have convenient access. While air pollution levels have declined in most regions, they are still significantly higher than the recommended air quality guidelines for public health protection. Only 40 per cent of city dwellers can easily reach open public spaces".

DMU NEWS ON SDG 11

New sustainable heating system slashes university carbon output

DE MONTFORT University has switched its first building to a greener heating system, cutting its annual carbon footprint by 30 tonnes.

Leicester Media School, which houses the university's Game Art and Animation courses, is the first building on campus to move from natural gas heating, to being heated using zero-carbon electricity and renewable energy sources.

The university was awarded over £176,718 to install the new carbon-cutting heat pump to power its media school from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

The fund is managed on the Department's behalf by

Salix - as part Phase 3b of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, aimed at supporting the public sector switch to sustainable energy sources.

Leicester named the fifth best creative hotspot in the UK

ADOBE says the UK arts scene is booming, with more than 2.3 million people employed in creative industries and so they wanted to identify the best. Only Brighton, London, Edinburgh and Manchester finished above Leicester in the survey.

The results are a real shot in the arm for De Montfort University Leicester, which is a hotbed of creative talent with thousands of students studying subjects such as fashion and textiles, performing arts, music technology, interior and product design, computer game art, fine art and literature.

Many graduates have remained in the city, setting up creative hubs to contribute to the thriving arts scene or creating new arts-based businesses.

Heritage Sundays turn spotlight on DMU herb garden

Students are on a mission to introduce more people to the herb garden at the heart of De Montfort University Leicester (DMU)'s campus this weekend after discovering it for themselves.

Three Fine Arts students are supporting DMU Museum's team with the launch of [this year's series of Heritage Sundays](#), when historic places across the city not normally available to visit are open to the public.

DMU students join forces to tackle litter in and



around the city of Leicester's waterways

STUDENTS from De Montfort University have helped fill 35 bags worth of rubbish from around a local river to help clean up the city's waterways.

A group of volunteers from the university helped clear piles of waste from the banks of the River Soar, including shopping trolleys, a bike, a grandfather clock and car keys.

More than 20 students joined forces with Leicester City Council and the Canal and River Trust for the annual litter pick, timed to coincide with COP29.

DMU researchers attend COP 29 to take their research into tackling plastic waste to African governments

TWO researchers from De Montfort University

Leicester have travelled to the world's most important climate and sustainability event – COP29 – to take their work on tackling plastic waste to African government representatives.

Silifat Abimbola Okoya, known as Abi, is a Researcher in Sustainable Development at DMU, specialising in the circular economy and quality education. She is joined by Muyiwa Oyinlola, DMU Professor of Innovation for Sustainable Development and a senior fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

They are at COP29 IN Baku, Azerbaijan, as part of a consortium with the University of Warwick to reveal more about the Garbage In Value Out (GIVO) project. GIVO centres in Nigeria are set up as community hubs to pick up plastic waste from residents and process it into recyclable products.

The centres use digital tools to ensure the operation is smart and efficient and can track how much waste is being processed.

DMU's 2024 arts and heritage programme is one of the most successful on record

MORE than 90 arts and heritage events and festivals were staged at De Montfort University during 2024 – with virtually all open to the general public and free of charge.

Events ranged from inaugural lectures to arts festivals and arts industry networking events to re-enactments of Romeo and Juliet in what was one of the busiest and most successful years on record. Among the biggest and most high-profile events of the year were...

Cultural eXchange: A total of 30 separate events



took place at the end of February at this annual public arts festival. **DMU Pride:** The 10th annual DMU Pride was held throughout February. **Riverside Festival:** De Montfort University's campus alongside the River Soar and Grand Union Canal hosted the 2024 event for the first time with 40,000 visitors. **Black History Month:** A celebration of the heritage, history, arts, culture and accomplishments of African, Caribbean and South Asian diasporas in the UK.

Pro Vice-Chancellor calls for construction sector to focus on UN's Sustainable Development Goals

DE MONTFORT University's Pro Vice Chancellor for Research and Business Innovation, Professor Mike Kagioglou, has been unveiled as the new president of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB). Throughout his year in office, Mike plans to use his platform as CIOB President to drive greater focus on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Speaking at CIOB's annual Members' Forum event held in Cape Town, South Africa, Professor Kagioglou said the sector needs to focus on targets like building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and

sustainable industrialisation and fostering innovation.

“In 2015 – what seems like a lifetime ago – the United Nations adopted the SDGs to guide how, as a global community, we tackle humanity’s biggest challenges,” he said.

DMU RESEARCH ON SDG 11

Visual Pollution and Its Impact on the Built Environment: Resilient City (Luis Fernando Zapata Montalvo and Douglas Aghimien)

Public space can be understood as where public life develops and where inhabitants can freely express themselves and exercise their citizenship rights. The public space is a visual synthesis comprising elements located in buildings and spaces, both public and private.

However, the advertising industry has found ways to privatize the exploitation of the public space. Although there are regulations that make possible the organization of the urban image and regulate the commercialization of these spaces, in some cases, the number of advertising elements (billboards) in the built environment prevents people from appreciating less and less the natural environment, which permanently competes with advertisements for commercial products, political propaganda or services.

In the field of the right to the city, it is pertinent to discuss the right to an obstacle-free landscape. Therefore, this paper seeks to understand how outdoor advertising interferes with the inhabitant's visual experience of urban space and how this influences their perception of the city and its image.

