

BIM
2023

SALUTING
SISTERS

1805 – 1881

Mary Seacole stands as an emblem of indomitable spirit in the annals of British history. Not just a nurse, but a visionary who, in the face of racial prejudice, journeyed to the Crimean War's frontlines to heal wounded soldiers. Self-funded and relentless, her bravery at the battlefield hospital she established won admiration and respect. Today, her legacy inspires countless hearts, reminding us that courage, combined with compassion, can reshape narratives and redefine heroes in every generation.

MARY SEACOLE

BRITAIN'S UNDAUNTED BEACON OF COMPASSION AND BRAVERY

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CLAUDIA JONES

1915 – 1964

From Trinidad's shores to Britain's bustling streets, Claudia Jones embodied resilience and vision. Facing deportation from the U.S., she embraced the UK's embrace in 1955. Undeterred, she amplified Black voices with 'The West Indian Gazette' and, amidst racial challenges, birthed the Notting Hill Carnival. This celebration, bursting with Caribbean heart and soul, is now Europe's premier street festival. Claudia's spirit dances on in every vibrant note and step.

RADIANT BEACON OF CULTURE AND UNITY IN EUROPE'S HEARTBEAT



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ROSA LOUISE PARKS

1913 – 2005

Rosa Louise McCauley Parks, an unwavering beacon of courage in America's civil rights tapestry. Revered as the 'mother of the modern-day civil rights movement,' her name is synonymous with resilience. On that Montgomery bus, December 1, 1955, Rosa's refusal to surrender her seat sparked the luminous fire of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. A single act of quiet defiance grew into a crescendo of change that echoed across the nation. Rosa's legacy gleams as a radiant reminder of one person's power to rewrite history's narrative.

ILLUMINATING COURAGE AND TRANSFORMATION IN CIVIL RIGHTS



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EVELYN DOVE

1902 – 1987

In the echoing chambers of BBC radio, Evelyn Dove's voice resonated like a clarion call of change. As the first Black singer to grace its airwaves, she didn't just sing—she heralded a new era. A proud alumna of the Royal Academy of Music, Evelyn's talents transcended the prejudices of the classical world, leading her to the vibrant realms of jazz and cabaret. Her star soared across Europe, culminating in a BBC Radio show so beloved, it transformed into a television spectacle. Evelyn's legacy stands as a beacon of resilience, talent, and groundbreaking achievement.

THE RADIANT VOICE THAT REDEFINED BBC'S AIRWAVES



**SALUTING^{OUR}
SISTERS**



DIANE ABBOTT **MP**

Diane Abbott stands as a titan in the realm of politics. Her historic election to the House of Commons wasn't just a milestone for her, but a beacon for countless others yearning for representation. Diane's unyielding spirit has illuminated the path for women and minorities, teaching them that ceilings are meant to be shattered. In her journey, she exemplifies determination, hope, and the power of conviction, forever reshaping the political landscape with her presence.

TRAILBLAZER OF REPRESENTATION IN THE HEART OF POLITICS



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OLIVE MORRIS

1952 – 1979

Olive Morris, a blazing comet in the sky of change, lived just 27 years but ignited a lifetime's worth of transformation. Her legacy is a symphony of impact, as she co-founded the Brixton Black Women's Group, a pioneering sanctuary for black women, and stood as a cornerstone of the Organisation of Women of Asian and African Descent (OWAAD). In an era charged with struggle, Olive fought for racial, gender, and social justice, painting her mark on Britain's canvas before her departure. Her light endures, a testament to boundless determination.

A TRAILBLAZING FLAME OF ENDURING CHANGE



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MARGARET BUSBY

The Ghanaian born Busby became the UK's youngest and first black female book publisher in the 1960s when she co-founded the London-based publishing house Allison and Busby. She compiled the ground-breaking anthology *Daughters of Africa* – a compilation of literature by more than 200 women from Africa and the African diaspora. Throughout her career, Busby has campaigned for greater diversity within the publishing and arts industries.

CHAMPION OF DIVERSITY IN LITERATURE



**SALUTING OUR
SISTERS**



Vanessa Kingori MBE, a titan in the world of fashion and publishing, exemplifies excellence with grace and tenacity. With an unparalleled ability to curate and champion diverse voices, Kingori has reshaped the narrative in an industry once confined by traditional norms. As the first Black female publisher of British Vogue, her leadership not only breaks barriers but sets a gold standard for inclusive representation. Bestowed with an MBE for her outstanding contributions, Kingori's impact reverberates far beyond glossy pages, serving as an enduring testament to the power of vision, diversity, and determination.

