

# PEN PORTRAITS OF BAME LEADERSHIP

An exhibition celebrating Black History Month 2020



UNIVERSITY OF  
**WINCHESTER**

# Preface

2020 is a difficult, challenging year. The murder of George Floyd and the broadcasting of a modern-day lynching are upsetting in so many ways. The disproportionate impacts of Covid 19 on BAME communities is highlighting socio-economic and political inequalities. As society's understanding of racism and inequalities develops, it is essential that we continue to celebrate BAME successes and show our pride in our diverse cultures and backgrounds.

The BAME University Network is a network of staff and students at Winchester who celebrate racial diversity, equality and inclusion. For Black History Month 2020, we would like to share with you some of the BAME leaders who inspire us.

Our 'Affirmations of BAME Leadership' are nominated by members of the BAME University Network and the Race Equality Action Group.

Thank you to our allies, the Communications team at Winchester, for sponsoring this exhibition and curating it with us.

*Heidi Flanagan*

*Chair, BAME University Network, University of Winchester*

# Foreword

*Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover*

This year Winchester marks Black History month against the backdrop of accelerated action by the Black Lives Matter Movement. In Canterbury I took part in one such protest march and as a result had lots of correspondence from people condemning me for doing so while we are in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic. I tried responding to some of the letters and emails thanking them for taking the time to get in touch with me. I pointed out to them that I agonised as to whether to go out on to the streets and in the end felt very strongly that I had to stand (albeit not shoulder to shoulder because of the need for physical distancing) with those who were calling out the racism that lay at the heart of another pandemic which has been killing black people for years. Hence the emphasis on "Black Lives Matter."

The once per year marking of Black History month must become the foundation on which we consciously build a community, a society, a country, where we genuinely feel a sense of belonging one to another irrespective of colour, creed or culture. As we learn about each other, we are forced to learn about ourselves – and who we are in relation to the other. This further enables us to see into the windows of each other's souls and accept each other's humanity. To own and name another as being human as we are, creates the space of normality where all are included.

I was lucky to have been born and brought up in Montego Bay, Jamaica. It meant that as a child growing up, I saw images of myself in all walks of life: in the judiciary, business, politics, in religious leadership, academia. If I walked past a bookshop, I could see images that looked like me on the covers of books and magazines. It meant that I grew up knowing that 'I was', that 'I am.' Contrast this with young children who were born and brought up in a predominantly white country, where do they see images of themselves? I have always believed that the reason why we see so many young black people aspiring to sports or the music industry, is because they can see those images of themselves in those fields. This is limiting of little black children. They need to know that they can become scientists, astronauts, physicists, doctors, politicians, engineers, philanthropists, - in other words, they need to know that they can aspire to become whatever they want to be.

The next time we hear on the news or see a sign that says – 'Black Lives Matter', let's not glibly nurture thoughts of 'but all life matters.' Instead, let us pause and think about what is happening around us; who are being excluded; who are dying on our streets; who are filling up our prisons; who are in the lowest paid jobs? Perhaps in wrestling with these questions we might commit ourselves to working for the kind of world where **all lives truly do matter**.

# Foreword

*Professor 'Funmi Olonisakin, King's College London*

We are living in a momentous time in our world's history. The convergence of a global health pandemic –COVID-19 – the socio-economic and political inequalities it has made more palpable, and the resurgence of a movement for black lives across the globe means that our world will change, for better or for worse. I have been reflecting on the project that grew to become the African Leadership Centre (ALC), which was founded to respond to exclusion and related capacity gaps among a generation of African scholars. There are several parallels to be drawn between the motivations that inspired the ALC and the issues of today about the inequalities that are laid bare by COVID-19. There are lessons for academics seeking to respond to the systemic inequities of these times and wanting to change things for the better.

