

POSITIVITY

Black History Month - UK

1st October - 31st October 2020



THE PAST. THE PRESENT.
SHAPING THE FUTURE

Be inspired by 30
biographies of Black
people who had an
impact in different
fields.



Acknowledgements

**This virtual art exhibition took place in the year
2020.**

**A special thanks to our researchers: Asqarini
Hasbi, Gul Khan, Adio Abidemi, and Hafsa. Najib
El Adiouï and Nisa Ahmad for their
contributions towards the research of this
project.**



Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| The Founders of Black History Month----- | 5 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Helen Keller----- | 8 |
| SCIENCE AND MEDICINE- ----- | 9 |
| Dr John Alcindor----- | 10 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Herman Melville----- | 12 |
| Marie Daly----- | 13 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Henry Ford----- | 15 |
| Dr Hawa Aden Mohamed----- | 16 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Abhijit Naskar ----- | 17 |
| Olamide Dada----- | 18 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Cornel West----- | 20 |
| Patricia Bath ----- | 21 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Marian Anderson----- | 22 |
| Lloyd Noel----- | 23 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Harvey MacKay----- | 24 |
| Dr Myra Adele Logan----- | 25 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Oprah Winfrey----- | 26 |
| MATHS AND ENGINEERING----- | 27 |
| Katherine Johnson----- | 28 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Les Brown----- | 30 |
| Lewis Howard Latimer----- | 31 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Loretta Scott King----- | 33 |
| Gladys West----- | 34 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Mattie Stepanek----- | 36 |
| Dr Mae Jemison----- | 37 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Ibram X Kendi----- | 40 |
| Dr Nike Folayande----- | 42 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Malcolm X----- | 43 |
| Justin Onuekwusi----- | 44 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Solange ----- | 45 |
| LAW AND POLITICS----- | 46 |
| Martin Luther King----- | 47 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Nelson Mandela----- | 49 |
| Nelson Mandela----- | 50 |

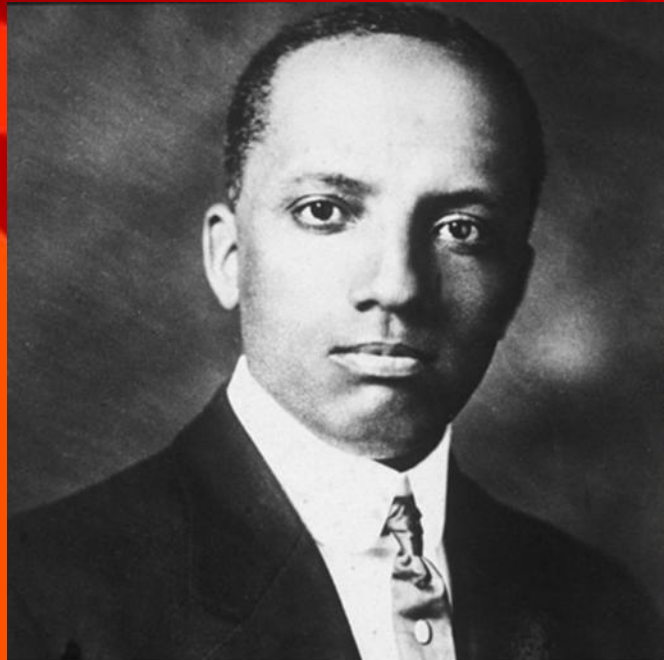


Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| BLM and Diversity quote by Malcolm X----- | 53 |
| Malcolm X ----- | 54 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Michelle Obama----- | 56 |
| Obamas----- | 57 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Michelle Obama----- | 62 |
| Sir Trevor McDonald----- | 63 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Oprah Winfrey----- | 65 |
| George Floyd----- | 66 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Shondra Rhime----- | 67 |
| George Junius Stinney Jr.----- | 68 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Serina Williams quote----- | 72 |
| THEOLOGY, SPORT SND ART----- | 73 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Tariq Ramadan----- | 74 |
| The ivory bangle lady----- | 75 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Muhammad Ali----- | 77 |
| Muhammad Ali----- | 78 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Bob Marley----- | 80 |
| Maya Angelou----- | 81 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Charles Barkley----- | 83 |
| Halimah DeOliveira----- | 84 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Angela Davis----- | 86 |
| Ismael Lea South----- | 87 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Ryan Giggs----- | 88 |
| Shelley Shabazz----- | 89 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Denzel Washington----- | 90 |
| Kareem Abdul Jabbar----- | 91 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Sophie Okonedo----- | 93 |
| Monir Eid----- | 94 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Shemar Moore----- | 95 |
| Ignatius Sancho----- | 96 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Marcus Garvey----- | 98 |
| Queen Charlotte and John Blanke----- | 99 |
| BLM and Diversity quote by Ava DuVernay----- | 101 |
| Participation of black soldiers in the first world wa----- | 102 |



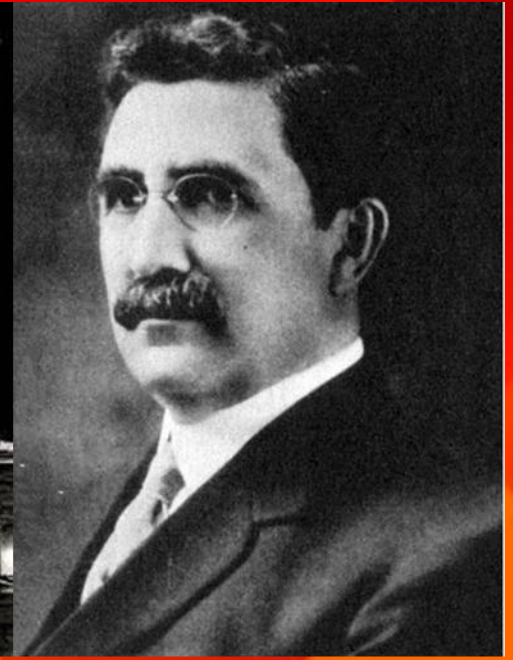
The Founders of Black History Month



Carter Woodson
(1875-1950)



Akyaaaba Addai-Sebo



Jesse E Morland
(1963-1940)

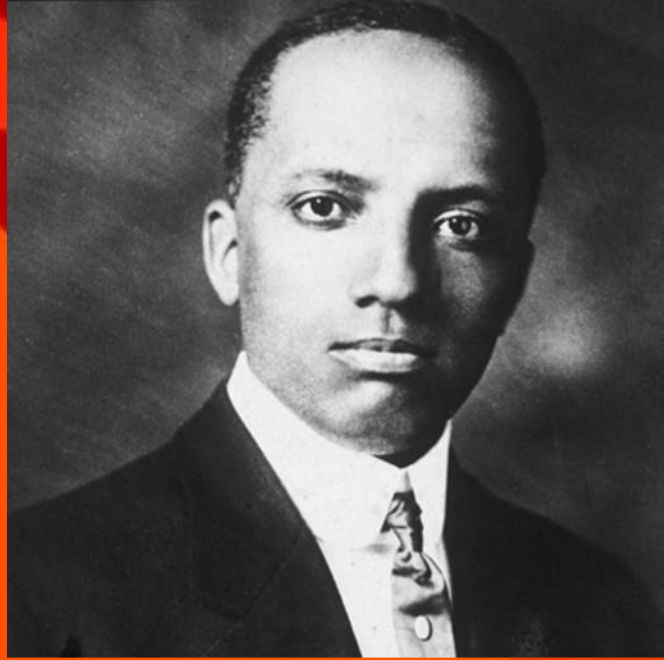
Carter Woodson was a historian and Jesse Morland was a minister who founded together an organisation called the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) who empowered black individuals from America and African descent. Akyaaaba Addai-Sebo is a Ghanaian analyst who was a special project coordinator for the Greater London Council. Black History Month was founded in 1915 following the Civil War (1865). It has been around half a century since the 13th Amendment ended slavery in America.

The 13th Amendment states:

“Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”

However, other studies have reported that Britain halted the trade in slavery in 1807, but did not stop slavery itself and continued until 1838 in British colonies. The ASALH performed a national week in the second week of February in 1926. This is within the same period as Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

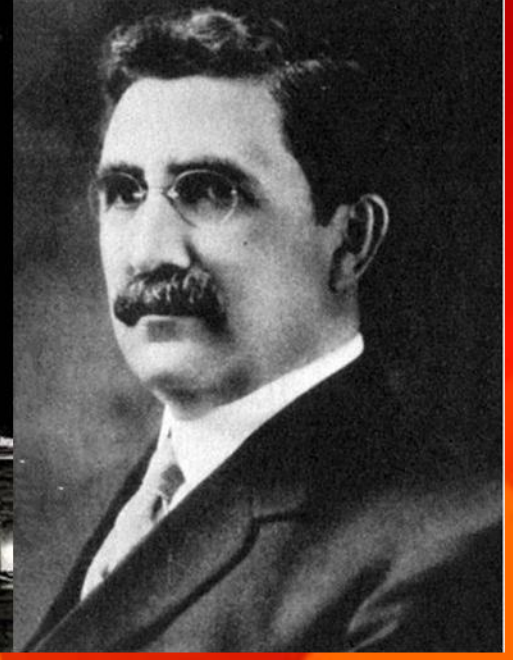
The Founders of Black History Month



**Carter Woodson
(1875-1950)**



Akyaaba Addai-Sebo



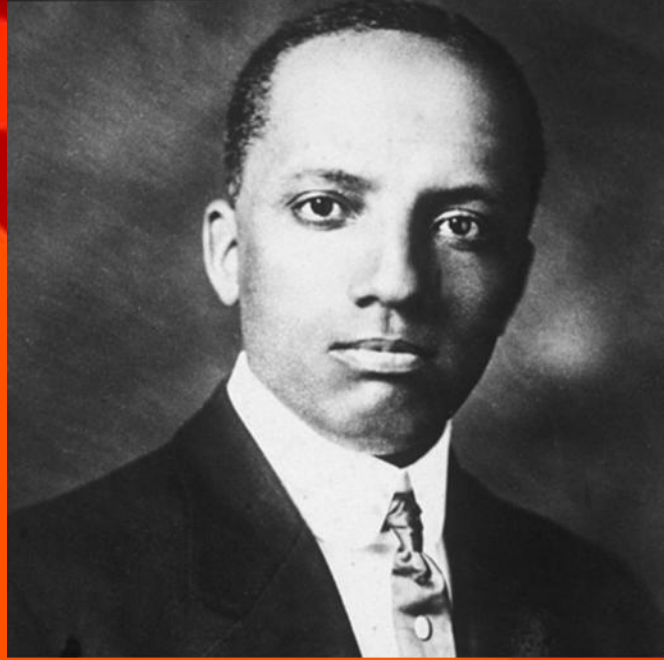
**Jesse E Morland
(1963-1940)**

This inspired everyone in the schools and communities was recognised as the Negro History Week in the following decades. In the 1960s, the week was expanded to universities, and President Gerald Ford officially recognised Black History Month in 1976. In his words, he states:

“Seize the opportunity to honour the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavour throughout our history.”

The annual event progressed to the UK and was first celebrated in October 1987 by Akyaaba Addai-Sebo on the contributions of people of Black and African descent in various perspectives. It is commonly asked why Black History Month is celebrated in October in the UK and February in the USA. In the USA, it is celebrated in February due to the dual birthdays of the former president Abraham Lincoln and the diplomat Frederick Douglass. In the UK, it is a time of connection with African roots and settling differences.

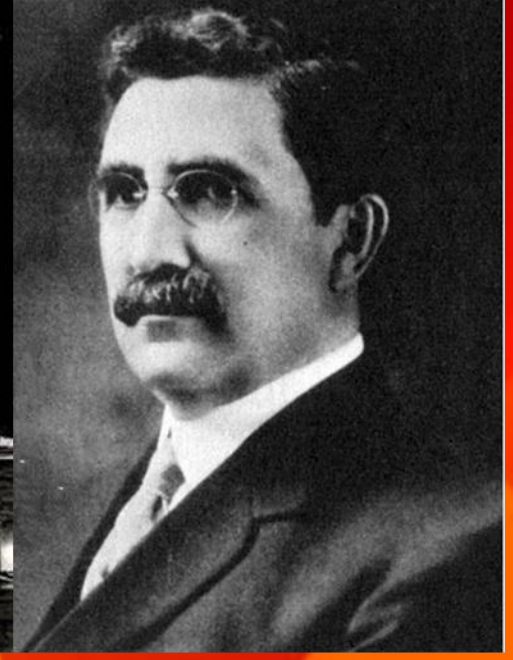
The Founders of Black History Month



Carter Woodson
(1875-1950)



Akyaaaba Addai-Sebo



Jesse E Morland
(1963-1940)

References:

Bhambra, G. (2016) Undoing the Epistemic Disavowal of the Haitian Revolution: A Contribution to Global Social Thought. *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, 37(1), pp. 1-16.

Enrolments Acts and Resolutions of Congress (n.d.) *General Records of the United States Government, Record Group 11* Available at: <https://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/011.html> (Accessed: 1st October 2020)

Van de Meeropol, K. (2016) On the Advantage and Disadvantage of Black History Month for life: the creation of the post-racial aera. *History and Theory*, 55(1), pp. 3-24.