It presents a reflection on how outdoor advertising affects the degradation of public space in communities.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/e06146ea-4555-4b27-8d8f-6bbafa8fc506>

Examining Cardboard as a Construction Material for Sustainable Building Practices in Lima, Peru

(A. H. Taki and Daniel Ikemiyashiro Higa)

This research work aimed to analyse the impact and potential of cardboard as a construction material, as well as cultural aspects and sustainable construction regulations, in the context of Lima, Peru.

The study employed a mixed research methodological approach, including three case studies from Japan, the Netherlands, and the UK, online interviews, and surveys with British, Polish, and Peruvian architects.

Simulations carried out with EnergyPlus confirmed that cardboard has an optimal performance that can be a great complement or variation to traditional materials to reduce the carbon footprint and could meet the U-value requirements established in the construction regulations.

Since it has low thermal conductivity and good acoustic insulation, it is recyclable and generates fewer CO2 emissions, and it is economical, accessible, versatile, and light in use. For example, from a technical point of view, when used as thermal insulation, this element outperforms other conventional materials due to its cellular structure, which traps air, a poor conductor of heat.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/4747ece8-eebe-4d40-9d21-0d17f9f811ba>

The Resilience of the Construction Supply Chain to Urban Flooding (David Proverbs et al)

Flooding is one of the most destructive natural hazards and major flooding events are happening more frequently in many parts of the world due to climate change and urbanisation.

Generally, the occurrence of urban flooding is known to impact supply chains, with the supply chain in the construction sector being more vulnerable due to its particular characteristics.

As such is important that the supply chain in construction is resilient to the complexity, suddenness and destructiveness of flooding.

Drawing on a synthesis of the literature and the views of experts, this study identifies and then evaluates the key factors affecting the resilience of the construction supply chain based on the five dimensions of prediction, resistance, adaptation, recovery and optimisation.

The findings provide robust insights into the factors that influence the resilience of the urban construction supply chain.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/ed996d63-5fb7-4b13-ad66-fadbfb0ab02>



UN PROGRESS REPORT ON SDG 12

The picture on progress in meeting targets on SDG 12 is mixed with 40% of the targets set to be achieved, however, progress has stagnated in a further 40% and actually regressed on the 2015 figures in the remaining 20%.

The UN report for 2024 states: “Countries have made strides in meeting obligations under international environmental agreements on hazardous waste and other chemicals and implementing comprehensive approaches to combat environmental degradation. Patterns of unsustainable consumption and production persist, however. In 2022, global food waste reached 1.05 billion metric tons, yet only nine of 193 countries included food waste in their nationally determined contributions on climate change actions”.

DMU NEWS ON SDG 12

DMU unveils textiles innovation at UK's largest sustainability showcase

RESEARCHERS and academics from Textile Engineering and Materials Research Group (TEAM) of De Montfort University Leicester (DMU) were part of the Expo's innovation zone, featuring collaborations which could pave the way for alternative materials and solutions that could reduce the environmental impact of textile production and support the textile industry transition to circularity.

At the Future Fabrics Expo, the successful research collaboration between DMU and Loughborough University led by Professor Jinsong Shen showcased innovations using laser technology to apply dyes directly to textile fabrics requiring far less energy, wa-

ter and chemicals than conventional methods, and biotechnology using enzymes to dye textiles without using traditional premanufactured dyes as an alternative to conventional dyeing methods saving energy and reducing effluent waste.

Textile Design student to represent DMU on global stage

RUN by the Society of Dyers and Colourists, the [SDC International Design Competition](#) is renowned for giving undergraduate students a platform to showcase their talents globally.

As the UK finalist, Robyn will enter the global grand final in September, and the winner will receive a £1,000 prize and international media exposure.

Robyn has impressed the judges so far with the sustainable application of colour in her work. Her submission - The Trendless Trend - is inspired by timeless designs, and prioritises responsible consumption and production.

Enhancing sustainable product availability at De Montfort Students Union

DE MONTFORT Students' Union is committed to improving both the understanding and accessibility of sustainable products for students. In line with this commitment, in September 2024, DSU transitioned its entire clothing range to a new supplier providing garments made from recycled cotton.

Efforts were made to ensure these products remained affordably priced, allowing students to make sustainable purchasing choices without financial strain.

In collaboration with DMU's Fashion BA programme,

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



a project was developed to explore the role of sustainable products in a modern world.

Advancing sustainable consumption through research and community engagement

RESEARCH exploring the relationship between sustainable clothing consumption and consumer well-being, examining how eco-conscious practices can enhance happiness and life satisfaction.

This is the first issue to bridge psychology, consumer studies, environmental science, fashion design, management, and marketing, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue on sustainable consumption and well-being. Partnerships with researchers from the Global South, including Malaysia, have explored generational perspectives on sustainable clothing consumption, providing cultural insights to inform global sustainability initiatives.

Initiatives such as Stories of Our Wardrobe invite community members to share personal narratives behind their clothing, fostering emotional connections that encourage mindful consumption.

DMU RESEARCH ON SDG 12

Enzyme-based textile coloration

(Chetna Prajapati, Jinsong Shen et al)

Textile coloration is typically characterised as a resource intensive production process that requires the use of large amounts of water, high concentrations of processing chemicals, high temperatures and long processing times, commonly resulting in high energy consumption and effluent waste.

The research presented gives an overview of current studies that investigated the use of two specific oxidoreductase enzymes, laccase (EC 1.10.3.2) and peroxidase (EC1.11.1.7) to develop a one-step coloration process.

