

Black History Month in Wales



Great Black Women—Past and Present

Black History Month (BHM) in Wales acknowledges the contributions by Black people to local, national and world history and culture. It delivers an informative educational and celebratory programme annually traditionally during the month of October, but in Wales, we celebrate September to November. It also allows the wider community to take part, learn and celebrate together to promote understanding and share our global history. Wales arguably hosts one of the first truly multi-cultural cities in the world where numerous nationalities have lived side-by-side in harmony for many decades. BHM Wales aim to:

- **Educate people in Wales**
- **Challenge negative perceptions**
- **Celebrate the positive contributions and**
- **Promote the history of people of African Diaspora heritage**

This year's theme for BHM is "Great Black Women—Past and Present. The evolution of women's rights and equality between black and white, male and female are two issues that continually cross paths. There have been many bold, brave and successful black women throughout history, some widely known and many others the unsung and forgotten "s-heroes" of our time.

Examples of Great Welsh Women to Begin Your Research



Betty Campbell MBE—*Wales' first black Head Teacher*

Betty became the first black Head Teacher at Mount Stuart Primary in Butetown, Cardiff during the 1970s. “Every month was Black History Month” for her pupils, who had the opportunity to learn about black people’s experiences and positive contributions to British society within the curriculum. [Read more about Betty here.](#)



Uzo Iwobi OBE— *Champion of Race Equality*

Uzo has brought her wealth of legal experience as a solicitor and barrister in Nigeria to community relations in Wales and as well as teaching law in Swansea, has worked as a commissioner with the Commission for Race Equality (CRE) and been appointed to the Police National Diversity Team (PNDT) where she helped to develop national policies on race relations and diversity. She sits on the board for several voluntary organisations.



Suzanne Packer—*Renowned black Welsh actress*

Suzanne is best known for her portrayal of Tess Bateman in the long-running TV series, Casualty, where she performed as part of the main cast for 12 years. Suzanne was born and raised in Cardiff, and is also the elder sister of Olympic hurdler, Colin Jackson. [Read more about Suzanne.](#)



Charlotte Williams OBE—*Author of ‘A Tolerant Nation, Revisiting Ethnic Diversity in a Devolved Wales’*

Charlotte, an established academic, social commentator and acclaimed author is Welsh/Guyanese by heritage and a graduate of the University of Wales. She has spent over 15 years of her career in academia at the University of Wales, Bangor, researching and writing on matters of Welsh multiculturalism and has been actively involved in social policy work across Wales, most notably with the Welsh Government.



Dame Shirley Bassey— *Famous black Welsh singer*

The veteran singer whose career has spanned over 60 years is internationally renowned for singing the themes for three James Bond films, Goldfinger, Diamonds are Forever, and Moonraker. The girl from the Tiger Bay whose father is Nigerian is a Welsh cultural icon. [Read more about Dame Shirley.](#)

Schools celebrating Black History month may find the following /resources useful:

[Black History Month Wales](#)

[Black History Month UK](#)

[Butetown History & Arts Centre](#)

[The Arts Council of Wales](#)

[Heritage Lottery Fund](#)

[The People’s Collection](#)

[Women’s Archive of Wales](#)

[BBC Wales](#)

[National Museum Wales](#)

[National Library of Wales](#)

[Black Presence in Britain](#)

[Great Black Britons](#)

[Black Cultural Archives](#)

[Hwb](#)

PPT—MARY SEACOLE (See attached Powerpoint)

PPT—ROSA PARKS (See attached Powerpoint)

[Web Anywhere BHM Resources](#)

If you have any Black History resources to share with others, please could you contact Leanne at [BHMW](#) or Jan at [MEAS](#).