VANESSA KINGORI

MBE

REDEFINING ELEGANCE: A TRAILBLAZING JOURNEY



SALUTING
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THE RIGHT REVEREND
ROSE
HUDSON-
WILKIN
MBE QHC

In the hallowed annals of the Church of England, Rose Hudson-Wilkin emerges as a luminous figure. Far more than the first Black female bishop, she's a symbol of progress, bridging centuries-old traditions with contemporary inclusivity. A beacon in both faith and leadership, Rose's journey is an embodiment of determination, grace, and divine calling. Her historic elevation not only honours her but augments the Church's narrative, celebrating diversity and faith intertwined.

A HISTORIC BEACON OF FAITH AND INCLUSIVITY IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



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Phyll Opoku-Gyimah, known as Lady Phyll, radiates as a potent political activist. With unyielding courage, she transforms spaces, championing LGBTQ+ rights and equality. Her advocacy echoes loudly, reshaping perceptions and dismantling barriers. A beacon of empowerment, she emboldens marginalized voices to rise and reclaim their identities. Lady Phyll's unwavering dedication ignites hope, fostering inclusivity in a world often divided. Her legacy inspires us to stand firm, fight for justice, and create a society where every individual thrives, regardless of who they are or who they love.

**PHYLL
OPOKU-
GYIMAH**

CHAMPIONING EQUALITY, IGNITING CHANGE, EMPOWERING VOICES



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Dr. Maggie Aderin-Pocock, a luminary in the world of space science, has an infectious enthusiasm that awakens the curiosity in us all. As a space scientist and communicator, she has brilliantly bridged the gap between complex cosmic concepts and the public, illuminating the wonders of the universe for many. From overcoming challenges to ascending the echelons of her field, Dr. Aderin-Pocock is a testament to the power of passion, perseverance, and the pursuit of knowledge. Her story serves as a stellar reminder: the stars are not the limit, merely the beginning.

MARGARET EBUNOLUWA ADERIN-POCOCK **MBE**

STELLAR HORIZONS: A COSMIC JOURNEY

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KEMI BADENOCH MP

Born in Wimbledon in 1980 and raised in Lagos, Kemi Badenoch's journey from the University of Sussex to esteemed finance roles at Coutts and RBS exemplifies her determination. Transitioning to politics, she serves Saffron Walden with commitment. As Secretary of State for Business and Trade, she ardently supports tech growth and international collaboration. Badenoch's rise in British politics is a testament to her tenacity and vision, showcasing the possibilities within the diverse landscape of the UK.

NAVIGATING THE INTRICACIES OF MODERN BRITISH POLITICS

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LYNETTE YIADOM- BOAKYE

Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, a master of canvas, paints worlds alive. Her strokes, a symphony of emotions, breathe life into imagined characters. With each masterpiece, she conjures stories untold, inviting us to explore the depth of human complexity. A creative visionary, she captures the essence of souls, evoking connection beyond words. Through her art, she challenges norms, redefining representation and identity. Lynette's work whispers truths, stirs contemplation, and awakens empathy. A trailblazer in the art world, she redefines narratives, encouraging us to see beauty in the unconventional and find stories within the strokes of a brush.

BREATHING LIFE INTO PAINTED SOULS, REDEFINING NARRATIVES



SALUTING
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As the fastest British woman in recorded history, Dina Asher-Smith is a shining light in the world of athletics. Her agility, strength, and formidable spirit saw her break records and rise to the top, becoming a symbol of Britain's athletic prowess. Her meteoric rise serves as an inspiration to countless young girls worldwide who aspire to break their own records and barriers.

DINA ASHER-SMITH

BEYOND SPEED: THE DINA ASHER-SMITH CHRONICLE



**SALUTING^{OUR}
SISTERS**



Doreen Lawrence, Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon, has transcended sorrow to become a symbol of justice and hope. In the wake of her son's tragic loss, she forged a path towards change, combating racial injustice. Elevated as a life peer, she continues to embody resilience, unity, and equality. Her extraordinary journey from pain to purpose inspires us all to transform our own challenges into a force for positive change.