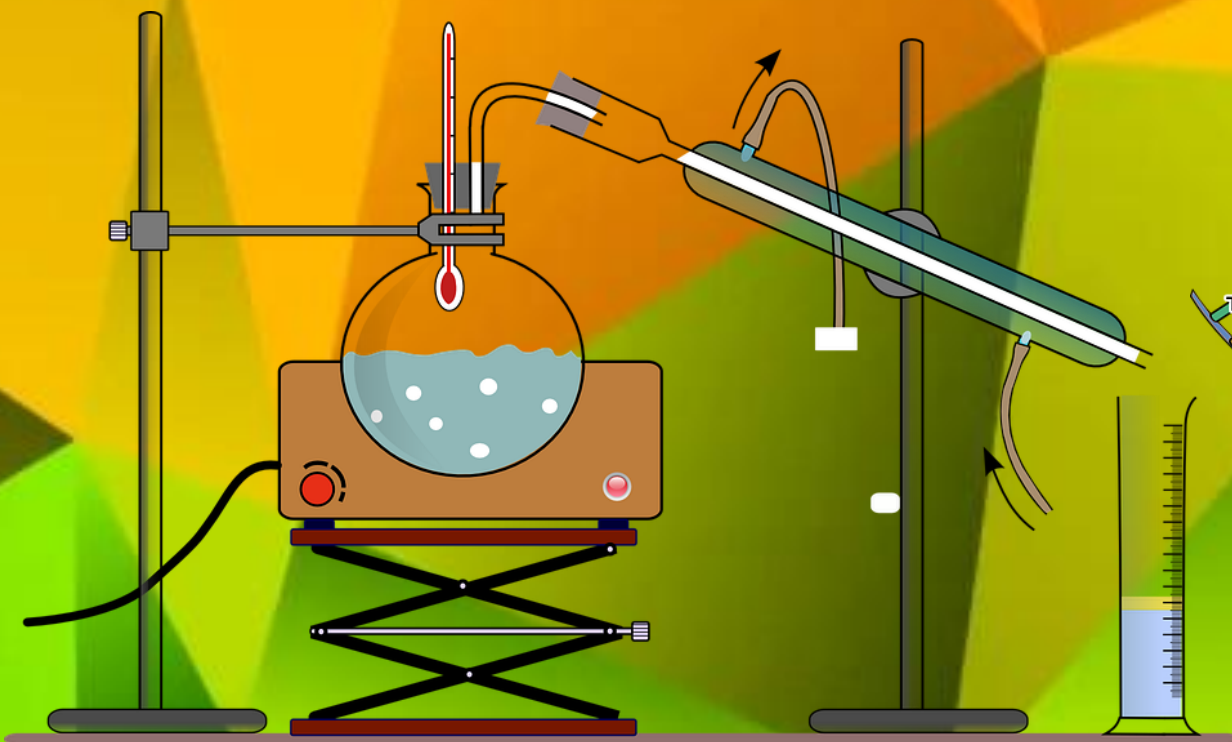
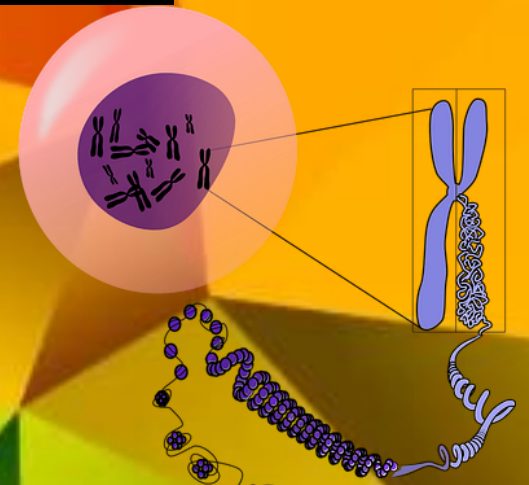


*“Keep your face to
the sunshine and you
cannot see a shadow.”*

Helen Keller



SCIENCE AND MEDICINE





Dr John Alcindor
1873 - 1924

Dr John Alcindor graduated in medicine from Edinburgh University. He performed his postgraduate training in several UK hospitals before having his own general practice in Paddington in 1907.

His contributions

He was one of the organisers of the first Pan-African conference in London and was a key member of the African Progress Union. He published several articles on cancer, influenza, and nutrition. He was rejected from joining the Royal Army Medical Corps in World War I due to prejudice, and instead, he volunteered with the British Red Cross to help wounded soldiers.




Dr John Alcindor
1873 - 1924

Later, he was recognised for his life-saving work, and a blue plaque was placed at his practice. He is one of the many who faced prejudice but was determined to succeed professionally and socially.

References:

Green, J. (1987) John Alcindor (1873-1924): A migrant's biography, *Immigrants and Minorities*, 6 (2), pp. 174-180





*“We cannot live only for
ourselves. A thousand
fibers connect us with
our fellow men.”*

Herman Melville



Marie Daly
1921 - 2003

Marie Daly is a biochemist, teacher, and researcher born in New York in 1921. Her parents encouraged her to study at a time when it was impossible for many African Americans. She stayed at home to save money. She received her undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Chemistry. In 1944, she enrolled at Columbia University as a doctoral student. She was the first African-American woman to receive a Ph.D. in Chemistry in the United States of America.

Her contributions

Marie worked with pioneering researchers such as Dr Alfred Mirsky and Dr. Quetin Deming.

Amongst her groundbreaking work are the following:

- Investigate the causes of heart attacks.
- How a food diet can affect the cardiovascular system and blood circulation.
- The relationship between high cholesterol and clogged arteries.
- The effect of cigarette smoking on the lungs.



Marie Daly
1921 - 2003

Marie Daly also supported medical and scientific students of ethnic minorities. In 1988, she started a scholarship for ethnic minority students who wanted to study science at Queen's College.

References

Biography.com (n.d.) (2021) *Marie M. Daly*. Available at:

<https://www.biography.com/scientists/marie-m-daly> (Accessed: 11th May 2025)





*“Coming together is a
beginning. Keeping
together is progress.
Working together is
success.”*

Henry Ford



Dr Hawa Aden Mohamed
1949 - 2020

Hawa, otherwise known as Mama Hawa, is a Somali humanitarian, doctor, educator, advocate, and Nobel Peace Prize nominee. After the start of the civil war, she moved to Canada and studied medicine in Ukraine, where she worked at several governmental hospitals. She returned to Somalia in 1995 to conduct humanitarian work.

Her contributions

She is the Founder and Director of Galkayo Education Centre for Peace and Development, located in Puntland, Somalia, where she helped empower women, girls, and boys from extreme conditions through life skills training, education, and building futures. She was dedicated to providing free healthcare.

References

Mbewa, D.O. (2020) *'Somali rights activist, Nobel Peace Prize nominee Dr. Hawa Abdi dies'*
Available: <https://Africa.cgtn.com/2020/08.05/somali-rights-activist-nobel-peace-prize-nominee-dr-hawa-abdi-dies/> (Accessed: 1st October 2020)





*“Sentiments that glorify
humanity know no racial
distinction.”*

Abhijit Naskar





Olamide Dada

Olamide Dada is a UK medical student who set up a blog called “Melanin Medics” in 2017. She struggled to find a platform that supported and advised students of Afro-Caribbean descent when applying.

However, she successfully got into Medical school and developed an opportunity to fill the gap. Through Melanin Medics, she hopes to encourage and motivate young people of Afro-Caribbean descent to believe in themselves and ensure prospective medical students have the support they need to pursue a career in medicine and face the challenges.

Melanin Medics has been focused on implementing positive solutions that will help to overcome underrepresentation and socio-economic barriers in Medicine. Olamide is an advocate for the youth, where she induces varied social initiatives to encourage and empower the next generation.



Olamide Dada

She is also a current scholar of the Healthcare Leadership Academy and is a member of the GMC Equality and Diversity Advisory Board. In 2018, she received the Rare Rising Star Award at the House of Commons for being one of the top black students in the UK. She is also one of the Powerlist Media Top 100 Future Leaders 2018.

References


Melanin medics (2020) '*Our Founder's story*' Available at:

<https://www.melaninmedics.com/our-founders-story> (Accessed: 1st October 2020)

Rising Stars (2020) '*Olamide Dada*' Available at: [https://wearethecity-](https://wearethecity-risingstars.com/olamide-dada-melanin-medics/)

[risingstars.com/olamide-dada-melanin-medics/](https://wearethecity-risingstars.com/olamide-dada-melanin-medics/) (Accessed: 1st October 2020)





*“None of us alone can save
the nation or the world.
But each of us can make a
positive difference if we
commit ourselves to do
so.”*

Cornel West





Patricia Bath

Patricia Bath is an Ophthalmologist who improved the treatment of cataracts by inventing the Laserphaco Probe, which created a less painful and more precise treatment of cataracts. She also co-founded the American Institute for the Prevention of Blindness, which established the following:

“Eyesight is a basic human right.”

Patricia also founded the Ophthalmology Residency program at UCLA-Drew.

References

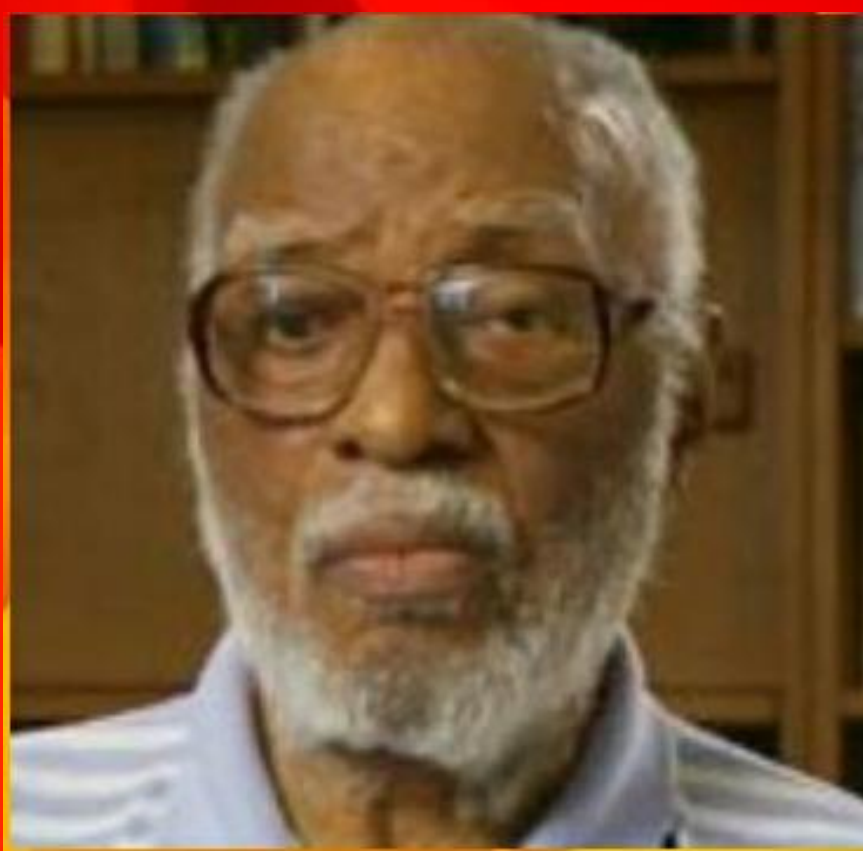
Muli, L. (n.d.) ‘*Dr. Patricia Bath: Her Contributions in Modern Eye Surgery*’ Available at: <https://veluzian.com/dr-patricia-bath/> (Accessed: 1st October 2020)



“No matter how big a nation is, it is no stronger than its weakest people, and as long as you keep a person down, some part of you has to be down there to hold him down, so it means you cannot soar as you might otherwise.”

Marian Anderson





Lloyd Noel

Lloyd Noel is a Professor of Chemistry who invented moth repellent and spot remover in the yard. He also founded the University of Howard Doctoral Chemistry program. Noel is the co-founder of the National Organisation for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE). Amongst his research studies involved investigating the structure of carbon-based molecules, cancer chemotherapy, and other biological studies.

References:

d'Wylde, M. (2020) *Lloyd Noel Ferguson: research chemist and educator*. Available at: <https://chemistry.berkeley.edu/news/lloyd-noel-ferguson-research-chemist-and-educator> (Accessed: 1st October 2020)



“When you wake up every day, you have two choices. You can either be positive or negative; an optimist or a pessimist. I choose to be an optimist. It’s all a matter of perspective.”

Harvey MacKay





Dr Myra Adele Logan

Dr. Logan was born in 1908 in Alabama. She has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Columbia University. She spent a year at the YMCA in Connecticut, and won the first Walter Gray Crump Scholarship to attend medical school at the New York Medical College. She was trained at Harlem Hospital in emergency medicine and then trained to become a surgeon.

