



A (partial) Timeline of BLACK BRITISH HISTORY

*in honour of Black History Month
October 2019*

c. 125 AD

Beachy Head Lady

The first Black Briton known to us was a woman of sub-Saharan African descent.



c. 210 AD

An **African legionary**
(Roman soldier) went
down in history for
making fun of the
Emperor Septimius
Severus outside Carlisle

He was
“famous
among
buffoons
and always
a great
joker”

c. 350 AD

Ivory Bangle Lady

A high-status, mixed-race woman lived in Roman York. Discovered with her burial were jet and elephant ivory bracelets, earrings, pendants, beads, a blue glass jug and a glass mirror.



c. 1507

Black Tudors

John Blanke, one of the court trumpeters, was present in the entourage of Henry VII from at least 1507.

He performed at both Henry VII's funeral and Henry VIII's coronation in 1509.



1560s

The beginnings of the British transatlantic slave trade.



1729-1780

Ignatius Sancho

The first African prose writer published in England, Sancho became a financially independent male householder and the first known black British voter.



1760s

Black Londoners
account for 10,000-
15,000 of the nation's
20,000 black people.



1805-1881

Mary Seacole

A nurse who independently set up the British Hotel to care for the wounded during the Crimean War. Became a much-loved figure.



1807

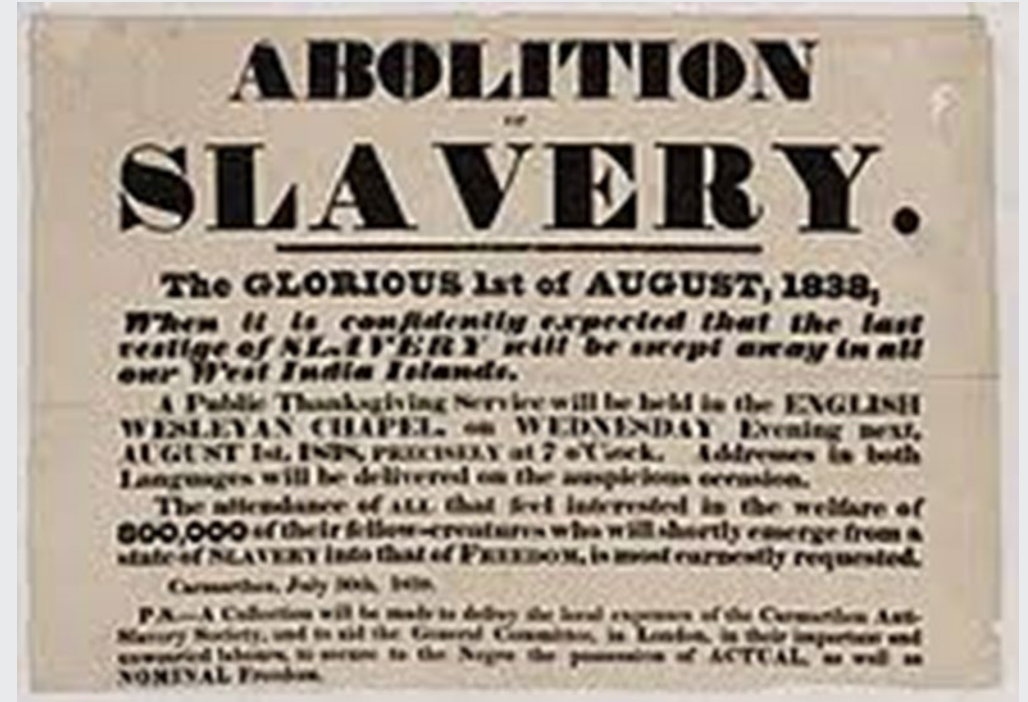
**The Slave Trade Act
1807** was passed,
prohibiting the slave trade
in the British Empire



1833

The Slavery Abolition Act 1833 abolished slavery throughout the British Empire.

This Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom expanded the jurisdiction of the Slave Trade Act 1807 which made the purchase or ownership of slaves illegal within the British Empire.