BARONESS LAWRENCE OF CLARENDON

FROM TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH: THE INSPIRING LEGACY

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Amma Asante MBE, a radiant British filmmaker with Ghanaian roots, crafts narratives that transcend borders, uniting audiences in emotion and reflection. Through masterpieces like "Belle" and "A United Kingdom," she paints the screen with profound tales of identity, love, and resilience. A beacon in the cinematic world, Asante challenges norms, celebrates diversity, and inspires aspiring storytellers to echo their truths through art. Her legacy whispers a powerful mantra: Authentic stories have the power to heal, unite, and illuminate the tapestry of human existence.

AMMA
ASANTE MBE

CRAFTING CINEMATIC ECHOES OF AUTHENTICITY



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**SALUTING^{OUR}
SISTERS**

Baroness Valerie Amos stands as a testament to the power of ambition, determination, and vision. From Guyana to the global arena, her journey is a masterclass in breaking barriers. Whether in the British Cabinet, the United Nations, or leading a UK university, she has consistently championed justice, equality, and human rights. Through her exemplary leadership, Baroness Valerie Amos has reshaped perceptions, inspired countless others, and cemented her legacy as a beacon for transformative change.

BARONESS VALERIE AMOS

DEFINING DESTINY: THE RADIANT LEGACY OF BARONESS VALERIE AMOS



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Naomi Campbell, more than a supermodel, is a force of nature. From her early runway days, she redefined beauty standards with her elegance and unyielding spirit. Beyond fashion's spotlight, Naomi's heart shines brightly as a philanthropist, advocating for diversity and lending her voice to global causes. She stands as a symbol of resilience, shattering ceilings while uplifting others, her legacy transcending fashion to embody empowerment and transformation.

NAOMI CAMPBELL

ICON OF BEAUTY AND BEACON OF CHANGE

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SISTERS^{OUR}



In Britain's historical tapestry, Stella Dadzie shines brightly. More than an educator or writer, she's a beacon for Black women. Crafting their tales and triumphs, she's a linchpin of change, foundational in the Organisation of Women of African and Asian Descent (OWAAD). Her dedication amplifies once-whispered voices, revealing intersections of race, gender, and diaspora. Stella's legacy stands as a testament to passion, persistence, and purpose.

STELLA DADZIE

BEACON OF BLACK WOMEN'S LEGACY IN BRITISH HISTORY



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SISTERS

YRSA DALEY WARD

Yrsa Daley-Ward, a beacon of lyrical brilliance, illuminates the intricacies of identity, race, and emotion. Birthed from Jamaican and Nigerian roots, her prose dives deep, unearthing the raw human essence. With works like "Bone" and "The Terrible," she crafts a tapestry of pain, love, and resilience. Yrsa's words are a testament to the power of storytelling, creating a bridge between souls, reminding us of our shared journey and innate strength.

LYRICAL ALCHEMIST OF THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE



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**SALUTING OUR
SISTERS**

BERNARDINE EVARISTO

Bernardine Evaristo, an exquisite blend of Nigerian and British heritage, crafts narratives that echo across literature. Her novel "Girl, Woman, Other" radiated globally, earning her the distinction of the first black woman to secure the coveted Booker Prize in 2019. Evaristo's words unravel intricate layers of identity, race, and gender, beckoning us to see the world anew. Her voice, unwavering and transformative, carves a path toward inclusion and beckons us all to embrace the power of diverse storytelling.

IGNITING LITERARY BOUNDARIES WITH COURAGE



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SHARMADEAN REID

Sharmadean Reid, a pioneering British entrepreneur, transformed the UK's beauty landscape with WAH Nails, igniting a nationwide passion for nail art. Later, with Beauty Stack, she championed beauty professionals, crafting a community-driven platform. Honoured with an MBE, Sharmadean's indomitable spirit continuously breaks barriers, advocating fervently for gender and racial inclusivity in business. Her journey, rooted in community and empowerment, inspires countless budding entrepreneurs to dream boldly and act passionately.

IGNITING CHANGE IN THE BEAUTY LANDSCAPE

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SISTERS

ZADIE SMITH

Zadie Smith, a literary luminary, masterfully captures the tapestry of multicultural Britain. From her breakout novel, "White Teeth", she's painted vivid tales of race, class, and identity, becoming an emblematic voice for modern London's diverse heartbeat. With each work, Zadie delves deeper into our shared humanity, navigating the nuances of culture and history. Her words aren't just stories; they're mirrors reflecting society's beauty, complexities, and ever-evolving essence.