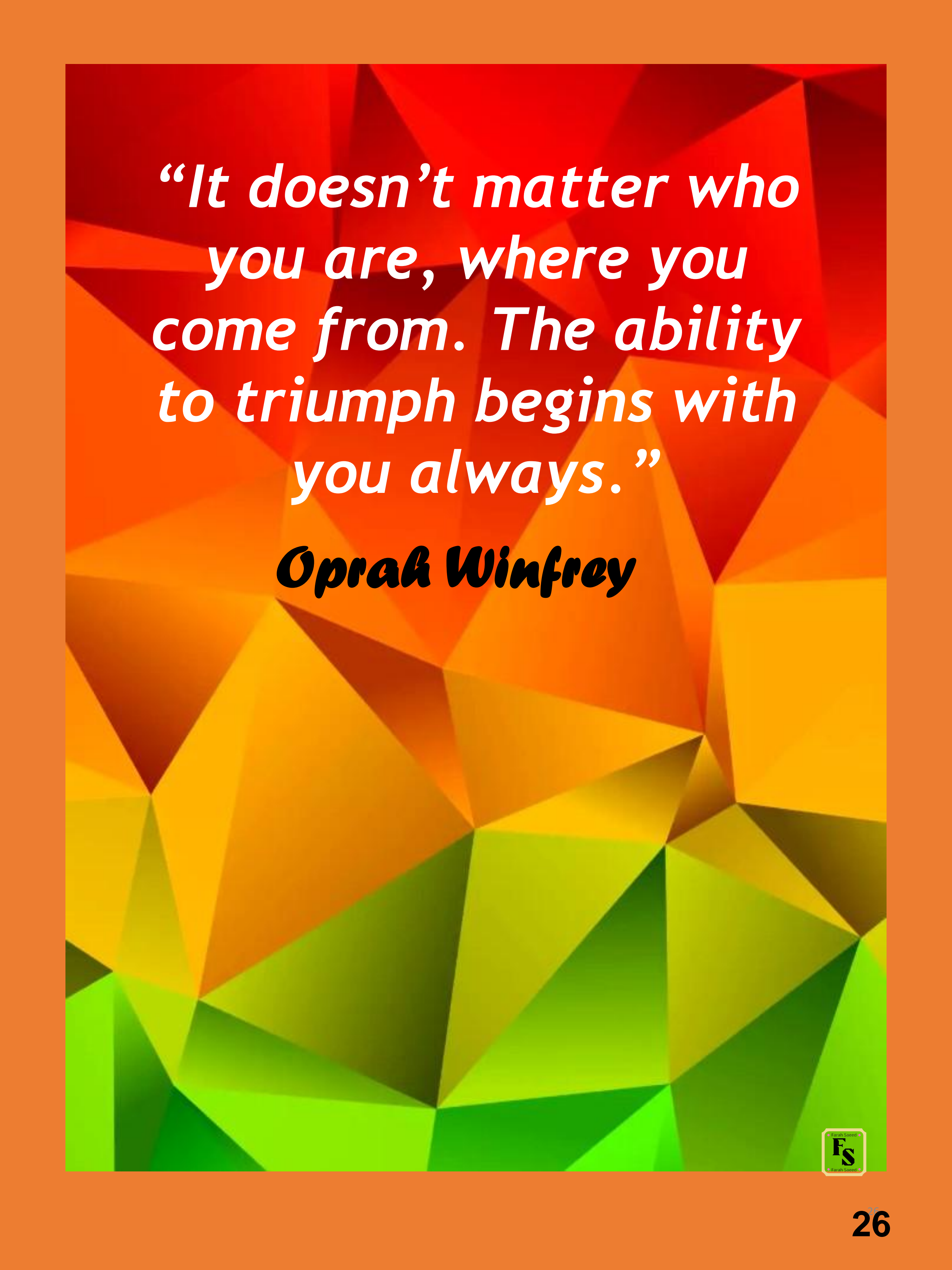
She was a hardworking and committed person who was good at research and life-saving surgery. In research, she worked on antibiotics with Dr Louis Wright. In 1943, she was the first woman to perform an open-heart surgery. Dr. Logan was the first woman elected a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. She also pioneered diagnostic techniques for breast cancer in the 1960 to accurately detect differences in tissue density.

References:

African American Registry (2025) *Myra A. Logan, Surgeon, and Health Advocate born.*

Available at: <https://aaregistry.org/story/dr-myra-a-logan-born/> (Accessed: 12th May 2025)





*“It doesn’t matter who
you are, where you
come from. The ability
to triumph begins with
you always.”*

Oprah Winfrey





Maths And Engineering





Katherine Johnson (1918–2020)

Katherine was a mathematician and space scientist who worked for NASA and its predecessor, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA). She had to travel to study because there was no school for 'coloured' beyond sixth grade at that time.

Her contributions

She was involved in the invention of an American space flight, such as the Space Shuttle, alongside Mary Jackson, NASA's first Black female engineer, and Dorothy Vaughan, another inspiring mathematician.

Her trajectory calculations were used for moon landings such as Apollo 11. She also helped the astronaut John Glenn's Project Mercury with his orbital space flight in 1962 for calculations using IBM 7090. Her calculations were used to save a space flight after an oxygen tank exploded..



Katherine Johnson (1918–2020)

Other contributions

In the 1950s, not many women were involved in NASA research, and being black where two barriers she faced. However, she resisted and was determined, where she joined an all-male flight research team and started, despite she could not attend the 'no women' research meetings.

In 2016, she said: *"I was just doing my job."*

References

Shetterly, M. (2020) Katherine Johnson (1918-2020), *Nature* 579 (7799), pp. 341-341



“In every day, there are 1440 minutes. That means we have 1440 daily opportunities to make a positive impact.”

Les Brown





Lewis Howard Latimer
(1848–1928)

Lewis Latimer is an inventor, engineer, and patent draftsman whose aim was to support African Americans from slavery through technology and innovation. He was born in Chelsea, Massachusetts, and his parents escaped from slavery in Virginia. Following his time at the Navy during the Civil War, he worked at a patent law firm and taught himself mechanical drawing.

His contributions

When we look at who discovered the lightbulb, Thomas Edison comes to mind. When we look at who discovered the telephone, Alexander Graham Bell comes to mind.

But how many of you know that Latimer's patented research helped Edison and Bell?

He patented his discovery in 1881 on how a carbon filament for the incandescent lightbulb could be used as electricity for the public and home, making it affordable.

'Latimer's Incandescent Electric Lighting: A Practical Description of the Edison System.'



Lewis Howard Latimer (1848–1928)

However, the inventions by people of colour were not considered serious. Bell used Latimer's diagrams to patent the first telephone in 1876.

References

Jackson, J.P. (2005). :Black Inventors in the Age of Segregation: Granville T. Woods, Lewis H. Latimer, and Shelby J. Davidson. *Journal of American History*, 91(4), p. 1500

Judd, M. (1998) Lewis Latimer: African American Inventor, Poet and Activity. *OAH Magazine of History*, 12 (2) pp. 25-27



“Hate is too great a burden to bear. It injures the hater more than it injures the hated.”

Loretta Scott King





Ms Gladys West

Mrs West was born in Virginia to a family that gave support. She worked hard to secure a scholarship and majored in mathematics, which at the time was a subject mainly dominated by men.

Her contributions

Her mathematical expertise proved valuable when she invented the Global Positioning System (GPS). She was the second black woman to work for the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division in Virginia in 1956. Gladys worked with one black woman and two black men. She worked as a programmer and analysed satellite data to make models to determine the Earth's shape. She was a project manager for the Seas at radar altimetry project, and this was the first satellite that could remotely sense oceans.

In the 1970s and 80s, Gladys performed precise calculations to model the shape of the Earth, a good by programming an IBM computer. It was optimised for GPS orbit. She continued working as a mathematician and was nominated by her departmental head for a commendation in 1979.



Ms Gladys West

After 42 years of Dahlgren, her contributions was discovered and recognised by Alpha Kappa Alpha member who submitted it to alumni. It was then how people valued her contributions in 2018.

In the same year, she inducted into the Air Force Space and Missile Pioneers Hall of Fame.

“I carried that load round, thinking that I had to be the best that I could be.”

“Always doing things just right, to set an example for other people who were coming behind me, especially women.”


“I strived hard to be tough and hang in there the best I could.”

“You’re always competing and trying to survive because you’re in a different group of people.”

References

Ogbugo, S. (2020) *Black History: Meet Dr. Gladys West, The Black Woman Behind GPS Technology*. Available at: <https://afrotech.com/black-history-dr-gladys-west-gps-technology> (Accessed: 1st October 2020)





*“Unity is
strength...when there
is teamwork and
collaboration,
wonderful things can be
achieved.”*

Mattie Stepanek





Dr. Mae Jemison

Dr. Jemison is a chemical engineer, Astro scientist, physician, and teacher. She was born in 1956 in Decatur. She has an undergraduate degree in chemical engineering and African American studies from Stanford University in 1977.

Following this, she received her medical degree in 1981 where during one of her placements she went to provide primary medical care to Cuba, Thailand, and Kenya. Between 1983 and 1985, she served as Peace Corps medical officer in Liberia and Sierra Leone, where she supervised a multidisciplinary team, wrote self-care manuals, developed health and safety guidelines, and conducted research for various vaccines with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Dr Jemison then worked as a G.P. with CIGNA in Los Angeles. However, she wanted to do more and enrolled in engineering classes and applied to NASA for admission to become an astronaut. Alternatively, she was rejected but applied again in 1987 and passed, where she was one of the 15 applicants who succeeded from more than 2000.

Moreover, Dr Jemison became the 5th black astronaut and the first black female astronaut in NASA, where amongst her roles are launching activities and verification of software in the Shuttle Avionics Integration Laboratory (SAIL).



Dr. Mae Jemison

Furthermore, she also participated in the eight-day mission of STS-47 Spacelab-J between the USA and Japan, where 127 orbits around the Earth and 44 scientific experiments took place. She is the first African-American who travelled to space, where she launched from and returned to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida in 190 hours, 30 minutes, and 23 seconds.

In 1993, she founded the Jemison Group Inc., where she resigned from NASA to develop technologies that help the developing world. For instance, Alpha is a satellite-based telecommunication system that helps improve the healthcare system in West Africa.

Dr Jemison is a professor of environmental studies at Dartmouth College and is a host of the 'World of Wonders' series on the Discovery Channel. She has received a number of awards and, due to her contributions, a public school has been named after her. Mae C. Jemison Academy in Detroit.



Dr. Mae Jemison

References

Clarkson University (2020) *Dr Mae Jemison* Available at: www.Clarkson.edu/news/astronaut-mae-Jemison-speak-Clarkson-university-February-17 (Accessed: 1st October 2020)

Hilger, B. (n.d.) *Dr Mae Jemison..* Available at: www.wnba.com/archive/wnba/shock/news/mjemison_070210.html (Accessed: 1st October 2020)



“The opposite of racist isn't 'not racist.' It is 'anti-racist.' What's the difference? One endorses either the idea of a racial hierarchy as a racist, or racial equality as an anti-racist. One either believes problems are rooted in groups of people, as a racist, or locates the roots of problems in power and policies, as an anti-racist. One either allows racial inequities to persevere, as a racist, or confronts racial inequities, as an anti-racist. There is no in-between safe space of 'not racist.’”

Ibram X Kendi





Dr. Nike Folayande

Dr. Folayande is a chartered electronics engineer with a Doctorate in electronics engineering and is currently Associate Director and the Technical Discipline Leader for Communications and Control within the Railways Division of WSP, an engineering consultancy. She was recently a judge at the IET Young Woman of the Year 2019 Award and is a fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET).

She was featured in Britain's 100 most influential people of African and Caribbean heritage 2012 Powerlist and named in the Financial Times as one of the 100 most influential women in engineering in 2019. She has conducted highway projects in the UK, Africa, the Middle East, and Australia. Also, Dr Folayande worked for Parsons Brinckerhoff, Matt MacDonald, and Harada Limited. She is the chair of AFBE-UK, which aims to inspire people of BME origin to enter Engineering.



Dr. Nike Folayande

Furthermore, she is also on several advisory and diversity panels, for instance:


- Engineering Development Trust (EDT) at Lambeth College
- The Science Council
- The Royal Academy of Engineering
- Transport for London Diversity Steering
- The Strategic Planning Committee of the University of the West of England.

She has recently joined the engineering industrial panel at the University of Kent.

References

Association for Black and Minority Ethnic Engineers (2025) AFBE-UK Executive Board
Available at: <https://www.afbe.org.uk/about-us/executive-board> (Accessed: 12th May 2025)





*“I believe in human beings
and that all human beings
should be respect as such,
regardless of their colour.”*

Malcolm X



Justin Onuekwusi

Justin is a diversity champion and finance fund manager within the Multi-Asset Funds team, which manages over £60 billion, leading on the management of the Legal and General Investment Management team's retail and risk-profiled multi-asset funds. Justin is a CFA Charter holder and holds a degree in Economics from the University of Warwick and an Investment Management Certificate.

As head of retail-multi-asset funds for LGIM, Justin is one of a handful of black fund managers in the UK and has used his platform to promote I and D Inclusion and Diversity in the financial cities of England. He co-founded Talk About Black, a group that encourages more black people to enter into financial services nationwide.

@talkaboutblack

References:

EnCircle (2024) *Justin Onuekwusi* Available at:

<https://www.encirclementoring.com/justin-onuekwusi>

(Accessed: 13th May 2025)



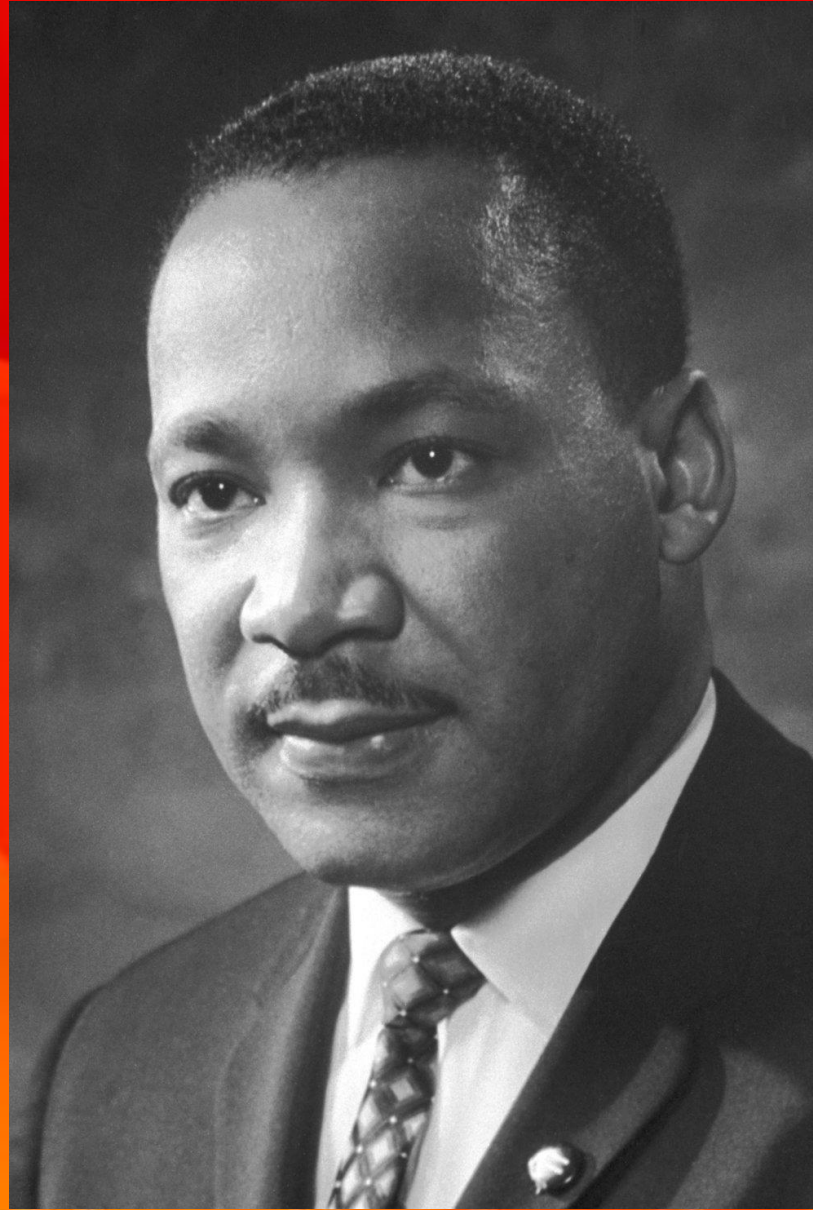
*“Watch us Walk. Watch us Move.
Watch us Overcome. Listen to our
voices, the sway. The resilience.
The Innovation. The raw,
unfiltered and untouched soul we
have cannot be touched!”*