1913

John Archer, a British politician and political activist, was elected Mayor of Battersea, becoming the first black mayor in London.



1914-1918 World War I

Black soldiers could be found in all branches of the British armed forces.



Walter Tull was one of the most celebrated black British soldiers of the First World War.



Racism After the War

“At the end of the First World War, many African and West Indian soldiers who had fought for their ‘Mother Country’ decided to make Britain their home, but in some cities, including the seaports Cardiff and Liverpool, they came under attack.

After demobilisation, many ex-servicemen faced unemployment and returning white soldiers resented the presence of black men, especially those who had found employment and married white women. Between January and August 1919, there were anti-black ‘race riots’ in seven towns and cities in Britain. Cardiff’s black population had increased during the war from 700 in 1914 to 3,000 by April 1919. The tensions between the white and black communities exploded into violence in Butetown (aka ‘Tiger Bay’) in June 1919. 2,000 white people attacked shops and houses associated with black citizens. Many were injured.”



1939-1945 World War II

Around 10,000 Caribbean men and women joined the British armed forces, working behind the scenes and on the frontlines to defeat the Nazis.



1948

The Empire Windrush arrived at Tilbury Docks, Essex, on 21 June 1948. It brought one of the first large groups of post-war West Indian immigrants to the UK.

British Caribbean people who came to the UK in the period after World War II are sometimes referred to as the **Windrush generation**.



1964

Dr Martin Luther King Jr. visited London on his way to accept a Nobel Peace Prize in Norway. While in the UK, he brought together C.A.R.D. (the Campaign Against Racial Discrimination) and preached at St. Paul's Cathedral.



C. A. R. D.

HOW TO EXPOSE
DISCRIMINATION

Issued by the: -CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
23 St. George's House, Toynbee Hall,
Commercial Street, London, E.1.
Tel: BIS-5581.

1965 - 68 - 76

The Race Relations Act of 1965 passed; protections against discrimination were extended in the Act of 1968, and further in the Act of 1976. This legislation resulted in the right to take discrimination complaints to civil courts or industrial tribunals and set up the Commission for Racial Equality.



Race Relations Act 1965

CHAPTER 73

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Discrimination

Section

1. Discrimination in places of public resort.
2. The Race Relations Board and conciliation committees.
3. Proceedings for enforcement of section 1 in England and Wales.
4. Proceedings for enforcement of section 1 in Scotland.
5. Discriminatory restrictions on disposal of tenancies.

Public Order

6. Incitement to racial hatred.
7. Extension of Public Order Act 1936 s. 5 to written matter.

Supplemental

8. Short title, commencement and extent.

SCHEDULE: Provisions as to Race Relations Board and Local Conciliation Committees.

1966

“The Caribbean Artists Movement (CAM), founded in London in 1966, was the first organised collaboration of artists from the Caribbean with the aim of celebrating a new sense of shared Caribbean ‘nationhood’, exchanging ideas and attempting to forge a new Caribbean aesthetic in the arts.”



1966

Notting Hill Carnival (inspired by the London Caribbean Carnival organised by Claudia Jones) launched by a community activist and one of the founders of the London Free School, Rhaune Laslett, who aimed to highlight the cultural richness of the area and remedy racial tensions after the 1958 Notting Hill race riots.



1967

A branch of the **Black Panther Party** was formed in the UK



1971

The Immigration Act of 1971 passed, stripping Commonwealth citizens' right to remain in the UK and further restricting immigration.

Immigration Act 1971

CHAPTER 77

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

PART I

REGULATION OF ENTRY INTO AND STAY IN UNITED KINGDOM

Section

1. General principles.
2. Statement of right of abode, and related amendments as to citizenship by registration.
3. General provisions for regulation and control.
4. Administration of control.
5. Procedure for, and further provisions as to, deportation.
6. Recommendations by court for deportation.
7. Exemption from deportation for certain existing residents.
8. Exceptions for seamen, aircrews and other special cases.
9. Further provisions as to common travel area.
10. Entry otherwise than by sea or air.
11. Construction of references to entry, and other phrases relating to travel.