The research demonstrates the potential offered by laccase and peroxidase as transformative tools to replace conventional industrial coloration and surface pattern design processes with biological systems, which offer important advantages of simpler processing using milder conditions that eliminate additional chemical use and reduce energy consumption. The adoption of enzyme-based biotechnologies could help the textile coloration industry transition towards a sustainable future.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/0c5a81bc-f082-44fb-ac00-91bc59e35420>



BIG STAGE: DMU research was on show at the Future Fabrics Expo event during 2024

Catalysing Environmental Action: A governance framework for enhancing individual participation in Sub-Saharan Africa's Plastic Circular Economy
(Muyiwa Oyinlola et al)

Plastic waste poses a significant challenge to achieving sustainable production and consumption of resources, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where effective governance and waste management systems are lacking. In this paper, we develop an empirical understanding of the influence of public governance system on promoting circular economy (CE) for plastic actions among individuals.

We found that a governance system that supports CE practices and exhibits governance efficiency is

positively associated with individuals' actions supporting CE for plastic. The awareness of government policies, laws and regulations, institutions, processes, and programmes have a significant impact on individuals' engagement in plastic circularity practices. The paper's theoretical and governance implications highlight the relevance of public governance in shaping action towards a CE for plastic at the individual level.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/9ed6ccc2-086e-49bf-b048-15a88807d476>

Development of enzyme-based bioprocesses for recycling and reuse of wool blended fabrics to support the textiles industry transition to a circular system
(Jinsong Shen et al)

Enzyme-based biotechnology has demonstrated its potential to provide innovative solutions to improve textile performance properties and reduce the negative impact of textile production on the environment.

In this current research, enzyme-based biotechnology processes were explored for recycling and reuse of wool/bast fibre blended fabrics from post-consumer and/or manufacturing waste streams. Individual fibre components were separated and recovered for re-processing back into yarns for fabric production.

The current research has also demonstrated the potential to extract and reuse dyes from waste textiles for textile coloration. These research demonstrate potential opportunities to reduce the environmental impact of textile production and support the global textile industry transition to a circular system.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/c3d6f11c-6aaa-4065-86ba-46b3b29486fc>

UN PROGRESS REPORT ON SDG 13

Progress on this SDG is particularly stark with 65% of the targets set for 2030 showing only marginal progress and a further 35% showing actual regression on the 2015 baseline.

The UN verdict on SDG 13 is stark in their 2024 report: "Climate records were shattered in 2023 as the climate crisis accelerated in real time. Rising temperatures have not abated and global greenhouse gas emissions continue to climb. Communities worldwide are suffering from extreme weather and increasingly frequent and more intense disasters, destroying lives and livelihoods daily. Meanwhile, fossil fuel subsidies hit a record high. The global community faces a critical juncture. All countries must urgently speed up economy-wide, low-carbon transformations to avoid escalating economic and social costs.

The road map to halting warming at 1.5°C and avoiding the worst of climate chaos is clear but cannot afford any delays or half measures. Drastic reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions must take place by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050."

DMU NEWS ON SDG 13

Staff and students unite during COP 29 to celebrate sustainability successes

EXCEPTIONAL contributions to sustainability by both staff and students at De Montfort University were celebrated at the third annual climate awards last week.

More than 100 individuals from across the university were nominated for awards stretching from healthcare, arts and culture, to enterprise, and engi-

neering. The nominations highlighted the wide range of innovative research, teaching, and campus initiatives at DMU driving sustainability forward.

DMU students join forces for COP 29 to fight pollution of waterways

STUDENTS from De Montfort University have helped fill 35 bags worth of rubbish from around a local river to help clean up the city's waterways.

A group of volunteers from the university helped clear piles of waste from the banks of the River Soar, including shopping trolleys, a bike, a grandfather clock and car keys.

More than 20 students joined forces with Leicester City Council and the Canal and River Trust for the annual litter pick, timed to coincide with the COP29 climate talks in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Two weeks and more than 20 events to mark COP 29 summit

MORE than 500 staff and students at De Montfort University took part in event during COP 29 at Baku helping to driving meaningful local action in line with global climate discussions.

More than 20 events were held including "29 Ideas for COP29" initiative, which invited the university community to submit proposals for sustainable campus improvements, with over 100 people participating in this collaborative effort to make local change happen.

DMU also launched its SDG Fellows programme, aiming to build a network of 100 academics and staff dedicated to advancing the UN's SDGs.



DMU researchers attend COP 29 to take their research into tackling plastic waste to African governments

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Silifat Abimbola Okoya, known as Abi, is a Researcher in Sustainable Development at DMU, specialising in the circular economy and quality education. She is joined by Muyiwa Oyinlola, DMU Professor of Innovation for Sustainable Development and a senior fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

They are at COP29 – which this year is being hosted in Baku, the capital city of Azerbaijan – as part of a

consortium with the University of Warwick to reveal more about the Garbage In Value Out (GIVO) project. GIVO centres in Nigeria are set up as community hubs to pick up plastic waste from residents and process it into recyclable products.

Can old electric car parts bring green power to energy-deprived parts of Africa?

AN INTERNATIONAL research project plans to turn a growing global stock of old electric vehicle parts into affordable renewable energy for sub-Saharan Africa, where 50% of the population still have no electricity. The £3.5 million project brings together UK based researchers from De Montfort University Leicester (DMU), the University of Warwick, and Chatham House.

They are working in collaboration with universities, governments, and industries from Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa and Namibia to address these pressing energy challenges.

The new project, Circular Microgrids: Circular Economy Pathways for Renewable Microgrids in Africa, led by Muyiwa Oyinlola, Professor of Innovation for Sustainable Development at De Montfort University Leicester (DMU), focuses on repurposing electric vehicle components—such as lithium-ion batteries, power converters, and motors—for renewable energy microgrids.