Solange



Law and Politics





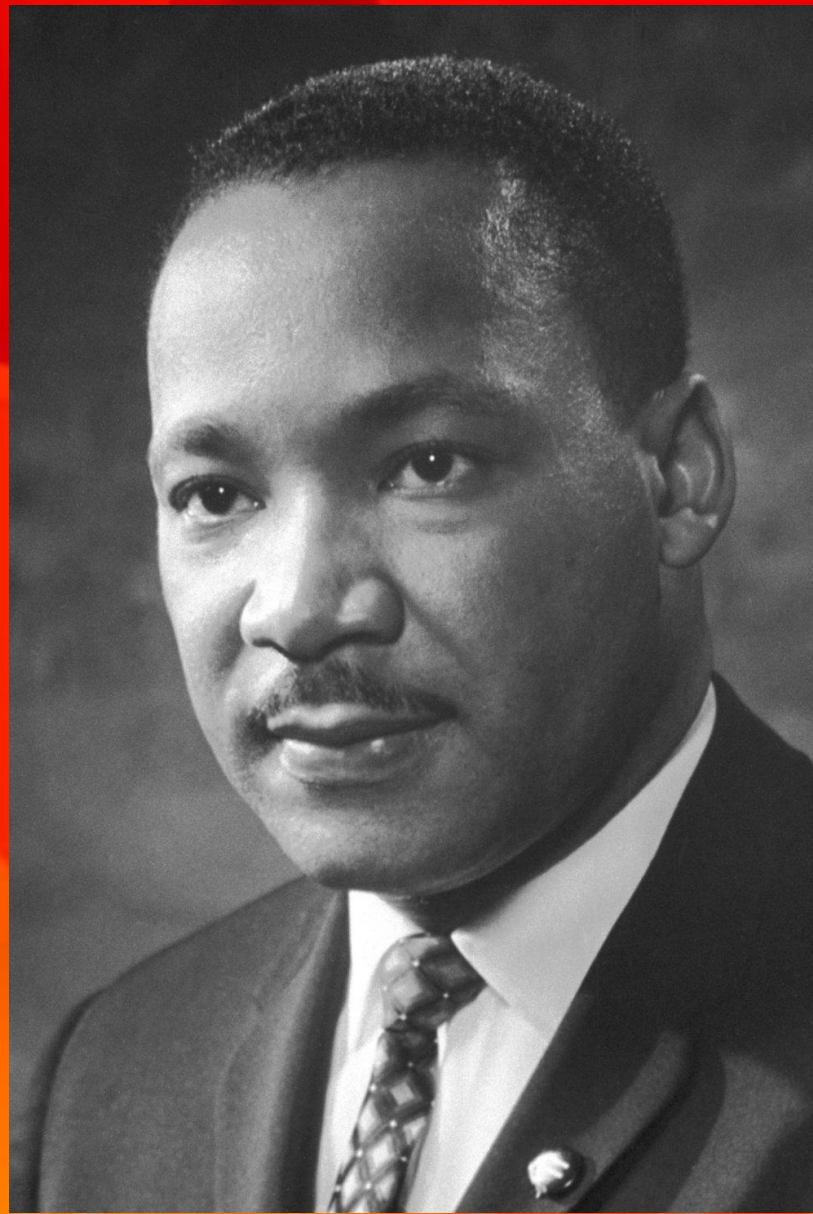
Dr Martin Luther King (1928 - 1968)

Martin Luther King is a social activist and minister who empowered black people and their civil rights from the mid-1950s until his murder in 1968.

His contributions

He faced many challenges while on his mission to create an environment where there were equal human rights for all. This involved peaceful protests and events such as the Montgomery Bus Boycott, where African Americans were forced to sit at the back of the bus whilst white Americans boarded under the laws of Jim Crow.

Due to the belief of having equality, he was often treated unfairly and was arrested over twenty times for protesting, and was subjected to violent attacks. This suggests the level of hostility Dr King faced from segregationists, where his life was threatened repeatedly..



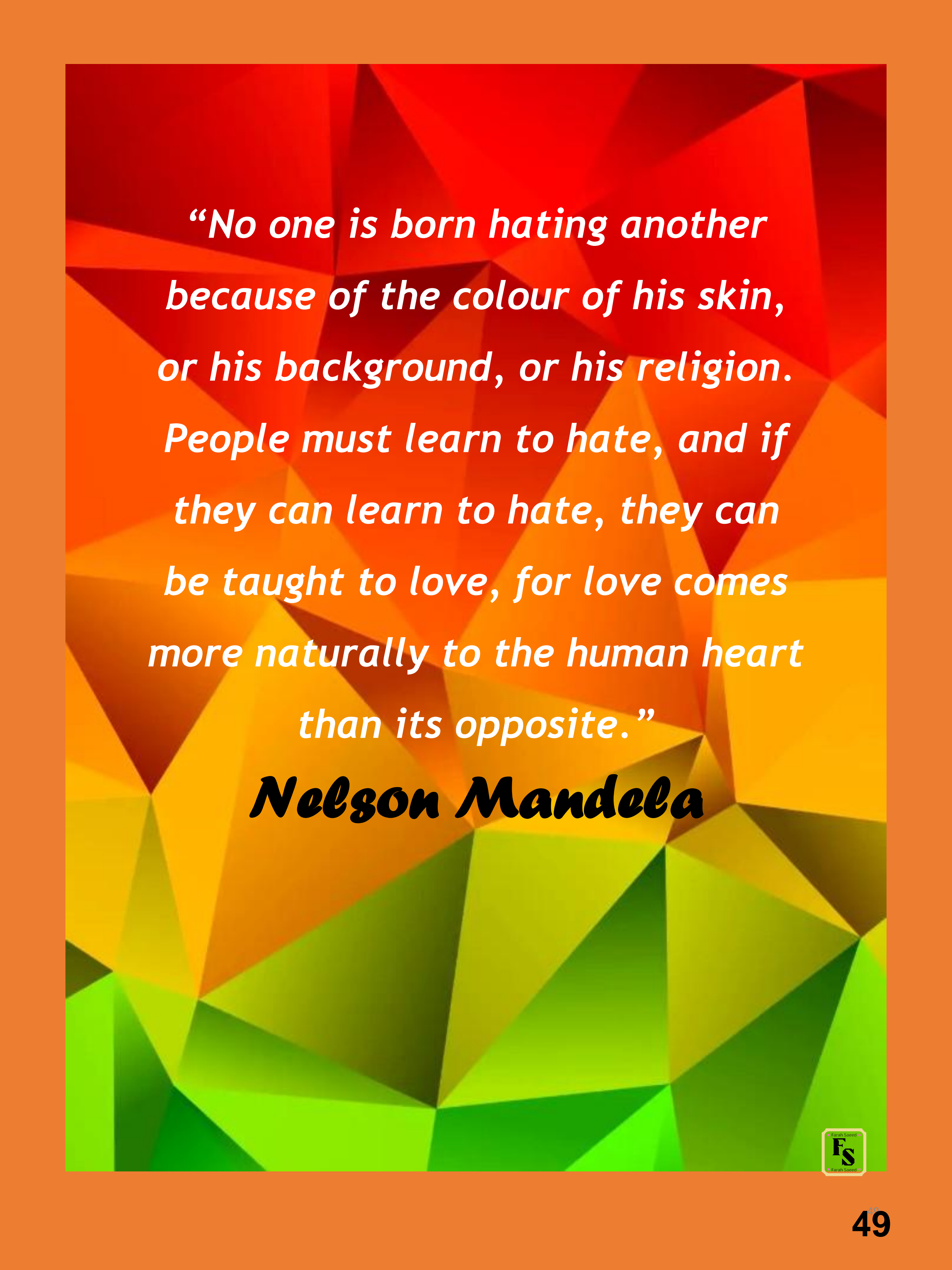
Dr Martin Luther King (1928 - 1968)

However, these events led to renowned legislations such as the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act. He was also awarded prizes for his civil rights movement, including the Nobel and there is a national holiday after his name in 1986. Despite his contributions, he was still a target and was assassinated in Memphis while he was planning the Poor People's Campaign.

References

Huggins, N. (1987) Martin Luther King, Jr.: Charisma and Leadership. *Journal of American History*. 74(2), pp. 477-481.





*“No one is born hating another
because of the colour of his skin,
or his background, or his religion.
People must learn to hate, and if
they can learn to hate, they can
be taught to love, for love comes
more naturally to the human heart
than its opposite.”*

Nelson Mandela



Rolihlahla Mandela (Nelson Mandela) (1918 - 2013)

Nelson Mandela faced many challenges during his life, especially during the period when he was trying to end apartheid, which separated blacks and whites. His objective led him to prison for nearly three decades. A man of colour, he faced fewer privileges where he was only allowed to see his wife and kids once every six months during his imprisonment and was subjected to inhumane punishments for the smallest offences. He is the first black president of South Africa.

Mandela was born into the Madiba clan in Mvezo village, Eastern Cape. His primary school teacher, Miss Midingane, called him Nelson. His father was the principal councilor to the Acting King of the Thembu people, Jongintaba Dalindyebo. At age 12, Mandela himself became a ward of the King.



Rolihlahla Mandela (Nelson Mandela) (1918 - 2013)

His undergraduate studies were in Bachelor of Arts at the University College of Fort Hare, but he was expelled for joining a student protest. The King was furious, and Nelson, with his cousin, ran away to Johannesburg, where he worked as a security officer and later for attorneys Witkin, Eidelman, and Sidelsky. He graduated in 1943 after completing his BA at the University of South Africa. Nelson also studied for an LLB at Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg. However, due to funding, he could not complete it in 1952.

He tried again in 1962 from the University of London but could not. For the third time, he managed to complete it via the University of South Africa and graduated in 1989. He was released in 1990 and spent his time helping others. In 1991, at the African National Congress (ANC) first conference since it was banned in 1960, and was elected President of the ANC.



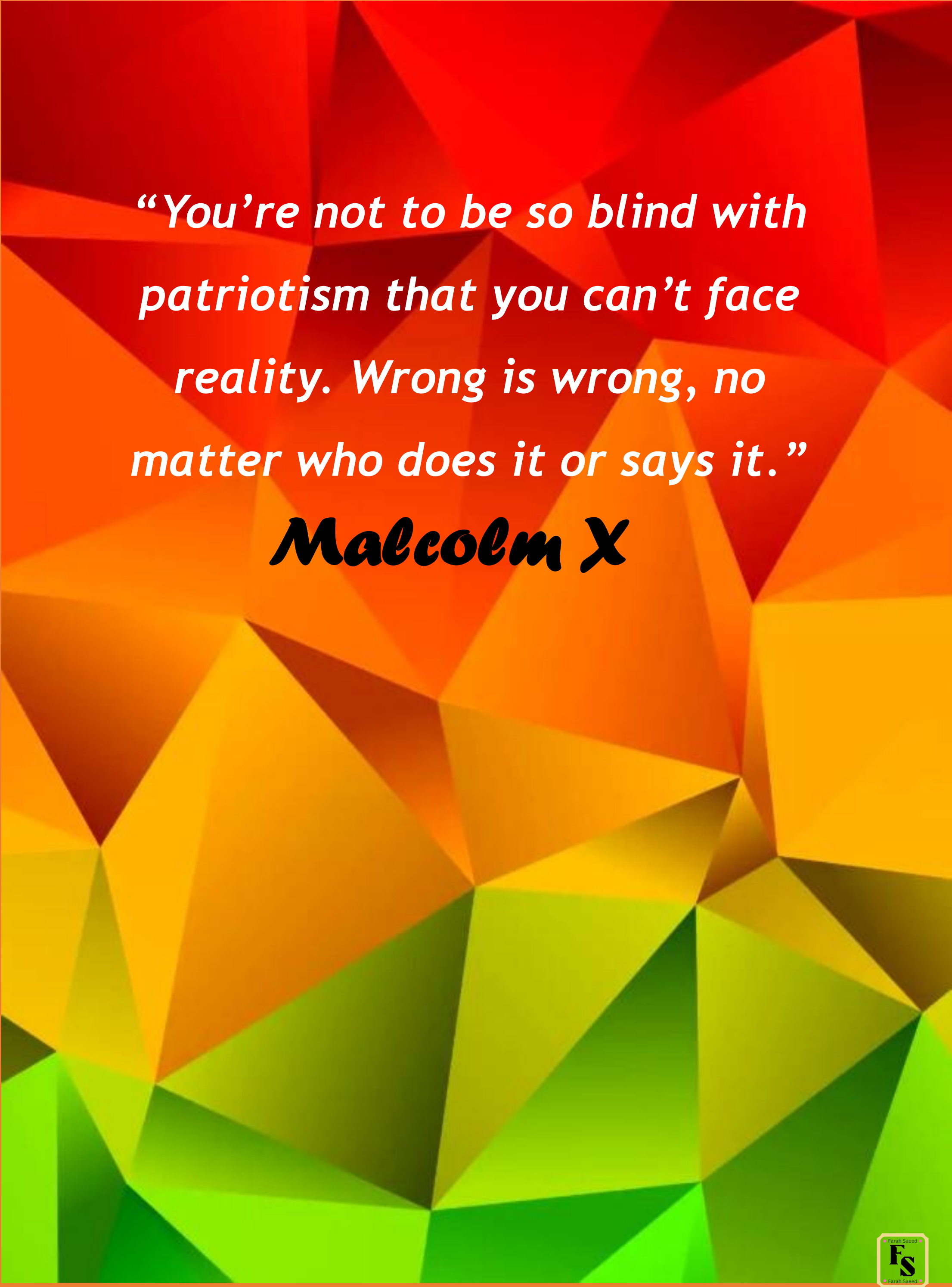
Rolihlahla Mandela (Nelson Mandela) (1918 - 2013)

References

Mandela, N. (1994) *Long Walk to Freedom. The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela*. Boston and New York: Little Brown.

