



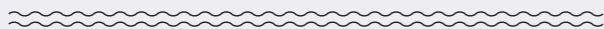
A collection of work by our talented students which celebrates pioneering black women throughout history

Black History Month

#SaluteOurSisters

Important information about this collection

This is a collection of work by our students submitted to us during Black History Month. This includes segments of presentations, artwork, posters and independent creative writing. Please note that the views expressed in these pieces represent the opinion(s) of our individual students. While every effort has been made to ensure the factual accuracy of work featured in this collection, these have been submitted on a voluntary basis by our students. This collection is therefore a celebration of these efforts and not necessarily an accurate historical record.



Welcome

We are incredibly proud of our diverse College community, and as part of our truly inclusive culture, we provide students with a wide range of opportunities to celebrate their own unique differences and those of others.

As a College we have joined others around the world in recognising the invaluable contribution of black people to British society during Black History Month. This year's theme is 'Saluting our Sisters', with a focus on exploring the crucial role black women have played in shaping history, inspiring change, and building communities.

During Aspire and other lessons our students have been looking at key individuals who have made remarkable contributions linked to the subjects they are studying, in areas as diverse as literature, academia, social and health care, business, law, and many more. Our young people have been genuinely inspired, and this is reflected in the selection of work you can view in this collection.

Black history is not consigned to one month of the year at HNC – as part of our drive to support students to understand their role in tackling inequality and injustice, we continue to celebrate all cultures at HNC on a daily basis.

However, during this national month I hope you enjoy some of the incredible work produced by our students.

Marcus Smith-Connor
Principal



Mary Seacole

Travelling far and wide from England to Crimea
 Hearing things no one wants to hear.
 Lapsed in time she had become,
 A century passed before her story begun.
 Florence Nightingale held to honour,
 Yet Mary Seacole was left to squalor.
 Despite her efforts,
 Despite the lives saved,
 Despite all the work she did in her days,
 Mary Seacole was lost with the age.

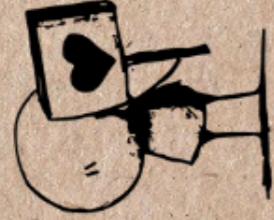
But remembered now.
 Finally remembered,
 Standing 16 feet above the rest
 Her history is put to the test.
 Rewarded and valued, finally and rightfully so,
 Yet seen for her race.
 Regaled, the "Greatest BLACK Briton"
 Condescendingly great yet only for her given fate.
 Caring heavily on what she looked like
 Yet never on what she was like.
 Caring and modest,
 Helpfully honest,
 Was Mary Seacole.

Mary Seacole
 Brave and humble
 Ignoring all the bumbling
 Fighting for her rights
 At saving the lights.
 Keeping them afloat
 She was a saviour among their hopes.
 Trudging through Russian snow
 Not a complaint or a "we should go."
 Honour her heart,
 Honour her help,
 Honour the heroine that is,
 Mary Seacole.

by
Kayleigh P

Racism was something that should never have existed
 Tell me why so much hate about race can be listed
 The hate and the spite for a colour in our skin
 Hate that was created because some people have more melanin
 Tell me why Doreen Lawrence's son had to die
 To see that not everyone in the world is a nice guy
 The poor boy was only eighteen
 The poor boy probably had a dream
 It took nineteen years for his mom to finally find peace
 The people who took away her son are not people they're beasts
 The institutional racism behind this is a disgrace
 How could they even dare look her in the face
 To look her in the eyes and tell her you're looking into her case
 But they were too busy being disgusted by someone's race
 The monsters almost got away
 'Cause the police were too busy finding new prey
 Hunting on those who look different to them
 You would start to think people would start to condemn
 These people who think that institutional racism is not a major issue
 You would think that it wouldn't continue
 But 1,500 out of 2,000 must face it at work
 But people tend to shrug it off with a little smirk
 Stand up for what you believe is right
 Together we can put up a fight
 And go against the institutional racism

by
Olivia Grace B



GRACE ONONIWU

chief crown prosecutor for CPS West Midlands since June 2014



ABOUT GRACE ONONIWU

Grace qualified as a solicitor in 1991 which she then joined a private firm in High Wycombe practising criminal law before joining the CPS. In April 2009 she became the first African Caribbean to be appointed Chief Crown Prosecutor in the organisation's history. Grace has made a significant contribution to the CPS Equality and Diversity agenda and was previously Chair of the National Black Crown Prosecution Association.