First, a vision of change stands a better chance of realisation when knowledge generation is at its core. We can't change what we don't know. Even when we are experiencing a situation first hand, much remains unknown or little understood. Better knowledge expands our thinking and points us toward solutions to our own problems. As a Black African woman working in the United Nations in the late 1990s and early 2000s, I saw first-hand the dearth of representation of young African women among the organisation's staff. I also observed what the absence of Africans and women in particular meant for our responses to gender equality issues in Africa. The escalation of sexual violence in conflict situations which women's movements have showed us is part of a continuum of everyday violence went largely unaddressed. This was not due to the absence of knowledge from below on the extent of the problems. It was coupled with the absence of African women specifically in decision making in the UN who would act as champions against these forms of violence. In this situation there were three forms of gender and racial exclusion being mirrored albeit differently, one that punished and therefore excluded women through sexual violence, a second that punished and excluded women through their absence from decision making and a third that saw the limited influence of Africans on the issues that affected them most.

Knowledge about those situations and about the barriers that prevented change even within the UN which sought to find a solution, was key. The collaboration between a global women's movement, select UN officials, and member states representatives led to the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution (1325) on Women, Peace and Security. This didn't bring instant change nor was it designed to. Whilst still at the UN I also observed the relative absence of young Africans at the UN headquarters even though youth-hood and the impact of conflict on young people occupied much of this global organisation's agenda. There were no quick answers. The ready-made explanations are not always the most valid. I often heard how young Africans lacked capacity. This would become my research agenda for a decade. I was a graduate of War Studies

not Gender or Leadership Studies. Therefore, I had to expand my area of research, learning new skills and developing new networks.

Second, researching a problem that we are immersed in – which affects us profoundly – is not a sprint. It is a long haul, during which we translate knowledge into a change pathway and build change-making alliances. As researchers in this process, we are not neutral actors but actively engaging for change. However, we are required to research with integrity. Before I left the UN to return to my station at King's, I had already actively engaged those who would create the space for young Africans to participate in peacebuilding processes. It required building alliances with direct beneficiaries and powerholders whose ideas we want to transform. Invariably, we researched and published; we created a Fellowship programme that would not only convene and mentor young Africans for participation in peace and security processes but also organised them into a network so that they would continuously produce knowledge about their situations while creating their own pathways for change. We later established a continental Centre dedicated to this agenda. It is a project of a generation, led mostly by the very people for whom it was created. Although this remains a work in progress, today, there is a vibrant network of next generation African analysts generating knowledge to transform African peace and security discourses. Actors such as the UN can no longer claim a lack of ready capacity as the reason why there is a dearth young Africans in their headquarters.

What does this all mean today when we see a more visible black movement pushing for removal of structural barriers to progress for black people in particular in universities? It takes a generation or longer to turn things around when seeking to transform structural inequity. Building a bridge between where we are and the change we want requires sustained knowledge production and a collective process of engagement to change how we think and how we do things. There are still too many unanswered questions about the clear path to equality. We must become active producers of knowledge about our own situation; and it does not require that we all have degrees in Black Studies! We must bring multi-disciplinary expertise to bear. The work on ending exclusion is not a one-time engagement. Aspiring changemakers must stand at the intersection of knowledge production and transfer; and the execution of change. We are the ones who can mobilise for the change we want to see. It will mean influencing those who agree with us as well as those who stand in the way of our progress whether knowingly or unknowingly.

In my view, this model of knowledge production, cohort-building and sustained engagement for long-term change is what we need to transform the human condition and structural inequalities laid bare by this COVID-19 moment.

# BISHOP ROSE HUDSON-WILKIN



Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin, born in 1961 and raised in Montego Bay, Jamaica, was ordained as a deacon in 1991, but this was only the beginning of her religious journey. In 1994 she was ordained a priest and proceeded to serve in London for over 16 years. Following years of dedication, she was appointed as a Chaplain to Her Majesty the Queen in 2007 and in 2010, she became the first female (79th) Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Bishop Rose serves as an inspirational figure to many for her pioneering role in the religious community, breaking down barriers of both gender and race. Her involvement with religious groups has been extensive, as documented on the Government website: "She has served as a member of the General Synod of the Church of England and also as one of the Panel of Chairs of the Synod. She represented the Church of England at the World Council of Churches in Zimbabwe and Brazil and served as its priest representative on the Anglican Consultative Council."

After her extensive involvement with the Church of England, Bishop Rose became the UK's first Black female Bishop in 2019 when she was appointed Bishop of Dover.

humility

pioneering

positive energy

dedication

kindness

**NOMINATED BY: HEIDI FLANAGAN**

"I first heard Bishop Rose on breakfast TV, shortly after she became the Bishop of Dover, and I had to stop getting ready for work to listen to her. Her positive energy draws my attention and lifts my spirit. For me, Bishop Rose represents strength, warmth, kindness and humility: qualities which inspire me in a leader."



