



Discover more legacies of Nigerians in Britain:



PROF. DAME ELIZABETH ANIONWU, OM

Professor Dame Elizabeth Nneka Anionwu OM DBE FRCN is a British-Nigerian nurse, health care administrator, lecturer & Emeritus Professor of Nursing at the University of West London. Anionwu overcame a difficult childhood to become the UK's first sickle-cell and thalassemia nurse specialist. She helped create the Brent Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Counselling Centre in 1979.



In 1998, Anionwu established the Mary Seacole Centre for Nursing Practice at the University of West London. She was appointed a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2017. She remains a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN).

Since retiring in 2007, Anionwu has published her memoirs, *Mixed Blessings from a Cambridge Union* and *Dreams from My Mother* (2021). Dame Elizabeth is one of only two black women to be granted the Order of Merit in 2022, in the late Queen's final Honours' list. She was privileged to carry the Orb at King Charles' Coronation in May 2023.



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BARON VICTOR OLUFEMI ADEBOWALE, CBE

Baron Victor Olufemi Adebowale, CBE, is the former Chief Executive of the social care enterprise Turning Point, current Chair of the NHS Confederation and one of the first individuals to become a Peoples Peer. Adebowale has an honorary PhD from the University of Central England in Birmingham, an honorary doctorate of letters from the University of Lincoln, an honorary PhD from the University of East London, an honorary doctorate from the University of Bradford, where he is involved with their Centre for Inclusion and Diversity, and most recently an honorary doctorate from the University of York.



He is an honorary fellow of London South Bank University and Honorary Senior Fellow in the Health Services Management Centre at the University of Birmingham. In 2009 he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Lancaster University. Victor Adebowale was installed as Chancellor of the University of Lincoln in 2008. Adebowale has a Post Graduate Diploma from the Tavistock Institute and an MA in Advanced Organisational Consulting from the City University London.



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MARGARET ADERIN-POCOCK, MBE

Margaret Ebunoluwa Aderin-Pocock is a British-Nigerian space scientist and science educator. She is an honorary research associate of University College London's Department of Physics and Astronomy and has been the Chancellor of the University of Leicester since February 2023. Since February 2014, she has co-presented the long-running astronomy television programme *The Sky at Night*.

In 2020 she was awarded the Institute of Physics William Thomson, Lord Kelvin Medal and Prize for her public engagement in physics. She is the first black woman to win a gold medal in the Physics News Award and she served as the President of the British Science Association from 2021 to 2022.

Aderin-Pocock is committed to inspiring new generations of scientists. She has spoken to children from inner-city schools, about challenging perceptions on careers, class, and gender. Aderin-Pocock received an MBE for services to science education in 2009. In 2023, she had a Barbie doll made in her honour.





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JOHN ADEDAYO BAMIDELE ADEGBOYEGA

John Adedayo Bamidele Adegboyega, known professionally as John Boyega, is a British actor and producer. Boyega was born in Camberwell, London and grew up in Peckham. His parents, Abigail and Samson Adegboyega are both of Yoruba descent. His rise to fame in Britain occurred when he played a teenage gang leader in the comedy horror film *Attack the Block* in 2011. His international breakthrough came playing Finn in the *Star Wars* sequel trilogy films *The Force Awakens* (2015), *The Last Jedi* (2017) and *The Rise of Skywalker* (2019).



He received the BAFTA Rising Star Award in 2016, and the Trophee Chopard at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival.

Boyega continues to star in leading roles. As part of Steve McQueen's anthology series *Small Axe* (2020), he portrayed Leroy Logan in *Red, White and Blue*, for which he won a Golden Globe Award. He has since appeared in the historical action film *The Woman King* (2022) and the mystery film *They Cloned Tyrone* (2023).



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ADE ADEPITAN

Adedoyin Olayiwola "Ade" Adepitan MBE, is a disabled basketball player and television presenter. Born in Nigeria, Ade contracted polio at a young age resulting in his use of a wheelchair. He came to the UK with his family at age 3, settling in East London. As a wheelchair basketball player, Ade was a member of the British team that won a bronze medal at the 2004 Summer Paralympics.



He is involved in several charities promoting access to sports for disabled people. In 2005 he became a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to disability sport. Ade was listed on the Powerlist of the 100 most powerful Black Britons in 2020. He still works as a television presenter, fronting sports and travel programmes for the BBC and Channel 4.



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FUNMI ADEWOLE

Funmi Adewole has a background in performance, education, arts development and journalism. She started out as a media practitioner in Nigeria and moved into performance on relocating to Britain in 1994. For several years she toured with physical theatre and African dance drama companies whilst working as an arts consultant and voluntarily as a dance advocate. She has an international reputation as a facilitator and speaker and has participated in conferences and led workshops, labs and discussion groups in West Africa, South Africa, Canada and the USA.



She gained her B.A from the University of Ibadan Nigeria in Languages. She holds an M.A in Postcolonial Studies, a Professional Graduate Certificate in Education and PhD in Dance studies. In 2019, she was awarded a life-time achievement award for contributions to Dance of the African Diaspora in the UK by One Dance UK, the UK National Body for Dance. She is presently a senior lecturer in dance studies at De Montfort University Leicester, England and works as an independent arts practitioner.

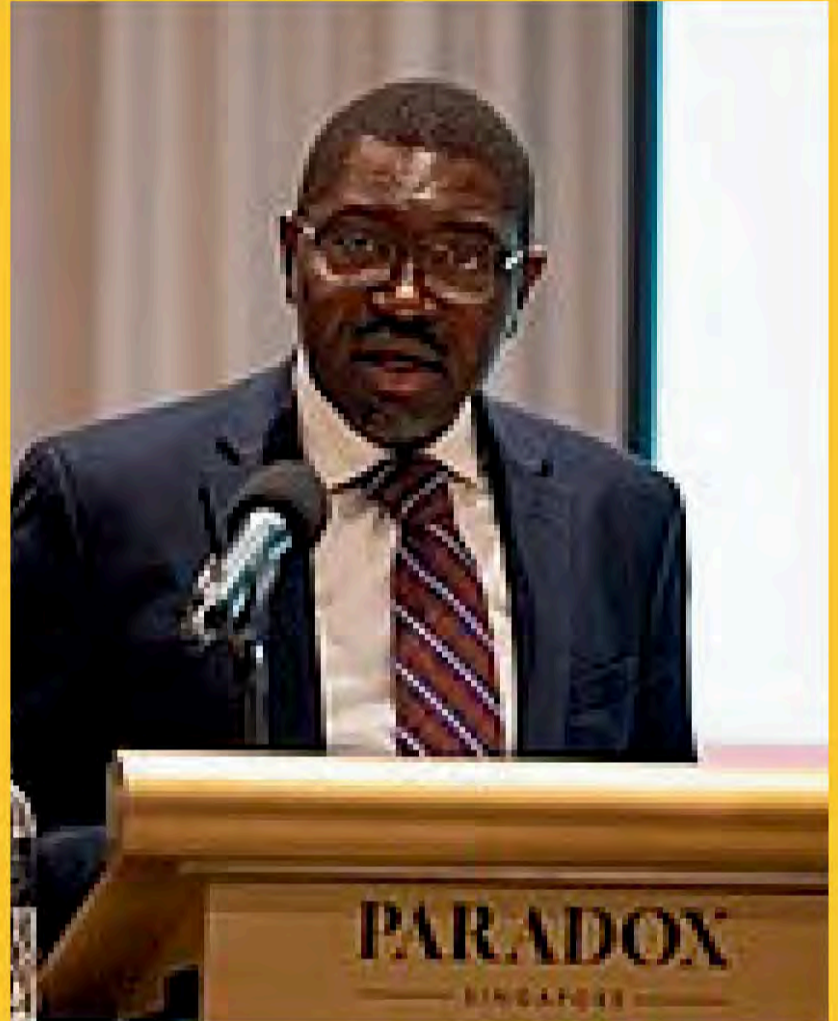


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PROF. DAPO AKANDE

Professor Dapo Akande is a British-Nigerian academic and lawyer. He is a Professor of Public International Law at the University of Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government, a Fellow at Exeter College, Oxford and co-director of the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict (ELAC). Akande was honoured with a portrait at St Peter's College, Oxford and was the first Black professor to receive such recognition. Akande is a founding editor of *EJIL:Talk!*, the scholarly blog of the European Journal of International Law.



