

African Voices: Quotations By People Of African Descent

*It is our responsibility to educate our children to learn about who they are and give them a sense of identity. **Dame Jocelyn Barrow***

*Knowledge is the key that unlocks all the doors. You can be green-skinned with yellow polka dots and come from Mars, but if you have knowledge that people need, instead of beating you, they'll beat a path to your door. **Ben Carson, Dr***

*People do not wish to appear foolish. To avoid the appearance of foolishness, they are willing to remain actually fools. **Alice Walker***

*All people of African descent, whether they live in North or South America, the Caribbean, or in any part of the world are Africans and belong to the African nation. **Kwame Nkrumah, Dr***

*Those who profess to favour freedom and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without ploughing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the roar of its many waters. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will. **Frederick Douglass***

*The role of history in the existence of a people is vital. History is one of the factors that undergirds the cohesion of different elements of a collective. Without historical consciousness, people are not able to be called to their grand destiny. **Chiekh Anta Diop***

*I've worked very hard to make it to where I am today. None of this happened overnight, and I definitely did not have a fairy godmother. What I did have was pure determination, especially because everybody expected me to fail. **Charles Gordon***

*Our purpose in life is to leave a legacy for our children and our children's children. For this reason, we must correct history that at present denies our humanity and self-respect. **Queen Mother Moore***

*It's lack of faith that makes people afraid of meeting challenges, and I believed in myself. **Muhammad Ali***

Written, compiled and edited by
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What They Said I Should Be poem
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Published by BTWSC
P O Box 14092
London NW10 1WL, England
www.btwsc.com

ISBN 0-9544492-3-1

Cover designed by
Kwaku

We dedicate this book to our parents (our role models), our loved ones, and God, without whom this work would not have been possible.

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SAMPLE PAGES

Foreword By KB Asante

When I entered university in England, I was glad that I could fit in with my fellow students in manners, general knowledge, ideas and world view. I could take part in small talk and discussions, and make my contribution to quotations from the learned British and European authors. My English friends could not believe that I did not have any secondary schooling in England. I became thankful and proud of my Achimota School upbringing.

I escaped that complex of inferiority, which arises from an inability to cope in a different environment. But I unconsciously accepted a worldview, which ignored African achievements and capacity. Even before an Oxford professor denied the existence of African history and raised some intellectual eyebrows, political consciousness had awakened interest in Africa's past and current achievements.

Kwame Nkrumah realised the importance of African self-confidence and self-esteem, and at his office in Flagstaff House in Accra, we proclaimed the contribution of Africans to human civilisation. Africa has certainly done a lot and Africans continue to do much in the march of man. But many know little about this, and we continue to quote non-African writers and thinkers. Thus the ignorance about African achievements continues and African self-esteem suffers.

I quote Bacon and Shakespeare freely, but I do not refer to the wise sayings of Yaa Asantewa, mainly because these are not readily available. Deep down, however, the belief that the wise come from the West is strengthened and Africans without strong political awareness accept the views and prejudices of outsiders as gospel.

A book on the sayings and observations of Africans is therefore most welcome. It is an important armoury in the fight for mental emancipation.

It is a vivid portrayal of the stock from whence we came. In a subtle way, it reminds us that we have done it in the past, and continue to do so. The selection of quotations is a good beginning. It restores perspective and strengthens African self-esteem and confidence.

I am glad that the collection includes the thoughtful sayings of people of African descent who are often ridiculed or caricatured. How many people connect Muhammad Ali with the wise observation that says: “Champions aren’t made in gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them - a desire, a dream a vision.” Should we therefore be surprised that Ghana for example, finds it difficult to achieve its full potential, despite its abundance of talent? We need vision. As Muhammad Ali continued: “The will must be stronger than the skill.”

That will is often destroyed by a frozen mindset or mental enslavement from which Bob Marley, echoing Marcus Garvey, asks us to emancipate ourselves. That emancipation is necessary if we are to Think Big*, as Dr Ben Carson suggests and change our attitude, abandoning the victim mentality.