# PROFESSOR 'FUNMI OLONISAKIN



Professor 'Funmi Olonisakin is an incredibly accomplished woman. Currently, she is Vice-President; Vice-Principal International and Professor of Security, Leadership and Development at King's College London:

As stated by King's College: "She is also a founding member of the African Leadership Centre, which aims to build the next generation of African scholars generating cutting edge knowledge for security and development in Africa; and was Director of the Conflict, Security and Development Group (CSDG) at King's (2003 to 2013). Prior to this, she worked in the Office of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict."

Leadership, youth and security within developing societies are key aspects of her work which focuses on peace through the lens of the next generation. It is through her ongoing research into these areas that she was able to help facilitate the establishment of the National Commission for War-Affected Children in Sierra Leone and the Child Protection Unit in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

scholar

security

excellence

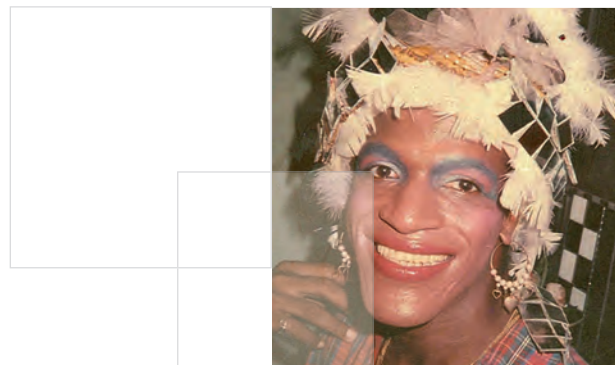
leadership

peace

#### NOMINATED BY: HEIDI FLANAGAN

"A 2019 report by Advance HE on equality in higher education found that fewer than 1% of professors in the UK are Black, despite increases in overall levels of Black academic staff. I met Professor Olonisakin at an event that I attended for BAME leadership in HE, where she was a guest speaker. I was pleased to have the opportunity to meet an accomplished Black, female academic at the highest level of scholarship. Her presence and excellence inspire me."

# MARSHA P. JOHNSON



Marsha P. Johnson was a transgender pioneer and activist, 1945 – 1992. She operated as a central figure in the gay liberation movement, which was spurred on by the 1969 police raid on the Stonewall Inn, a known homosexual gathering spot. Marsha resisted arrest and sparked the Stonewall protests/riots demanding rights for gay people. As a gender non-conforming Black woman, Marsha and the other queens in Greenwich Village in the 60's were among the most visible of an otherwise hidden LGBTQI population and, because of their non-conforming and visibility, also among the most victimised, harassed and harmed.

She battled severe mental illness and spent most of her life destitute, but it didn't stop her fighting for the equality of all. She spoke out for social and economic justice; for those who had been forced to the streets by family due to their sexual identity and as an advocate on behalf of people struggling with AIDS. Along with close friend Sylvia Rivera, she co-founded STAR, the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries - an organisation to support gay and trans individuals who had been left homeless. Her life was tragically short, but the impact she had can still be felt today.

vital

advocate

intersectional

LGBTQI

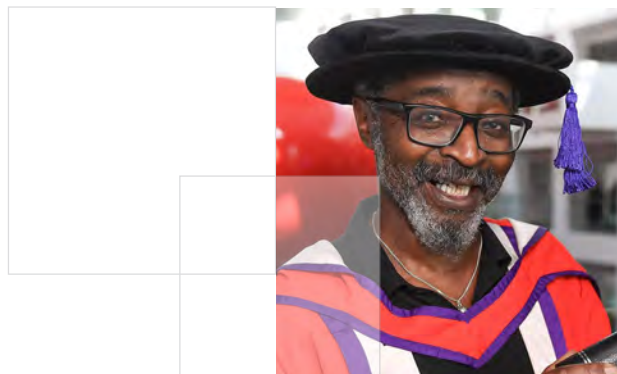
pioneer

**NOMINATED BY: CAROL KILGANNON**

"For me, Marsha represents one of the most marginalised, victimised, vulnerable and harmed members of the Black or any other community. She fought for the rights of her community with a strong sense of identity, pride and not a little flair. It is now 51 years since the Stonewall riots and shockingly, in the UK police recorded that transgender hate crime rose by 81% in 2019 to 1,944 crimes. We need to remember that Marsha's work must continue."