In 2020, Akande was nominated as the British candidate for the International Law Commission of the United Nations based in Geneva, Switzerland, for the term 2023-2027. In 2021, during the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Akande was elected to the International Law Commission.

Akande graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from Obafemi Awolowo University (formerly the University of Ife) in 1992. In 1993, he qualified as a barrister and solicitor from the Nigerian Law School. Akande obtained a Master of Laws (LLM) from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 1994, and a Master of Arts (MA) by resolution from the University of Oxford in 2004.



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SADE ADU, CBE

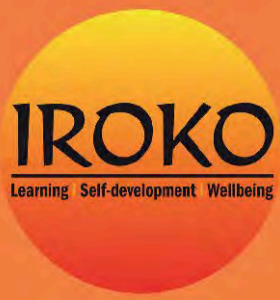
Helen Folasade Adu CBE known simply as Sade, was born in Ibadan, Nigeria in 1959 to a Nigerian father and British mother. She is a singer/songwriter and the lead vocalist of the band 'Sade'. At age 4, Sade moved to the UK with her mother and at age 18, studied fashion design at Saint Martin's School of Art.



The band 'Sade' was formed in 1983. Their first album *Diamond Life* was released in 1984 with the single from the album, *Your Love is King*, reaching the top 10 in the UK singles charts. The album won the Brit

Award for Best British Album in 1985. Since then, Sade has released 5 albums, *Promise* in 1985, for which she won a Grammy Award for Best New Artist, making her the first Nigerian-born artist to win such an award. In 2018 Sade released *Flower of the Universe* and *The Big Unknown*. Both were soundtracks to various films for Disney and 20th Century Fox.

Sade is regarded as one of the most successful British female performers and acknowledged as a music and style icon. She received an OBE in 2002 for services to music, later receiving a CBE in 2017. Sade was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2023.



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PRINCE MIKE ABIOLA

Prince Mike Abiola is a British-Nigerian journalist and founder of the African Film Awards. He is the Editor in Chief of African Voice Newspaper UK.

Mike has been at the forefront of developing the film industry in Africa. He pioneered the popularity of Nollywood (Nigeria's film industry) in Europe.

Mike Abiola has received several awards, listed as one of the 100 outstanding Nigerians in the United Kingdom in the last 100 years by Nigerian Centenary Awards UK, one of the top 50 most successful Africans in the UK with a niche market product patronised by the mainstream and was presented with the Ambassadors Award by the Nigeria British Awards.





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ENIOLA ALUKO, MBE

Eniola Aluko MBE, is a British-Nigerian football broadcaster and former professional player. She was born in Lagos, Nigeria. Aluko moved to Birmingham, England and made 102 appearances for the national team from 2004 to 2016.

Aluko competed at the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup in China, the 2009 UEFA Women's Euro, the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup in Germany, the 2013 UEFA Women's EURO, and the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup in Canada. At the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, she represented Great Britain.

Aluko was also listed in the 2020 *Powerlist*, as being one of the 100 most influential Black Britons. In 2022, Aluko was one of the first inductees into The Women's Super League (WSL) Hall of Fame by the Football Association. Aluko retired from professional football in 2020 and was awarded an MBE in 2023 for services to association football and charity.





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HASSAN ALIYU

Hassan Aliyu, FRSA, is the President of Nigeria Art Society UK (NASUK), a company he co-founded in 2013 to bring together artists of Nigerian descent working in the diaspora.

Aliyu was born in Hertfordshire in Britain but completed his bachelor's degree in fine arts at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, in Nigeria in 1986. As a student in Nigeria, Aliyu used recycled materials to explore the ban on imported art materials during Nigeria's Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in the 1980s and examined the

colourful packaging of 'essential commodities,' used by the colonial monopolies such as Tate & Lyle, Nestlé, Cadbury's. Today Aliyu is known for his large-scale collaged paintings highlighting the African diaspora experience of racism. He examines issues relating to destabilisation and anti-blackness derived from the legacies of enslavement and colonialism.

Hassan Aliyu has exhibited his work at Russell Coates Museum & Gallery, Bournemouth in 1997, 198 Gallery, London in 1995, The National Museum, Lagos in 1988, The Bronx Museum, Studio Museum, Harlem, Caribbean Cultural Centre, New York in 1998 and Yaduza Gallery artists, Westermarkt, Amsterdam, Netherlands in 1996 - 1999.





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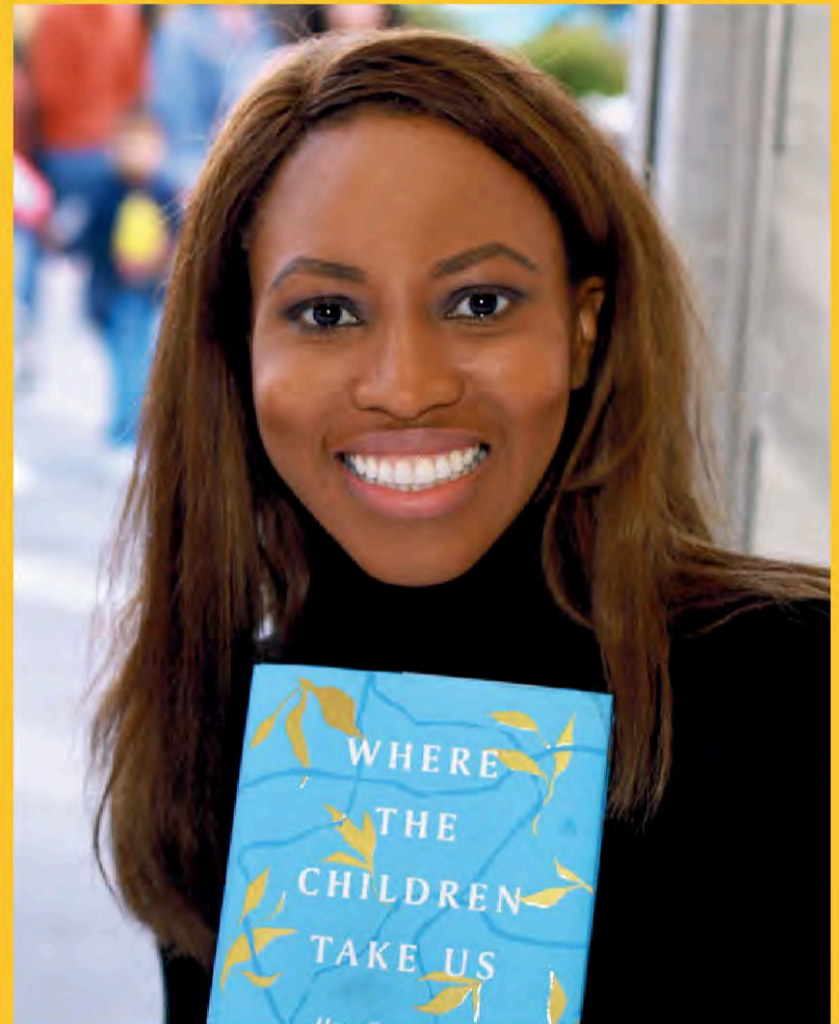
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ZAIN ASHER

Zain Ejiofor Asher is a British-Nigerian news presenter at CNN. She was born in London to Nigerian parents. Her older brother is the actor, Chiwetel Ejiofor. At just 5 years, she lost her father in a car accident in Nigeria.

Zain graduated from Oxford University in 2005. Then studied a graduate programme in journalism at Columbia University, New York City. She became an honorary fellow of Keble College, Oxford University in 2021. As a correspondent for CNN, she reported on many stories such as the Chibok schoolgirls story in Nigeria.



In 2015 she gave a Tedx talk "*Trust Your Struggle*", which was viewed 2.2 million times on YouTube and inspired her memoir *Where The Children Take Us*, published in 2022.



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AYAN DE FIRST - MR CULTURE

Ayan De First-Mr Culture is a multi-award winning African cultural ambassador and the first premier talking drummer in Europe. He has broken boundaries when he became the first African talking drummer to perform for Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and The Royal Family at Buckingham Palace during the Golden Jubilee anniversary. He performed twice for HRH Prince Charles at St James's Palace and in Croydon, London and recently for His Majesty King Charles III.