Nelson Mandela Foundation (2020) *Biography of Nelson Mandela* Available at: www.nelsonmandela.org (Accessed: 1st October 2020).





*“You’re not to be so blind with
patriotism that you can’t face
reality. Wrong is wrong, no
matter who does it or says it.”*

Malcolm X





Malcolm X

(Malcolm Little, El- Hajj Malik El-Shabbaz)
(1925 - 1965)

Malcolm X faced open racism since birth. He would receive frequent threats and attacks from the Ku Klux Klan, which targeted him directly and primarily against his father, who was a preacher and was advocating the ideas of Garvey and the independence of black people.

He was born in Omaha, Nebraska, USA. Malcolm is an African American leader and prominent figure in the Nation of Islam who articulated concepts of race pride and black nationalism in the early 1960s. Urging all black people (Muslims and non-Muslims) to stand up for the widespread civil rights.

Around the year 1964, his speech “The Ballot or The Bullet” became one of Malcolm’s most recognizable phrases, and the speech was one of his greatest orations. He outlined a new, global sensibility in the fight for racial justice.

“We intend to expand (the freedom struggle) from the level of civil rights to the level of human rights.”



Malcolm X

(Malcolm Little, El- Hajj Malik El-Shabbaz)
(1925 - 1965)

The day after the oration, he made a pilgrimage to Mecca. The racial diversity he experienced there, especially among Muslims, led him to discard his strict notions of black separatism for the wider and more inclusive movement against white supremacy and colonialism. He then adopted the Muslim name El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz. Malcolm was shot to death on 21st February 1965 at the age of 39 years.

References:

Mamiya, L. (2020) *Malcolm X* Available at:

www.Britannica.com/biography/Malcolm-X (Accessed: 1st October 2020).

X, M. (1992) *By Any Means Necessary: Malcolm X Speeches and Writings*. Atlanta: Pathfinder Press.

X, M. and Haley, A. (1992) *The Autobiography of Malcom X*. New York: One World Books.



“It just goes on, and on, and on. Race and racism is a reality that so many of us grow up learning to just deal with. But if we ever hope to move past it, it can’t just be on people of colour to deal with it,” she wrote. “It’s up to all of us—Black, white, everyone—no matter how well-meaning we think we might be, to do the honest, uncomfortable work of rooting it out. It starts with self-examination and listening to those whose lives are different from our own. It ends with justice, compassion, and empathy that manifests in our lives and on our streets.”

Michelle Obama





The Obamas

Barack Obama is the 44th US president. he served two terms: 2008 and 2012. His wife, Michelle, is a lawyer, writer, and community outreach worker.

Both Michelle and Barack studied at Harvard Law School and worked at a Chicago Law firm called Sidley Austin in 1989, where she was assigned to him as an adviser for a summer intern. They married in 1992 and have two daughters, Malia and Sasha.





Barack Obama



Barack was born in 1961 in Hawaii and was raised there. He briefly lived in Indonesia and then moved to Hawaii to live with his maternal grandparents following several incidents.

He was one of the three black students at Punahou Academy. He was conscious of racism, but he still excelled and graduated with honours in 1979. Later, Barack graduated from Columbia University with a degree in Political Science in 1983 and Harvard Law School with magna cum laude in 1991.

He worked as a community organizer for low-income residents in Roseland and Altgeld Gardens communities. He went back to visit his paternal homeland of Kenya in 1982, where he paid tribute to his father and grandfather.

He worked as a research assistant with the constitutional law professor Laurence Tribe. In 1989, Obama joined Sidley Austin in Chicago, where he met his wife. In February 1990, Obama was elected the first African American editor of the Harvard Law Review.

Between 1992 and 2004, he worked for a civil rights firm, M Miner, Barnhill and Galland, and worked as a lecturer at Chicago Law School. He helped with the presidential election of 1992 for Bill Clinton.



Barack Obama



He served in the Illinois State Senate and became its U.S. senator in 2004. Obama published two books:

“Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance” in 1995.

A children's version of the same book was published in 2004. The audiobook version received a Grammy Award in 2006.

His second book, *The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream*, was published in 2006, where it hit No. 1 on The New York Times and Amazon’s best-seller lists. He received a Nobel Peace Prize in 2009.

Following his presidency, the family lived in Kalorama, Washington, D.C. He was actively involved in community initiatives. On 16th May 2020, Obama delivered two speeches for the youth during the coronavirus pandemic. He spoke about systemic racism, touching on both the coronavirus pandemic, the shooting death of Ahmaud Arbery, and the fight to stay politically active.

“The fight for equality and justice begins with awareness, empathy, passion even righteous anger. Don’t just activate yourself online, change requires strategy, action, organizing, marching and voting in the real world like never before.”



Michelle Obama



Michelle Obama was the First Lady of the USA from 2009 to 2017, where she focused on various social initiatives: organic food, healthy living, and education. She published a book in 2018 titled 'Becoming' that discusses her childhood and living in the White House.

Michelle was born in 1964 in Chicago. She enjoyed reading and completed accelerated courses such as Biology. She worked hard and graduated with class salutatorian in 1981 from Whitney Young Magnet High School. Later in 1985, she graduated with a BA in Sociology from Princeton University.

Moreover, she studied law at Harvard Law School and participated in demonstrations to hire more minority students and professors – a challenge faced and was awarded in 1988.

She worked as an associate in Sidneg Austin in Chicago, and then in 1991, she left corporate law to work as an assistant to Mayor Richard Daley and then as the assistant commissioner of planning and development for Chicago. Her audio version of her book won a Grammy award.

During the coronavirus, she appeared in Lady Gaga's One World: Together at Home benefit concert in April to support healthcare services and a message of peace, hope, and safety to all, and did a series called Mondays with Michelle Obama series reading hr favourite children's books.



The Obamas

References:

Biography (2020) Michelle Obama. Available at: <https://www.biography.com/us-first-lady/michelle-obama> (Accessed: 1st October 2020)

Nelson, M. (2019) Life before the Presidency, Available at: <https://millercenter.org/president/Obama/life-before-the-presidency> (Accessed: 1st October 2020).

The White House (2020) Barack Obama Available at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/presidents/barack-Obama/> (Accessed: 1st October 2020)



“You may not always have a comfortable life and you will not always be able to solve all of the world's problems at once but don't ever underestimate the importance you can have because history has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own.”

Michelle Obama





Sir Trevor McDonald

He is a British presenter, newsreader, veteran journalist, and awards host who has been an icon in the media industry since the 1960s. He was born George McDonald in Trinidad and began as a print journalist. He progressed to British media in 1969 in the UK.

Sir Trevor McDonald turned down a BBC job because he wanted to be chosen for his efforts and intellect rather than because of his skin colour. After all, the broadcaster needed 'more black reporters' due to the Race Relations Board (Race Relations Act, 1965).

However, he was resilient and was featured in a number of shows:

- Together with Trevor McDonald (1999)
- News at Ten (1990 to 1999)
- ITV News at 10.30 until 2005.
- Trevor McDonald Meets (ITV2) in 1998
- "This is Your Life" on ITV (2007)
- News at Ten (2007-2008)
- The National Television Awards (2007 and 2008)

He also hosted Trevor McDonald with former Prime Minister David Cameron in 2010.



Sir Trevor McDonald

Trevor received a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 1999.. An OBE was also received in the New Year's Honours List in 1992.

References:

M and C Saatchi Merlin (2020) *Sir Trevor McDonald*. Available at: www.mcsaatchimerlin.com/talent/sir-trevor-mcdonald (Accessed: 1st October 2020)

Press Gazette (2019) *Sir Trevor McDonald turned down job offer at BBC seeking 'more black reporters*. Available at: <https://pressgazette.co.uk/publishers/broadcast/sir-trevor-mcdonald-turned-down-job-offer-at-bbc-seeking-more-black-reporters/> (Accessed: 1st October 2020)

Evening Express (n.d.) *Sir Trevor McDonald – why I turned down BBC Job*. Available at: <https://www.eveningexpress.co.uk/lifestyle/entertainment/sir-trevor-mcdonald-why-i-turned-down-bbc-job/amp/> (Accessed: 1st October 2020)



“I was once afraid of people saying “Who does she think she is? Now I have the courage to stand and say. This is who I am.”

Oprah Winfrey





George Floyd
1973 - 2020

George was an unarmed black security guard who was held down by a Caucasian police officer by the neck, where he said the phrase: *"I can't breathe."*

The officer did not listen, and as a result, Floyd was killed. He was falsely accused of a fake \$20 (£16.20) bill. This was one of many incidents of how black people underwent racial discrimination and caused numerous protests.

Even after Mandela and King had many protests, there is still a gap in the political system because of race, particularly between Black and Caucasian. Following the death of Floyd, New York zealously opened police records of past misconduct that included 17 complaints.

References:

BBC News (2020) George Floyd: What happened in the final moments of his life. Available at: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-52861726 (Accessed: 1st October 2020)



“I am a black woman every day. I am not worried about that. I don’t need to have a discussion with you about how I feel as a black woman because I don’t feel disempowered as a black woman.”

Shonda Rhimes





George Junius Stinney Jr.
1929 - 1944

A 14-year-old boy who lived in a segregated mill in Alcolu, South Carolina. He was wrongly convicted and executed by electric chair for murdering two Caucasian girls aged 7 and 11 in an unfair trial that took place in South Carolina.

The incident

Two girls were brutally murdered with a railroad spike and dumped in a ditch. George was accused because he and his sister, Amir Ruffner, aged 8 at the time, were the last ones to see them alive. They arrested him when his parents went home, whereas his sister hid. His sister informed the media:

“The police were looking for someone to blame it on, so they used my brother as a scapegoat.”



George Junius Stinney Jr.
1929 - 1944

Aime helped her brother George graze the family cow. The two girls, 11-year-old Betty June Binnicker and 7-year-old Mary Emma Thames, approached them and asked where to find “May pops,” a fruit of the purple passion flower. Aime responded that they did not know and went home. The two girls went away but did not come home. Many residents in Alcolu, including Stinney’s father, came together as a community to search for the girls.

The following day, their dead bodies were discovered. However, George and his older brother were arrested when their parents were away and did not offer them any explanation.

His brother was later released.



George Junius Stinney Jr.
1929 - 1944

The trial and execution

It was a two-hour trial in the Clarendon County courthouse and took ten minutes to be convicted by an all Caucasian jury with no mercy. The defence attorney was supposed to defend him, but he neither advised George nor his family that they had a right to appeal, nor did he see his client. The execution took place less than two months later, where he was executed by electric chair as the criminal penalty in June 1944. It took 70 years after his execution to exonerate him.

References.

Anglis, J. (2023) *Inside The Execution Of 14-Year-Old George Stinney Jr., The Youngest Person In U.S. History To Face Capital Punishment.* Available at: <https://allthatsinteresting.com/george-stinney-jr> (Accessed: 14th May 2025)