The change of attitude will lead to African presence and excellence in all fields of human endeavour. Success, as the former tennis star Arthur Ashe suggests, will come with self-confidence and preparation.

This is a book of hope. It tells us that we have done it before, we are doing it, and can do much more. But to move quickly ahead, we should set our minds free, recover our self-confidence, plan and execute the necessary personal and national plans for success.

This book invites us to use literature to free our minds and enhance our self-confidence. As the writer Ama Ata-Aidoo puts it: “For us Africans, literature must serve a purpose, to expose, embarrass, and fight corruption and authoritarianism.”

I would add that above all, it must free the mind. So let us read, enjoy and digest what Kwame Nkrumah, Marcus Garvey, Nelson Mandela, Malcolm X and other great Africans past and present have to say about life, its challenges and its joy of fulfillment.

**acrostic: T (Talents/time: Recognise them as gifts), H (Hope for all good things and be honest), I (Insight from people and good books), N ((be) Nice to all people), K (Knowledge: Recognise it as the key to living), B (Books: Read them actively), I (In-depth learning skills: Develop them), G (God: Never get too big for Him).*

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Preface By Ms Serwah & Kwaku

We initially embarked on a journey to produce a handy collection of sayings that could empower readers and remind us all that people of African descent (hereafter simply referred to as Africans) have produced great thinkers and continue to do so.

Whilst that journey has had some detours, and taken us to places we had not expected, we were also driven by the desire to compile quotations that educate, provide food for thought, debate, or act as a springboard towards further research.

We hope that Africans and non-Africans will find the book useful, particularly as many of the themes are universal.

We have always liked quotations and found them useful. Quotations from Africans and non-Africans can inspire. However, we could not help noticing that most quotation books often had a Eurocentric perspective, and few African contributors were included. Recently, we were looking at a book of quotations, and apart from Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela, there were hardly any other Africans. This can give the erroneous impression that Africans have little to say or contribute.

Living in Britain, where a critical number of Africans appear to have lost inspiration and self-esteem, we thought it would be helpful for them to be encouraged by quotes from Africans, and be reminded that thinking has always been part of the African psyche.

Carter G Woodson rightly stated that: “Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history.”

Is it surprising that some young Africans have lost confidence, when the educational system neglects to teach them what their forebears have achieved, whilst some parents do little to improve matters?

The erroneous suggestion that Africa has not contributed much to world civilisation robs people of African descent of pride. As Steve Biko said: “You are either alive and proud or you are dead, and when you are dead,

you can't care anyway." Is it surprising that some of our young people do not seem to think twice about the consequences of their actions?

We wanted a change, and we took a step to produce the change we wanted, and hence this book. This book does not pretend to be the definitive book on quotations by Africans, and sadly cannot include all inspirational quotes by Africans.

As far as we are concerned, the success of this book lies in the fact that we began the journey, and have published a book of quotations by Africans covering a wide range of issues.

We are encouraged by Arthur Ashe's quote: "Success is a journey not a destination. The doing is usually more important than the outcome. Not everyone can be Number 1." This book may not be a Number 1, but it is, however, a beginning, and others are welcome to pick up the mantle.

We would like to encourage readers, particularly young people, who are losing hope because of their circumstances, with the words of Ben Carson: "Having been born on the wrong side of the tracks does not mean that birthplace has to remain a permanent address."

We must refuse to be victims of our circumstances, work hard against the odds and rise above our circumstances. Undoubtedly there are challenging issues such as racism, and so on that impede our journey to success.

However, it is more useful to focus on what enabled the likes of Carter G Woodson to succeed in spite of the odds - read their biographies, and learn from them, than to dwell on things we cannot change, and which subtly tell us that because of them we cannot succeed.

Carter G Woodson said that to handicap a student by teaching him that his black face is a curse, and that his struggle to change his condition is hopeless, is the worst sort of lynching. What we all need is to be encouraged to press on and overcome.