Ayan De First-Mr Culture has appeared in many British television channels and performed for the likes of Madonna, Sir Richard Branson and the Lord Mayor of London. He broke a record when he performed on the Channel 4 programme, *Come Dine With Me*. He has entertained eminent personalities from Nigeria including Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, Alhaji AbuBakar Abdulsalam, Senator Bukola Saraki, Ooni of Ife. In 2019, Ayan De First performed at the City of London's annual banquet, delighting the crowd with his display of Nigerian and African music. As a gesture for his contribution, the Lord Mayor of London decided to make Ayan De First a Liveryman of the city.



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PETER BADEJO, OBE

Peter Badejo is one of British Nigeria's foremost choreographers, dancers, and African performance specialists. His commitment to African performing arts reflects extensive research at the University of London, and at UCLA where he completed his Master of Arts degree in Dance Ethnography.



Peter Badejo, popularly known as 'Uncle P', made a dramatic impact on British arts. In 1990, he founded and served as Artistic Director of Badejo Arts where a good number of present African dancers and choreographers learnt their trade. His long list of dance and theatre credits include performing in Talawa Theatre Company's *The Gods Are Not to Blame* and *Death of the King's Horseman*. Badejo's commissioned pieces include work for Adizdo Pan African Dance Ensemble, The Royal Exchange Theatre Manchester and SOAS, London. In 2001, he was awarded an OBE in recognition of his work and commitment to the development of African dance.

Badejo received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Dance of the African Diaspora in 2013. In 2017 he was heralded as a living legend in Nigeria during a platinum jubilee to recognise 70 years of outstanding contribution to theatre and dance.



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KEMI BADENOCH

Kemi Badenoch MP, is a British Conservative Party politician serving as Secretary of State for Business and Trade, President of the Board of Trade, and Minister for Women and Equalities since 2022. She previously held a series of junior ministerial positions under Boris Johnson from 2019 to 2022. In 2017 she was elected as Member of Parliament (MP) for Saffron Walden in Essex, having previously served as a Member of the London Assembly.



Badenoch was born in the UK to Nigerian parents and spent some of her childhood living in Lagos, Nigeria and in the United States, where her mother lectured as a Professor of Physiology. She studied Computer Systems Engineering at the University of Sussex, completing a Master of Engineering (MEng) degree in 2003.

Badenoch initially worked within the IT sector, first as a software engineer. While working, she read Law part-time at Birkbeck, University of London, graduating with a Bachelor of Laws degree (LLB) in 2009.

Kemi Badenoch contested for the leadership of the Conservative Party and Prime Minister position in 2022.



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TUNDE BAIYEWU

Tunde Baiyewu is a British singer and songwriter of Nigerian descent, best known as the vocalist of Lighthouse Family. In 2004, he embarked on a solo career, releasing the album *Tunde*. In 2013, he published his second album, *Diamond in a Rock*. Tunde Baiyewu was born in London to Nigerian parents. His father died of cancer when Baiyewu was only five, after which his mother moved him and his young sister to Nigeria. Ten years later, Baiyewu returned to Britain to attend the University of Northumbria and obtained a degree in accounting. There he met Paul Tucker, a student at a university in Newcastle. They formed the musical partnership, Lighthouse Family, releasing their debut album, *Ocean Drive*, with the lead single, *Lifter*, reaching the top five on the UK Singles Chart.





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DR TITILOLA BANJOKO

Dr. Titilola Banjoko has over 20 years clinical and management experience working in the NHS. This includes senior roles at central London teaching hospitals, primary care trusts and at Strategic Health Authority. She worked in healthcare planning and delivery at the Organising Committees for the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games and the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Banjoko is currently the Deputy Managing Director responsible for supporting the development of a new commissioning structure and placed-based delivery South model at the Central Sussex and East Surrey NHS Commissioning Alliance. She is actively engaged in Global Health, with a specific focus on Africa.





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DAME SHIRLEY BASSEY, DBE

Dame Shirley Veronica Bassey DBE was born in Cardiff, Wales in 1937 to a Nigerian father and an English mother. She started singing as a teenager. In 1959, she became the first Welsh person to obtain a number-one single with *As I Love You* in the UK Singles Charts. With a career spanning seven decades, Bassey is recognised as a legend of British popular music. She is famous for her renditions of several James Bond films, providing the iconic soundtracks to *Goldfinger* in 1964, *Diamonds Are Forever* in 1967, and *Moonraker* in 1979 as well as the hit *Big Spender*. All the songs feature her powerful, passionate vocals.



Bassey received the first award for Best British Female Solo Artist at the debut of the Brit Awards in 1977. In 1999, she was made a Dame for her services to entertainment and listed as one of the 100 Great Black Britons in 2003. Her song Goldfinger was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2008. Bassey has performed at both the late Queen's Golden Jubilee and Diamond Jubilee concerts in 2012. She is one of the best-selling female artists of all time with over 130 million records sold globally. Dame Shirley Bassey is the first solo female artist to be honoured with her own set of stamps from the Royal Mail in 2023.



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INUA ELLAMS, MBE

Born in Nigeria, Inua Ellams is a writer and curator. He is a cross disciplinary artist, an internationally touring performer, a poet, playwright, screen writer, graphic artist and designer. His published books of poetry include *Thirteen Fairy Negro Tales* (2004), *Candy Coated Unicorns and Converse All Stars* (2010), *The Wire-Headed Heathen* (2015). His first play, *The 14th Tale* was awarded an Edinburgh Fringe First, at the Edinburgh Festival in 2009 and later transferred to the Royal National Theatre, London. Other plays include *Barber Shop Chronicles*, *The Half God of Rainfall*, *An Evening with an Immigrant* (2020).



In graphic art and design, online and in print, he mixes the old with the new, juxtaposing texture and pigment with flat colour and vector graphics. Based in London, he founded and curates the Midnight Run, The R.A.P Party and Poetry + Film live events. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and Royal Society of Arts. In 2023, Ellams was honoured with an MBE for services to the arts and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of The Arts, London.



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SOKARI DOUGLAS, CBE

Sokari Douglas Camp CBE is a British-Nigerian visual artist who is known for her steel sculptures. She received her BA at the Central School of Art and Design in London (1980-1983), an MA from the Royal College of Art (1983-1986) and studied art at the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, California (1979-1980). Sokari draws inspiration from her life in the UK, her Kalabari ancestry and Nigerian traditions.



Her work has featured at The British Museum and remains part of the Museum's permanent collections. She has held exhibitions at The Victoria & Albert Museum and many international galleries such as the Smithsonian in New York. Many of her pieces explore the history of the African Diaspora, socio political challenges, and the legacy of slavery, power, and gender. She received a CBE in 2005.

Some of her most notable works are commissioned monuments in public spaces, including *Battle Bus: The Living Memorial to Ken Saro-Wiwa*. (2006), *All the World is Now Richer*, a sculpture created as a tribute to remember slavery. It was displayed at The House of Commons in 2012.



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PATTI BOULAYE, OBE

Patti Boulaye OBE is a British-Nigerian singer, actress and artist. Born Patricia Ngozi Ebigwei in 1954 in mid-west Nigeria. She left Nigeria at age 16 for the UK. In 1978, she became famous for winning the TV talent show *New Faces*, gaining the maximum 120 points. Soon afterwards, she released her first album *You Stepped into My Life* in 1978.



Her stage credits include starring in the musical *Hair*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and playing *Carmen Jones* at London's Old Vic Theatre. On TV she appeared in *The Fosters*, *Dempsey* and *Makepeace*. In 1984, she had her own series, *The Patti Boulaye Show* on Channel 4. Boulaye founded the "Support for Africa Charity", which builds clinics in rural Africa and a school in Lesotho in partnership with Prince Harry's charity, 'Sentebale'.

In 2002, Boulaye led 5000 gospel singers down The Mall for the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations. The songs included her own composition *Celebrate Good News*. Boulaye is the Founder and Director of the BIPADA Academy. The charity gives advice on life skills, emotional, social, international etiquette, and personal development. She received an OBE Award for her charity work in the UK and Sub-Saharan Africa in 2016.



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FEMI ELUFOWOJU JR, OBE

Femi Elufowoju Jr OBE, is a British-Nigerian playwright, theatre and opera director. He is the second theatre director of African heritage to establish a national touring company in the UK, named Tiata Fahodzi in 1997. As Artistic Director, he produced more than 30 plays with the company, including Ola Rotimi's *The Gods Are Not to Blame* and Oladipo Agboluaje's *Iya-Ile: The First Wife*, nominated for the Olivier Award. During the same period, Elufowoju was an Associate Director at the Almeida Theatre, Royal Court Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse and the New Wolsey Theatre in Ipswich.