DMU highly commended in International Green Gown Awards

A MISSION to decolonise and decarbonise De Montfort University Leicester (DMU) has earned the

institution a highly commended award at the prestigious International Green Gown Awards.

The Decolonising and Decarbonising DMU entry highlighted the work to challenge racism and build an anti-racist university that creates fairness for all staff and students and showed how this was incorporated into the work of DMU's Sustainable Development Team.

The project was launched to dismantle racist barriers and structures so that staff and students could succeed, by challenging racism, changing cultures and behaviours and improving representation, progression and talent.

New sustainable heating system slashes university carbon output

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DMU ranked second most eco-friendly university in the UK

DE MONTFORT University Leicester (DMU) is celebrating a significant milestone after being ranked as the second most environmentally friendly university in the country.

Announced today in The Guardian, DMU was awarded a first-class degree for the 13th consecutive year in the annual People and Planet University League, in recognition of its environmental and ethical performance.

£3m research to assess global impact of climate change on human health

RESEARCHERS have begun work on a pioneering study to investigate how climate change is affecting healthcare system resilience around the world.

The £3m project, called RESHAPE – RESilience in HeAlth Post-Extreme weather events – brings together academics and communities from around the globe to explore the different ways in which people are responding to environmental challenges that affect hospitals and healthcare providers.

The team are working on the ground in Malawi, Vietnam, Tanzania, and Uganda, each of which faces an increase in extreme weather events associated with climate change and threaten the provision of critical healthcare to millions of people.

DMU RESEARCH INTO SDG 13

Perspectives on Indigenous well-being and climate change adaptation

(Sergio Jarillo and Carlos Crivelli)

Though it is often said that climate change is a risk to people's well-being, the specific ways in which it affects people's well-being is still poorly understood, especially as it relates to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

We find that, despite the growing interest on the topic, most of the articles do not include definitions of well-being. We then propose an approach informed by emic values to better understand how climate change may affect well-being in Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. We conclude that, given the increasing recognition of well-being as a fundamen-

tal marker of successful adaptation, well-being should be central to climate change research and policymaking, but for this to be of benefit to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities context-specific understandings of well-being are necessary. <https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/5438c600-1cad-43e2-b22f-6242bf7daa7c>

Picturing climate: Steps Towards Embedding Artistic Practice into Climate Change Research (Mark Kasumovic)

Much of the science that predicts and models climate systems and change is not typically seen by publics and therefore remains mystified in popular culture, hidden behind specialist terminologies. This lack of engagement with climate science could be improved by introducing new ways for climate scientists to engage with the public by employing the creativity found within the visual arts.

This paper proposes that a potential way to achieve deeper cultural communication of climate science is to establish ways of demystifying and 'picturing' the complexities of climate by directly embedding artistic practice into climate change research, employing an interdisciplinary approach to exploring, encouraging and enhancing collaboration between visual artists and climate science communities.

This can result in a greater connection between climate science and communities by bridging the gap between specialist knowledge and public understanding of critical issues via a visual language. <https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/4900b6cc-7714-446f-b3a5-0abeb4331daf>

Emerging Perspectives on Diverse Nature-Oriented Sustainability Strategies

(Abhishek Tiwary and Neil Brown)

Increasing levels of nature-oriented sustainability strategies (NOSSs) are being recognized as offering solutions to combat climate change at scale, both through transformative infrastructure and autonomous technology innovations.

This paper presents a synopsis of the mainstream literature covering the emerging trends from the last two decades across two broad trajectories of NOSS initiatives—"nature-inspired" (NI) - and "nature-based solution" (NBS)-oriented approaches.

We find ambitious levels of sustainability-led developments are driving NOSS initiatives beyond 2010; in particular, the increased level of NI approaches in the field of chemical processing, material structure, and renewable energy.

Likewise, there has been rapid growth in NBS approaches in the last decade from a systems perspective, reducing the level of grey infrastructure by offering sustainable alternatives to the ecologically destructive technologies.

However, we identify some crucial red herrings to the main-streaming of NOSSs as a 'true sustainability solution', such as the inherent challenges in their scaling-up, operation and management, and in ensuring ecologically and culturally adaptive interventions across different global contexts.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/4fba42b8-8d92-49a5-b6e1-ea9c7b984ddb>

UN PROGRESS REPORT ON SDG 14

A total of 40% of the targets set for this SDG have regressed from the 2015 baseline and a further 30% of the targets have only made marginal progress. Only 10% of the targets set to be achieved by 2030 are on schedule to be reached, while a further 20% show moderate progress.

The UN report states: "Efforts to address the mounting concerns remain uneven. Key actions include implementing sustainable fishing practices, expanding marine protected areas to safeguard key biodiversity areas, increasing capacities to monitor ocean health and addressing the pollution that is choking waterways.

"Comprehensive global action is under way, yet it must accelerate".

DMU NEWS ON SDG 14

DMU students join forces to tackle litter in and around the city's waterways

Students from De Montfort University have helped fill 35 bags worth of rubbish from around a local river to help clean up the city's waterways.

A group of volunteers from the university helped clear piles of waste from the banks of the River Soar, including shopping trolleys, a bike, a grandfather clock and car keys.

More than 20 students joined forces with Leicester City Council and the Canal and River Trust for the annual litter pick, timed to coincide with COP 29

DMU RESEARCH ON SDG 14

Oil spill classification using an autoencoder and

hyperspectral technology (Maria Gema Carrasco-Garcia et al)

Hyperspectral technology has been playing a leading role in monitoring oil spills in marine environments, an issue of international concern.

In the case of monitoring oil spills in local areas, hyperspectral technology of small dimensions becomes the ideal solution.

