

WINDRUSH SPECIAL

Rt Hon David Lammy, MP for Tottenham



Foreword by David Lammy MP

"The aim is to create here in Britain a really hostile environment for illegal migration."

Theresa May's Hostile Environment policy was never about illegal

immigration. It was about disseminating suspicion about the status of anybody who looked like they didn't belong here. It was about asking teachers, nurses, doctors and landlords to act as our border

guards. The Hostile Environment was less about illegal immigration and more about illegalising British citizens.

We still do not know the exact number of citizens who were wrongfully detained, deported, made jobless, left without housing and healthcare, split from their families, left destitute, and treated like strangers in their homes. The Home Office taskforce received 6,507 enquiries from possible Windrush cases between April (when it opened a call centre) and July 2018. In Tottenham, we have referred 32 cases to the Home Office. The truth is, though, that the true number of those affected is likely to be much higher. Due to the sensitivities, many of my constituents have been driven underground. Besides, it is often too easy to speak of the victims of 'Windrush' as if each individual does not have a uniquely painful story to tell.

One of my constituents came to the UK aged 5. A professional boxer at 20, he fought at the Royal Albert Hall to become Britain's #2 boxer for his weight. However, after visiting Jamaica in 2005, he was denied re-entry into the UK. By the time I wrote to the Home Office to secure his return in 2018, he had spent 13 years stuck in a country he barely knew. At 65 years old, he was left destitute and homesick, living in an abandoned grocery shack with

no electricity, no gas and no furniture apart from a camp bed.

Another constituent came to the UK in 1972, building up a successful business of his own. After he was deemed to be in this country illegally in 2018, his housing benefits were cut off and he was evicted from the property he had rented for the past 17 years. No longer able to afford storage fees, he lost everything he owned, his bedding, his clothes, his books and his personal items. After someone else contacted me with

an apology. In terms of the hardship fund, 100 people have asked for support; only 14 were accepted and 41 were rejected outright. I hope that the victims of the Hostile Environment can call the UK home again. But I'm fearful that this might not ever be possible, even if the government provides a compensation scheme that isn't complex, expensive and derisory. That's because the Windrush scandal was a colonial hangover that has left this government dehydrated

"Owing to the scale of their contribution, we already owed the Windrush generation a huge moral debt"

deep apprehension that his friend was sleeping rough in a shed at the bottom of a garden, we managed to secure him some accommodation. He now lives in a flat of his own, but without any of the possessions he once had, without any of the money he saved up and without any compensation from the government.

Distressingly, this lack of remorse or rectification is all too familiar a story. 16 people who were wrongly removed from this country have not been contacted by the Home Office. At least 12 people who were removed have died before they could receive

of any moral authority.

In 1956, my father arrived in Britain from Guyana. My mother arrived in the late 1960s. They, along with 524,000 Commonwealth-born people, came to Britain because they wanted to take part in building Britain's future. They were NHS workers, train drivers, engineers, wardens and cleaners. Owing to the scale of their contribution, we already owed the Windrush generation a huge moral debt. After the Windrush scandal, I'm not sure if this debt is something we will ever be able to truly repay.

Sewn together

Local sewing groups create commemorative quilts to honour Haringey's black communities

ARTS & CULTURE

By Sonja Camara

Last year 4U2 news magazine, in partnership with The Selby Centre, organised 'Haringey Black Change Makers', a project highlighting the vast contributions of African and Caribbean individuals who have lived/ worked in Haringey over the past 70 years— as we observed that many had remained invisible.

Myself and Paula Pin Kusion, Jesslyn House of Akunna, Sew with Sue, Jodi B Designs, Anastasia House of Phoenix, alongside other creators, decided that making a patchwork quilt would be an effective way to honour our local black communities.

The 'Sewn Together' project united

three local sewing groups, allowing participants to make personal quilt patches, whilst reflecting upon their culture and heritage.

African and Caribbean communities contribute to the wider society in many ways including, democracy, art and culture.

This should be highlighted and the significance shared so that all can celebrate and understand the lasting, positive impact of these contributions to British society.

I view the quilts to be visual expressions of the journeys faced by African and Caribbean communities living in Haringey.

The patches express joy, grief, healing, inspiration and hope; serving as a collective signifier of the on-going fight for recognition, acceptance and equality.