GENDER AND RACE DISPARITY IN CJS?

Out of the 1037000 people in the CJS 21% were female 79% were male, according to the statistics in 2019, 92.6% of judges in England and Wales were white and 7.4% were from a BME background.

“ I promised myself, probably unrealistically, that I will never fail again I hated how failure made me feel and that was a turning point in my life.”



THE CHALLENGES BLACK WOMEN FACE IN THE BRITISH WORKFORCE

Research implies that Black women face discrimination due to both their race and their gender. Black women are also visibly under-represented across all areas of work. Women in also have to deal with pay discrimination and lack of available and protected rights to family leave to subtler issues around unpaid labor in the office.

I am passionate about the need to protect victims and wider public. My role provides an opportunity to make an effective contribution to this aim

DISPROPORTIONALITY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM?

A study found that there is evidence of disproportionality in the outcomes of legal decision with defendants from minority ethnic backgrounds as they are significantly more likely to be charged for a comparable offence than white British defendants



Most Powerful woman
in the country - BSC



Stephen Lawrence

Baroness Doreen Lawrence

Awarded an OBE for services to
community relations in 2003

Stephen Lawrence was stabbed to death by a group of
white men in an unprovoked racist attack whilst at a bus stop
Baroness Doreen Lawrence } Campaigned for justice for her son

Following the murder of Stephen Lawrence, in 1988, Baroness Doreen Lawrence
set up

The Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust

she wanted to offer an opportunity to the future generations
of youth to enjoy events that had been denied to
Stephen by his senseless murder.

Created an impact on **Criminal Justice**

* five men were originally arrested for the murder but
finally, two were convicted in 2012.

It was concluded that the Met Police were 'institutionally racist'
after the case of Stephen became known world-wide.

2013 - Baroness became a life Peer
on the Labour bench within the
House of Lords

Powerhouse of courage

Main reason was
due to their failure
and lack of urgency
to solve the case

CELEBRATING OUR SISTERS



Sislín Fay Allen

First black female police
officer in the Met and UK
in 1968

met received a lot of Hate Mail
from the public once she joined.
After a year, she re-stationed
at the **Missing Persons Bureau**
at Scotland Yard.

worked here
until 1972 when she resigned from
the Met and returned to Jamaica

Continued Policing Career in
Jamaica, joining the
Jamaica Constabular

in 2022, there
were a total
of **140,288** Police
Officers, and of
this, ethnicity was
known for
136,274

In 2020, there
was a total of
1,596 Black
Police Officers
2,711 mixed
Police Officers
3,384 Asian
Police Officers

Since 2007, the percentage of Police
officers from an ethnic minority
background has increased from 1.5% - 3.7%

Mary

It was in the plight,
Of war, of mutiny,
That she flowered,
Beaming star, healing light,
An amaryllis, a warm, flooding heat,
Tending to the wounds of fallen men,

She carried with her,
antidotes of a mother's teachings:
of herbs, of treatments, of remedies,
Jamaica's vibrant song
an anchor in her pocket,,
The pulse beneath her wrist,

Seacole, luminary, bold of heart and
one, tenacious spirit,
Moved by dauntless action, be assured