# DON JOHN



Don John works as a race and diversity consultant and has 40 years of experience working in the field. He established himself in Southampton where he was a youth and education officer for the Southampton Council for Race Equality (SCRE), eventually becoming its Director. The Council works with Black and Asian youth, and more specifically addresses the criminal justice system and racism in education services. After years of service, he secured a position as lead Diversity officer for Southampton City Council and was involved in developing the city's diversity policies.

He has made significant connections across the UK through his time as a consultant, working with a wide range of organisations including the BBC and the Royal Navy to tackle racial equality and diversity from within. He also has a vested interest in cultural diversity in the arts and has produced several race themed docu-shorts to help educate others.

Don founded Black History Month in Southampton, now a key annual event, viewed as one of the most progressive in the UK. He proceeded to co-author a reference book called *The Black History of Southampton 16th Century to 21st Century*, recording the history of Black people in the city for over 500 years.

valour

progressive

dignity

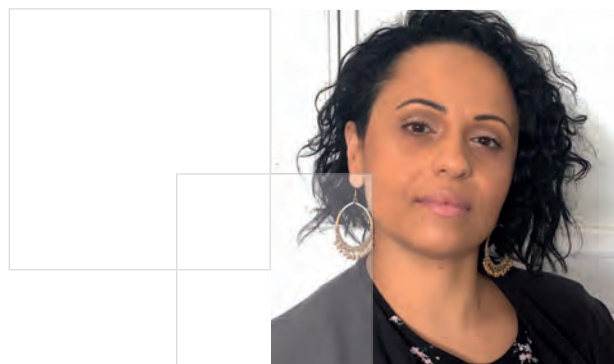
criminal justice

history

**NOMINATED BY: NICKI NORTHERN**

"I am inspired by Don John because he embodies grace, dignity, valour and humility as he tirelessly raises positive awareness about Black history, voices and contributions in the UK, particularly in Southampton. Over decades he has been instrumental in orchestrating dynamic Black History Month programmes that reach across colour barriers and provide hope."

# ZAHRA BEI



Zahra Bei has spent 20 years providing for her community by working as a secondary school teacher in large mainstream mixed comprehensive schools based in North East London. Her teaching roles included: Head of Religious Studies, Citizenship and Personal, Social, Health and Economic education, and Learning Outside the Classroom Coordinator. Zahra is a member of the Advisory Board for Education for Tomorrow and a co-founder of Mentoring Great Minds. She worked as a Youth Club Manager in East London and until recently, she was a district National Education Union Black Equality Officer.

Her research focus areas include school exclusion, 'race' and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). She is co-founder of No More Exclusions, a grassroots movement in education. Their mission is to bring an end to race disparities in school exclusion. The mission's goal is to affect change at legal, policy, practice and cultural level; to create an education system that provides inclusive quality education for all.

engaging

inclusive

grassroots

teacher

**NOMINATED BY: MAISHA ISLAM**

"Having met Zahra through an incredible paper she delivered at an international conference, I was struck not only by her engaging and personable presentation style but her work which sought to further racial justice through inclusive education. I am sure she has had great impact on a number of individuals!"

# LORD SIMON WOOLLEY



Lord Woolley CBE is an influential campaigner aiming to encourage diversity in politics. Growing up in an adoptive home, he was raised with a number of foster siblings on a council estate. Sharing his childhood home with others from a range of backgrounds allowed him a greater appreciation for multiculturalism and diversity.

Due to his vested interest in creating a more diverse political system, he founded Operation Black Vote in 1996 – an organisation established to ensure greater racial justice and equality throughout the UK. They campaigned to encourage ethnic minority communities to participate in politics and democracy and continue to work with communities in the UK to this day.

In 2019 Lord Simon Woolley was knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for his tireless services to race equality. Ten days after he received his knighthood he was appointed to the House of Lords as crossbencher, Lord Woolley of Woodford.