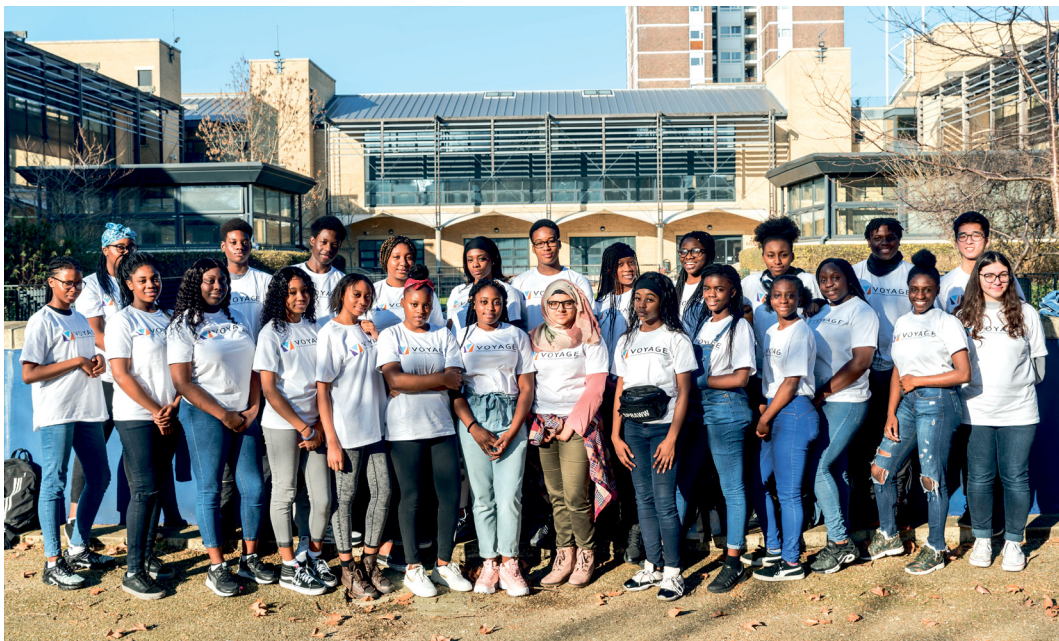
A quilt on display at Bruce Castle Museum Credit: Stephen Furner

WINDRUSH SPECIAL

NEWS

Voyage of the young and their elders

Tottenham youth to take part in archiving local, Windrush histories



VOYAGE youth Credit Amelia Hallsworth

By Luchia Robinson

Young people from Tottenham, Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Camden and Newham have been selected to take part in an intergenerational project that will uncover the histories and experiences of Windrush generation communities in Haringey. The project is presented by VOYAGE (Voice Of Youth And Genuine Engagement) – a social justice charity for young, black people, and is in partnership with the African Caribbean Leadership Company (ACLC), based in Hornsey. VOYAGE has received £4,380 to run the programme, which will see the selected, secondary school pupils regularly meeting with Haringey elders; building relationships, asking questions and gathering personal audio stories, that will be presented alongside video and photography at an exhibition, in time for Black History Month, this October. Sylvia Quinlan, Director of

the ACLC said: “It’s incredibly important for us to connect with young people, so that they have a deeper understanding of the history and experience of their elders. We look forward to forming new connections with some incredible young people.” The young people will receive community development training and archive collection techniques from the Black Cultural Archives in Brixton. This will enable them to develop core skills, such as asking pertinent questions and gathering accounts in a way that the cultural relevance of the individual stories, is understood. Paul Anderson MBE, Chief Executive of VOYAGE, said: “We work with a lot of young people who do not actually have relatives or grandparents in this country, so it’s really important for us to bring young people together [with elders] to get an understanding of that generational difference, and the breadth of stories about people’s migra-

tion flows into this country. “We are particularly interested in Windrush because there is a feeling on one side, that there was an illusion created – a notion that this country was going to be a land of opportunity with ‘streets paved with gold’. In many respects, a lot of young people find that intriguing because what they see in London, is not necessarily [that]. Their view might be that the streets are paved with blood – their blood. “For us, getting young people involved in this project, is very much trying to connect them to their ancestral heritage, or an ancestral heritage that they may have heard about, but not necessarily understood.” “We think young people are a solution to a lot of problems rather than recipients, or the problems themselves. We feel that they can contribute to helping others in a much better way than them just being seen as troubled causes, or as not being useful until they are of voting age.”

Tottenham celebrates Windrush



Zena Edwards mixes music with poetry Credit Luchia Robinson



Making kites, having fun Credit Stephen Furner



Steel pan performance Credit Stephen Furner



David Lammy MP in conversation with Dotun Adebayo Credit Luchia Robinson



Memories in Mind: Women of the Windrush tell their stories Credit Luchia Robinson

BERNIE GRANT ARTS CENTRE

WINDRUSH SPECIAL

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INTERVIEW BY LUCHIA ROBINSON

Project Manager, Donna Joseph and Event Coordinator, Shalisa Anthony discuss Windrush L.I.V.E (Leave Ignorance Value Education Enterprise and Excellence) – their not-for-profit organisation, which was established to teach people about the contributions and legacy of the Windrush generation

