

Black History Month



Beverley Knight

Growing up in Wolverhampton, with a Pentecostal upbringing, Beverley continues to be regarded as one of Britain's greatest soul singers. She is a well-respected ambassador for charities such as Christian Aid, Stop AIDS Campaign and The Terrence Higgins Trust. Committed to social action, she's travelled extensively to help raise awareness about poverty. She has received several accolades for her work in the music industry; including being appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire by the Queen and receiving an Honorary Music degree from Wolverhampton University.

David Lammy

Growing up in Archway, North London, David is renowned for being the first black Briton to ever attend Harvard Law School. A practicing barrister and attorney, at age 27 David became known as the youngest Member of Parliament (MP) in the house until 2003. The much-respected MP for Tottenham, he passionately chairs the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Fatherhood. David advocates for, and speaks publicly on the importance of fathers, and the need to support them to have active roles in the lives of their children.

John Sentamu

Born in Kampala in Uganda, John Sentamu studied law becoming an advocate of the Supreme Court of Uganda. Arriving in the UK in 1974, he devoted himself to Anglicanism, studying theology before gaining a doctorate in 1984. He studied for ordination at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, and was ordained in 1979. He was consecrated as the area bishop of Stepney in 1996, before becoming the bishop of Birmingham and then the archbishop of York.

Chiwetel Ejiofor

Born in London's Forest Gate, Chiwetel began acting in school plays at his junior school, Dulwich Prep London. He continued acting at his senior school, Dulwich College and joined the National Youth Theatre. He got into the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art but left after his first year after being cast in Steven Spielberg's film *Amistad*. In 2013, Chiwetel took on the role of Solomon Northup in *12 Years a Slave*; a film which was awarded the Golden Globe award for Best Motion Picture.

Uju Asika

Living in London, Uju is a multiple award-nominated blogger, screenwriter and creative consultant. A mum of 2 young boys, she founded *Babes about Town*, a city guide for kids and families in London and beyond. Uju is committed to helping both her cultural and wider social community to have an active voice on racism. She is the author of *Bringing Up Race: How to Raise a Kind Child in a Prejudiced World*.

Marcus Rashford

Born in Manchester, Marcus began playing football at age five, before joining the Manchester United Academy at the age of seven. A phenomenal player, he scored two goals on both his first-team debut and his Premier League debut against Arsenal just three days later. Scoring on his England debut in May 2016, he became the youngest English player to score in his first international match. In 2020, Marcus worked with FareShare to deliver meals to those no longer getting free school meals, and actively advocated to end child poverty.

Reggie Yates

Growing up in North London, Reggie made his first television appearance in the show *Desmond's* at the age of eight. A British actor, television presenter and DJ, over the last five years Reggie has become well-known for documentaries, including the *Extreme Series*. In 2017, he authored his debut book, *Unseen: My Journey*, which describes his journey from TV presenter to documentary maker. Reggie recently completed a poignant documentary on the victims of the tragic fire, called *Grenfell Towers Hidden Victims*.