From January 2018 to July 2020 he chaired the Government Race Disparity Unit's advisory group and had his status raised to life peer after his knighthood, for his expertise in diversity and politics.

Operation  
Black  
Vote

campaigner

multiculturalism

**NOMINATED BY: HEIDI FLANAGAN**

"I heard Lord Woolley speak at a conference recently, about his work with Operation Black Vote. His confidence in the power of Black people to make a difference blew me away. I find him inspirational because of the impact that his work as a political activist with Operation Black Vote has achieved."

# PROFESSOR WANGARI MAATHAI



Professor Wangari Maathai, born in Kenya in 1940, dedicated herself to science and doctoral studies to PhD level. She was the first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a doctorate degree and found a position at University of Nairobi teaching veterinary anatomy. She became the first woman in the region to chair the Department of Veterinary Anatomy and later, an associate professor.

She was a member of the National Council of Women of Kenya from 1976-1987. During this time she founded the 1977 Green Belt Movement. She helped form grassroots organisations, whose goal was to plant trees with groups of women, to conserve the environment and improve their quality of life. In her time with the Movement, she helped women plant over 20 million trees on farms, schools and church compounds.

In 2004 she won the Nobel Peace Prize after being recognised for her: "persistent struggle for democracy, human rights and environmental conservation" and "playing a leading global role as a co-chair of the Jubilee 2000 Africa Campaign, which [sought] cancellation of the unpayable backlog debts of the poor countries in Africa by the year 2000", as stated in *Les Prix Nobel*, 2004.

At the end of 2002, Professor Maathai was elected to parliament with a significant 98% of the vote. She was then appointed as Assistant Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife by the president, in Kenya's ninth parliament.

democracy

empowering

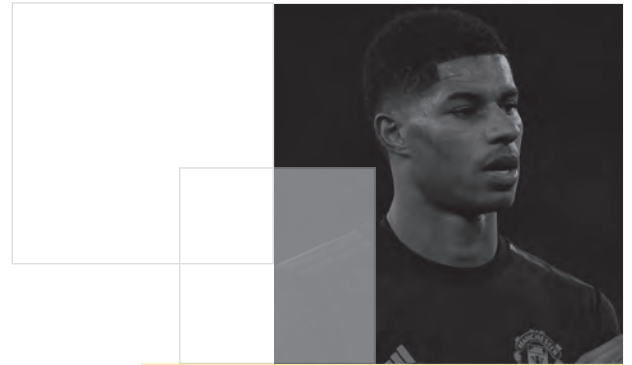
conservation

human rights

**NOMINATED BY: JEN DICKINSON**

"Professor Wangari Maathai is inspiring because a small action - paying impoverished rural women to plant trees on their land- kick-started a grassroots social movement that empowered rural women to reclaim their country's land from deforestation, and ultimately helped to bring down Kenya's 24-year dictatorship."

# MARCUS RASHFORD



Marcus Rashford has made his name as a professional footballer playing for Manchester United and England. Since being scouted and enrolling in the Manchester United Football Academy at age seven, he has played in both the Premier League and the UEFA Europa League, winning several awards with the team.

He has shown incredible leadership abilities at only 22, having lobbied the government to extend free school meals during the 2020 school summer holidays. This campaign prompted a turn around on the issue, a successful start to Rashford's fight against child food poverty in the UK.

He has continued the campaign by assembling a taskforce, including food retailers like Tesco and ASDA and the charity FareShare, calling for three key policy changes to be backed by the government. The policies were recommended by the National Food Strategy review, and in a recent BBC interview Rashford reinforced: "the drive of myself and the child food poverty taskforce to see these three government policies implemented without delay is stronger than ever."

honesty

food poverty

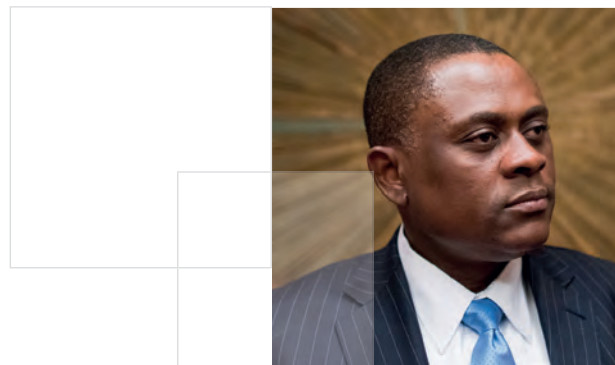
free school meals

football

**NOMINATED BY: HEIDI FLANAGAN**

"There are too many families trying to manage on low incomes and do the best for their children. Food is expensive. I respect Marcus Rashford because he is comfortable to talk about his background and he has stood up to address child food poverty and help families who are just like his."