WEAVING TALES OF MODERN LIFE AND TIMELESS HUMANITY

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BETTY CAMPBELL MBE

1934 – 2017

Betty Campbell MBE: A beacon of inspiration, her journey as a British-Jamaican educator and activist blazed trails. The first Black headteacher in Britain, she's dedicated her life to enhancing educational prospects for Black students. Her legacy fuels empowerment, proving that unwavering determination can break barriers and uplift communities. Betty's story ignites the belief that education can be a transformative force, illuminating paths of progress and fostering a future where every student's potential is embraced and nurtured.

EMPOWERING THROUGH EDUCATION: AN INSPIRATIONAL LEGACY



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SISTERS

DAME JOCELYN BARROW

1929 – 2019

Dame Jocelyn Barrow was more than a pioneer; she was a beacon of hope and empowerment. Born in Trinidad, her unwavering fight for equality and civil rights in the UK has left an inspiring legacy. A crusader for inclusive education and a symbol of resilience, her Damehood was but a small recognition of her monumental influence. Dame Jocelyn's work continues to ignite passion, foster understanding, and guide future generations towards a more compassionate and united world.

A BEACON OF HOPE, EQUALITY, AND RESILIENCE

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SISTERS



Dame Linda Dobbs, a beacon of justice, carved her name in history as the first Black high court judge in the UK. Her gavel echoes progress, breaking barriers in the realm of law. With unwavering dedication, she shattered glass ceilings and paved the path for inclusion. Dame Linda's legacy serves as a reminder that diversity strengthens the very foundations of justice, inspiring a more equitable future for all.

**DAME
LINDA
DOBBS**
DBE

PIONEERING EQUITY FROM THE BENCH



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SALUTING
OUR
SISTERS

From the rich tapestries of Berbice, Guyana, Carmen Munroe wove a narrative of boundless ambition and resilience. In a time when representation was scant, she blazed a trail across British screens, captivating audiences from “Desmonds” to “The Fosters”. Her stirring performance in “Raisin” stands as a testament to her unparalleled artistry. Co-founding the Talawa Theatre, she championed voices once overlooked. Honoured with an OBE in 2018, Munroe’s legacy inspires: a beacon of hope, urging all to chase dreams beyond the horizon.

**CARMEN
MUNROE** OBE

TRAILBLAZING LEGACY IN BRITISH THEATRE AND TELEVISION

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SISTERS

CHINYERE NWANOKU

Chinyere (Chi-chi) Nwanoku OBE, a luminary in British music, wields her double bass as a beacon of passion and innovation. Originating from London, her virtuosity sweeps across continents, striking awe in audiences and peers alike. As co-founder and principal bassist of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, she orchestrates the enchantment of historical performance. Through unwavering commitment to diversity and education, Chi-chi crafts a symphony of possibilities for aspiring talents, heralding transformative change. Her journey, resplendent with brilliance and compassion, earned her the revered Order of the British Empire.

HARMONY OF INNOVATION, PASSION, AND TRANSFORMATION IN MUSIC

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SALUTING
SISTERS



Donna Fraser, a beacon of inspiration, blazed trails with relentless determination. Fearlessly hurdling obstacles, she sprinted towards excellence, leaving doubt in the dust. Her spirit, an eternal flame, ignited passion in hearts worldwide. Medals adorned her journey, each a testament to her unwavering commitment. Grace personified, she danced on tracks, teaching us to overcome with elegance. Beyond records, she championed equality, smashing barriers with every stride. A mentor and leader, she carved pathways for others to follow, fostering a legacy of empowerment. Donna's story, a symphony of resilience, teaches us to chase our dreams with unyielding fervor. In her steps, we find the strength to rise, to conquer, to inspire.

**DONNA
FRASER**

SHATTERING RECORDS, INSPIRING DETERMINATION, IGNITING DREAMS



SALUTING
SISTERS



AFUA HIRSCH

Afua Hirsch, esteemed journalist, author, and broadcaster, effortlessly blends intellectual pursuits with cultural insights. Her career, spanning law and media, culminated in her groundbreaking book, “Brit(ish): On Race, Identity and Belonging.” Born of diverse heritage and unwavering in her pursuit of truth, she challenges societal norms, ranking among the top voices of African and Caribbean descent. Her fearless dedication inspires a new generation of journalists, paving the way for a more inclusive future.