In 2022, Elufowoju made his opera debut as a director of Verdi's *Rigoletto*, for Opera North in Leeds, featuring famous opera singer, Sir Willard White. Elufowoju received an OBE in June 2023 from King Charles III for his contributions to the British theatre.



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BERNADINE EVARISTO, OBE

Bernardine Anne Mobolaji Evaristo OBE FRSL FRSA is a British-Nigerian author and academic. Her novel *Girl, Woman, Other* jointly won the Booker Prize in 2019, making her the first Black woman to win the prize. Evaristo is Professor of Creative Writing at Brunel University London and President of the Royal Society of Literature, the second woman and the first black person to hold the role since it was founded in 1820.



Evaristo is a longstanding advocate for the inclusion of writers and artists of colour.

She founded the Brunel International African Poetry Prize, 2012-2022, and launched The Complete Works Poetry mentoring scheme from 2007-2017. She co-founded Spread the Word writer development agency and Britain's first black women's theatre company, Theatre of Black Women (1982-1988). Evaristo organised Britain's first major black theatre conference, Future Histories, for the Black Theatre Forum (1995) and Britain's first major conference on black British writing, Tracing Paper (1997), at the Museum of London.

Evaristo is a lifetime Honorary Fellow of St Anne's College, University of Oxford, and an International Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences.



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JUSTIN FASHANU

Justin Fashanu was a British-Nigerian footballer, born in 1961, in Hackney, East London. During his career, he played for various clubs in both the UK and North America, including Notts County, Brighton & Hove Albion, Manchester City, West Ham United, Newcastle United and Los Angeles Heat between 1978 and 1997.

Fashanu started his sporting career as a boxer, reaching two national finals in his teenage years. He also played as centre striker for Norwich City's youth and reserve football teams. At the age of 17, he made his first-team club debut.

Fashanu transferred from Norwich City to Nottingham Forest in 1981 and became one of the first football players to claim a £1 million transfer fee. As the first openly gay professional football player, Fashanu faced homophobic abuse on the pitch. Sadly, he died by suicide in 1998. In 2020, Fashanu was inducted into The National Football Museum Hall of Fame.





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PROF. KENE IGWEONU

Professor Kene Igweonu is Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of London College of Communication. Previously, Kene was Academic Dean for the Faculty of Arts and Creative Industries and Professor of Performance & Creative Education at Middlesex University, where he developed innovative partnerships with private and public sector organisations, enhancing student employability and enterprise across media, visual arts, performing arts, and design practices. He was the faculty's Deputy Dean for Research & Knowledge Exchange and led the development of its REF2021 submission.



Other roles include, Head of School of Music & Performing Arts and Faculty Director of Knowledge Exchange & Enterprise at Canterbury Christ Church University, where he was Institutional Lead on a project grant from the European Regional Development Fund to create a network of editing and post-production specialists across the South East.

Kene is Chair of DramaHE; President of the African Theatre Association; a Member of AHRC Peer Review College; and Council Member for Creative UK. He is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and Fellow of the Leadership Foundation.



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DR ANNE MARIE IMAFIDON

Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE is one of the most influential women in the UK's tech industry.

At only 10 years-old, she obtained GCSEs in maths and computing. By age 11, she completed her A-levels and at age 13, won a scholarship to study at John Hopkins University, in Maryland, USA. Imafidon obtained a master's degree in mathematics and computing science from the University of Oxford. Consequently, she co-founded Stemettes, a social enterprise aimed at



promoting women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Medicine (STEM) in 2013.

Imafidon co-hosted a special episode of Channel 4's Countdown - Black to Front Day campaign as an arithmetician. The campaign aimed at improving Black representation in television. She was recognised as one of the BBC's 100 women of 2017 and received a Suffrage Science Award from the London Institute of Medical Sciences in 2002. She is an Honorary Fellow at Keble College, Oxford. Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon became the 2022-2023, President of the British Science Association.



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ALEX IWObI

Alex Iwobi, is a British-Nigerian professional footballer who plays as a midfielder for Premier League club Everton and the Nigeria national team. Iwobi was born in Lagos and grew up in Newham in East London. Iwobi began his career at Arsenal, making 149 appearances and scoring 15 goals, winning the FA Cup in 2017, as well as scoring in the 2019 UEFA Europa League Final. In 2019, he transferred to Everton for an initial £28 million fee.



Iwobi represented England at under 18 level. He made his senior international debut for Nigeria in 2015 and was part of their squads at the FIFA World Cup in 2018 and the African Cup of Nations in 2021, finishing third at the 2019 tournament.



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PROF. ROTIMI JAIYESIMI

Professor Jaiyesimi, a 1978 graduate of Ibadan University has served the NHS for 31 years, as one of the first Nigerian UK Consultants in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He is the Associate Medical Director for Patient Safety, Basildon University Hospital and Specialist Advisor for the Care Quality Commission. Adjunct Law Professor, University of Ibadan, his contributions cut across clinical, management and academia, including 13 years as Member, General Medical Council Fitness to Practice Panels and Reviewer, National Institute for Health Research.



His awards for clinical excellence and service include the National Award for Innovation, British Medical Association Research Award, MANSAG Recognition Award and the Gathering of Africa's Best Award for Health. Professor Jaiyesimi, a mentor to many, described by his peers as an asset to the NHS. He was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the University of Ibadan in 2018.



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GEORGE 'GINGER' JOHNSON

From the 1940s to the 1970s, the Nigerian born George Folunsho "Ginger" Johnson (1916-1975) performed in the London circuit as a well-known percussionist, musician and bandleader. He was the leader of the "Ginger Johnson and His African Messengers Band" playing a fusion of African and jazz music. He collaborated on recordings and performances with artists such as The Rolling Stones at their seminal 1969 Hyde Park concert, Ronnie Scott and Quincy Jones.



Ginger Johnson, so called because of his reddish hair, came to London to join the British Merchant Navy, settling in London to work as a musician after the War. In 1950 he joined the Edmundo Ros Orchestra as lead percussionist, recording several albums with them. He became a fixture of the Swinging Sixties scene, running the Iroko club, frequented by Rod Stewart and Elton John in North London. He was involved in the first Notting Hill Carnival in 1966 and for a time ran workshops at Royal College of Music.

As one of the pioneers of African music in the UK, his work is enjoying a revival. Two 1950s recordings were released on the compilation CD, *London Is The Place For Me 4: African Dreams and the Piccadilly High Life*, in 2006. The album *African Party* was re-released in 2015.



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FELICIA KWAKU, OBE

Felicia Kwaku OBE is a nurse and executive hospital administrator in NHS England. She has practised as a cardiothoracic/intensive care nurse in the UK for more than 30 years. She received an OBE in 2020, for services to nursing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Across NHS England, Kwaku advocated for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) nurses when it became clear these groups were being disproportionately affected by COVID-19. She delivered webinars, which reached thousands of caregivers at a time when they felt vulnerable and in need of information. She advocated for appropriate risk assessments and PPE for nursing staff and other clinical colleagues as the pandemic advanced.



Kwaku serves as the Associate Director of Nursing for Acute Speciality Medicine at King's College Hospital in London and is the Chair of the Chief Nursing Officers Black and Minority Ethnic Strategic Advisory Group at the NHS.