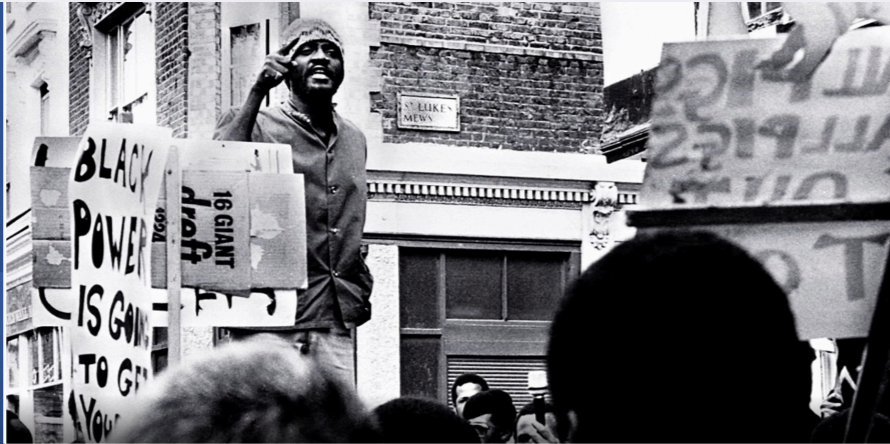
And the white man's hostile temper,
Oh how it seethed
Loathing,
For a woman, with skin, bronzed and blooming,
etched in sunlight,
Dripped in gold,
Could possibly be a doctress?
A healer of the weary?
The yellowest star, betwixt the
moon and sun,

But, alas, she shone through
Stoic hands on stoic head,
Soul of a heroine,
Mind of a paragon,
Mary.

by
Rosa W



Black History Month



[Black Power - A British Story of Resistance - BBC Teach](#)

Black Power Activism in Britain: Olive Morris and Altheia Jones-Lecoite



Doreen Lawrence (Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon)

Doreen Delceita Lawrence OBE is a British Jamaican campaigner for the justice of not just her son, Stephen Lawrence, but other victims of racist crime.

Doreen promoted the reforms of the police services and founded the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation to bring light towards the racial inequalities that were prevalent for young people in the UK. This led to profound cultural changes in attitude towards racism, to the law and the way the police were doing things.

by
Jamie C

Grace's school life

Grace had ambitions to become a solicitor from a very young age, but despite this she admits to being discouraged by many, including her careers officer at school. She was told there was no way that she could become a lawyer and she was urged to consider becoming a legal secretary instead. "I was fourteen/fifteen years old at the time and this knocked my confidence and destroyed the dream I had at an early age. My parents always told me to listen to the teachers and I did. I totally rebelled and failed all my 'O' Levels as I thought there was no point in trying. When I failed though, it was the longest walk home to my mum. I promised myself, probably unrealistically, that I will never fail again I hated how failure made me feel and that was a turning point in my life. I worked in a shoe shop throughout my studies, I was determined to qualify."



Why the CJS needs more Black and Asian female in top roles within the Police, CPS and Judiciary

- Inspires young women of the same race
- In West Yorkshire, 3.7% of CJS entrants are black women



by
Amelia M

Born 3rd January 1951
 She attended **Matten Moreton High school**, a boarding school for girls

Attended university of Edinburgh but left after a year went onto university of Surrey - she studied Russian + law - graduated in 1976

Then went on to London school of Economics where she obtained a master's degree, and a **doctorate** in Soviet criminology + penology

requires a significant level of research + articulation
 Study of the punishment of crime + of prison management

Dame Linda Penelope Dobbs

she was a member of a number of committees, including Race Relations, Equality opportunities, International, Professional conduct + Professional standard committees

2003 she became the **chairman of the Criminal Bar Association**
 - she set up its first **Equality + Diversity** sub-committee.

whilst on the High Court bench she was the **senior judge for Diversity**, chair of the **Magistral committee** of the Judicial Studies Board + chair of **International committee** of the Judicial college and a **Fawcett commissioner**

she encouraged other young black people **AROUND THE WORLD** to take up law and that it **breeds** to involve all kinds of people

she also get appointed, **after her retirement** as the chair of an independent inquiry into **Lloyds Banking Group's handling of the HBOS Reading branch fraud**

she was that amazing they wanted her back!

Inspiring
Brilliant
Intelligent
Resilient
Relentless
Dedicated
Dedicated + powerful black woman
highest most advanced degree

Oct 2004 she became the first non-white high court judge in the UK

Appointed a Deputy High Court Judge in 2003

by Eleanor M

BLACK HISTORY MONTH Celebrating black scientists throughout history...