Why young people need to know about Windrush

Donna Joseph and Shalisa Anthony are advocates of the adage that knowing your past is essential in determining your future. With this in mind, they are working to ensure that the current generation of UK black youth know who they are, understand their history and have the right tools to achieve success. Shalisa and Donna have backgrounds in events, but Windrush L.I.V.E poses a new challenge for the pair – one that aims to involve young people in finding solutions to the current ‘Windrush debacle’. Last year, the nation was made aware of the scandal that involved many British citizens of the Windrush generation being wrongfully deported to the Caribbean or being under threat of deportation. This revelation prompted the Windrush L.I.V.E team to address these injustices through education. “I really believe that Windrush is everyone’s history,” said Shalisa. “A lot of people left the Caribbean a commonwealth and, when they came here, they had to dumb down and accept jobs that were beneath their educational status – not as snobs, but that was the reality. It freed up a lot of the indigenous (white) population to then become lower level managers and to move up the rung of promotion. “People need to see the positive contribution of the Caribbean Windrush arrivals to this country, and how it is woven into the fabric of British society. The white, Asian, and of course the black Caribbean diaspora need to know.” Last month, the first Windrush L.I.V.E event took place at St Ann’s

Library. Aimed at all age groups, its purpose was to teach the attendees about the Windrush migration, and how racism and classism were inextricably intertwined. Donna said: “The children of the Windrush era were taught as their [white] classmates were, to operate in a factory setting. “For generations, indigenous (white) children followed into the industry their parents were working in: coal mining, factories, street sweeping – that was your heritage. “Caribbean children fell in with that group, who were not considered to have any worth by their own people, within the ruling class. “What we want is for our young [black people today] to not be sucked into this system where they are considered worthless, and for them to use their skills to improve their position, [and that of] their

parents, just by the fact that they are doing well.” Education, enterprise and excellence are core to the Windrush L.I.V.E message, of making a positive contribution to UK society. However, Shalisa and Donna believe the British education system tends to narrow the career options for black children – which in turn, has an effect on individual identities and lessens the full impact the youth can have. “Our children are being farmed into music, dance, and sport,” said Donna. “Boxing [in particular], because they are told they need discipline for behaviour that is classed as ‘assertiveness’ in the [white] child, but ‘aggression’ in the black child.” Shalisa added: “We don’t want our young people or our community labelled in ‘this’ box or ‘that.’” It is value assumptions such as

these that the Windrush L.I.V.E team believe plays a huge part in solidifying discriminatory attitudes towards black people. “The only way [these attitudes] stop, is when we value ourselves individually, and we take stock of who we are and how we treat one another,” said Shalisa. “We are taught subconsciously to favour other cultures above ourselves, and when we speak about ourselves negatively, it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy, for example: ‘All black people are late’ – No we’re not.” Windrush L.I.V.E aims to affirm black identities and combat negative portrayals that are often, widely consumed and personally internalised. Donna said: “[If] we change our value system, we change our minds, and we will see a change in ourselves and in our community.”

WINDRUSH SPECIAL

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHEN FURNER

LIVING UNDER ONE SUN



David Lammy MP addresses the crowd



Floral tributes



Cllr Zena Brabazon talks to attendees



Dominoes with friends



Making music in the sunshine



Colours of the caribbean

Across Clues

- 1 The area of the West Indies and surrounding seas and coasts (9)
- 6 Smiles radiantly (5)
- 9 Edible plant stalk (7)
- 11 Where Windrush docked in London (7)
- 12 Certain (4)
- 13 Hates (7)
- 17 Mystical Star Wars knight (4)
- 18 Had knowledge of (4)
- 19 Nationality of most Windrush folk (8)
- 22 Sensed with fingers (4)
- 23 Wise (4)
- 24 Ocean crossed by the Windrush migration (8)
- 27 State of mind (4)
- 28 Transport route (4)
- 29 To pass on something on Twitter (7)
- 34 Protective crust that forms over a cut (4)
- 35 Facial expression of pain or disgust (7)
- 36 To travel (7)
- 38 Ballroom dance from South America (5)
- 39 A fabric of synthetic textile fibres (9)

Down Clues

- 2 Remains of a fire (3)
- 3 To inspire or permeate with (5)
- 4 Sudden brief outbreak (5)
- 5 To take heed of (4)
- 6 Popular Indonesian holiday island (4)
- 7 Entertainment (9)
- 8 Relating to the manner in which something arty is done (9)
- 9 To free of something (3)
- 10 Form of public transport (3)
- 14 A distinct period of history (3)
- 15 Foot attachment for snow (3)
- 16 A sloping edge surface (5)
- 18 To work dough (5)
- 19 Perfectly fitting (4,5)
- 20 A movement of people as in Windrush (9)
- 21 Narrow boat propelled with a paddle (5)
- 25 Appropriate (3)
- 26 Anger (3)
- 29 Rule or government in India (3)
- 30 Type of hardwood (5)
- 31 Factory buildings (5)
- 32 Attempt (3)
- 33 Decorative wall rail (3)
- 34 To leak slowly (3)
- 37 The night before (3)

CROSSWORD by Ajayess

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