This research explores the use of encoded hyperspectral signatures to develop automated classifiers capable of discriminating between polluted and clean water, and even distinguishing between various types of oil.

[Oil spill classification using an autoencoder and hyperspectral technology](#)

Sociocultural valuation of human impacts on marine ecosystems: The case of the National Marine Park of Alonissos in Greece

(Maren Myrto Brodersen et al)

In the present study, we combine a choice experiment for the valuation of related ecosystem services with the Cumulative Impact Assessment method, to estimate the value of human impacts on three conservation priority habitats (the seagrass meadows, the gorgonian forests and the coralligenous reefs) of the National Marine Park of Alonissos Northern Sporades in Greece.

The results indicate significant values and thus raise flags for more effective decisions related to environmental policies, such as the Programmes of Measures under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/c71403ac-c100-4be8-b101-f724e9d3b167>



Sustainable Environmental Monitoring: Multistage Fusion Algorithm for Remotely Sensed Underwater Super-Resolution Image Enhancement and Classification (Wad Ghaban)

Oceans and seas cover more than 70% of the Earth's surface. If compared with the land mass there are a lot of unexplored locations, a wealth of natural resources, and diverse ocean creatures that are inaccessible to us humans. Underwater rovers and vehicles play a vital role in discovering these resources, yet limited visibility in deep waters and technological constraints impede underwater exploration

To address these issues, advanced image super-resolution and enhancement techniques are crucial for reliable resource identification, species recognition, and underwater ecosystem study.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/9b234f2e-7597-4df6-8b67-96d0e54ecb0a>

UN PROGRESS REPORT ON SDG 15

A total of 40% of the targets for this SDG are either stagnating or actually regressing on the aims set back in 2015 (20% regression, 20% stagnation).

There has been only marginal progress on 40% of the targets and 20% are on track to achieve the goals set for 2030.

The UN 2024 report states: 'Global trends underscore persistent challenges to biodiversity and forests, despite their critical roles as planetary life-support systems. Global forest area continues to decline, primarily due to agricultural expansion, despite notable progress in sustainable forest management. "Alarming, species are silently becoming extinct, the protection of key biodiversity areas has stalled and global illicit wildlife trafficking has steadily increased, posing serious threats to biodiversity and the benefits it provides to people."

DMU NEWS ON SDG 15

Innovative design to help UK bee population puts DMU student in finals of national design competition

THIS year, students were invited to design independently powered products made primarily of plastics, capable of being used off-grid and targeted at either the domestic or sports and leisure markets. Joe's design is a smart beehive which can monitor and provide information about the bees' wellbeing. The device checks on the beehive environment – including temperature and humidity – as this can affect the level of productivity.

The more productive the bees are, the more pollina-

tion takes place and the more plants reproduce. The exact details of how the product works are to remain secret at the moment due to possible patents.

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DMU RESEARCH ON SDG 15

Forest Fire Detection Utilizing Ghost Swin Transformer with Attention and Auxiliary Geometric Loss (Francois Siewe et al)

FOREST fires are a devastating natural disaster. Existing fire detection models face limitations in dataset availability, multi-scale feature extraction, and locating obscured or small flames and smoke. To address these issues, we develop a dataset containing real and synthetic forest fire images, sourced from a UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) perspective. Additionally, we propose the Ghost Convolution Swin Transformer (GCST) module to extract multi-scale flame and smoke features from different receptive fields by integrating parallel Ghost convolution and Swin Transformer.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/9aa7441d-3a24-4199-811a-068c2382dd4f>



Adapting genetic algorithms for multifunctional landscape decisions: a theoretical case study on wild bees and farmers in the UK

(Ellen Knight, Shengxiang Yang et al)

Spatial modelling approaches to aid land-use decisions which benefit both wildlife and humans are often limited to the comparison of pre-determined landscape scenarios, which may not reflect the true optimum landscape for any end-user. Furthermore, the needs of wildlife are often under-represented when considered alongside human financial interests in these approaches.

Our investigation suggests that optimisation set-up (decision-unit scales, traditional choice of a single biodiversity metric) can bias outcomes towards human-centric solutions.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/f365193c-db97-4c0f-8934-7024e1181fd1>

DE MONTFORT University has been the global academic hub for the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 16 for the past six years. In 2019, the university was first awarded the honour and in 2022 was given a second three-year term. DMU is the only university in the UK to be a global academic hub in the period from 2019-2024. This has meant a particular emphasis for the university on SDG 16, but first our reports start with the United Nations' verdict on progress from their 2024 report on SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

UN PROGRESS REPORT ON SDG 16

There has only been moderate progress on 15% of the targets for this SDG based on the 2015 base line and a further 48% are showing only marginal progress. In a further 32% of targets, progress has actually stagnated at the 2015 levels. The UN report on SDG 16 states; "Rising conflicts and violent organised crime persist around the world, causing immense human suffering and hampering sustainable development. The number of forcibly displaced people reached an unprecedented 120 million in May 2024. Civilian casualties in armed conflicts surged by 72 per cent in 2023.

"Corruption continues to divert resources from sustainable development, with one in five people reporting being asked to pay or having paid a bribe to a public official in the last 12 months. With one third of prisoners unsentenced worldwide, achieving just judicial processes and improving prison conditions is imperative.

"All SDGs depend on establishing lasting peace and

preventing violent conflicts. Urgent action is needed to combat corruption and organised crime, strengthen the rule of law and access to justice, build effective and inclusive governance institutions, and protect rights and fundamental freedoms".