Elizabeth began working in the NHS at the age of 16. She helped to set up the first nurse-led sickle cell and thalassaemia screening and counselling centre. This pioneering service led to the nationwide screening of babies. Elizabeth has worked tirelessly throughout her career to ensure that people with sickle cell disease and thalassaemia get all the support they need and deserve.

Through her work and research, Elizabeth has made a large contribution to the health and wellbeing of multi-ethnic communities. Elizabeth overcame stigma and racism to build a distinguished career as a nurse, health visitor, academic and campaigner.




Name: Dame Elizabeth Anionwu
Born: 1947
Nationality: British
Scientific Field: Medicine

BLACK HISTORY MONTH Celebrating black scientists throughout history...

Donald is an Associate Professor of Immunology. His research involves investigating the way the human body changes with age, as well as the identification of 'markers' on the surfaces of cells. Through this research, he is able to learn about how the body protects itself from diseases such as cancer and infections.

Donald carried out post-doctoral work at Cancer Research UK and Imperial College, London. Donald is also a co-founder of Reach Society. The aim of this society is to encourage and inspire young people, especially black boys and young black men to realise their potential.




Name: Dr Donald Palmer
Born: 1962
Nationality: British
Scientific Field: Medicine

BLACK HISTORY MONTH Celebrating black scientists throughout history...

Mae Jemison is an American astronaut and physician who, on June 4, 1987, became the first African American woman to be admitted into NASA's astronaut training program. On September 12, 1992, Jemison finally flew into space with six other astronauts aboard the Endeavour on mission STS47, becoming the first African American woman in space. In recognition of her accomplishments, Jemison has received several awards and honorary doctorates.

She also spent some of her early life as a Peace Corps medical officer for Sierra Leone and Liberia where she also taught and did medical research.



Name: Mae Jemison
Born: 1956
Nationality: American
Scientific Field: Astronaut



Oprah Gail Winfrey born **Orpah Gail Winfrey**; (January 29, 1954) is an American talk show host, television producer, actress, author, and media proprietor. She is best known for her talk show, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, broadcast from Chicago, which ran in national syndication for 25 years, from 1986 to 2011. Dubbed the "Queen of All Media", she was the richest African American of the 20th century and was once the world's only black billionaire. By 2007, she was often ranked as the most influential woman in the world

by
Kerisha J



BLACK HISTORY MONTH SALUTING OUR SISTERS

This Black History Month, we celebrate the power of black women in art and media. We honor their creativity, their resilience, and their vision for a more beautiful and just world. Black women are leading the way in the art and media industries, and their voices are essential to our creative future. Let us amplify their voices and celebrate their brilliance. Together, we can create a world where all black women artists and media makers have the opportunity to thrive.



Muriel Tramis
 "I've always been a pioneer. I've always been the first. I've always had to break down doors. But I'm not afraid of that. I'm proud of it. And I'm not going to stop."
 Muriel Tramis is a French video game designer. She is known as the first Black woman video game designer. Tramis is a pioneer in the video game industry, and she has paved the way for other Black women and women of color to enter the field. She is also a role model for many aspiring game designers, and she is an inspiration to all who are working to create a more inclusive and equitable video game industry.

Setasi Setufe MBE
 "I look forward to increased awareness of the changes that are needed within the profession and to seeing action taken to make the profession more equitable and diverse."
 Setasi Setufe MBE is a Senior Architect and Innovative Sites Programme Manager at Be First, an urban regeneration company based. She is also a co-founder and director of Black Females in Architecture, a network that aims to support and champion Black, Black mixed heritage females within the architecture/build environment.

Beyoncé Knowles
 "My goal is to use my platform to promote diversity and inclusion, and to inspire others to do the same."
 Beyoncé is one of the most creative and innovative videographers in the music industry. Her work has pushed the boundaries of what music videos can be, and she has created some of the most iconic and memorable videos of all time.
 Beyoncé is a creative and innovative videographer who has created some of the most iconic and memorable music videos of all time, including the groundbreaking and influential "Formation" video.