# DR BENNET OMALU



Dr Bennet Omalu is a leading forensic pathologist and neuropathologist, highly accomplished in various fields. A dedicated student of science, he secured a number of degrees on his academic path and is currently certified on several medical boards. He founded Bennet Omalu Pathology in California 2011, where he remains as President and Medical Director. Through his dedication and research, his website states that he: "identified a disease he called Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) in the brains of deceased athletes and military veterans; and received the "Distinguished Service Award" in 2016, which is the highest award of the American Medical Association."

His work has been so profoundly influential that in 2015 Sony Pictures chose to create a film based on his life and work entitled *Concussion*, with Will Smith portraying him on screen. Following this, in 2017, he produced a memoir entitled *Truth Doesn't Have a Side*, which describes Dr Bennet Omalu's journey from his war-torn Nigerian background to his discoveries in America.

His revelations about the damages caused to the brain through contact sports spurred his ambition to educate the nation on the dangers they can entail. He next published *Brain Damage in Contact Sports*, a guide intended to inform parents of the risks involved.

dedicated

scientist

neuropathologist

**NOMINATED BY: ELLY OTIENO**

"He is a Nigerian–American great scientist in my eyes who discovered CTE changes in the brains of American football players. His years of work led to the movie *Concussion* and a documentary film *League of Denial*."



# NZINGHA MBANDE



A historical figure, Nzingha Mbande (1583-1663) was the African Queen of Ndongo, now Angola. She developed the country as a trading power to provide it with longevity.

As monarch of the Mbundu people, she fought against the colonisation of the Portuguese who were raiding the territory for slaves. In 1621, she went to the Portuguese to negotiate a peace treaty. During that meeting, it was recorded that she was only offered a mat to sit on so her maid got on all fours to act as a seat so they could negotiate on equal footing. Though successful, the Portuguese did not honour the terms of the treaty forcing Nzingha, who was newly queen of the Mbundu, into a difficult position.

She spent her life leading her armies against the Portuguese and refused to relinquish control of the nation. Eventually she allied with Portugal, bringing an end to slave raiding in the kingdom. She lived long into her 80s and died on good terms with the Portuguese. To this day her memory and relentless leadership still stand as an inspiration to the oppressed in the struggle for independence.

diplomatic

resilient

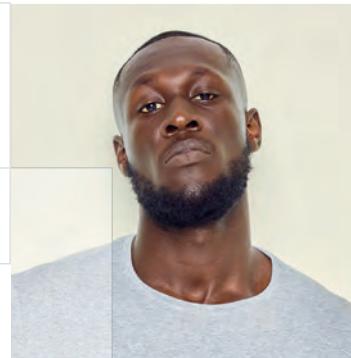
African queen

relentless

**NOMINATED BY: REBECA GOMES**

"She is inspiring to me because she was resilient. Because of the freedom she fought for, my mother was born as a free child. She set an example to her country. I am proud to be connected by blood to Angola. I am a child of Africa."

# MICHAEL EBENEZER KWADJO OMARI OWUO JR (AKA STORMZY)



Michael Ebenezer Kwadjo Omari Owuo Jr, better known by his artist name Stormzy, is an English rapper who made his name through grime music, where he was first recognised for his *Wicked Skengman* freestyling in the UK Underground music scene. His presence in the industry grew from there, and in 2018 he won his first BRIT awards, for British Album of the Year and British Male Solo Artist of the Year.