Marcus Garvey said that: "If you have no confidence in self, you are

twice defeated in the race of life. With confidence, you have won even before you have started.” How do we get confidence, self-esteem, and have the audacity to hope that we can achieve?

Our humble answer is that we can do so by reading the biographies of those who have achieved in the face of challenges, and by acquainting ourselves with what our forebears have achieved and continue to achieve.

Martin Luther King reminds us that “Everyone has the power for greatness, not for fame, but for greatness, because greatness is determined by service.” It may seem difficult in this celebrity-focused age, but there’s no doubt our communities would be the better, if more of us aspired to be as great as we can be, rather than merely seek fame.

The contents of this book have the capacity to inspire, educate, empower, and raise the odd chuckle, or produce a downer when one reflects on some of the unfulfilled hopes. Use it how you like – read it from cover to cover, or dive into topics that interest you. If you choose the latter route, please note that several of the quotations fit under more than one topic heading. But for the sake of producing a slim book, we have done our best to put them under what we perceive to be the most appropriate heading. Those we are not so sure about are listed under the catch-all Miscellaneous heading.

The quotees A-Z list sorts in most cases on first name basis, without titles. Hence for example, Martin Luther King, Dr., is listed under ‘M’ instead of ‘D’ for Dr Martin Luther King.

The list deliberately includes only brief information about the quotees. The idea is to whet your appetite - for more information, you are welcome to try a web search. The countries indicated represent either where the quotees come from or where they spent a significant time.

We have tried to source quotations from well-known and not so well-known quotees from Africa and across its diaspora. Our focus has been mainly on what the words say, rather than on who the quotees are.

There is a tendency to hold up many of the quotees as role models.

However, although we have produced the NARM role model project (see www.btwsc.com/NARM), we must be mindful of the exhortation of Dr Kwegyir Aggrey: “When men are intellectually greater than others we learn from their utterances. When they are morally better than others we learn from their lives.”

We have in the main kept the integrity of the quotes, introducing where necessary, minor punctuations to make some of the quotations read better, and for uniformity, have used British English spelling.

Whilst this is not a history book, we believe it can serve as a springboard towards learning about the history of many of the quotees, and the contexts within which the quotations were made (oh the beauty of web search engines!)

We hope this book also provides a gentle nudge for those wont to do nothing except to say “we don’t know our history”, especially around Black History Month (BHM), to actually start doing something about it – if not for their own sake, then for the sake of the youths in their charge. Dame Jocelyn Barrow’s quotation springs to mind: “It is our responsibility to educate our children to learn about who they are...” For good measure, we’ve also added a history-focused poem we wrote for one of our BHM events at the end of this book.

Finally, we thank all those who provided the quotations and comments - words to inspire, educate, empower and motivate; and the authors of books, magazines, videos, websites, and other resources, including our own BTWSC and BritishBlackMusic.com/Black Music Congress projects, that provided the source material.

The story does not have to end with this book. We can continue the dialogue at www.btwsc.com/AfricanVoices, where we can interact, and even get a debate going. You are welcome to draw our attention and that of other netizens to quotations that need to be better known, and perhaps be included in the next edition of African Voices. Enjoy.

A-Z Of Quotations

Achieving One's Potential/Progress

1. If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress.

Barak Obama

2. An individual must believe in himself and his abilities. To do his best, one needs a confidence that says 'I can do anything and if I can't do it, I know how to get help.' **Ben Carson, Dr**

3. I've worked very hard to make it to where I am today. None of this happened overnight, and I definitely did not have a fairy godmother. What I did have was pure determination, especially because everybody expected me to fail. **Charles Gordon**

4. We're not realising our full potential. There's much more to us than this. Like performing elephants in the circus, we've been programmed to believe that we're not really an elephant, but one controlled by a piece of string around our neck, when in actual fact, we're strong and powerful enough to pull the entire circus down. Think about it! **Hugh Francis**

5. If my mind can conceive it, and my heart can believe it, I know I can achieve it. **Jesse Jackson, Rev**

6. If you want to achieve things you must plan. It takes sacrifices. If I wanted to train in the mornings, I couldn't be out partying. **Lennox Lewis**

7. Everything you have to work at. I am not going to say it was easy. it was something I had to work at and I

had to get better, and I'm still improving all the time.