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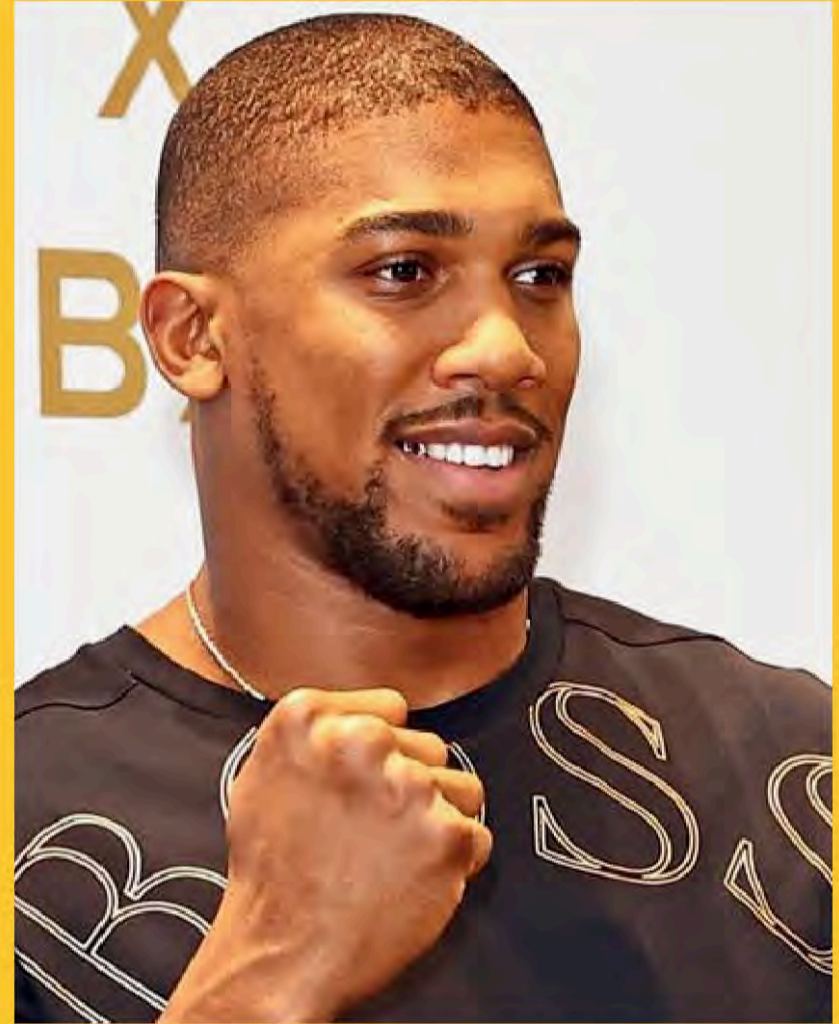


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ANTHONY JOSHUA

Anthony Joshua OBE, born Anthony Oluwafemi Olaseni Joshua is a British-Nigerian professional heavyweight boxer. Joshua, is a two-time unified heavyweight champion, having held the WBA, IBF, WBO, and IBO titles since December 2019. He retained his titles one more time after beating mandatory challenger Kubrat Pulev at Wembley. At regional level, he held the British and Commonwealth heavyweight titles from 2015 to 2016. He also represented Great Britain at the 2012 Olympics, winning gold. As of October 2022, Joshua is ranked as the world's second-best active heavyweight by BoxRec, the expert boxing website.



Recently, the Ogun State government in Nigeria, named a street in the Sagamu Local Government Area of the state after Joshua, who had some of his growing-up years in Nigeria. He was appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 2013 for services to boxing.



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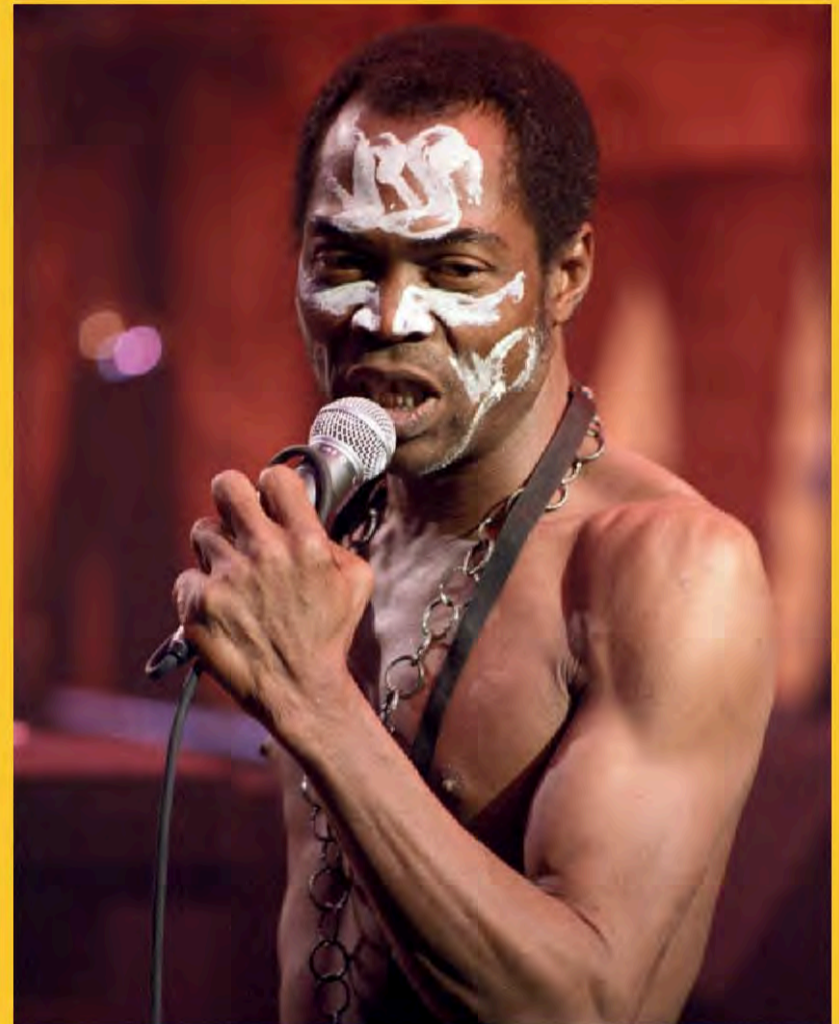
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FELA KUTI

Fela Aníkúlápó Kuti was a Nigerian bandleader, composer, political activist, and Pan-Africanist. He was born in 1938. His mother was the Nigerian women's rights activist Funmilayo Ransome Kuti. As a young man he learned to play the piano and percussion before studying classical music and focusing on the trumpet, at Trinity College London in 1959.

While in London, Fela experimented with musical styles including jazz and rock. He formed his first group, Fela Ransome-Kuti and His Highlife Rakers. The band recorded four sides for Melodisc, one of Britain's first independent African and Caribbean music labels. In 1960 Fela disbanded the group, forming Koola Lobitos which played a fusion of jazz and highlife music. In 1963, Kuti moved back to the newly independent Federation of Nigeria.

Fela called his blend of music Afrobeat. His music has clearly influenced today's Afrobeats genre of music, though the two are distinct. Afrobeats is the contemporary term for West African popular music. The genre is enjoying huge success influencing youth culture globally. In 2020 Fela was honoured with a commemorative plaque in London by the Black Plaque Project.





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LITTLE SIMZ

She is known as Little Simz but her real name is Simbiatu "Simbi" Abisola Abiola Ajikawo. She is a British-Nigerian rapper, singer and actress. Born in 1994 in Islington, London, Little Simz was raised on a council estate with two older sisters. Her mother was a foster carer. As a musician, Little Simz gained recognition for the release of three albums, *A Curious Tale of Trials + Persons*, *Stillness in Wonderland*, and *Grey Area*, which won the awards for Best Album at the Ivor Novello Awards and the NME Awards.



Her fourth album, *Sometimes I Might Be Introvert*, won the 2022 Mercury Prize and the Brit Award for Best New Artist as well as the Libera Award for Best Hip-Hop/Rap Record, all in the same year. Her fifth album, *No Thank You*, has received critical acclaim. As an actor, Little Simz' credits include starring in the Netflix drama series *Top Boy*.



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LEMAR

Lemar Okiba, is a British-Nigerian singer, songwriter, record producer and actor, better known as Lemar. He rose to fame through the British talent show Fame Academy in 2002, winning third place. Thereafter he secured a £1 million record deal with Sony BMG. Lemar released five albums under this label. The first called *Dedicated* achieved double-platinum status in 2003 with the second a *Time to Grow*, gaining the same double platinum success.



His biggest single *If There's Any Justice* was released on his second album and climbed to number ten in the UK Singles Charts. His third *The Truth About Love* became Lemar's highest grossing album, reaching number three in the UK Album Charts in 2006. Lemar is regarded as one of the most successful artists to emerge from a reality TV show in the UK and Ireland, having sold more than two million albums. Lemar appeared in the 2023 TV-Series *Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story* in 2023 and performed for the Princes' Trust in 2004



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SHOLA MOS-SHOGBAMIMU

Shola Mos-Shogbamimu, is a British-Nigerian lawyer and academic, an activist and political commentator. She was born in London and raised in the UK, Nigeria and the United States. Mos-Shogbamimu obtained her first degree, an honours LLB, from the University of Buckingham, an MA degree in Diplomatic Studies from the University of Westminster, an LLM degree in Commercial & Corporate Law from the London School of Economics, a PhD in Law from Birkbeck, University of London and an Executive MBA from the University of Cambridge.