A VOICE FOR INCLUSIVITY, IDENTITY, AND INSPIRATION IN MODERN MEDIA

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SALUTING
SISTERS

YVETTE WILLIAMS

OBE

Yvette Williams, honoured with an MBE for her exceptional contributions

to the community, stands as a symbol of resilience and tenacity in the face of tragedy. As a leading campaigner for Justice4Grenfell, Williams has committed herself to the pursuit of justice for the survivors of the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire in London. Her leadership and determination have been instrumental in keeping the issue alive in the public consciousness, fostering change and demanding accountability.

A TIRELESS ADVOCATE FOR JUSTICE

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SALUTING
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SISTERS

1927 – 2013

Jessica Huntley: A beacon of perseverance in the British Black community. From Guyana to the UK, she transformed landscapes with Bogle-L'Ouverture Publications, amplifying Black voices when few dared. A fearless advocate, Jessica's dedication transcended literature, championing civil rights and education. Her legacy stands as a testament to the indomitable spirit of grassroots activism, reminding us that with passion and purpose, we can reshape narratives and redefine futures.

**JESSICA
HUNTLEY**

PIONEER OF BLACK BRITISH LITERATURE AND UNDYING ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE



SALUTING
OUR
SISTERS



Shola Mos-Shogbamimu: Beyond boundaries and borders, she emerges as a beacon of hope and change. A celebrated British lawyer, Dr. Mos-Shogbamimu's voice rises from New York to London, challenging racial and gender injustices. Through written word and passionate dialogue, she kindles the flames of intersectionality, diversity, and inclusion. A testament to the power of perseverance, her journey inspires us to envision a world where equality reigns and dreams are unbounded.

DR. SHOLA MOS-SHOGBAMIMU

VOICE OF CHANGE, BEACON OF JUSTICE



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**SALUTING^{OUR}
SISTERS**

Moira Stuart, an emblem of excellence and diversity, shattered barriers as the first African-Caribbean female newsreader on British TV. Her multifaceted career, spanning five decades and various media platforms, resonates with grace, wisdom, and resilience. Honoured with both an OBE and CBE, her impact transcends broadcasting, serving as a profound inspiration to aspiring journalists and a timeless testament to the power of determination, talent, and authenticity.

MOIRA STUART

A TRAILBLAZING ICON OF DIVERSITY, EXCELLENCE, AND RESILIENCE IN BROADCASTING



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SISTERS

CHARLENE WHITE

In the ever-shifting landscape of British journalism, Charlene White shines brilliantly. As the first black woman to grace the helm of ITV News, she has done more than break barriers; she's redefined them. Her unyielding pursuit of truth, paired with a deep-seated commitment to representation, has ignited a beacon of hope for many. With every broadcast, Charlene doesn't just deliver the news; she exemplifies the power of dreams and determination. In her story, we see a beacon, lighting up the future of British media with promise and inspiration.

IGNITING CHANGE IN THE HEART OF UK BROADCASTING



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OUR
SISTERS

1934 – 1992

From the harmonious fusion of Caribbean-American heritage, Audre Lorde emerged as a beacon of fearless advocacy. Her poignant prose and lyrical wisdom unabashedly tackled issues of race, gender, and sexuality. As a feminist, her words transcended mere ink, becoming rallying cries for justice and equality. Through her poetry and essays, Lorde not only chronicled the struggles of the marginalised but ignited flames of empowerment, courage, and unity. Today, her legacy endures: a timeless testament to the power of a voice unyielding.

AUDRE
LORDE

UNYIELDING ECHOES: THE TIMELESS VOICE

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SISTERS

Infusing her dynamic performances and chart-topping vocals, Beverley Knight, the British soul sensation, casts a mesmerizing spell. Yet, her true resonance arises from tireless advocacy against homelessness and for equality. An icon in music with lauded albums, she commands the stage with purpose. Knight's commitment to social good elevates her, captivating hearts worldwide. Amidst theatre magic and unwavering dedication, her legacy intertwines melodious notes with a symphony of positive change, inspiring far beyond the limelight.