DMU NEWS ON SDG 16

More than 48 countries involved in DMU-led work to prevent miscarriages of justice

AN INTERNATIONAL project to improve the way in which suspects are interviewed and end unethical interrogations now has more than 200 members from 48 different countries.

ImpleMéndez – led by De Montfort University's Professor Dave Walsh – has gone from strength to strength since it was first launched in October 2023.

Its aim is to support the implementation of the Mendez Principles, a set of guidelines supported by the United Nations to ensure effective interviewing and prevent ill-treatment and forced confessions around the world. The principles were named after the former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Juan Mendez, who convened a team of international experts in creating the guide.

Pointless programme leads to seizure of 300 knives

RESEARCH on round-ended, less-lethal kitchen knives presents a viable alternative to traditional pointed-tip blades, contributing to knife crime reduction efforts. These knives maintain culinary utility while minimising accidental injuries and reducing their value in violent crime.



Findings have been disseminated to key stakeholders, including the National Police Chiefs' Council, the National Knife Crime Working Group, the Forensic Capability Network Police Knowledge Hub, and various UK police Violence Reduction Units (VRUs). As a result of this research, the Kent and Medway VRU introduced *Pointless*, a Safer Knife Replacement Scheme integrated into their Standard Operating Procedure. Since its implementation in 2024, *Pointless* has engaged 70 households and led to the seizure of over 300 pointed kitchen knives.

Forensic Science researchers gather for a major conference at DMU

A HOME Office initiative which is building a new national DNA database, latest techniques using dental records in criminal investigations and research into the social impact of forensic science were all under

discussion at a conference hosted by De Montfort University.

The East Midlands Forensic Network conference, hosted at DMU's Leicester Castle Business School, saw academics, Home Office representatives, industry experts and the police force's East Midlands Special Operations Unit come together to look at the latest research advancing forensic investigations.

New hate crime research will lead to more support for victims, say researchers

SUPPORT for victims of hate crime is set to be improved through recommendations made by researchers at De Montfort University.

Experts from the university have completed a two-and-a-half year project to investigate ways in which services for victims of hate crime in Walsall could be improved.

Kim Sadique, Associate Professor in Community & Criminal Justice, and Nikki Bailey, Senior Lecturer in Criminal Justice and Policing, worked with social enterprise Black Country Innovate CIC to survey people affected by hate crime.

The researchers' recommendations will inform the next iteration of the Walsall Hate Crime Reduction Initiative, which brings together individuals, community organisations, places of worship, Walsall Council, and West Midlands Police in the effort to reduce all forms of hate crime across the town.

DMU Academic Contributes to Exhibition on Kosovan War

THE work of a De Montfort University academic is contributing to a major exhibition commemorating



KEY POST: Kim Sadique has been appointed to a Remembering Srebrenica advisory group

the end of the 1998-99 Kosovo War. Lala Meredith-Vula, Professor in Art and Photography at DMU, has contributed some of her photography pieces to Reporting House, which opened on 10th June in the Kosovan capital Prishtina. Reporting House creates a space for contemplation, dialogue, and catharsis, honouring the memory of those affected by the war in Kosovo while advocating for future peace in the world. It offers the opportunity for Kosovans and tourists the opportunity to learn more about the conflict, which displaced 90% of Kosovar Albanian population and culminated in 11 weeks

of NATO airstrikes which eventually led to the Yugoslavian withdrawal.

Counter-Narrative Films helping to combat extremism

DE MONTFORT University's Professor Jason Lee has written and produced multiple counter-narrative films aimed at combating extremism and disinformation on immigration, vaccines, and climate change.

These films, are being used in ongoing psychological focus groups across six countries.

Evolution Film, a global film organisation driven by SDG 16, was founded to advance inclusivity in the media industry. Evolution Film has provided work opportunities to hundreds of individuals traditionally marginalized from the industry, including neuro-diverse professionals.

The impact of this initiative has directly informed policy recommendations stemming from the House of Lords committee on disability and work.

DMU Academic Appointed to Key Advisory Position

KIM Sadique, Associate Professor in Genocide Prevention and Education at DMU has been appointed as Chair of the Academic Advisory Board for Remembering Srebrenica which is the UK Government funded national charity which educates about the consequences of hate and commemorates the Bosnian Genocide.

The charity has educated over 200,000 young people and created 1,500 Community Champions who stand up to hate and help build more cohesive communities.

The Academic Advisory Board is made up of experts

in the fields of genocide studies, education, history and politics. It works to provide critical scholarship, advising on the creation of educational materials to support the work of the charity.

Virtual Srebrenica Room Launches at DMU

AN IMMERSIVE new digital learning space created to commemorate the 1995 Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia was recently "opened" at De Montfort University by his Excellency Mr Osman Topcagic, Bosnian Ambassador to the United Kingdom. A collaboration between DMU, Cardiff and Vale College, the technology company mXreality, and Remembering Srebrenica Wales, the Virtual Bosnia Room is a virtual reality education environment which teaches users about the massacre, in which more than 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys systematically murdered by units of the Bosnian Serb Army in July 1995. In 2005, the massacre became the first legally established case of genocide since the Second World War. The Room presents three stages of the atrocity – before, during and after – so that learners can contextualise how identity-based hate narratives can culminate in genocide and learn of the consequences of orchestrated violence.

Thanks to Stephen I have a voice, I have power: DMU celebrates five years of the Stephen Lawrence Research Centre

WHEN the SLRC opened five years ago, one of the aims it had was to create Stephen Lawrence Ambassadors – young people who would actively engage in learning about social justice and racial issues, sharing



VOLUNTEERING: DMU students at a Berlin refugee centre as part of the Project Atefa programme

what they know and learn with others. It was a way of ensuring that the murder of 18-year-old Stephen Lawrence, who was killed in a racist attack in 1993, had a positive legacy in society. At first, there were just ten such ambassadors. Today there are more than 200 in schools across the city and county of Leicestershire. More than 100 of them came together to celebrate this milestone, sharing stories of how it has transformed their lives for the better, filling the room with a unified message: "Thanks to Stephen, I have a voice."