PART II

APPEALS

The appellate authorities

12. Immigration Appeal Tribunal and adjudicators.

Appeals to adjudicator or Tribunal in first instance

13. Appeals against exclusion from United Kingdom.
14. Appeals against conditions.
15. Appeals in respect of deportation orders.
16. Appeals against validity of directions for removal.
17. Appeals against removal on objection to destination.
18. Notice of matters in respect of which there are rights of appeal.
19. Determination of appeals by adjudicators.

Appeals from adjudicator to Tribunal, and review of decisions

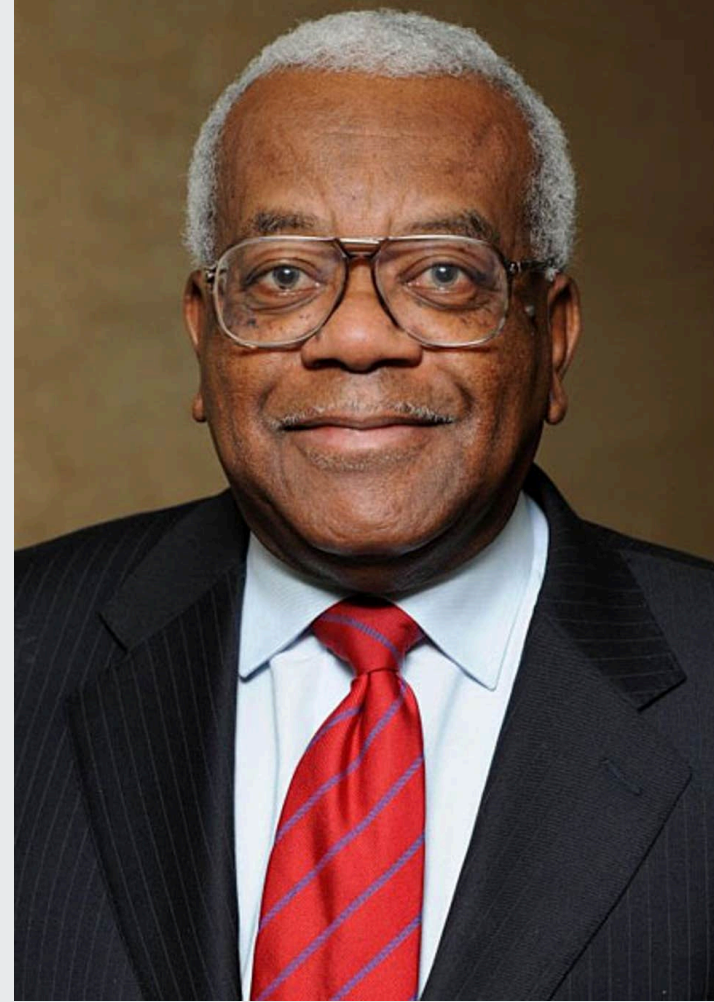
20. Appeal to Tribunal from determination of adjudicator.
21. Reference of cases for further consideration.

A

1973



Trevor McDonald joins ITN and becomes the first black news reporter. He goes on to receive an OBE in 1992 and a knighthood in 1999.