BEVERLEY KNIGHT

SOULFUL IMPACT: A JOURNEY OF MUSIC, ADVOCACY, AND THEATRICAL BRILLIANCE

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SISTERS

CHI ONWURAH MP

Chi Onwurah is a British politician of Nigerian descent and a prominent member of the Labour Party. She has made history by becoming one of the first black women to hold a shadow ministerial position, representing the Department for Business, Innovation, and Skills. Onwurah's advocacy for social equality, digital rights, and diversity in STEM fields has been transformative. Her influential voice in British politics, commitment to her constituents in Newcastle upon Tyne Central, and dedication to public service continues to inspire future generations.

EMPOWERING PROGRESS - PIONEERING EQUALITY, INNOVATION, AND REPRESENTATION



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Claudette Colvin, at a mere 15 years old, exhibited extraordinary courage that shaped the Civil Rights Movement. Her defiance, occurring nine months prior to Rosa Parks' protest, struck a resounding blow against segregation and racial injustice. Though often overlooked, her bravery remains a vital chapter in history. A beacon of youthful resistance, Claudette's enduring story kindles the flame of equality and justice for generations, igniting the spirit of change.

CLAUDETTE COLVIN

IGNITING COURAGE AND YOUTHFUL RESISTANCE IN THE FIGHT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS



SALUTING
SISTERS



Dame Sharon White's radiant journey illuminates the path of possibility. From being the first black individual and second woman to ascend as Permanent Secretary at the UK Treasury to her trailblazing role as Chief Executive of Ofcom, her life breathes inspiration. Now, as Chair of the John Lewis Partnership, she orchestrates symphonies of change. Her narrative is a testament to resilience, a reminder that through unwavering determination, we can rewrite the stories of limitation and define our destinies with brilliance.

DAME SHARON WHITE

SHINING THROUGH BOUNDARIES: AN INSPIRING JOURNEY



SALUTING
SISTERS



DR. NIKE FOLAYAN

Dr. Nike Folayan stands as an emblem of innovation and drive in the world of engineering. A dynamic force, she consistently propels the boundaries of what's achievable, fostering an environment where talent and creativity flourish. As a champion for diversity in STEM, Dr. Folayan's commitment extends beyond her technical expertise; she paves the way for young, aspiring minds, especially from underrepresented backgrounds, to find their voice and place in the industry. Through her leadership and vision, she underscores a pivotal message: diversity is not just an inclusion effort, but an essential ingredient for progress and innovation.

ENGINEERING PROGRESS: FORGING DIVERSITY ALONG THE PATH OF INNOVATION



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DR. SAMANTHA TROSS

Dr. Samantha Tross stands as a pioneering force in the realm of medicine. As the first Black British woman consultant orthopaedic surgeon, she not only navigates the intricacies of her profession with finesse but also carves a path for future generations to tread. Her dedication, skill, and resilience are a testament to the power of perseverance. In a world where boundaries often define us, Dr. Tross defies them, exemplifying that talent knows no race or gender. Her legacy is a beacon, shining brightly for all aspiring surgeons and proving that dreams, paired with dedication, know no bounds.

BREAKING BARRIERS: THE INSPIRING JOURNEY

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Gina Yashere's comedic genius has consistently transcended boundaries. Born in Britain and building her reputation worldwide, she's not just a comedian; she's a trailblazer. Daring and audacious, Yashere carved a unique space in an industry that sometimes overlooked her talent. Drawing deeply from her experiences as a black woman navigating between British and American cultures, her incisive humour became a source of strength. Today, she stands tall amongst the most influential comedic voices of her generation, continuously inspiring many.

**GINA
YASHERE**

INSPIRING CHANGE, ONE JOKE AT A TIME



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Nicola Adams is more than just a boxer; she's a beacon of hope, ambition, and determination. In a realm dominated by men, she rose, unwavering, to etch her name in golden letters by becoming the first female boxer to clinch an Olympic title. Every punch she threw broke not just her opponent's guard, but age-old gender barriers. Her indomitable spirit has not only revolutionised boxing but has also inspired countless women to dream bigger, fight harder, and stand taller. Nicola's legacy transcends the ring, reminding every aspiring female athlete that with passion, the impossible becomes possible.