The SLRC was officially opened on the DMU campus in 2019 by Stephen's mother Baroness Doreen Lawrence, the former Chancellor of DMU. It focuses on giving students and young people a voice to help create a society which treats everyone with fairness and respect.

DMU students' trip to New York inspires them to take the lead in helping UN reach Sustainable Development Goals

THREE students from De Montfort University Leicester (DMU) have been on a trip to the United Nations HQ in New York and presented their ideas and views on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The team, which also included Sherilyn Pereira, the acting Deputy Director of the Stephen Lawrence Research Centre, attended high-level talks and presented their work at DMU to representatives of United Nations Academic Impact.

Before heading to New York all three students had expressed a frustration about just how slowly global governments are moving to address the SDGs.

Inspiration behind refugee project visits DMU

STUDENTS inspired by the story of Afghanistan refugee Atefa Waseq set up a project at De Montfort University aimed at changing the negative narrative surrounding asylum seeker and migrants.

Atefa, a professor in her home country, was forced to flee the gender-based discrimination under Taliban rule and went to Berlin, Germany.

It was there students on a DMU fact-finding trip heard her story and came back to Leicester and established Project Atefa, an initiative dedicated to sharing the stories of refugees and asylum seekers, with the aim of reshaping narratives surrounding displaced communities.

Now, Atefa has visited DMU's Leicester campus and met students. During an open discussion with social work students, she shed light on the challenges faced by refugees, including the legal, social, and emotional hardships of seeking safety in a new

DMU RESEARCH INTO SDG 16

Supporting and challenging hate in an online discussion of a controversial refugee policy

(Simon Goodman and Abi Locke)

In this research paper, a discursive/rhetorical approach is applied to an online debate about a controversial refugee policy in the UK containing 586 comments, to address the question: How are arguably hateful arguments, or those challenging hateful arguments, supported and challenged in the context of an internet discussion about a controversial refugee policy?

Analysis demonstrated that support for posts is

shown to come in the form of additional points to bolster existing ones. Opposition to posts took the form of simple rejections and counterpoints, sometimes taking a three-part structure of (a) simple rejection, (b) counterpoint and (c) upgrade, but also included insults, ridiculing and name calling. Discursive and rhetorical analyses have been shown to have potential to understand online behaviour offering more detail than relying on anonymity to explain controversial and hateful speech.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/f48cae9e-5179-4ebb-86e6-abba0d4ab961>

From Evidentiary Epistemologies to Empowered Solidarities – A Pedagogy for Social Change in Genocide Education (Kim Sadique)

Encounters with 'difficult knowledge' (Britzman, 1998), that which is uncomfortable or unsettling, such as anti-racist, settler-colonial, or genocide education, have the potential for affective disempowerment of learners (Worsham, 2001) or can be the platform for encouraging radical action. Exploring educational experiences in memorial museums at sites of mass atrocities (Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum and Srebrenica Memorial Centre) from the perspective of both educators and learners, this paper presents a Pedagogy for Social Change in Genocide Education (Sadique, 2024).

It argues that genocide education requires evidence, affectivity, memory formation, reflection and empowerment for learners to be moved from the less radical 'Never Forget' to a more action-oriented position (Zembylas, 2014).

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/d7776051-b163-4834-a15e-33f57893e226>

Learning from Genocide: A narrative study of guiding experiences at sites of mass atrocities in Poland and Bosnia (Kim Sadique)

The pedagogic purposes of memorial museums are to provide a moral education where visitors develop individual agency and responsibility to build a better future. However, personal transformation and active citizenship is underexplored in the literature. This study applied a critical social lens to explore the guiding experiences of visitors and educators at memorial museums situated in 'authentic sites', namely Auschwitz Birkenau State Museum, Poland and Srebrenica Memorial Centre, Bosnia.

Students discussed the centrality of both personal and dialogic reflection to make sense of what they saw and heard. Guide-educators drew attention to gaps in content in regard to the socio-political context in which genocide occurred and the prominence of victim perspectives and this appeared to be linked to the way they guided – through narration of the space rather than in the space, and this differentiation identified during the study presents new knowledge.

Moreover, individual agency and 'action' were only evident in survivor-educator delivery. A further original contribution is demonstrated in the development of a comprehensive model of genocide education – A Pedagogy for Social Change

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/c8ea2b47-dfcd-470d-98ec-9ad5e8c90a40>

UN PROGRESS REPORT ON SDG 17

A total of 30% of the targets in SDG 17 are on track to be achieved, or have already been achieved while a further 25% have made moderate progress on the 2015 baseline. However, 20% have made only marginal progress, a further 12.5% have stagnated and another 12.5% have actually regressed on the 2015 level. The UN report 2024 states: “Developing countries face a \$4 trillion annual investment gap to achieve the SDGs. Foreign direct investment flows to developing countries have decreased while gains in remittances and ODA have been modest. The Secretary-General has urged countries to support an SDG Stimulus of at least \$500 billion annually.

“External debt stock levels have remained unprecedently high in developing countries. About 60 per cent of low-income countries are at high risk of debt distress or already experiencing it. Approximately 67 per cent of the world’s population was online in 2023, up 69 per cent from 2015. Investment in infrastructure and affordable Internet access for the remaining 2.6 billion people is crucial for inclusive development”.