Lennox Lewis

8. You don't have to be great to get started, but you have to get started to be great. **Les Brown**

9. If you really want something, you can go for it. **Levi Roots**

10. God and nature first made us what we are, and then out of our own created genius we make ourselves what we want to be. Follow always that great law. Let the sky and God be our limit and eternity our measurement.

Marcus Garvey

11. I'm a fighter! I fight hard, very hard, but always fairly. And because I prepare myself meticulously before every fight I rarely lose. But I don't fight with my hands. I fight with the spoken word, and my battles are in the courtroom as a barrister. **Matthew Ryder**

12. We have been made to believe that we are chickens and belong to the ground. We therefore behave like chickens, and after flying a few yards, we return to the ground believing that that it is our natural place. We have the talent to rise above what appears to be our ordained station in life. We should nurture our talents to build the kind of society we want. This means we must individually and collectively help to fashion the future. **KB Asante** (echoing parable from Dr. Kwegyir Aggrey's 'The Eagle That Would Not Fly')

13. I may not make it if I try, but I damn sure won't, if I don't. **Oscar Brown Jr**

14. You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas. **Shirley Chisholm**

15. A man can make what he wants of himself if he truly believes that he must be ready for hard work and many heartbreaks. **Thurgood Marshall**

16. I overcame challenges by believing in myself and pursuing the fact that what I was doing was real, valuable and of benefit to others. **Yana Johnson**

Africa/Africans

17. All my skin folk are not my kinfolk. **Al Sharpton, Rev**

18. Africans of the blood are defined in racial and genealogical terms. They are identified with the black race. Africans of the soil are defined in geographical terms. They are identified with the African continental in nationality and ancestral location. Most North Africans are Africans of the soil but not necessarily of the blood. Most communities of enslaved Africans in the US, the Caribbean or Brazil are Africans of the blood but not of the soil. On the other hand, Ghanaians, Nigerians or Ugandans are Africans of the blood, genealogically belonging to the black race, and Africans of the soil, belonging to the continent. **Ali Mazrui, Prof**

19. Some of my students sometimes don't seem very proud to be called African, they associate the place with poverty, starvation. **Barry Chevannes**

20. Africa is the richest continent in the world. Whoever controls the richest continent in the world become the most powerful people in the world. **Brother Omowale**

21. In practice it is possible to determine directly the skin colour and hence the ethnic affiliations of the ancient Egyptians by microscopic analysis in the laboratory. **Cheikh Anta Diop**

22. I must say that the idea of a united Africa was nonsense. That was quite obvious. It was not a practical proposition. East Africa was one way, West Africa another and Central a third way. **CLR James**

23. It is sad to think that there are some Africans, especially among those who have enjoyed the advantages of foreign training, who are blind enough to the radical facts of humanity as to say, 'Let us do away with our African personality and be lost, if possible, in another race'. Preach this doctrine as much as you like, no one will do it, for no one can do it, for when you have done away with your personality, you have done away with yourselves. Your place has been assigned you in the universe as Africans, and there is no room for you as anything else. **Edward Blyden**

24. When we talk about reparations, people think that it's about money. But it's about making repairs, be they economic or social, to Africa and for African descendents. **Esther Stanford**

25. We may have seen the end of the trans-Atlantic slave trade many years ago, but Africa remains totally dependent on the former colonial powers. It still does not have self-determination. **Esther Stanford**

26. Your country needs you for the rebuilding of your shattered homeland. Your homeland ruined by exploitation, by the tyrants of foreign nations, who would use you as their catspaw, while they starved you to subjection. **George Padmore**

