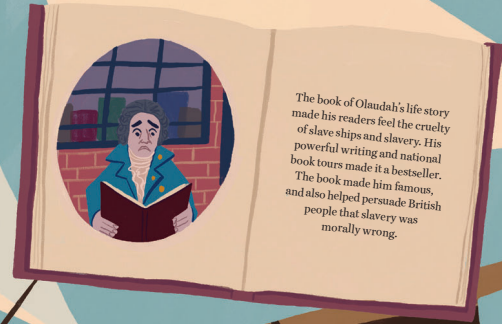


Olaudah Equiano

Olaudah wrote that when he was about eleven he was kidnapped from his home in West Africa, enslaved, and sold. He was taken across the Atlantic on a slave ship.

1.5 out of 12 million people in Britain signed an anti-slave trade petition 1787-1792.



Olaudah Equiano was the most famous Black writer in eighteenth-century London, and a star of the abolition movement. When he published his life story in 1789, Olaudah shocked Britain with his tale of what it was like to be enslaved.

Olaudah was bought by a Royal Navy officer, and went to sea with him. In the Navy, Olaudah learned to read, write, and became a skilled sailor. He also became a Christian, and was baptised in London.

While he was enslaved by a different owner in the West Indies Olaudah learned to be a businessman, buying and selling as he travelled for his owner. He made enough money to buy his freedom when he was 21 years old.

To earn a living, Olaudah went back to sea. He travelled the world, and even went on an expedition to the Arctic.

In the 1770s, Olaudah settled in London where he campaigned against slavery. He worked with other abolitionists like Granville Sharp and the Sons of Africa, and his name and face became famous.

WINDRUSH TO TODAY

Although there had been Black people living in Britain for centuries, after the end of the Second World War far more Black people started to come to Britain and make their homes there.

Britain needed workers to rebuild the country after the war. Many people in the West Indies needed jobs. They had the legal right to live and work in the UK as citizens of the British Empire, and some had even fought for Britain in the war.

1945
The Second World War ends.

1948
A law called the British Nationality Act gives people from the British Empire the right to come to Britain to live. The government expects most of them to be white people from Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, not people from Jamaica, India and Nigeria.

1948
June: the *Empire Windrush* ship arrives from Jamaica.

1948
The National Health Service is created. The NHS will recruit thousands of nurses from the West Indies in its early years.

1956
London Transport begins to hire workers directly from the West Indies.

1958
Violence breaks out in Nottingham and in the area of Notting Hill in London when white gangs attack Black people and their homes.



Two of London Transport's new workers from the West Indies, 1962.



The *Empire Windrush* was a ship which became famous for bringing hundreds of passengers from the West Indies to Britain in 1948.

The ship gave its name to the 'Windrush Generation': the people who travelled from the West Indies to make a home in Britain from 1948 to the early 1970s.

The 'Caribbean Carnival' held in north London in 1959 was the beginning of the famous Notting Hill Carnival.



1959
Claudia Jones organises the first version of the Notting Hill Carnival, to celebrate the Caribbean community.

1962
Parliament says that people coming to the UK from the former British Empire to work will need employment vouchers. Race is not mentioned, but the government gives out fewer vouchers for jobs which are mostly done by Black people.

1963
The Bristol Bus Boycott calls attention to the local bus company's refusal to hire Black or Asian workers. The boycott forces the company to change the rules.

1965
The government introduces the first Race Relations Act, beginning to make racial discrimination illegal. In 1968 another Act bans discrimination in housing, jobs, and banking.

1968
Conservative politician Enoch Powell makes a famous speech warning of disaster if Black and Asian people keep coming to Britain. Public support for Powell, and rising racist attacks, make Black and Asian people feel much less safe.



These Windrush passengers were housed in an air raid shelter under a tube station in Clapham, south London, while they looked for work.



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- Baroness Patricia Scotland:** Patricia Scotland is a lawyer with a long line of 'firsts'. She was the first Black woman, and youngest ever woman, to be made a Queen's Counsel (a type of senior lawyer). She has had a seat in the House of Lords since 1997. In 2007 she became the UK's first ever female Attorney General, the government's legal advisor.
- Stormzy:** Stormzy is one of 21st-century Britain's biggest-selling musicians. He was the first grime artist to have a number one in the UK album charts. Stormzy often talks about politics and racism, supports charities fighting for justice, and publishes books.
- Andrea Levy:** Andrea was an author whose father came to Britain on the Empire Windrush. Her novel *Small Island* was a prize-winning bestseller about the experiences of the Windrush generation.
- Stuart Hall:** Stuart was a writer, teacher, professor and thinker. He wrote about race in Britain and took 'low culture' like film and TV seriously, and thought its messages were worth studying.
- Malorie Blackman:** Malorie is a best-selling author who writes for children and young people. Some of her best known books are the *Noughts & Crosses* series, which have been adapted for theatre and TV. She was the first Black writer to be named UK Children's Laureate.
- Paul Gilroy:** Paul is a historian and writer who works on Black British culture. His ideas about race have changed the way we talk about it.
- Baroness Floella Benjamin:** Floella came to England from Trinidad as a child in 1960, and became famous as a children's TV presenter. She also acts and writes books, including a memoir called *Coming To England*.
- Olive Morris:** Olive was a teenager in Brixton when she was arrested for getting involved when she saw the police beating a Black man. She soon began organizing Black women's groups, leading protests, studying, travelling, and fighting for a fairer world.
- Marcus Rashford:** Marcus achieved footballing success at an early age, as a star player for Manchester United and for England. He is also famous for campaigning for change on homelessness and child poverty.
- Dame Elizabeth Anionwu:** Elizabeth is a professor of nursing, who chose her career after a nurse was one of the few people to treat her kindly at the children's home where she grew up. Elizabeth became the first nurse to specialise in sickle cell and thalassaemia, conditions which mostly affect Black people.