**NICOLA
ADAMS**

BREAKING BARRIERS, BOXING BEYOND LIMITS, INSPIRING GENERATIONS

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Professor Dame Elizabeth Nneka Anionwu, a trailblazing force, redefines healthcare. Her legacy, a testament to compassion and perseverance, revolutionizes nursing. With boundless dedication, she champions equitable care, inspiring generations to heal with empathy. Her advocacy for sickle cell patients reshapes understanding and treatment. A beacon of diversity, she empowers underrepresented voices to thrive in medicine. Dame Anionwu's indomitable spirit bridges gaps, uniting communities through health and education. Her journey embodies the power of a single individual to transform lives and systems, leaving an enduring mark on healthcare's evolution.

PROFESSOR DAME ELIZABETH NNEKA ANIONWU

CATALYST FOR CHANGE: EMPOWERING HEALTHCARE THROUGH RESILIENCE



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A pathfinder, rebel, and devoted public servant, Shirley Chisholm redefined the role of women and people of colour in American politics. Her audacity and tenacity saw her become the first black woman elected to the United States Congress and later the first African American candidate for a major party's nomination for President. Her unwavering advocacy for social justice and education reform laid the groundwork for future generations of women and minorities in politics.

SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

BREAKING BARRIERS, DEFINING DESTINY, CHAMPIONING CHANGE



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SALUTING
OUR
SISTERS

1940 - 2011

Dr. Wangari Maathai was not merely an environmentalist, but a beacon of hope for women's rights and a protagonist for the cause of sustainable development in Kenya and beyond. Through her Green Belt Movement, she left a legacy of re-greening the earth and empowering women, a testament to her unfaltering spirit and profound affection for nature and humanity. Her work received global recognition when she became the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004.

**WANGARI
MAATHAI**

NURTURING NATURE, EMPOWERING WOMEN, BUILDING PEACE

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SISTERS

Kanya King, CBE: More than a force in the British music industry, Kanya King stands as a beacon of inspiration and change. As the mastermind behind the MOBO (Music of Black Origin) Awards, she didn't just create an event – she ignited a movement. Since 1996, her unwavering vision with the MOBOs has celebrated and uplifted artists often left in the shadows, amplifying their voices to resounding acclaim. King's dedication to championing diversity has etched an indelible mark on the music world, reminding us all of the power of perseverance, vision, and passion.

**KANYA
KING** CBE

THE VISIONARY POWERHOUSE ELEVATING BLACK MUSIC IN BRITAIN



SALUTING
SISTERS^{OUR}



Karen Blackett, a beacon of inspiration, epitomises leadership with purpose. As Chairwoman of Group M, one of the world's leading media agencies, she redefines success, intertwining business acumen with a passion for diversity. Her trailblazing spirit guides future leaders, advocating integrity, vision, and societal impact. Recognised globally, Karen's influence reaches beyond boardrooms into the hearts she inspires and the change she champions. A true luminary, her journey illuminates pathways for many, emphasising that genuine leadership touches lives.

KAREN BLACKETT

LEADERSHIP BEYOND BOUNDARIES



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OUR
SISTERS

Jacqueline McKenzie: A pillar of strength in the UK's justice landscape. With over a quarter-century in legal practice, she's been a beacon for marginalized voices navigating the intricacies of immigration and asylum. From representing Windrush victims to spearheading community initiatives, Jacqueline's dedication goes beyond the courtroom. Advocating for those at society's fringes, she tirelessly challenges systemic biases, standing tall as an embodiment of hope, compassion, and unwavering commitment to justice.

JACQUELINE MCKENZIE

DEFENDING RIGHTS, AMPLIFYING VOICES, CHAMPIONING JUSTICE

BIM
2023

SALUTING
OUR
SISTERS

JOANNE ANDERSON

Joanne Anderson's tenure as Liverpool's mayor, from her historic election to her departure in 2023, has been a beacon of progress and representation. As the city's first black female mayor, Anderson's leadership echoed the importance of diversity in governance, reflecting Liverpool's rich tapestry of cultures and identities. Through her term, Anderson brought forth initiatives and perspectives that aimed at keeping Liverpool a vibrant, inclusive, and forward-looking city, setting an inspiring precedent for future leaders.

RESHAPING LIVERPOOL, INSPIRING A NEW GENERATION OF DIVERSE LEADERS

BIM
2023

SALUTING
OUR
SISTERS



Dr. Anne-Marie Imafidon, a beacon of brilliance in STEM, epitomises the union of intellect and impact. Shattering barriers with unwavering determination, she inspires countless young minds, especially women, to pursue their dreams without boundaries. Her journey, marked by innovation and empowerment, serves as a testament to what's possible when passion meets purpose. A trailblazer, mentor, and visionary, Dr. Imafidon's legacy reminds us all: our potential is boundless.