27. Until all Africans stand and speak as free beings, equal in the eyes of all men, as they are in the eyes of Heaven. Until that day, the African continent will not know peace. We Africans will fight, if necessary, and we know that we shall win, as we are confident in the victory of good over evil. **Haile Selassie**

28. We need well-qualified people who are proud of being Ethiopians; people who are proud of being Africans; people who are prepared to execute the plans that have already been envisioned. These are the caliber of men who should be produced in our university. **Haile Selassie**

29. We, in Africa, have no more need of being 'converted' to socialism than we have of being 'taught' democracy. Both are rooted in our past - in the traditional society which produced us. **Julius Nyerere**

30. African nationalism is meaningless, dangerous, anachronistic, if it is not, at the same time, pan-Africanism. **Julius Nyerere**

31. The shape of the African continent is like a question mark, imploring us to go on a journey of enquiry and discovery. **Kwaku**

32. I am an African, not because I was born in Africa, but because Africa is born in me. **Kwame Nkrumah, Dr**

33. Today we are one. If in the past the Sahara divided us, now it unites us and an injury to one is an injury to all. **Kwame Nkrumah, Dr**

34. Divided we are weak. United, Africa could become one of the greatest forces for good. I believe strongly and sincerely that with deep-rooted wisdom and dignity, the innate respect for human lives, the intense humanity that is our heritage, the African race united under one federal government will emerge not as just another world bloc to flaunt its wealth and strength, but as a great power whose greatness is indestructible, because it is not built on fear, envy and suspicion, nor won at the expense of others, but founded on hope, trust, friendship, and directed to the good of all mankind. **Kwame Nkrumah, Dr**

35. Our philosophy must find its weapon in the environment and living conditions of African people. It is from those conditions that the intellectual content of our ideology must be created. The emancipation of the African continent is the emancipation of man. This requires two aims: first, the recognition of the egalitarianism of human society, and second, the logistic mobilisation of all our resources toward the attainment of that restitution. **Kwame Nkrumah, Dr**

36. My people of Africa, we were created in the image of God, but men have made us think we are chickens, and we still think we are, but we are eagles. Stretch forth your wings and fly! Don't be content with food of chickens. **Kwegyir Aggrey, Dr**

37. Seeking reparations for the debt that now exists in Africa is valid and would offer a credible response to the problems created by European powers. **Lee Jasper**

38. In Africa, when an old man dies, it is like a library burning to the ground. **Leopold Senghor**

39. We are African and we happen to be in America. We are not American. We are people who formerly were Africans who were kidnapped and brought to America. **Malcolm X**

40. Wake up Africa! Let us work towards the one glorious end of a free, redeemed and mighty nation. Let Africa be a bright star among the constellation of nations. **Marcus Garvey**

41. Africa for the Africans at home and abroad. **Marcus Garvey**

42. I have no desire to take all black people back to Africa - there are blacks who are no good here and will likewise be no good there. **Marcus Garvey**

43. For I am my mother's daughter, and the drums of Africa still beat in my heart. **Mary McLeod Bethune**

44. And I believe that it becomes a troubled continent because there are those who must always cause confusion so that we do not keep these natural resources. **Miriam Makeba**

45. Africa is a rich continent. It is a travesty that the majority of Africans are not benefiting from the continent's resources. **Ms Serwah**

46. I came to realise that Kenya was poor, not because of anything internal, but because the wealth produced by Kenyans ended in developing the western world ... Their

aid, loans, and investment capital that they gloat about are simply a chemical catalyst that sets in motion the whole process of expropriation of Kenya's wealth, with, of course, a few leftovers for the 'lucky' few. **Ngugi Wa Thiong'o**

47. Independence in all things and neutral in nothing affecting the destiny of Africa. **Nmandi Azikiwe & ITA Wallace-Johnson** (from their African Morning Post masthead).