1978

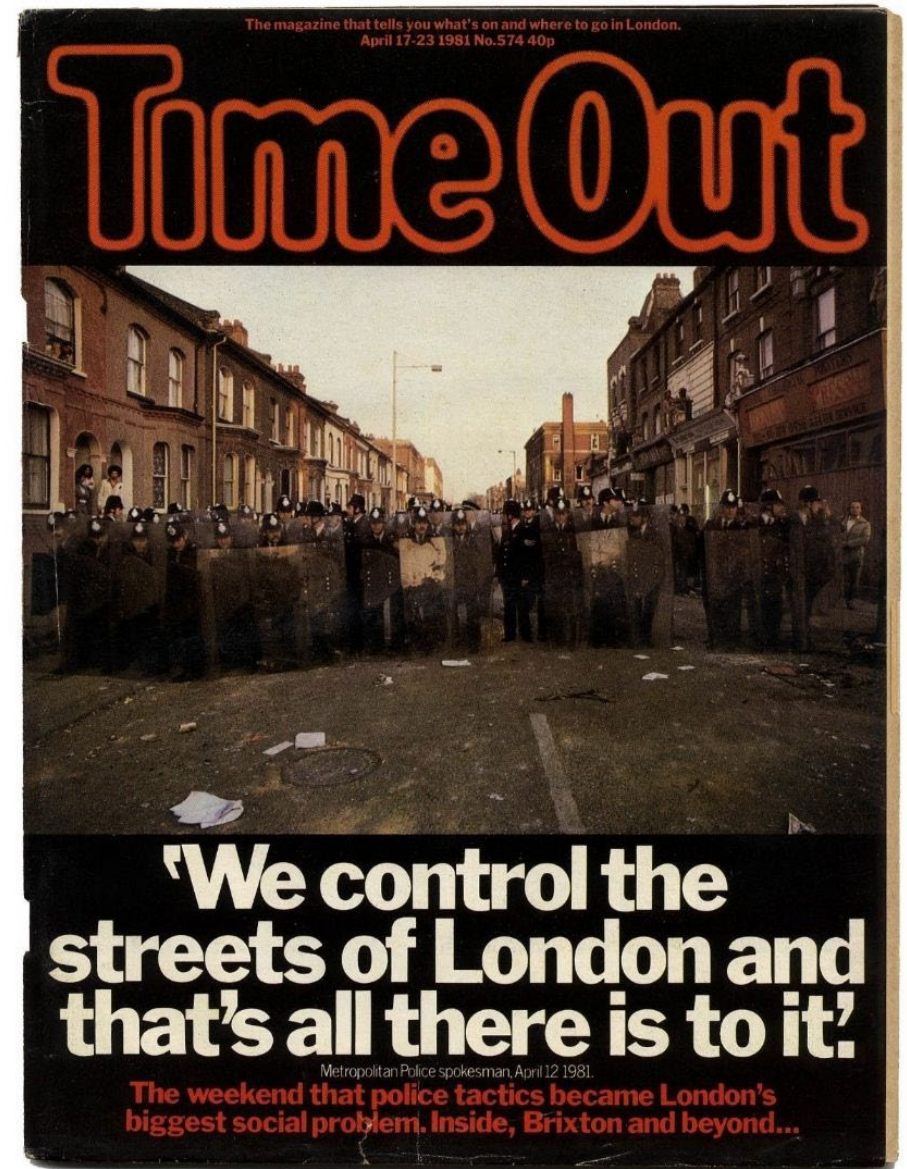
Viv Anderson becomes the first black British footballer to play for England in an international tournament.



1981

The Brixton Riot or Brixton Uprising occurs as tensions between the black British community and the police in the area culminated in three days of rioting against police brutality and discriminatory policies.

The uprisings spread across the UK.



1982



The Voice is founded, becoming the first British national black weekly newspaper; it's based in London.

1984

Tessa Sanderson
becomes the first black
British woman to win an
Olympic gold medal; she is
awarded an OBE in 1998.