His career has provided him with a platform as a political activist. He has used his influence and acclaim to champion various important causes, including earlier this year donating £500,000 to charity for disadvantaged Black students. With his artist label #Merky, he has pledged 10 million pounds, over 10 years, to organisations, charities and movements that are committed to fighting racial inequality, justice reform and Black empowerment within the UK. Stormzy states the brand is used: "to elevate, support and amplify the issues and the voices of the Black community."

champion

Black excellence

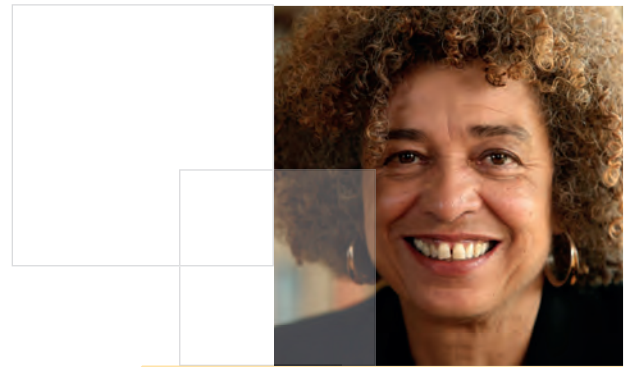
grime music

political  
activist

**NOMINATED BY: MAISHA ISLAM**

"Stormzy goes beyond being a 'typical' rap artist by being a vocal political activist as well as championing Black excellence in all forms. His songs are empowering to Black kings and queens (as *Superheroes* showcases) and he truly stands as a strong figure for racial equality in the UK."

# ANGELA DAVIS



Angela Davis is an African American scholar, writer and civil rights activist who advocates for the oppressed. Her main focus has been on gender equity, prison reform and racial reform. She is now an icon for her work as a civil rights campaigner, having been at the forefront of the fight against oppression, driven by her own first-hand experiences of racial prejudice. This involved taking part in protests, demonstrations and speaking out against the ill-treatment of minority ethnic groups.

An article from *The Guardian* earlier this year reads: "She has spent five decades as an intellectual campaigning for racial justice, yet the causes she has pursued – prison reform, defunding the police, restructuring the bail system – had, until recently, been considered too radical for mainstream political thinking." She has spent her life promoting feminist thinking that contradicts "hypermasculine political leadership and forms of resistance". She feels feminist organisation promotes the use of collective leadership as can be seen in the unanimous Black Lives Matter protests, which haven't had a male figurehead emerge.

scholar

campaigner

philosophical thinker

collective leadership

advocate

**NOMINATED BY: MARIKA ROSE**

"Angela Davis is as important for her contribution to understanding the relationships between gender, race and class as she is for her commitment to liberation. A brilliant philosophical thinker who works tirelessly to understand and to transform the world, she's an inspiring model for social-justice oriented academia."

# NELSON MANDELA



Nelson Mandela (1918-2013) was South Africa's first Black president, elected in 1994. He was both a politician and social rights activist, heavily involved with the anti-Apartheid movement and in 1942 he joined the African National Congress. He spent the next 20 years directing peaceful campaigns and organising nonviolent demonstrations against the South African government's racist policies.

In 1962, Nelson Mandela was arrested for political offences and spent the following 27 years wrongfully imprisoned on Robben Island for his part in the fight against Apartheid. His sentencing prompted a coordinated international campaign for his release. He came to stand as a symbol for the oppressed, as his political inroads had granted him international regard for his peaceful methods for reconciliation.

The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Nelson Mandela and South African President F W de Klerk jointly in 1993 for their efforts to dismantle the country's Apartheid system. For generations to come, Mandela will be a source of inspiration for civil rights activists worldwide.

Oppressed

non-violent

social rights

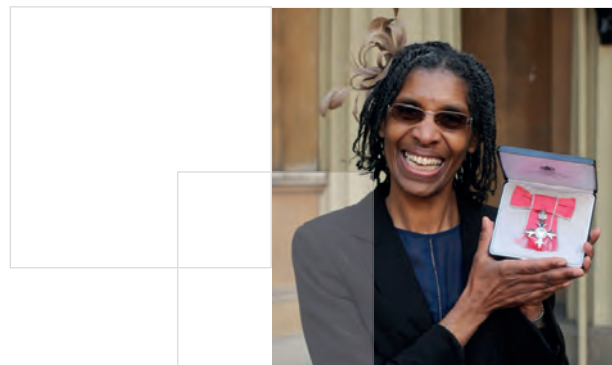
reconciliation

peace

**NOMINATED BY: SAM JONES**

"Mandela is one of the loudest voices for racial equality in my lifetime. His life and struggle for equality in South Africa not only ensured an end to the shocking policy of Apartheid but also opened up a new way of speaking truth about the value of all human life which still inspires us today."

