

# WOMEN WHO LEAD



**SALUTING OUR SISTERS**

Throughout history, women have faced a myriad challenge on their path to leadership, but it's undeniable that for black women, the journey has been paved with additional trials born from racial prejudices. Yet, time and again, black women have risen above these challenges, marking their places in the annals of history with grace, resilience, and sheer brilliance. In saluting them, we not only celebrate their achievements but also underscore the importance of representation and inclusive leadership in modern society.

**"Our journey towards equality will never be complete until we confront the obstacles that hold us back."**

**Dame Jocelyn Barrow**

Dame Jocelyn Barrow's legacy is interwoven with her relentless pursuit for racial equality in the UK. As a foundational figure behind the Campaign Against Racial Discrimination, her advocacy was pivotal in shaping the Race Relations Act. Beyond legislation, she left an indelible mark on British broadcasting, championing the principles of diversity and inclusivity. Her Damehood stands as a testament to her profound impact, and though she may have passed, her contributions to British society will long be celebrated and remembered.

**"Racism is a disease. And we have to work together to find a cure."**

**Baroness Lawrence**

Doreen Lawrence, now known as Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon, is a testament to the power of resilience and advocacy. Following the tragic murder of her son, Stephen Lawrence, she channelled her grief into a relentless campaign for justice. This pursuit not only led to pivotal legal reforms but also established her as a potent voice against racial injustice. Elevated to the House of Lords, she continues her advocacy, ensuring that issues of race and inequality remain at the forefront of national discourse.



**"Justice should be colour-blind, but that doesn't mean we should be blind to the importance of diversity on the bench."**

**Dame Linda Dobbs**

A historic figure in the British judiciary, Linda Dobbs set a precedent as the first non-white high court judge in the UK. Her appointment wasn't just a personal milestone but a significant marker for diversity and representation within the legal sector. Through her unwavering commitment to justice and equity, Dobbs showcased the importance of bringing diverse perspectives to the bench, enriching the judicial process and setting an aspirational path for future lawyers and judges of colour.

**"I didn't think I would be accepted as Mayor because I was black. But people told me that the year I was mayor, was a beautiful year...a special year."**

**Valda James**

In 1988, Valda Louise James achieved a landmark by becoming Mayor of Islington, having been the council's first black female member in 1986. Migrating to Britain in 1961, she faced the challenges of single motherhood amidst poverty, supporting her family via roles in catering, nursing, and dressmaking. Valda applied her knowledge and experience of being a single parent to her invaluable work on the Social Services committee, culminating in her ascent to Mayor, illustrating her profound resilience and dedication.

**"We need more leaders who will stand up for justice, fairness, and human rights."**

**Baroness Valerie Amos**

From politics to international diplomacy, Baroness Valerie Amos has made her mark with grace and determination. As the first black woman to serve in a British Cabinet and later as the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, she has consistently pushed for global change. Her tenure in the UN saw her addressing some of the world's most pressing humanitarian crises, underscoring her commitment to global welfare and justice.

**"My purpose is to create positive change for my city, my people, my culture."**

**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.

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