DR. ANNE- MARIE IMAFIDON

BOUNDLESS BRILLIANCE

BIM
2023

**SALUTING^{OUR}
SISTERS**

JACKY WRIGHT

Jacky Wright, a global technology leader, stands as a testament to dedication and brilliance. From McKinsey's prestigious corridors to her pivotal role at Microsoft US as Chief Digital Officer, her journey reflects not just titles, but transformative impact. As McKinsey's first Chief Technology and Platform Officer, she pioneers the firm's technology portfolio and strategy, driving business transformation and addressing critical social issues. With every milestone, Jacky has redefined industry standards, proving that with passion and perseverance, one can shape both the business world and the broader societal landscape.

EMBARKING ON A VISIONARY JOURNEY IN TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSFORMATION

BIM
2023

SALUTING
OUR
SISTERS

Helen Grant OBE stands as a beacon of transformation and progress. Born in Willesden, North London, her trajectory has been marked by determination and resilience. Not only has she shattered ceilings with her elegance and perseverance, but she's also set a precedent as the first black female Conservative MP in the UK. From her esteemed legal career to her advocacy for diversity, she ensures that the marginalised find a voice. Her journey showcases the strength of unwavering will, emphasising that true inclusion isn't a mere dream, but a tangible future we can mould. With an unwavering dedication to justice, fairness, and empowerment, Grant lights the way forward, underscoring the idea that challenges can be transformed into opportunities. Her legacy serves as a source of inspiration for all.

HELEN
GRANT **OBE**

BREAKING BARRIERS, CHAMPIONING INCLUSION, INSPIRING TOMORROW'S BRITISH LEADERS



BIM
2023

SALUTING
SISTERS

Dr. Shirley Thompson is a beacon of creative brilliance, melding heritage with innovation in her compositions. As Britain's first female conductor of a major symphony orchestra, she transcends boundaries, forging an indelible mark in classical music. Her works, inspired by her Afro-Caribbean roots, resonate universally, captivating audiences across the globe. An advocate for cultural diversity, Thompson's genius bridges worlds, fostering understanding and appreciation across cultures. Her leadership, passion, and dedication illuminate the path for aspiring musicians, proving that with talent and tenacity, one can craft timeless legacies. Truly, she's an embodiment of inspiration.

**DR. SHIRLEY
THOMPSON**

PIONEERING CONDUCTOR, CULTURAL BRIDGE: A SYMPHONY OF INSPIRATION

BIM
2023

SALUTING
SISTERS



GISELA ABBAM

Gisela Abbam FRSA, Chair of the General Pharmaceutical Council, is a beacon of passion and dedication in the STEM fields. Her towering influence isn't limited to pharmaceuticals alone; it spans the broader expanse of science and innovation. With an illustrious track record, from significant roles to commendable awards and global collaborations, Gisela's mark on health, business, and STEM is undeniable. From General Electric to the World Health Organisation, her steadfast commitment to elevating global health and mentoring the next STEM leaders is forging pioneering pathways.

THE POWER OF EMPATHY IN BRITISH ENTERPRISE



SALUTING
SISTERS



Valda James (born 1928), the first black woman elected to Islington Council and the borough's inaugural black mayor, is a beacon of resilience and brilliance. She transformed challenges into opportunities, proving obstacles are mere stepping stones. With unwavering dedication, she illuminated paths for others, setting unparalleled precedents. Valda's name doesn't just echo in Islington's halls—it resonates across generations, epitomising strength, purpose, and trailblazing leadership.

VALDA JAMES

FIRSTS BY VALDA: A LEGACY ETCHED IN LEADERSHIP

BIM
2023

**SALUTING^{OUR}
SISTERS**

IZZY OBENG

Izzy Obeng has carved a significant niche in entrepreneurship and education. Founding Foundervine was more than just a venture; it was a statement. Through it, she has passionately worked to empower underrepresented communities, giving them a voice in the vast realms of tech and entrepreneurship. Her personal journey isn't just inspirational—it's a testament to the transformative power of merging education with business. By bridging these worlds, she's reshaping narratives, redefining industry norms, and transforming countless lives.

BRIDGING EDUCATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP, EMPOWERING THE UNDERREPRESENTED