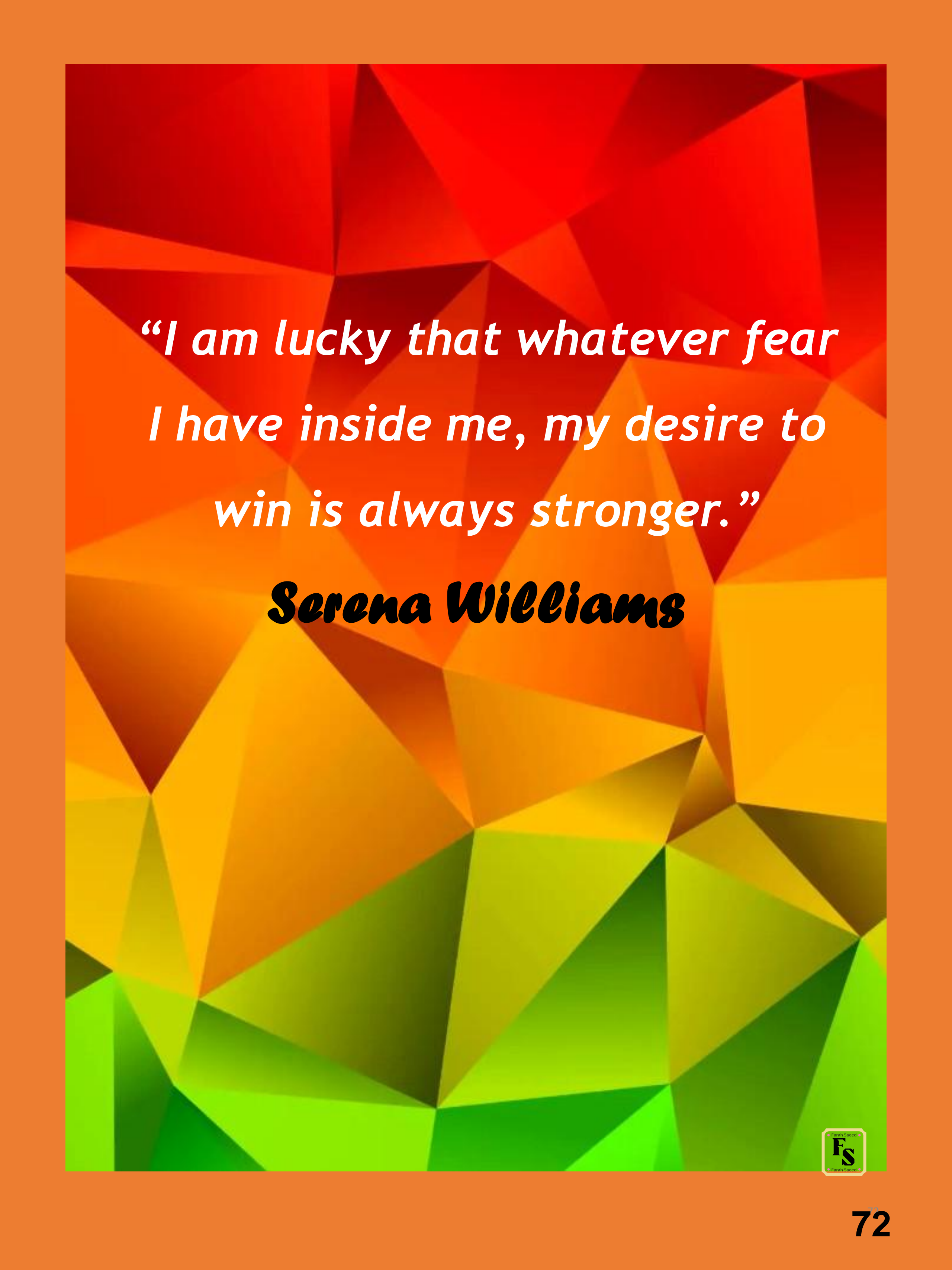


George Stinney Jr. (second from right) was likely coerced into confessing to the murder of two girls.



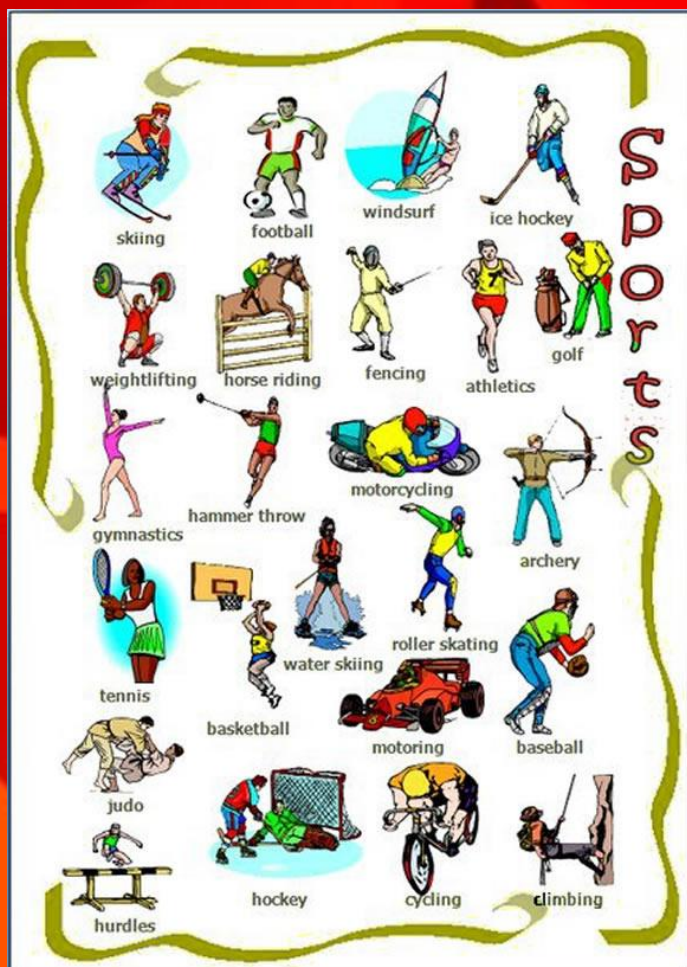
George Stinney Jr.'s fingerprints are pictured on this certificate.





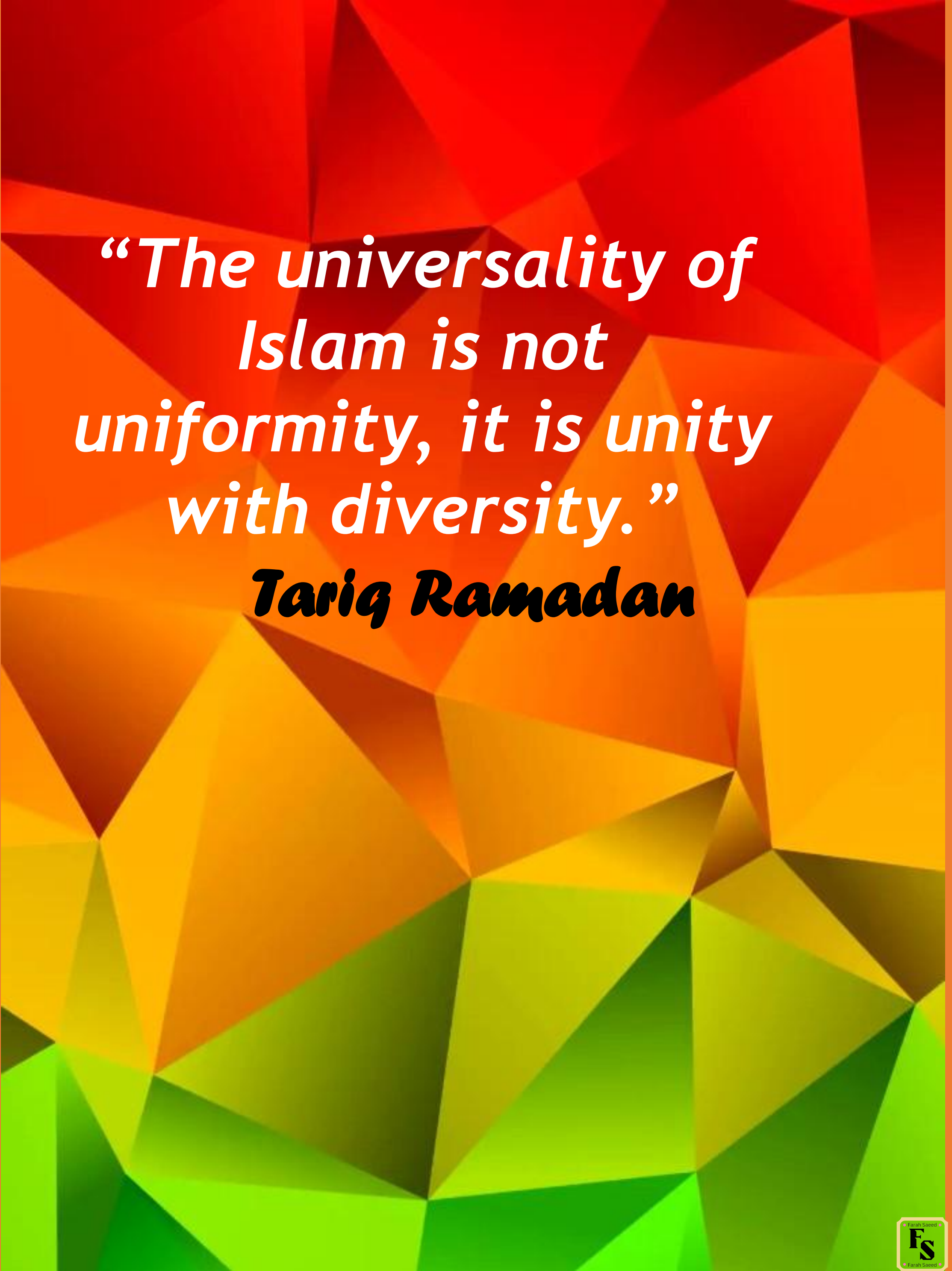
*“I am lucky that whatever fear
I have inside me, my desire to
win is always stronger.”*

Serena Williams



Theology, Sport and Art





*“The universality of
Islam is not
uniformity, it is unity
with diversity.”*

Tariq Ramadan



The Ivory Bangle Lady

Today, many would think that the first black people to arrive in the UK were from British colonies situated in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. However, the first was during Roman times - the example here is the Ivory Bangle Lady.

The Ivory Bangle Lady was of North African descent and was born in Roman Britain. Her body remains were estimated to be from the 4th century and were found in York in 1901 and are currently in the York Museum. Her name was derived because she was found with jet and ivory bracelets and other jewellery, a blue glass jug and mirror. Jet is extracted from Whitby in North Yorkshire and may hold religious significance in the cult of Baccus with Christianity. This presents a combination of African and Roman art.





The Ivory Bangle Lady

References:

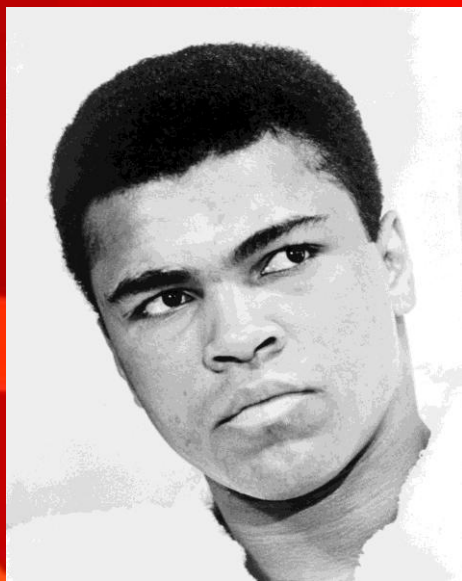
Leach, S., Eckardt, H., Chenery, C., Müldner, G. and Lewis, M. (2010). A Lady of York: migration, ethnicity and identity in Roman Britain. *Antiquity*, 84(323), pp.131–145.





*“He who is not courageous
enough to take risks will
accomplish nothing in life.”*

Muhammad Ali

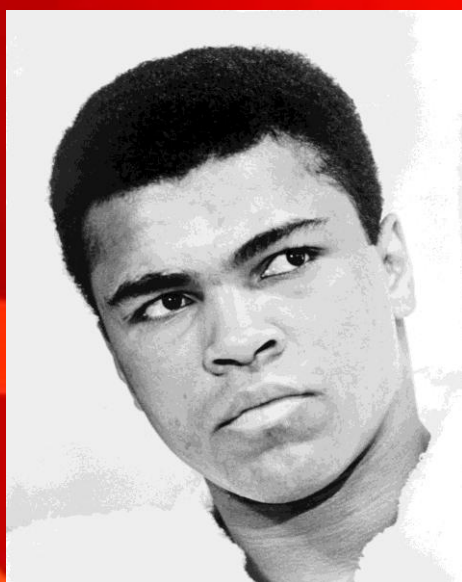


Muhammad Ali
Former name: Cassius Clay
(1942 - 2016)

Muhammad Ali was born in Louisville, Kentucky, United States. His life and career were played out as much on the front pages of national and international newspapers as on the inside of sports pages.

His early embrace of the Nation of Islam and his insistence on being called Muhammad Ali instead of his “slave name” Cassius Clay heralded a new era in black pride. His refusal to be inducted into the United States Army anticipated the growing antiwar movement of the 1960s. Muhammad Ali is an example of how religion and colour are seen as prejudice. His transition to a Muslim brought many challenges and controversy between blacks and whites. For many white people who knew nothing of the Nation of Islam and its ideology of black separatism, it challenged everything they thought they understood about African Americans and opened a window to the complexity and diversity of black identity. At a time when fighting for civil rights meant pushing for integration by marching or sitting in, Ali did neither. Instead, he joined and preached about racial separation. He would ask why the media would beautify everything white and do the opposite with everything black.





Muhammad Ali
Former name: Cassius Clay
(1942 - 2016)

Six Core Principles

Confidence

- Belief in oneself, one's abilities, and one's future.

Conviction

- A firm belief that gives one the courage to stand behind that belief, despite pressure to do otherwise.

Dedication

- The act of devoting all of one's energy, effort, and abilities to a certain task.

Giving

- To present voluntarily without expecting something in return.

Respect

- Esteem for, or a sense of the worth or excellence of, oneself and others.

Spirituality

- A sense of awe, reverence, and inner peace by a connection to all creation and/or one greater than oneself.

References

Muhammad Ali Center (2020) Muhammad Ali, Co-founder of the Ali Center. Available at: <https://alicenter.org/about-us/Muhammad-ali/> (Accessed: 13th May 2025)

BBC News (2016) Muhammad Ali: Septic shock caused boxing legend's death. Available at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-Canada-36453779> / (Accessed: 13th May 2025)





*“One love, one heart. Let’s get
together and feel all right.”*

Bob Marley



Maya Angelou
(1928 - 2014)

Maya Angelou was an American author, actress, screenwriter, dancer, poet, and civil rights activist best known for her 1969 memoir, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. It made literary history as the first non-fiction bestseller by an African American woman.

Angelou had a difficult childhood. Her parents split up when she was very young, and she and her older brother, Bailey, were sent to live with their father's mother, Anne Henderson, in Stamps, Arkansas.

As an African American, Angelou experienced firsthand racial prejudices and discrimination in Arkansas. In 1993, at President Bill Clinton's inauguration, Angelou became the first female poet and the second poet to recite a poem at the Presidential inauguration. She recited "On the Pulse of Morning".

Angelou received several honours throughout her career, including two NAACP Image Awards in the Outstanding Literary Work (Non-fiction) category, in 2005 and 2009.