DMU NEWS ON SDG 17

Grant will expand DMU project to create anti-racist schools in Leicester and Leicestershire

A RESEARCH project which is working to create anti-racist environments in schools has been awarded a grant which will be used to offer the De Montfort University programme to primary-age pupils.

Teaching to Transform and the Racial Literacy Project – run by DMU’s Stephen Lawrence Research Centre –

have been a huge success in secondary schools around Leicester and Leicestershire.

New research to make medicine cheaper and more effective for patients

A £1.1 MILLION project could make it easier and cheaper for pharmaceutical companies to develop new medicines that work effectively for patients. De Montfort University’s Professor Mingzhong Li and Professor Walkiria Schlindwein were awarded more than £674,890 by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) for the project, working alongside a team at the University of Surrey which received £409,247.

Can old electric car parts bring green power to energy-deprived parts of Africa?

AN INTERNATIONAL research project plans to turn a growing global stock of old electric vehicle parts into affordable renewable energy for sub-Saharan Africa, where 50% of the population still have no electricity. The £3.5 million project brings together UK based researchers from De Montfort University Leicester (DMU), the University of Warwick, and Chatham House.

They are working in collaboration with universities, governments, and industries from Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa and Namibia to address these pressing energy challenges.

New DMU-Cuba network to make society more inclusive for disabled people

INNOVATIONS to help make society more inclusive for disabled people are set to arise from a new part-



nership at De Montfort University Leicester . For 18 months, education experts at DMU and the Universities of Nottingham and Sheffield Hallam, have been working with counterparts and disabled-led organisations in Cuba to share ideas on how to ensure disabled people are at the heart of inclusive social development.

The relationship has already led to many innovations, including the creation of methods for developing sustainable and inclusive children’s playgrounds, and new Easy Read materials about finding and navigating employment, co-created with learning-disabled workers.

DMU research in India, and the links being forged with the South Asian super power, celebrated at two-day conference

FROM creating prosthetic limbs out of recycled bottles to helping tea growers in Assam tackle climate change, dozens of exciting and life-changing DMU research projects are happening right now in India.

And this week, the huge range of work taking place between De Montfort University Leicester academics and communities across India was highlighted and celebrated at a conference organised by the DMU-India Research Hub.

More than 48 countries involved in DMU-led work to prevent miscarriages of justice

AN INTERNATIONAL project to improve the way in which suspects are interviewed and end unethical interrogations now has more than 200 members from 48 different countries.

ImpleMéndez – led by De Montfort University Leicester’s Professor Dave Walsh – has gone from strength to strength since it was first launched in October 2023.

Its aim is to support the implementation of the Mendez Principles, a set of guidelines supported by the United Nations to ensure effective interviewing and prevent ill-treatment and forced confessions around the world.

DMU helps create new five-year plan to boost Leicester’s creative economy

A FIVE-YEAR plan to create thousands of new jobs in Leicester’s creative economy and engage hundreds more adults in the city’s arts and cultural scene has been published. Leicester Leading: 2025-2030 is an

ambitious vision of the future of the city’s cultural and creative industries, developed and funded by Leicester City Council, in partnership with De Montfort University Leicester (DMU), the University of Leicester and Arts Council England.

DMU to train sustainable leaders of the future in new London campus

THE new London campus will take this dedication further, offering postgraduate students a concentrated focus on sustainable practices through the launch of three UN-inspired programmes:

⇒ MSc International Business and Sustainability Management

⇒ MBA Global with Responsible Leadership
MSc Responsible Data Analytics

Each programme will integrate sustainability into its teaching, aiming to equip professional managers and aspiring leaders with the skills to manage businesses ethically and lead with social responsibility, underpinned by DMU’s commitment to [the UN Principles for Responsible Management Education \(PRME\)](#).

DMU RESEARCH INTO SDG 17

Sustainable Development and Transnational Education Partnerships: Towards Global Sustainability Leadership and Transformative TNE
(Andrew Reeves and Manjeet Ridon)

In this guidance document, we aim to outline key principles, issues to consider and practical steps that can enable TNE partnerships to impact upon the Sustainable Development agenda.

We also outline how HEIs can offer global sustainability leadership through their international collaborations and how an aspirational model of “Transformative TNE” can guide decision making in this area.

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/a4b18056-f730-4672-b190-468dc524c1d2>

Critically-ill children and the international human rights system: assessing the status and role of the UNCRPD in the case of Archie Battersbee (Conrad Nyamutata)

Over the past few years, some parents and clinicians in the UK have argued about decisions on the fate of critically-ill children, with the cases ending in protracted and emotionally-sapping legal disputes. The long-running legal conflicts have played out in the public eye, eliciting conflicting opinions. At the core of the disputes is whether parents or clinicians should determine the appropriate course of action. In the event of the disagreements, the domestic court intervenes guided by the ‘best interests’ principle. Until recently, the discourse had focused on the common recourses to domestic courts and the European Court of Human Rights. However, in the recent case of incapacitated 12-year-old Archie Battersbee, his parents sought redress from the international human rights system through the Committee on the Rights of People with Disabilities to stop termination of his life support..

<https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/items/04e24725-4263-47c6-8bd6-383d8c2ad896>

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



For more information

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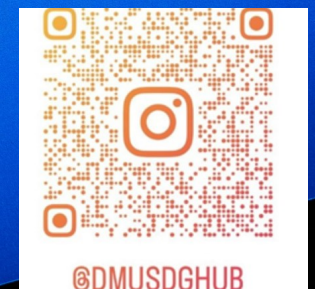
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