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Kingston Race and Equalities Council (KREC)

CELEBRATING BLACK VOICES

A c k n o w l e d g e & A p p r e c i a t e
C o n t r i b u t i o n & A c h i e v e m e n t s

- **' B l a c k H i s t o r y M a k e r s a n d**
- **A c h i e v e r s '**

Kingston Race and Equalities Council

Presentation

- KREC Aims and Functions
- History of the Windrush Generation
- History of the Windrush
- Caribbean Migration
- Windrush Generation and Racism
- Black History Makers and Achievers
- British Empire and the Commonwealth
- Questions and Answers

KREC Aims and Objectives?

- to work towards the elimination of discrimination and associated inequalities;
- to promote equality of opportunity, and good relations, between persons of different racial groups
- to address the human rights and needs of all communities
- to carry out these objectives in Kingston and the surrounding area

KREC Functions

- Policy and Strategy on Equalities
- Community Engagement and Development
- Casework on Hate Crime and Discrimination
- Public Education and Awareness Raising
- Projects including Kingston Carnival, Bike Across Cultures, Violence Prevention Project
- Race Equality and Black Lives Matter events
- Training and Consultancy

History of the Windrush Generation



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Equalities Council

- 22 June 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the ship Empire Windrush at Tilbury Dock, Essex, the beginning of a new chapter in the story of London.
- The 802 Caribbean citizens onboard were the first of 500,000 Commonwealth citizens who settled in Britain between 1948 and 1971.
- They were invited to live as British citizens and help rebuild the "mother country", but many faced prejudice and unequal treatment that continues until today.
- The newly arrived are now referred to as the **'Windrush Generation'**. Even at the time Londoners saw it as a significant moment.

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History of the Windrush

- The British Nationality Act 1948 allowed those from Jamaica and Barbados, and others living in Commonwealth countries, full rights of entry and settlement, to help rebuild the British economy after the Second World War.
- Shortage of labour encouraged industries like British Rail and the National Health Service to heavily recruit from the Caribbean. **Sam King** initially applied to join the Metropolitan Police but was rejected due to his ethnicity.
- Instead he joined the Post Office, working there for over 30 years.

History of the Windrush

- People took passage on the Empire Windrush for many reasons: some were seeking employment in Britain, others hoped to re-join the Army or Royal Air Force.
- Many simply had deep curiosity about the "mother country".
- **Sam King** described his desire to raise his children in a country with greater educational opportunities: "I didn't want one of my children to be born in a colony."

History of the Windrush

- German cruise Ship was captured by the British at the end of World War Two and renamed the **Empire Windrush**.
- In 1948, the Ship happened to stop over at Kingston, Jamaica, to pick up some British servicemen. Since the ship was not full, passage was offered to Britain for £28 if you travelled in the uncomfortable open berths of the "troop deck".
- Even this was a lot of money to the average Jamaican: Sam King remembers it as five weeks' wages, or about the cost of three cows.

Caribbean Migration Empire Windrush



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Windrush Generation and British Citizenship

- Despite having equal rights to British citizenship, new arrivals from the Commonwealth faced prejudice, hostility and abuse.
- **11 Members of Parliament** wrote to the government after the Windrush's arrival, complaining about "coloured" immigration.
- African-Caribbean Londoners were sometimes denied employment, housing, and even turned away from churches, pubs and dancehalls.

Windrush Generation and Racism

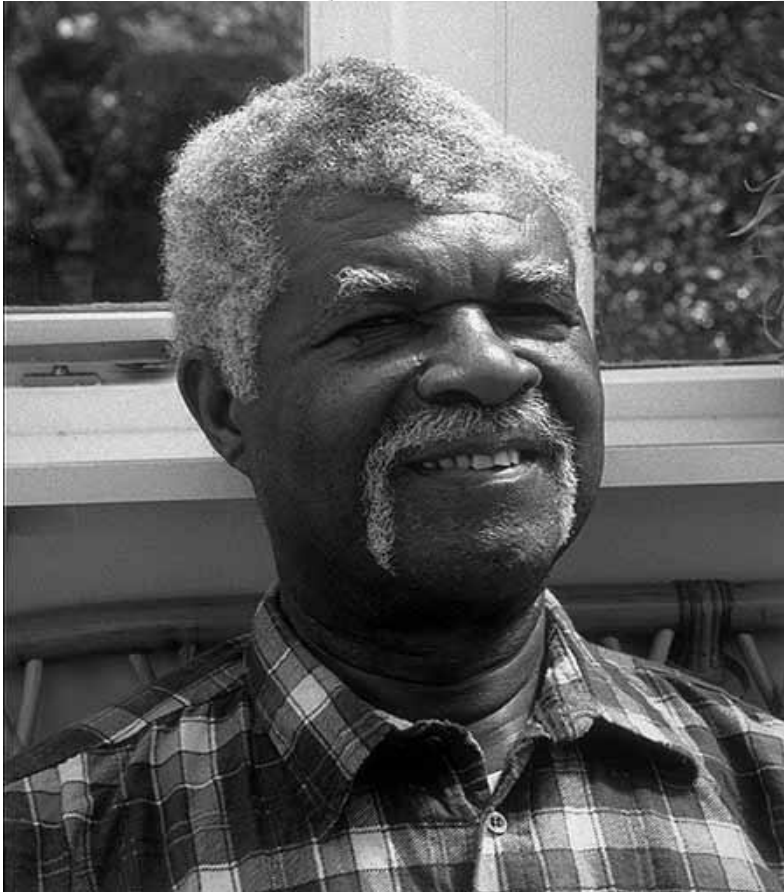


Windrush Generation and Racism



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Black History Makers and Achievers



Sam King, 1999
King (1926-2016) was an RAF serviceman, one of the founders of the Notting Hill Carnival, and the first black Mayor of Southwark.

Black History Makers and Achievers



David Lammy is an English politician and lawyer serving as Shadow Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs since 2021. A member of the Labour Party, he has been Member of Parliament for Tottenham since the 2000 Tottenham by-election.

How London is Viewed

- a ‘Salad Bowl’ of Diversity
Culture and Inclusivity

Kingston Black History Makers and Achievers

- Video Presentation

Thank You

- Questions and Answers

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