Shola was named among *8 Educational Black Voices To Listen And Learn From Now* in 2020 by *Vogue* magazine. She is the founder of the magazine *Women in Leadership*. She published her first book, *This Is Why I Resist: Don't Define My Black Identity*, in 2021.



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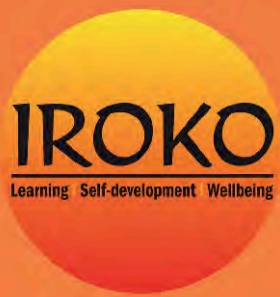
PROF. KELECHI NNOAHAM

Prof. Kelechi Nnoaham is the Executive Director of Public Health & Executive Lead for Academic Partnerships, Research & Development and Innovation, Cwm Taf University Health Board.

His background is in Infectious Diseases Medicine. He has held senior public health positions in the NHS and Local Government since 2005. Since 2015 he held an honorary professorship in Public Health & Epidemiology with Plymouth University and co-chairs its Southwest Global Health Collaboration. His key interest is in harmonising the input of the Health Service with those of communities, public and third sector partners to improve population health and narrow disparities in health and wellbeing.



Despite Nnoaham's busy schedule, he still finds time to give back to the community where he mentors the youths and serves as role model for upcoming BME youths. His approach to health issues is holistic and inspiring.



Discover more legacies of
Nigerians in Britain:



CHINYERE NWANOKU, CBE

Chinyere Adah "Chi-Chi" Nwanoku CBE is a British-Nigerian double bassist and professor of Historical Double Bass Studies at the Royal Academy of Music. Nwanoku was a founder member and principal bassist of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, a position she held for 30 years. She is also the founder and Artistic Director of the Chineke Orchestra, the first professional orchestra & junior orchestra in Europe to be made up of a majority of Black, Asian and ethnically diverse musicians. The Chineke Orchestra first performed in 2015 at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London.



Besides teaching double bass, Nwanoku broadcasts on Radio 3 Requests and on the BBC TV Proms. In 2015 Nwanoku presented the BBC Radio 4 programmes *In Search of the Black Mozart*, featuring the lives and careers of black classical composers and performers from the 18th century, including Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges; Ignatius Sancho; and George Bridgetower. In 2018 the BBC *Woman's Hour* placed Nwanoku ninth in a list of the world's most powerful women in music. She has also been listed in the 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 *Powerlist* of the most influential Black Britons of the year.

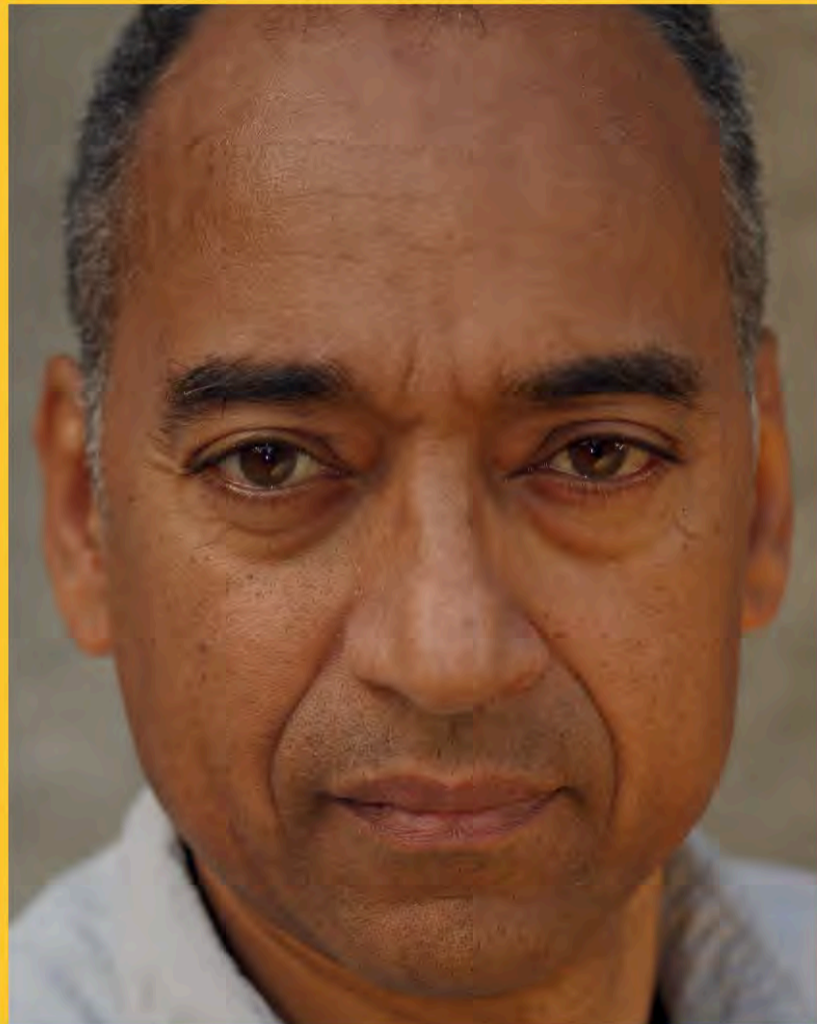


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ANTHONY OFOEGBU

Anthony Ofoegbu is a self-taught creative, who lives in London. As an actor he has worked nationally and globally, in Theatre, Dance, Television, Film, Radio, Audio and Dramatic Tutoring for more than 35 years. He co-founded Four's Company Dance-Theatre Company and the 7th/12th Collective Film Production Company. He is currently Company Director of Crying In The Wilderness Productions Theatre Company.



Anthony was invited to join the BBC Radio Drama Company (RDC) in 1997, voicing plays for BBC Radio 4, BBC African Radio and the World Service. He was nominated for Best Actor for *My Children, My Africa* at the Trafalgar Studios in 2015.

He was a Royal Shakespeare Company actor from 2016-2018. Anthony's work has toured West and South Africa, Europe, America, Canada, Australia and the UAE. Anthony's other creative outlets include painting, photography, interior design, carpentry, specialised Perspex furniture making and leather product design. As a commission, he designed and manufactured the annual Off West End Theatre Award trophies for London's theatre circuit from 2010-13.



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DR OLALEYE OGINNI

Dr Olaleye Oginni is a Clinical Director for a leading provider of Urgent Care Services in London. A team leader highly respected by all, for his track record of excellence in driving change management and clinical governance in Urgent Care Services, integrating acute and community care within multidisciplinary teams and the larger primary care network of providers in Southeast London.



Being an experienced GP Trainer and Appraiser of GPs, his mentoring skills have supported clinicians particularly those from Nigeria. He has contributed immensely to the NHS over the years and continues to work tirelessly in improving access to unscheduled care of which a lot of immigrants are direct benefactors.



Discover more legacies of
Nigerians in Britain:



JUWON OGUNGBE

Juwon Ogungbe is a British-Nigerian classically trained opera singer, composer and pianist. He is the Founder and Music Director of Juwon Ogungbe Ensemble.

Ogungbe has composed and directed music for various British theatre companies, including the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester, Leeds Playhouse, the Royal Court Theatre, LIFT, Opera North and at the Grimeborn Opera Festival. His opera - *King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba* premiered in 2019.



Internationally Juwon has worked as a composer, singer and theatre maker at the Dhow Countries Music Academy in Zanzibar and he presented his music-theatre adaptation of Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*, at the Harare International Festival of Arts in 2012. Juwon has also worked as an international scholar/artist at the University of Richmond, Virginia, USA where he composed the music for *Threshold* - a musical, and in New York's Off Broadway, he was the composer and musical director of *Aphra Behn's Oroonoko* for Theatre for a New Audience.

Juwon has recently released a new EP in August 2023, called *Origin*, inspired by the Odun Omo Olowu Festival in Nigeria.



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ADEBAYO OGUNLESI

Adebayo Ogunlesi CON, is a Nigerian lawyer and investment banker, known as, "The Man Who Bought Gatwick Airport," by the Nigerian press. In 2006, his private equity firm, Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP) bought London City Airport. In 2009, GIP acquired the majority in London Gatwick Airport in a deal worth £1.455 billion. He is currently chairman and managing partner at the private equity firm Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP).

In 1983, Ogunlesi joined the investment bank First Boston as an advisor on a Nigerian gas project. At First Boston, he worked in the Project Finance Group, advising clients globally on financing and transactions.



