

If you're wondering how to get more involved with the CWU during Black History Month and beyond, please ask your local branch or contact equality&education@cwu.org

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06607 Published by the Communication Workers Union 2021

BLACK HISTORY MONTH *at* CWU

Black History Month

Black History Month traditionally takes place during the month of October. The CWU does not hold the view that the exclusivity of this important initiative should be confined to a single month and that every day is an opportunity to learn more about black history. Black History Month gives us all the opportunity to share, celebrate and understand the impact of black heritage and culture. More recently, greater attention has been paid to the importance of the Windrush generation and the Black Lives Matter movement, especially since the death of George Floyd in May 2020. Coupled with celebrating Black History it, it also highlights racial injustice.

Check what is going on in your area by visiting BlackHistoryMonth.org.uk.

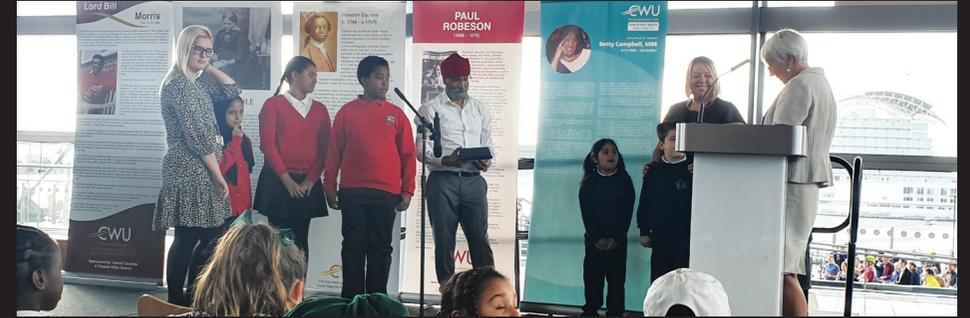
Remember

This period is a time for reflection. Many migrants have come to the UK to find a better life and many have succeeded. The vast majority will have lived experiences that many of us would find completely oppressive. When one looks back and considers the call by the then British empire to the West Indies for workers to come here to work in the health and transport sectors, the call was embraced by brothers and sisters – when the first Windrush journey arrived in 1948 carrying 1,048 passengers these forefathers and sisters would not have known the welcome that was to greet them. The lack of information on climate, the lack of housing provision, the signs

outside pubs saying “No Blacks, No Dogs and No Irish” showed the open discrimination that black people faced back then.

Celebrate

The significance of Black History Month allows us to celebrate the presence of the black population here in the UK and the wider global contribution that black people have made. When Black History Month was first set up it was solely focused on Black British, Black Americans and African communities though the concept has evolved as the word black now takes on a wider political meaning for collective purposes, embracing other ethnic groups. Our Black History exhibition is indicative of the diversity linked to black history today.



Role Models

We all look up to people who inspire us for various reasons. Here at the CWU we have been working collaboratively with organisations such as Show Racism the Red Card as we believe the importance of education can be underlined using black role models.

As society evolves more and more black people are becoming societal influencers. We are engaging more in public life and (some) of our MPs are using their presence in Parliament to great effect. Dawn Butler MP and others have been calling out racism and institutional discrimination, even challenging the integrity of the Prime Minister.

Celebrities such as Marcus Rashford, Raheem Sterling, Nadia Sawalha, Dame Kelly Holmes are just a few people who have been using their status to highlight societal inequality. There are so many role models in society and it is important we recognize and acknowledge our black leaders.

CWU Mobile BHM Exhibition

We said earlier that our view is that Black History Month is not confined to just one month. The CWU has developed a mobile pull-up Black History Exhibition that has kindly been sponsored by regions and branches and this is available to loan to a workplace free of charge (contact us for terms of loan). The opportunity will run up to the end of August 2022 so if you are interested please email equality&education@cwu.org.

Wear Red Day 2021

Friday 22nd October is Wear Red Day and we are encouraging you all to help us celebrate this important day organised by our friends at Show Racism the Red.

We are encouraging you all to wear red and share any pictures on social media with [#WRD21](https://twitter.com/WRD21).

Details on how you can donate to support this excellent campaign can be found at www.theredcard.org.