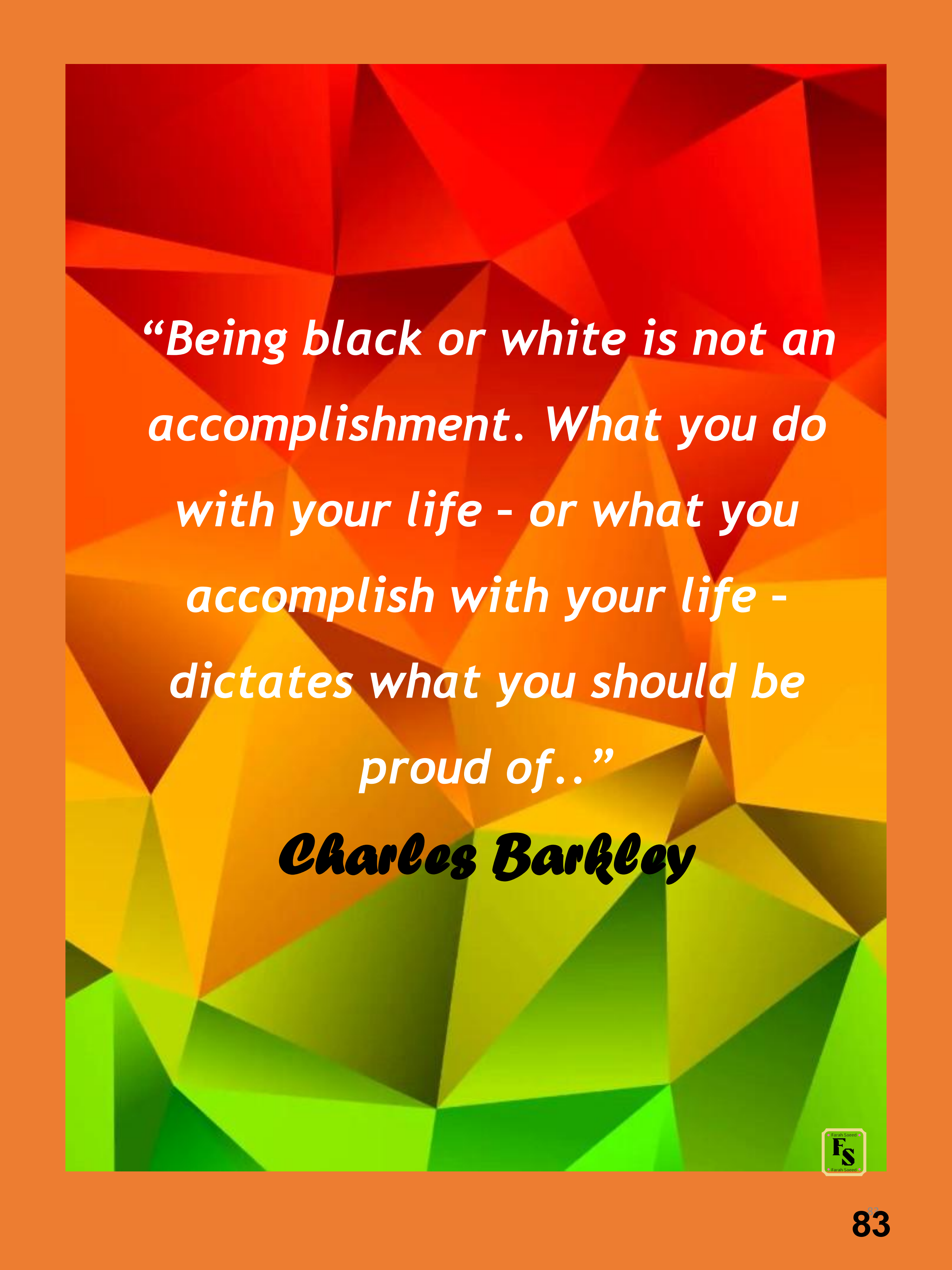
Maya Angelou
(1928 - 2014)

Because of her writing and her activism, Angelou was awarded the National Medals of Arts by Congress in 2000 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama in 2010. Maya Angelou passed away on 28th May 2014, aged 86, because of natural causes.

References:

Biography (2020) *Maya Angelou*. Available at: <https://www.biography.com/writer/maya-angelou> (Accessed: 13th May 2025)





“Being black or white is not an accomplishment. What you do with your life - or what you accomplish with your life - dictates what you should be proud of..”

Charles Barkley





Halima DeOliveira

Halimah DeOliveira is an award-winning author and Business Consultant providing proven strategies, tools, and resources that empower Women of Faith to Start, Sustain, and Grow Businesses that make a positive social impact.

She studied Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services at Baruch College in New York. She is a public speaker, author, philanthropist, creator of the Not Without My Hijab, and the Boss Hijabi Society. In addition, the CEO of Be You in HD and LLC. Halimah successfully wrote the following books: “Jennah’s First Hijab”, “Not Without My Hijab”, “11 Steps To Reclaiming Your FAITH”, and “Boss Hijabi Planner”.

Halimah performed a play of “Not Without My Hijab” on a 50-state tour across the United States of America, which also included a workshop. Halimah believes if we can improve a woman’s self-esteem, thought process, and economic status, we will positively change the female narrative, drive social impact, and raise awareness for an inclusive society.




Halima DeOliviera

Halimah empowers professional Women to build Boss Brands that make a social impact while staying true to their Faith through innovation and entrepreneurship, contributing to economic growth, job creation, and strengthening communities.

References:

LinkedIn (2020) *Halima DeOliviera* Available at: www.linkedin.com/in/halimahdeoliveira
(Accessed: 1st October 2020)





“I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept.”

Angela Davis





Ismael Lea South

Ismael Lea South is a youth work consultant and independent researcher. He is the Director of The Salam Project. This youth engagement initiative is active in youth engagement, mentoring outreach, tutoring, and connecting young people to various vocational, accredited training, and volunteer opportunities. He artistically expresses Urban Islamic art predominantly in Hip Hop, Slam Poetry, and Reggae.

Due to witnessing massive issues or identity crisis, he has authored a new book titled; 'The Unknown Black (African and African Caribbean) History of the UK' which celebrates the trailblazers, achievers, pioneers, entrepreneurs, doctors, military generals who have made huge contributions to the UK history and culture.

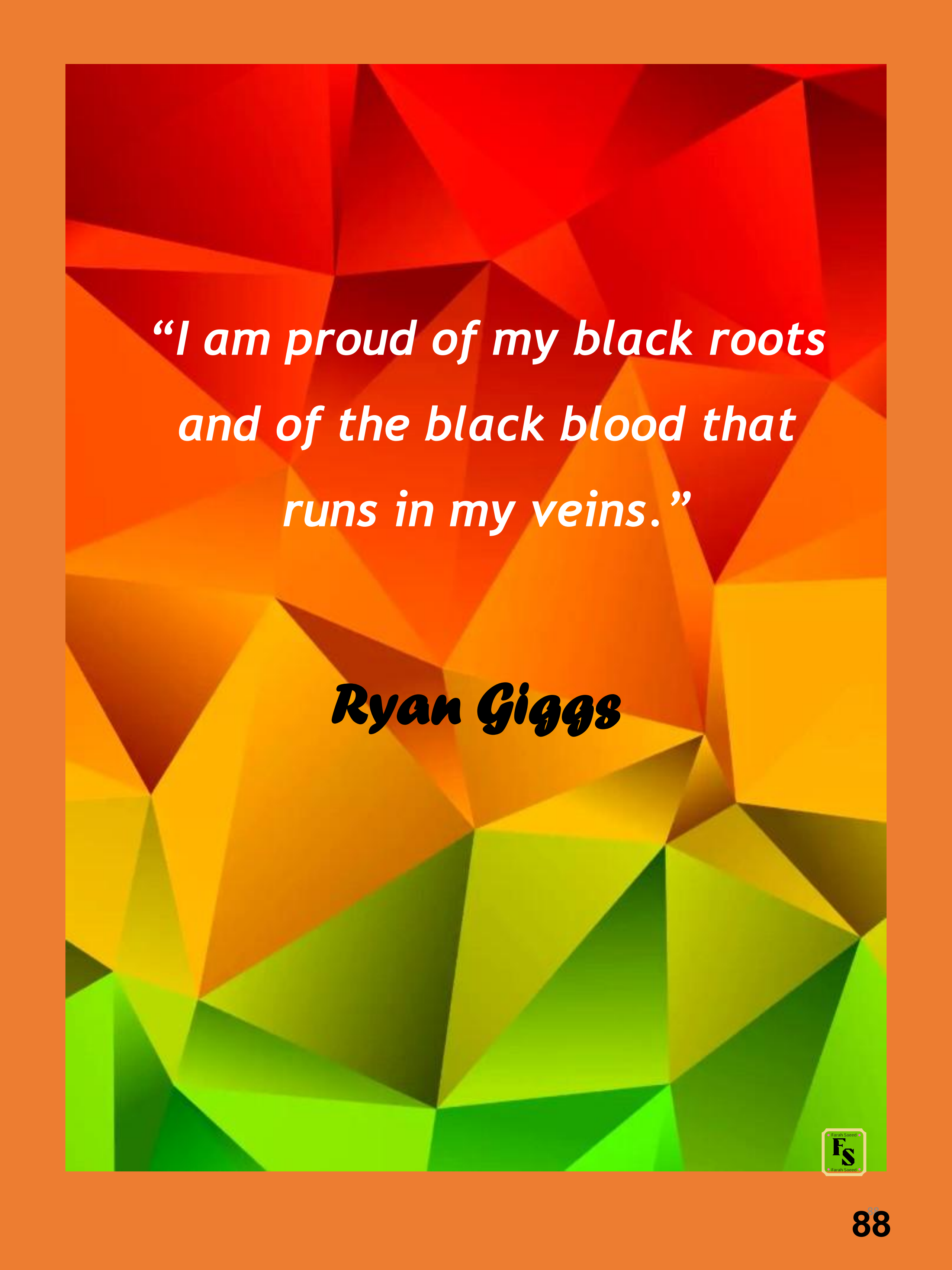
He is also the co-founder of several initiatives, including the UK African and African Caribbean Muslim Association, which connects organisations from such cultures in the UK, and the Black Muslim Times online magazine, which aims to create positive images of British Black Muslims. He leads workshops on Black History, Boys to Men, and business start-ups at schools, prisons, and youth clubs.

Please visit his website: www.thesalamproject.org.uk

References:

Greenbelt (2025) Ismael Lea South Available at: <https://www.greenbelt.org.uk/artists/ismael-lea-south/> (Accessed: 13th May 2025)





*“I am proud of my black roots
and of the black blood that
runs in my veins.”*

Ryan Giggs





Shelley Shabazz

Shelley was born in New York City and is known for her love for R and B music. She has a great nasheed called “Alhamdulillah”. When Shelley was young, she would often spend her time playing music on her brother’s systems, listening mostly to Chaka Khan, Earth, Wind and Fire, Stevie Wonder, and The Jackson Five.

Shelley Shabazz wanted to put her thoughts into music. She initially started off her career as a clinical laboratory technologist at a major New York Hospital before turning to teaching. She was a devoted mother who raised four sons: Malik, Hassan, Munir, and Salahuddin. She began singing in the church choir, but upon her conversion to Islam in the late 1980’s she stopped. Later, Shelley began doing nasheeds and saw it as a way of reminding her of Allah’s blessings, her love for music, and what she could give to her children.

References

Muslima (2020) Alhamdulillah. Available at: <http://Muslima.globalfundforwomen.org/content/alhamdulillah-0> (Accessed: 1st October 2020)



“I am proud to be black, but black is not all I am. That’s my cultural historical background, my genetic make-up, but it is not all of who I am nor is it the basis from which I answer every question.”

Denzel Washington



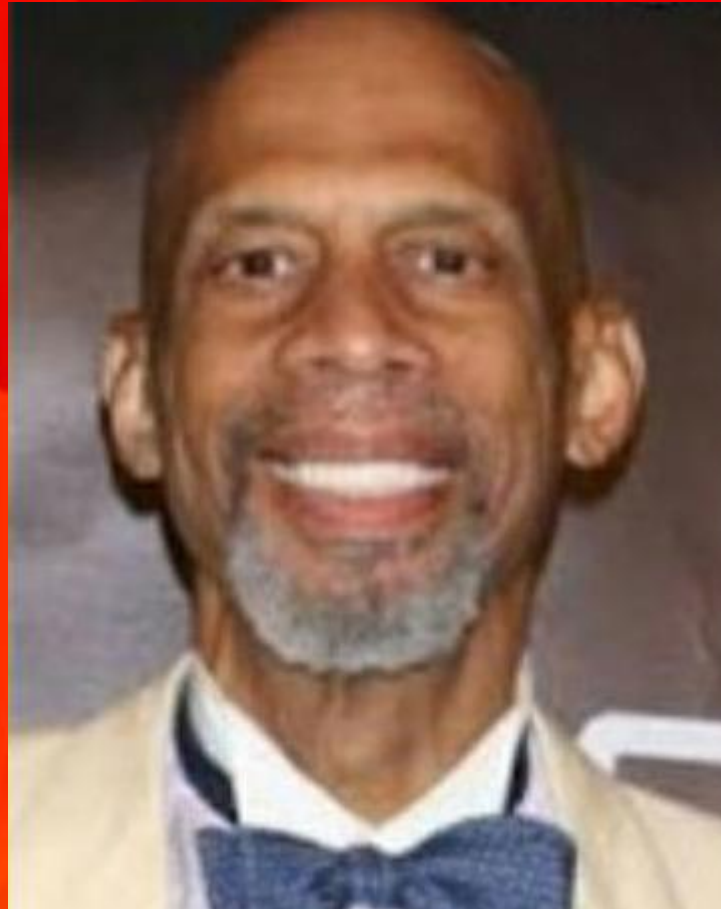


Kareem Abdul Jabbar (Lewis Ferdinand Alcindor Jr)

Kareem was a former professional basketball player who played 20 seasons in the National Basketball Association (NBA) for the Milwaukee Bucks and Los Angeles Lakers. In 1971, at the age of 24 years, he converted to Islam. He changed his name to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, which means “Noble One, servant of the Almighty.” During his career, he was six-time NBA Most Valuable Player (MVP), a record 19-time NBA All-Star, a 15-time All-NBA selection, and an 11-time NBA All-Defensive Team member.