From 1997 to 2002, he was Head of the Global Energy Group of the renamed Credit Suisse First Boston (CSFB). In 2002, Ogunlesi was appointed Global Head of CSFB's Investment Banking Division and served as a member of Credit Suisse's Executive Board and Management Committee. From 2004 to 2006, Ogunlesi was Executive Vice Chairman and Chief Client Officer of CSFB. In 2006, Ogunlesi started the private equity firm, Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP), a joint venture whose initial investors included Credit Suisse and General Electric. He currently serves as Chairman and Managing Partner.



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CHRISTINE OHURUOGU, MBE

Christine Ijeoma Ohuruogu MBE, is a British- Nigerian former track and field athlete and Olympic, World and Commonwealth Champion. She was born to Nigerian parents in Newham and raised in Stratford, East London.



Christine won six World Championship medals in the women's 4 x 400-meter relay, as part of the Great Britain and Northern Ireland team. Her personal best time of 49.41 seconds, set at the 2013 World Championships, beat the UK record, making her the first British woman to win two World Championship titles, and the first British woman to win three successive global titles. Ohuruogu is the UK's most successful female athlete with a total of 26 medals won at major Championships.

In 2009, she received an MBE for services to sport and was granted an Honorary Doctorate by the University of East London. She is the author of the children's books *Camp Gold*, a series about an elite training school for athletes. Following her outstanding athletics career, Ohuruogu graduated in 2019 with a degree in Law from Queen Mary's University, London.



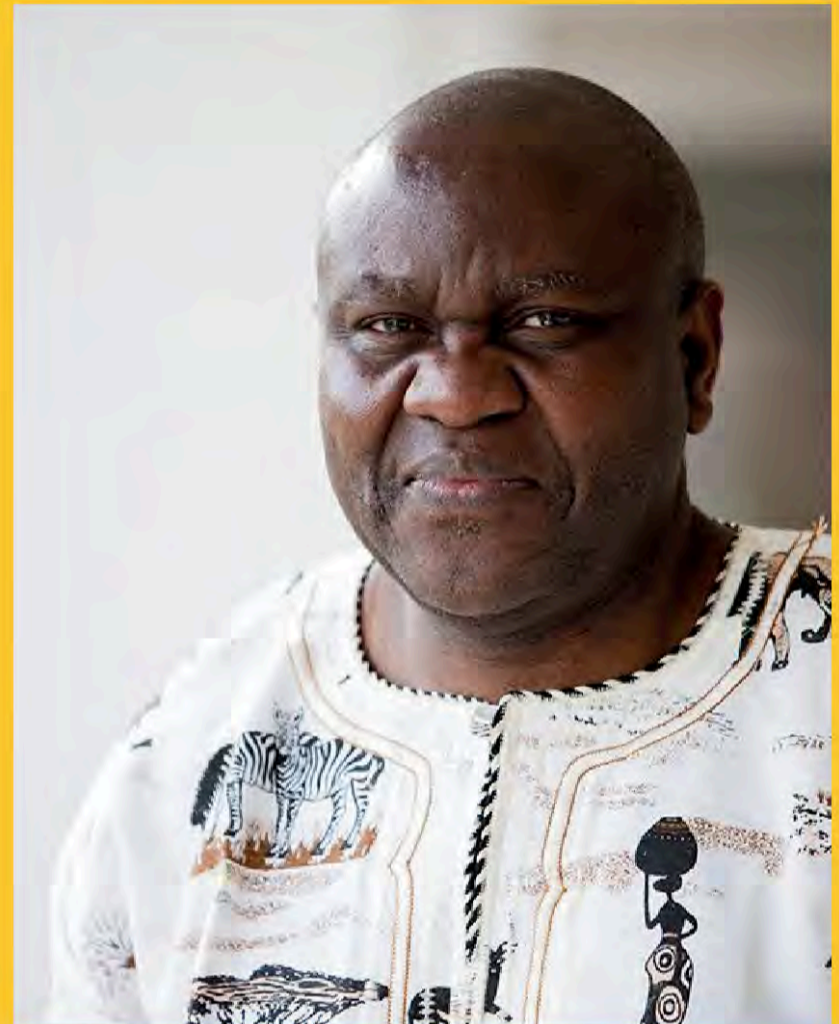
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PROF. OSITA OKAGBUE

Professor Osita Okagbue holds a BA, MA, MA and PhD in Drama and Theatre from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, and University of Leeds respectively.

He has taught African Theatre, Cross Cultural Studies in Performance, Performance Theory & Practice at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and University of Plymouth, Exmouth UK. Prof Okagbue's main research interests are in African theatre and performances, Caribbean theatre, postcolonial theatre, theatre-for-development, and African video films (Nollywood). He has written many books including *Theatre and Race* (Palgrave, 2021 co-edited with Dr Tiziana Morosetti) and *Theatre and Performances in East Africa*, with Prof Sam Kasule, Routledge, 2021).



At Goldsmiths, University of London, he is the Director of the MA World Theatres programme, and he teaches African Theatre History, Postcolonial Theatre, Culture and Performance, and Modernisms and Postmodernity. Prof Okagbue is the founding President of the African Theatre Association and founding Editor of *African Performance Review* (APR). He is also an Associate Editor for Routledge's *Theatres of the World Series*.



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IRENOSEN OKOJIE, MBE

Irenosen Okojie is a British-Nigerian writer. Appointed to the Royal Society of Literature as a Fellow in 2018, her short stories have been published in the US, Africa and the UK. Her debut novel, *Butterfly Fish*, was published in 2015, for which she was a recipient of a 2016 Betty Trask Award.

Her short story collection, *Speak Gigantular*, was published in 2016. It was shortlisted for the 2016 inaugural Jhalak Prize and the 2017 Edge Hill Short Story Prize. A collection of short stories, *Nudibranch*, was published in 2019. It was longlisted for the Jhalak Prize 2020. The story *Grace Jones* won the 2020 AKO Caine Prize for African Writing. In 2021 she was awarded an MBE For Services To Literature. A novel, *Curandera*, was released in 2022.





Discover more legacies of
Nigerians in Britain:



SIR BEN OKRI, OBE

Sir Ben Golden Emuobowho Okri OBE FRSL is a poet, novelist, essayist, playwright, and screenwriter. Okri is considered one of the foremost African authors in the post-modern, post-colonial traditions.

He was born in Nigeria and came to England as a child. He attended school in London and returned to Nigeria with his parents on the eve of the Nigerian Civil War. In 1978, Okri returned to London and studied Comparative Literature at Essex University. His first novel, *Flowers and Shadows* was published in 1980. In 1982 he



published his second novel, *The Landscapes Within*, followed by *Incidents at the Shrine*, and *Stars of the new Curfew*, which cemented his reputation. It was the publication *The Famished Road* in 1991, that won him international acclaim and the Booker Prize in 1991. The novel has inspired paintings, music, plays, films, dances and been re-issued as a Vintage Classic. His poem, *An African Elegy*, is a set text in schools. Okri's collection of poems, *A Fire in my Head*, 2021, contains the poem, *Grenfell Tower*, which received 6 million views on Facebook.

Okri is an Honorary Fellow at Mansfield College, Oxford. In 2019 his novel, *Astonishing the Gods*, was selected as the BBC's 100 novels that shaped our world. He received a knighthood in 2023 for services to literature.



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DAVID OLUSOGA, OBE

David Adetayo Olusoga OBE is a British-Nigerian historian, writer, broadcaster, presenter and filmmaker. He is Professor of Public History at the University of Manchester. David was born in Lagos, Nigeria. At the age of 5, he moved to the UK with his British mother to settle in Gateshead.



David developed a passion for history, which led him to pursue a degree in the history of slavery at the University of Liverpool. He graduated with a BA (Hons) in History in 1994 and embarked on a postgraduate course in broadcast journalism at Leeds Trinity University. His first TV position was a researcher for the BBC series *Western Front* in 1999. His shows *A House Through Time* and *Britain's Forgotten Slave Owners*, won critical acclaim with the latter winning a BAFTA award.

David was granted an OBE for services to history and community integration in 2019. He has featured in the Powerlist, ranking among the 100 most influential Black Britons in 2019, 2020 and 2021. He received the President's Medal from the British Academy in 2021, for his outstanding contributions to the humanities and social sciences.