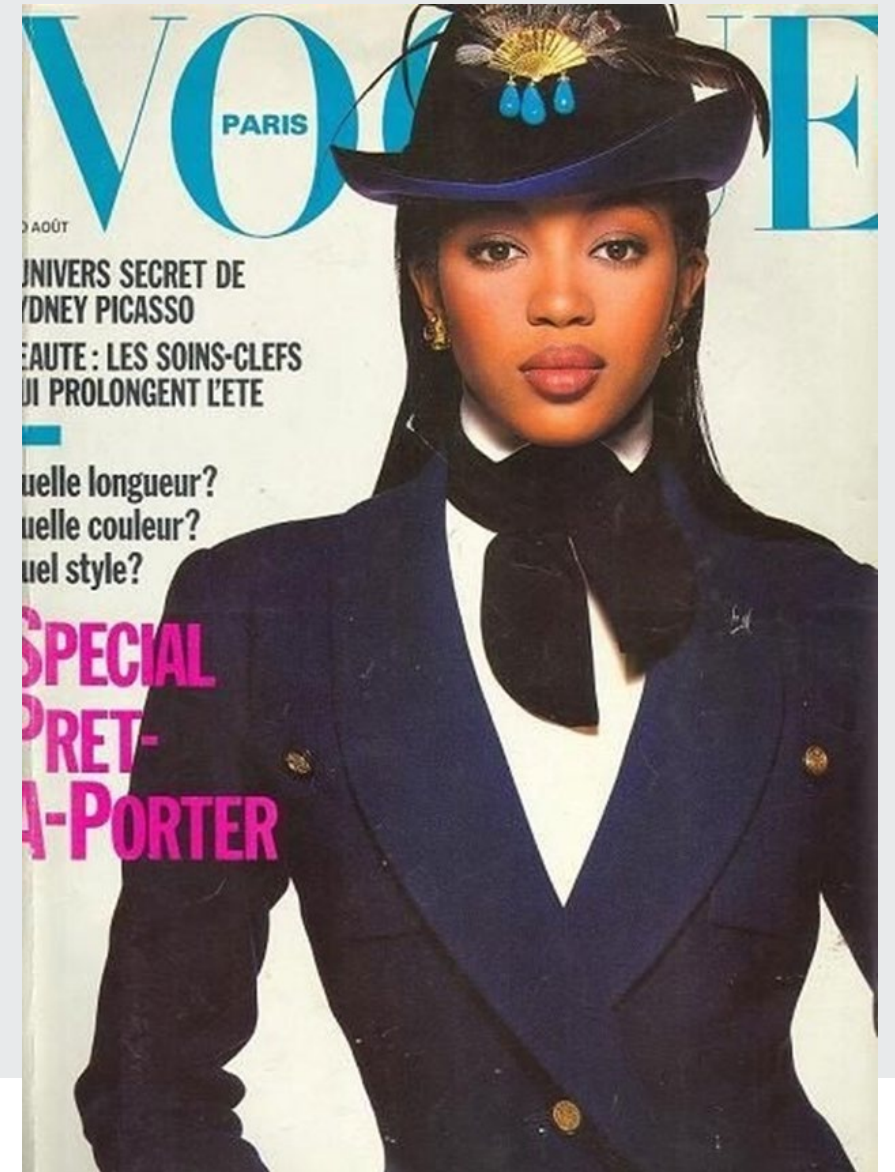
1987

UK elects four black members of parliament:
Dianne Abbott (the first black woman), **Bernie Grant**, **Paul Boateng** and **Keith Vaz**; all Labour MPs.



1988

Naomi Campbell becomes the first black model to grace the cover of French *Vogue*.



1993

Stephen Lawrence is stabbed to death in an unprovoked attack by a gang of white youths as he waits for a bus in south-east London.

In 1999, the police response to the teenager's killing is labelled “institutionally racist” by Sir W. Macpherson who led the public inquiry into Stephen's murder.



2000

The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 comes into force as an extension of the Race Relations Act 1976, requiring the police and other public authorities such as colleges and universities to take action to promote race equality.

“The law imposes a duty on institutions to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination
- Promote equality of opportunity
- Promote good race relations between persons of different racial groups.”

2002

Ms. Dynamite won the prestigious Mercury Prize for her debut solo album *A Little Deeper*, followed by two Brit awards the following year.



2003-2013

Doreen Lawrence, mother of Stephen Lawrence, is awarded an OBE for services to community relations in 2003. She is made **Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon** in 2013.



2016

The first **Black Lives Matter** protest takes place in the UK.



2017-2019



Stormzy's album *Gang Signs & Prayer* was the first grime album to reach #1 on the UK Albums Chart and won British Album of the Year at the 2018 Brit Awards.

2019: Stormzy's headline appearance at the Glastonbury Festival was widely praised.

He makes the cover of US Time magazine, tops the list of “next generation leaders”.