48. I 'discovered' Africa in London. That discovery - back in the twenties - profoundly influenced my life. Like most of Africa's children in America, I had known little about the land of our fathers. Both in England, where my career as an actor and singer took me, I came to know many Africans. Some of their names are now known to the world - Azikiwe, and Nkrumah, and Kenyatta, who has just been jailed for his leadership of the liberation struggles in Kenya. **Paul Robeson**

49. I am a Negro. The origin of the Negro is African. It would, therefore, seem an easy matter for me to assume African nationality. **Paul Robeson**

50. The land is ours. It's not European and we have taken it, we have given it to the rightful people ... Those of white extraction who happen to be in the country and are farming are welcome to do so, but they must do so on the basis of equality. **Robert Mugabe**

51. If you look at Africa and black people across the world now, it looks as though we are not the same great people that we used to be, because we are not doing great things anymore and the question we need to ask ourselves is what on earth happened? **Swiss**

A-Z Of Quotees

- A Philip Randolph** (1889-1979) Civil rights leader (USA).
Abiola Awojobi TV producer (UK).
Adam Clayton Powell, Rev (1908-1972) Politician and pastor (USA).
Adu Musician (UK).
Ahmed Ahmed BTWSC youth leader (UK).
Ahmed Ben Bella Anti-colonial activist and President (Algeria).
Akyaaba Addai-Sebo Black History Month champion (UK).
Al Sharpton, Rev Pastor and civil rights activist (USA).
Alex Haley (1921-1992) Writer (USA).
Ali Mazrui, Prof Academic and political writer (Kenya).
Alice Walker Writer (USA).
Althea Gibson (1927-2003) Tennis champion (USA).
Alvin Hall Financial adviser (USA).
Ama Ata Aidoo Writer and playwright (Ghana).
Ama Biney, Dr. Scholar and journalist (UK).
Amarkai Amarteifio Lawyer (Ghana).
Amilcar Cabral (1924-1973) Nationalist and politician (Guinea-Bissau).
Angela Davis Scholar, community and feminist activist (USA).
Anna J. Cooper (1858-1964) Scholar and educator (USA).
Antwone Fisher Writer (USA).
Arsenio Hall Actor and comedian (USA).
Arthur Ashe (1943-1993) Champion tennis player (USA).
Barak Obama Lawyer and President (USA).
Barbara Tomlinson-Lindsay Career development Adviser (UK).
Barry Chevannes, Prof Scholar, educator, and author (Jamaica).
Ben Carson Pediatric neurosurgeon, author, and mentor (USA).
Benjamin Zephaniah Poet and writer (UK).
Bernie Grant, MP (1944-2000) Politician and community activist (UK).
Berry Gordy, Jr Music industry executive and songwriter (USA).
Beverley Knight R&B singer-songwriter (UK).
Bieneosa Ebite Marketing executive (UK).
Bill Cosby Comedian, actor, and author (USA).
Bob Marley (1945-1981) Reggae singer-songwriter (Jamaica).
Bode Olajide Beyond The Will Smith Challenge participant (UK).
Booker T Washington (1856-1915) Educator, author and community activist (USA).