Mary-Ann Msengi
 "I believe that fashion is for everyone, and I want to create a brand that celebrates diversity and individuality. I want my clothes to make women feel confident and empowered, regardless of their size, race, or background."
 Msengi is a creative and innovative designer with a passion for creating clothes that make women feel confident and empowered. Her designs are known for their bold colors, unique prints, and flattering silhouettes. Msengi is also a vocal advocate for diversity and inclusion in the fashion industry, working to create a more equitable and inclusive fashion space.

When I turn into they

Tip toeing down the hallway; trying my best not to be seen. But no matter what, I always was.

Holding in my cough, choking over my own breath just to eliminate the stares. But no matter what, I somehow found eyes following me in the back of my head.

Vigorously washing my hands, so they didn't see my true self. But no matter how hard I tried they saw my darkness.

Opening doors and holding lifts, just so they would respect me. But no matter how hard I tried. I was never enough.

Running away from the press, almost breaking my leg just to hide from the attention. But no matter how hard I tried. I was always found.

Strangling my mouth shut, fighting the urge to talk back. But no matter how hard I tried I couldn't.

Holding tears in for the sniggers, I couldn't this time.

I soon realised I should turn into they. They were the ones found by me, they were the ones who were being stared at, they chose to see my beautiful dark skin, they found me, they were the ones who were not enough. As soon as you turn the embarrassment into confidence and realise you are powerful then the whole perspective changes. They didn't pave the way for black female officers. I did. I allowed young black women to have the opportunities I wasn't allowed for my skin colour.

Black is beautiful and black is okay. I am Sisilin Fay Allen and I was the first black female officer and certainly not the last.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH SALUTING OUR SISTERS



MURIEL TRAMIS

Muriel Tramis is a French video game designer from Martinique. She is known as the first Black woman video game designer. Tramis is a pioneer in the video game industry, and she has paved the way for other Black women and women of color to enter the field. She is also a role model for many aspiring game designers, and she is an inspiration to all who are working to create a more inclusive and equitable video game industry.

In 2018, Tramis was awarded the Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur, one of France's highest honors. She is the first woman and third person from the video game industry to receive this award. Tramis is a true icon in the video game industry, and her work has had a lasting impact on the medium. She is a pioneer, a role model, and an inspiration.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SALUTING OUR SISTERS



MARY-ANN MSENIGI

Mary-Ann Msengi is a fashion designer and the founder of FARAI LONDON, a contemporary womenswear brand that celebrates diversity and individuality. She is also a director of SHOPTAFFI LTD, a fashion e-commerce platform.

Msengi is a creative and innovative designer with a passion for creating clothes that make women feel confident and empowered. Her designs are known for their bold colors, unique prints, and flattering silhouettes. In addition to her work as a fashion designer, Msengi is also a vocal advocate for diversity and inclusion in the fashion industry. She is a mentor to young designers from underrepresented backgrounds, and she is working to create a more equitable and inclusive fashion space.

Msengi is a rising star in the fashion world, and she is one to watch in the years to come. She is a talented designer with a strong vision, and she is committed to making a positive impact on the industry.

Inspirational black women in the CJS

Sislin Fay Allen

Sislin Fay Allen was born in Jamaica in 1939, going on to change the future of British policing. She was an inspiration for many when she became the first black female police officer in the Met and in the UK in 1968. Allen was seen as an important news story. Shortly after her new position, she dealt with numerous reporters. She also received racist hate mail. At the centre of media attention, Allen understood more than anyone what her decision meant. She said " I realised that I was a history maker. But I didn't set out to make history; I just wanted a change of direction.

Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon

Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon was a British Jamaican campaigner and the mother of Steven Lawrence, a black British teenager who was murdered in a racist attack in 1993. She promoted reforms of the police service and founded the Stephen Lawrence charitable trust. She has won praise for her dedication to the community, anti-racism and other causes. She was also recently named the most powerful woman in the country by the BBC.



by
Martha O

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