In 1995, he was elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. A member of six NBA Championship teams as a player, and in two teams as an assistant coach. He was elected twice as the NBA Finals MVP. In 1996, he was honoured as one of the 50 Greatest Players in NBA History.





Kareem Abdul Jabbar

(Lewis Ferdinand Alcindor Jr)

Several years after he retired, Abdul-Jabbar told the Orange County Register:

“The 80s made up for all the abuse I took during the 70s. I outlived all my critics. By the time I retired, everybody saw me as a venerable institution. Things do change.”

Kareem Abdul Jabbar has authored several books, worked in the entertainment industry, and served as a ‘basketball ambassador’, coach, and broadcaster.

References:

National Basketball Association (2020) Kareem Abdul Jabbar Available at: www.nba.com/history/legends/profiles/kareem-abdul-jabbar (Accessed: 1st October 2020)





*“I feel as proud to be Jewish as
I feel to be black.”*

Sophie Okonedo





Monir Eid

Monir is the founder of a new 'social activist' social media site called Balad Community. This platform is for community organisers, philanthropists, consultants, social entrepreneurs, community facilitators, and fundraisers.

Monir Eid is a property surveyor, an eligible bachelor, and a witty Londoner of Nigerian and Egyptian parentage. In his leisure time over the years, he has become quite a veteran community philanthropist, community organiser and consultant. He has taken a bold step to use the knowledge, experience and expertise he has gained over the years to initiate this new and diverse platform for like-minded people to network and engage with each other under the ethos of a fair ecosystem mindset. Money generated from his new initiative will go to the community hub and Mosque redevelopment project. Please visit and support his cause.:

<https://balad.community/>



“You know. I don’t play the race card a lot. I am half black, half white and I am proud of - my skin is brown. The world sees me as a black man but my mother didn’t raise me as a black man. She did not raise me as a white guy.”

Shemar Moore





Ignatius Sancho

Ignatius was an avid writer and music composer. He was born in 1729 on a ship from Guinea on its way to the Spanish West Indies. Other sources suggested he was born in Africa in 1780. At the tender age of 2, he was taken to work for a family in Greenwich. He met the 2nd Duke of Montagu, John Montagu, who encouraged him to read and seek education.

After the Duke's death, he ran away from Greenwich and asked the duke's widow, Mary, to employ him where he worked for the next two decades as a butler and later a valet. He was exposed to more reading at the Montagu libraries. He married a West Indian woman, Anne Osborne, in 1759 and opened a grocery store in Westminster.

He was the first black person allowed to be published in the UK newspapers. He composed four music collections titled 'A Theory of Music'. In addition, he was an affluent writer who wrote accounts and Sterne's letters in 1775 about the cessation of the slave trade and the first-hand account of the Gordon Riots on discrimination.



Ignatius Sancho

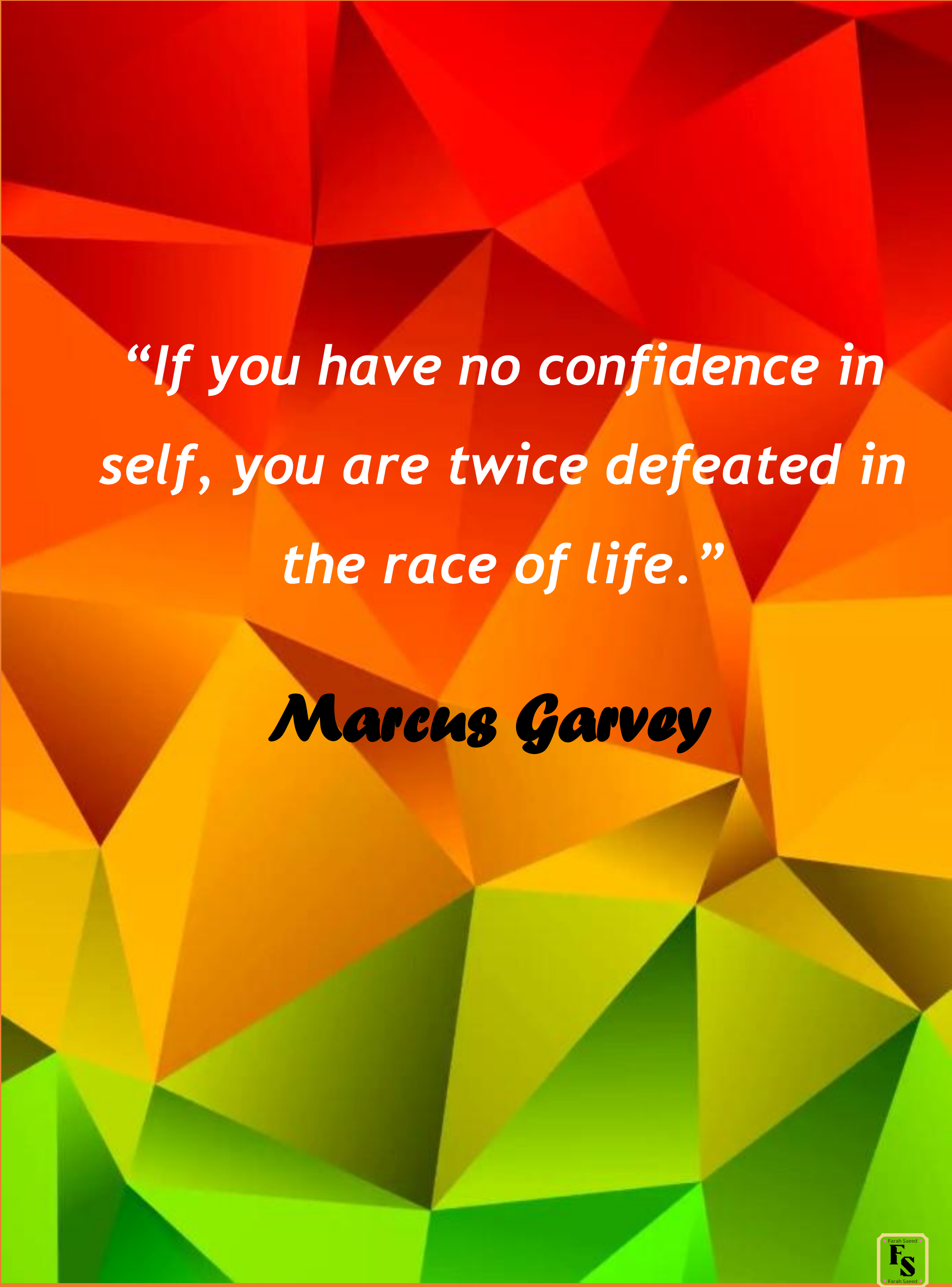
Ignatius's letters on his own experiences as an educated person living in the UK, slavery, and empire were collected and published in 1782 in a two-volume collection titled "The Letters of the Late Ignatius Sancho, an African".

References:

British Library (2020) *Ignatius Sancho*. Available at: www.bl.uk/people/ignatius-sancho (Accessed: 1st October 2020)

Carey, B (2003) The extraordinary Negro. Ignatius Sancho, Joseph Jekyll, and the Problem of Biography' *British Journal for Eighteenth Century Studies*, 26.





*“If you have no confidence in
self, you are twice defeated in
the race of life.”*

Marcus Garvey





Queen Charlotte John Blanke

John Blanke was a trumpeter of King Henry VIII. Queen Charlotte was the great granddaughter of Queen Victoria who had African ancestry.

In the 1500s, King Henry VIII had a trumpeter who was black. His name was John Blanke and he performed at King Henry VIII's coronation in 1509. In 1511, the Westminster Tournament for the son of King Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, Henry.

Britain also had a 'Black Queen' Queen Charlotte was a German princess with Portuguese and African ancestry who became a British Queen after marrying King George III in 1761. They had two sons: George IV and William IV.

Queen Charlotte is a descendant of King Martim Afonso who married Ines Lourenco de Sousa de Valadares who was black in the Middle Ages. King Martim Afonso was the son of King Afonso III of Portugal who conquered the city of Faro from North Africa. This is present day Spain and Portugal.

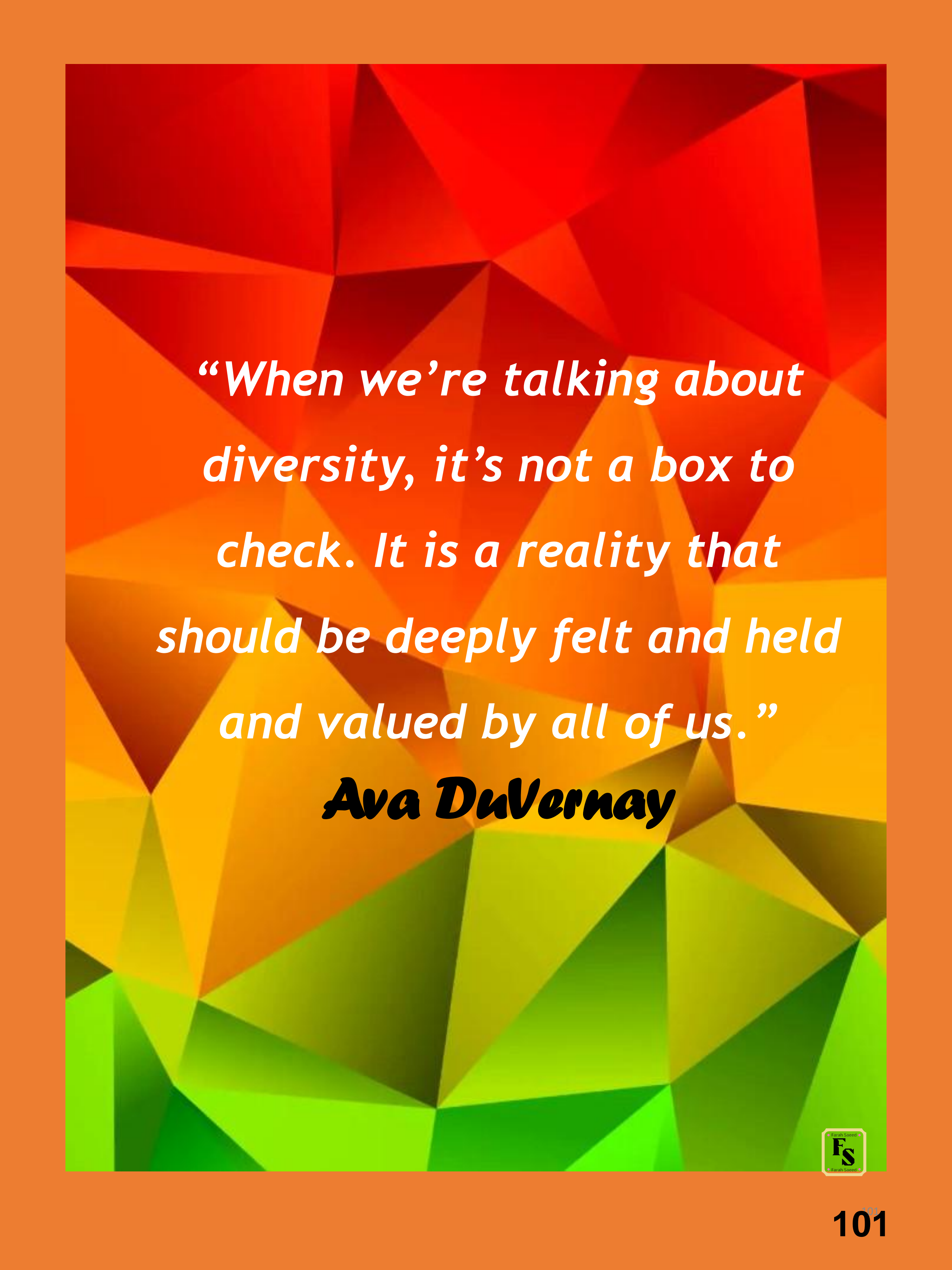


Queen Charlotte John Blanke

References:

Kaufmann, M. (2017) *Black Tudors: The Untold Story*. London: One World Publications





“When we’re talking about diversity, it’s not a box to check. It is a reality that should be deeply felt and held and valued by all of us.”

Ava DuVernay





Participation of Black soldiers in the First World War

They made a vital contribution at the front and home. Black soldiers who participated in uniformed Labour Units were 60,000 from South Africa and 120,000 other Africans. From the British West Indies Regiments:

- 15204 black men served by the end of the war in 1918.
- 185 soldiers were killed or died of injuries.
- 1071 died of illness
- 696 were wounded.

In Seaford Cemetery, there are more than 300 Commonwealth War Graves and 19 headstones. Walter Tull was one of these heroes who was enlisted and served in a number of battles, including the Somme.

After World War I, there was a shortage of jobs and opportunities, and a fear of families forming between black and Caucasian people led to race riots in 1919, where many people blamed black people for it. The riots took place in seaports such as Cardiff, Glasgow, and Liverpool, and many were killed and injured, including the servicemen



*Participation of Black soldiers
in the First World War*



A photograph of soldiers who partake in the war.



Participation of Black soldiers in the First World War

Colour bar included in many industries and were forced to return to their countries.

Service and Spite.

References:

Stephen Bourne (2014) *Black Poppies-Britain's Black Community and the Great War*: UK: The History Press.





Participation of Black soldiers in the First World War

Colour bar included in many industries and were forced to return to their countries.

Service and Spite.

References:

Stephen Bourne (2014) *Black Poppies-Britain's Black Community and the Great War*: UK: The History Press.