# DR MELROSE STEWART



Melrose Stewart is a lecturer in the School of Sports, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Birmingham. She has presented talks for TEDx and is also a Chartered Physiotherapist. In 2017 she worked as an expert on Channl 4 programme *Old People's Home for Four Year Olds*. This involved the opening of a nursery in a retirement village for participants aged between three and 102, to see what they could gain from each other - with the aim of tackling isolation and inclusion. She followed this with a TEDx talk on *Connecting Generations for Healthy Ageing*.

In 2017 she also received a Distinguished Service Award from the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy for her services in the area of equality and diversity. She currently lectures at the University of Birmingham, her PhD focused on the topic of cultural competence in undergraduate physiotherapy education. She lectures on the topic at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and has a keen interest in the development of the subject within physiotherapy education and professional practice.

academic

physiotherapist

equality

healthy  
ageing

**NOMINATED BY: KIERON PARKINSON**

"Physiotherapy is and has been a white-dominated profession. Melrose has shown that your race or ethnicity does not have to be a barrier to progress and be highly successful within Physiotherapy."

# LINTON KWESI JOHNSON



Linton Kwesi Johnson is a Jamaican-born reggae poet and recording artist. He travelled to London in 1963 to attend secondary school and later studied Sociology at Goldsmiths College, University of London. In 1977 he was awarded a C Day Lewis Fellowship, and went on to work at the Keskidее Centre as the Library Resources and Education Officer, the first home of Black theatre and art.

His poetry is largely political, focusing on topics like the difficulties of being an African-Caribbean in Britain and British foreign policy, as well as topical political developments. Linton Kwesi Johnson was the first Black poet ever to be published in the Penguin Modern Classics series with his collection *Mi Revalueshanary Fren*.

Claire Armitstead, *The Guardian's* associate editor for culture and a trustee for human rights organisation English PEN, was on the judging panel that awarded him the PEN Pinter Prize earlier this year. The prize celebrates freedom of expression and the artist's ability to accurately portray an honest look at society and political policy. She said: "He is a poet, reggae icon, academic and campaigner, whose impact on the cultural landscape over the last half century has been colossal and multi-generational. His political ferocity and his tireless scrutiny of history are truly Pinteresque, as is the humour with which he pursues them."

political

ferocity

reggae poet

distinctive

voice

**NOMINATED BY: CAROL KILGANNON**

"For Linton Kwesi Johnson writing was a political act and poetry was his weapon. He wrote in a distinct Jamaican voice that spoke proudly and directly to the Windrush generation in Britain. His poetry charts his own journey of thought and experience through time as a Black, ex-colonial, Jamaican, working-class, British man. It maps a voice and experience of a generation that rarely were given a voice and it has preserved and raised that voice up, carefully sheathed within the cultural scabbard of prose and poetry. I'm Irish, I get the importance of that."



# NOOR-UN- NISSA INAYAT KHAN



Noor-un-Nissa Inayat Khan was born in Moscow in 1914. She was educated in France, then later moved to England where she joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1940. She was eventually recruited by Special Operations Executive (SOE) forces as a radio operator towards the end of 1942, during World War Two. She was relocated to France in 1943 where she became a radio operator for 'Prosper', part of the Resistance network in Paris. Many other members of the network were arrested shortly after her move, however she chose to remain dedicated to the cause.

She operated in hiding, covertly delivering messages back to London while avoiding capture. Eventually she was betrayed and exposed to the Gestapo who arrested her. She was transported to Germany where she was tortured but steadfastly refused to expose any information. In 1944 she was taken to Dachau concentration camp along with three other female SOE agents. There she was shot for her unwavering commitment to freedom and unwillingness to compromise her morals.

dedicated

betrayed

French Resistance

brave

**NOMINATED BY: THE REVD PROFESSOR ELIZABETH STUART**

"Noor-un-Nissa Inayat Khan GC was betrayed, arrested and eventually sent to Dachau Concentration Camp where she was shot. Her last word was '*Liberté*'. I admire her sense of duty, her bravery and her willingness to lay down her life for our freedom."