Brother Omowale Community activist and educator (UK).
Bruce Oldfield Fashion designer (UK).
Carol Paul Educator (UK).
Carter G Woodson, Dr (1875-1950) African history advocate (USA).
Cecil Williams, Rev Pastor and community leader (USA).
Charles Gordon Property and entertainment entrepreneur (UK).
Cheikh Anta Diop Scientist and historian (Senegal).
Chinua Achebe Writer and educator (Nigeria).
Chris Cleverly Barrister and businessman (UK).
Chris Gardner Stock broker and entrepreneur (USA).
Cleo Fields Lawyer and politician (USA).
CLR James (1901-1989) Historian and writer (UK).
Colin Powell Military officer and statesman (USA).
Courtney Pine Jazz musician/composer (UK).
Dalton McConney, Ch Insp Police officer (UK).
Dame Betty Asafu-Adjaye Charity worker (UK).
Dame Jocelyn Barrow Educator, race and community activist (UK).
Danny Glover Actor and political activist (USA).
Dawn Butler Politician & Government minister (UK).
Desmond Tutu Pastor and anti-apartheid campaigner (South Africa).
Doreen Lawrence Community activist (UK).
Dounne Alexander Businesswoman (UK).
Dumisani Mpofu Beyond The Will Smith Challenge participant (UK).
Edward Blyden (1832-1912) Pan-Africanist and politician (Liberia).
Esther Stanford Lawyer, reparations activist, and broadcaster (UK).
Fela Kuti (1938-1997) Afro-beat singer-songwriter, musician, political and social activist (Nigeria).
Felix Konotey-Ahulu, Dr Physician and Genetics (UK).
FKA Allotey, Prof Scientist and mathematician (Ghana).
Frantz Fanon (1925-1961) Psychiatrist, and champion of black consciousness, anti-colonial and liberation movements (Martinique).
Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) Abolitionist and statesman (USA).
Gary Younge Journalist (UK).
Gamal Abdel Nasser (1918-1970) Soldier and President (Egypt).
George Padmore (1903-1959) Pan-Africanist political activist (UK).
George Washington Carver (1864-1943) Scientist and inventor (USA).
Gloria Naylor Writer (USA).
Haile Selassie (1892-1975) Emperor and statesman (Ethiopia).

Hailu Hagos, Dr Migrant community worker (UK).
Harriet Tubman (1822-1913) Abolitionist and emancipator (USA).
Henry Bonsu Journalist and broadcaster (UK).
Hugh Francis Musician and music industryite (UK).
Ignatius Sancho (1729-1780) Abolitionist and writer (UK).
ITA Wallace-Johnson (1894-1965) Writer, labour and political activist (Sierra Leone).
James Baldwin (1924-1987) Novelist and civil rights activist (US).
JB Danquah, Dr (1895-1965) Lawyer, politician and historian (Ghana).
Jesse Owens (1913-1980) Champion athlete (USA).
John Henrik Clarke, Dr (1915-1998) Pan-Africanist historian (USA).
Jonathan E McCoy Pre-teen social activist and orator (USA).
Jomo Kenyatta (1894-1978) Nationalist and President (Kenya).
Julius Nyerere (1922-1999) Pan-Africanist and President (Tanzania).
Kanya King Awards ceremony producer (UK).
Kanye West Rap artist and record producer (USA).
KB Asante Educator, diplomat, and social commentator (Ghana).
Ken Saro-Wiwa (1941-1995) Writer and environmental activist (Nigeria).
Kofi Annan Diplomat (Ghanaian).
Kwaku Educator, journalist, and community activist (UK).
Kwame Nkrumah, Dr (1909-1972) Pan-Africanist, writer and President (Ghana).
Kwegyir Aggrey, Dr (1875-1927) Scholar and educator (Ghana).
Lee Jasper Equalities and community activist (UK).
Lennox Lewis Boxing champion (UK).
Levi Roots Entertainment and businessman (UK).
Leonard Jeffries Afrocentric scholar and educator (USA).
Leopold Senghor (1906–2001) Politician, poet, and President (Senegal).
Len Garrison (1943-2003) Archivist and community activist (UK).
Leroy Burgess R&B/disco singer-songwriter and producer (USA).
Leroy Logan, Supt Police officer and community activist (UK).
Les Brown Motivational speaker and writer (USA).
Lincoln Beswick Councillor (UK).
Lindsay Johns Culturalist (UK).
Louis Farrakhan Religious and community leader (USA).
Madame CJ Walker (1867-1919) Businesswoman (USA).
Malcolm X (1925–1965) Political activist and orator (USA).