Discover more legacies of
Nigerians in Britain:



CHI ONWURAH

Chi Onwurah, is a British-Nigerian Labour Party politician who has served as the Member of Parliament for Newcastle upon Tyne Central since 2010. She was shadow minister for Industrial Strategy, Science and innovation under Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn from October 2016 until 2020, when she was appointed the shadow minister for Science, Research & Digital by Keir Starmer.



Onwurah's mother was from Newcastle. Her father from Nigeria, worked as a dentist

while studying at Newcastle University Medical School where they met. Onwurah was born in North Tyneside in 1965, the same year her family moved to Nigeria. Two years later the Biafra War broke out, forcing her mother to bring the children back to Tyneside, while her father stayed in the Biafran army. Onwurah graduated from Imperial College London in 1987 with a degree in electrical engineering. She worked in hardware and software development, product management, market development and strategy for mainly private sector companies in several countries, namely in the UK, France, the United States, Nigeria and Denmark while studying for an MBA at Manchester Business School. Before entering Parliament, Onwurah was active in the Anti-Apartheid Movement.



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PRESIDENT OBONJO OF THE LAFTA REPUBLIC

President Obonjo of the Lafta Republic rose to power in a coup 11 years ago and has been slaying audiences across Britain ever since. The President's solo shows have toured the UK and played at Bath Comedy, Brighton Fringe and Edinburgh Fringe Festivals to packed crowds and critical acclaim. President Obonjo has attracted legions of fans thanks to his party-political broadcasts on social media, Next Up Comedy specials and declaration of war on Wakanda.



When the BBC and E4 conspired to dethrone the President by installing a pretender in his position of Comedy Dictator, the entire comedy community rose as one to demand that His Serene Excellency be recognised as the TRUE Supreme Leader of the Lafta Republic. The guilty parties have never been seen again.

Medals include: The Malcolm Hardee Award; Lastminute.com Comedian of the Year; Luton Comedian of the Year; Nobel Peace Prize (TBC).

Benjamin Bankole Bello is the man behind the character of President Obonjo



Discover more legacies of
Nigerians in Britain:



REV. JOSIAIAH JESSE RANSOM-KUTI

Rev Josiah Jesse Ransome-Kuti was a musician, educationalist and cleric from Nigeria, renowned for composing Christian hymns in the Yoruba language and setting the Christian hymns to traditional music.

He was born in 1855, in Igbein, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria. In 1922, The Rev. 'JJ' Ransome Kuti made a journey to London, England from his home near Abeokuta to attend the Church Missionary Society Exhibition.

He recorded 43 songs, released on the double-sided Zonophone discs by the Gramophone Company, one of the earliest recording companies in the UK. He became the first Nigerian to release and record an album in 1925. The Rev. 'JJ' was the grandfather of the Afrobeat King, Fela Ransome-Kuti and the Nigerian Nobel Peace prize writer, Wole Soyinka.





Discover more legacies of Nigerians in Britain:



BUKAYO SAKA

Bukayo Saka is a British-Nigerian professional footballer born in Ealing, London. He plays as a right winger, midfielder or full back for Premier League club Arsenal and the England national team. He is considered to be one of the best young players in the world. Saka has spent his entire first-team club career with Arsenal, where he has won an FA Cup and two FA Community Shields, progressively becoming one of Arsenal's most prolific and influential players. Following the 2020 -21 and 2021-22 seasons, he was named as Arsenal's player of the season.



Saka represented England at various youth levels before making his debut for the senior team in October 2020. He was part of England's squad at the UEFA Euro 2020 and represented the nation at the 2022 FIFA World Cup.



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SEAL

His full name is Seal Henry Olusegun Olumide Adeola Samuel, but he is better known as Seal, the singer, songwriter and record producer. He was born in London in 1963 to Nigerian and African -Brazilian parents but raised by a foster family. He studied architecture before pursuing a career in music in the 1980s.



His breakthrough came when he collaborated with the DJ and record producer, Adamski, releasing the single *Killer*, which shot to number one in the UK charts in 1990 and received an Ivor Novello Award. Seal became known for his distinctive voice and fusion of soul, folk, pop, dance and rock music. The success of *Killer* was followed by the release of his self-titled album *Seal*, widely praised by critics. The album won 3 prizes at the Brit Awards in 1992 for Best British Male, Best British Video *Killer*, and Best British Album *Seal*. It also gained an Ivor Novello Award for the song *Crazy*. Seal repeated the hat-trick of wins at the Grammy Awards with the release of his most celebrated song *Kiss from A Rose*. The song won Record of the Year, Song of the Year and Best Male Pop Vocal Performance in 1996. The song featured on the *Batman* film soundtrack and formed part of his second self-titled album. In total Seal has produced 10 albums, the most recent in 2017 being a collection of jazz standards.



Discover more legacies of
Nigerians in Britain:



YINKA SHONIBARE

Yinka Shonibare was born in 1962 in London, to a wealthy Nigerian family. At age 3, his family returned to Lagos. At 17, Yinka moved back to the UK and later studied Fine Art at Byam Shaw School of Art, London and Goldsmiths College, London, where he received a Master's Degree in Fine Art. The British-Nigerian artist is best known for exploring ideas of authenticity, identity, colonialism and post colonialism power relations through drawings, paintings, sculptures, photographs, films, and installations.



Shonibare's signature feature is his use of African cloth, originally made from Dutch wax-printed fabrics. In his work, *Double Dutch* (1994), Shonibare created a grid of colourful printed fabric. In 2003, his artwork *Scramble for Africa*, depicted a reconstruction of the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885. Shonibare received the Turner Prize in 2004. In 2008, his mid-career survey began at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, travelling to the Brooklyn Museum, New York and the Museum of African Art at the Smithsonian Institute, Washington D.C. In 2010, his first public art commission, *Nelson's Ship in a Bottle*, was displayed on the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square, London. In 2013, Shonibare was elected a Royal Academician.



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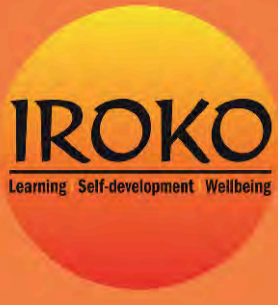
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LABI SIFFRE

Labi Siffre is a singer, songwriter, musician and poet. He was born in 1945 in London to a British mother of English and Barbadian descent and a Nigerian father. His real name is Claudius Afolabi Siffre. He released six albums between 1970 and 1975, and four between 1988 and 1998.

He is best known for composing the songs *It Must Be Love* in 1971 (famously covered by the band Madness), *Crying Laughing Loving Lying*, and *Something Inside So Strong*, which became an anthem for the anti-apartheid movement. Siffre performed the song in Trafalgar Square for Nelson Mandela's birthday. The song won him the Ivor Novello Award for Best Song Musically and Lyrically from the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors in 1987. The song has been used in numerous Amnesty International campaigns.





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LADIPO SOLANKE

Ladipo Solanke, (1886 – 2 September 1958) was a political activist who campaigned on West African issues. Born in Abeokuta, Nigeria, as Oladipo Felix Solanke, he studied law at University College, London in 1922.



In Britain, Solanke joined the Union of Students of African Descent. In 1924, he wrote to *West Africa* magazine to complain about an article in the *Evening News*, which had claimed that cannibalism and black magic had been common in Nigeria until recent years. His protest received the

support of Amy Ashwood Garvey, who became a close friend, while Solanke began studying British papers for other derogatory reports.

Finding himself living in poverty, Solanke began teaching Yoruba and was annoyed by the lack of interest in traditional Nigerian culture among other Nigerian students in London. In 1924, he became the first person to broadcast on the radio in Yoruba. The following month, with Garvey's encouragement, Solanke and twelve other students founded the Nigeria Progress Union.

In 1925, Solanke and Herbert Bankole-Bright founded the West African Students' Union (WASU) as a social, cultural and political focus for West African students in Britain.



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REMI VAUGHAN-RICHARDS

Remi Vaughan-Richards, a Nigerian filmmaker, completed the documentary *The Lost Legacy of Bida Bikini* in 2020, which is now permanently on the British Museum website. Remi Vaughan-Richards' other work includes *Wetin Dey* for the BBC World Service Trust; *Laraba's World* for MoFilm (UK)/Unilever; *One Small Step*; *Hidden Treasures* series on the first wave of contemporary Western trained artists in Nigeria. In 2015, she was listed as one of 9 Nigerian female movie directors you should know in the Nollywood film industry by Pulse magazine.