Marc Wadsworth Journalist, community and political activist (UK).
Marcus Garvey (1887-1940) Pan-Africanist icon and orator (Jamaica).
Marian Anderson (1897-1993) Opera singer (USA).
Marian Wright Edelman Lawyer and children rights activist (USA).
Mark Richards, Dr Scientist and DJ (UK).
Martin Luther King, Dr (1929–1968) Pastor and civil rights leader (USA).
Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955) Educator, and women and civil rights activist (USA).
Matthew Ryder Lawyer (UK).
Maya Angelou Poet and civil rights activist (USA).
Michael Jordan Champion basketball player and businessman (USA).
Miriam Makeba (1932-2008) Singer and civil rights activist (South Africa).
Mo Mohammed Ibrahim, Dr Businessman and philanthropist (UK).
Modibo Keita (1915-1977) Pan-Africanist and President (Mali).
Mojisola Sorunke Performer (UK).
Morgan Dalphinis, Dr Educator (UK).
Ms Serwah Lawyer and community activist (UK).
Muhammad Ali Boxing champion and wit (USA).
Nana Asante Councillor (UK).
Nelson Mandela Anti-apartheid activist and President (South Africa).
Ngugi Wa Thiong'o Writer, educator, and social activist (Kenya).
Nii Kwabena Bonne III Chief and civil rights activist (Ghana).
Nims Obunge, Rev Pastor and peace activist (UK).
Nnamdi Azikiwe (1922-1999) Nationalist, and President (Nigeria).
Nubian Jak Edutainment game inventor (UK).
Olaudah Equiano (1745-1797) Abolitionist, author, and orator (UK).
Oliver Tambo (1917-1993) Anti-apartheid activist (South Africa).
Oprah Winfrey Talk show host, media mogul, and philanthropist (USA).
Oscar Brown Jr (1926-2005) Singer-songwriter and playwright (USA).
Ottobah Cugoano Abolitionist and author (UK).
Ozward Boateng Tailor (UK).
Pamela Akyeampong Council worker (UK).
Patrice Lumumba (1925–1961) Prime Minister (Congo).
Paul Boateng Lawyer, minister, and diplomat (UK).
Paul Robeson (1898-1976) Singer, actor, and political activist (USA).
Peter Tosh (1944-1987) Reggae singer-songwriter (Jamaica).

Queen Mother Moore (1898-1997) Pan-Africanist activist (USA).
Ralph Ellison (1914-1994) Writer and scholar (USA).
Robert Mugabe Nationalist and President (Zimbabwe).
Rosa Parks (1913-2005) Civil rights activist (USA).
Sam Sharpe (1801-1832) Anti-enslavement activist (Jamaica).
Samia Nkrumah Journalist and politician (Ghana).
Samora Machel Nationalist and President (1933-1986) (Mozambique).
Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912) Classical composer (UK).
Sékou Touré (1922-1984) Pan-Africanist and President (Guinea).
Shaun Escoffery R&B singer-songwriter (UK).
Shaun Wallace Lawyer (UK).
Shez Christopher Lawyer (UK).
Shirley Chisholm (1924-2005) Politician (USA).
Sidney Poitier Actor (USA).
Simon Woolley Community and political activist (UK).
Sojourner Truth (1797-1883) Abolitionist (USA).
Steve Biko (1946-1977) Anti-apartheid activist (South Africa).
Stevie Wonder R&B singer-songwriter and social activist (USA).
Stokley Carmichael (1941-1998) Civil rights activist (USA).
Stuart Hall, Prof Sociologist and educator (UK).
Swiss Hip-hop artist and producer (UK).
TD Jakes Pastor, gospel artist, and writer (USA).
Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993) Supreme Court Judge (USA).
Tiger Woods Golf champion (USA).
Todd Boyd, Dr Scholar, writer, and culturalist (USA).
Toni Morrison Writer and educator (USA).
Toyin Agbetu Pan-Africanist and community activist (UK).
Walter Rodney, Dr. Scholar, educator, and political activist (Guyana).
Walter Sisulu (1912-2003) Anti-apartheid activist (South Africa).
Wangari Maathai Environmental and political activist (Kenya).
WEB Du Bois (1869-1963) Pan-Africanist scholar and historian (USA).
Wilfred Emmanuel Jones Farmer (UK).
Will Smith Rapper and actor (USA).
Winnie Mandela Anti-apartheid activist and politician (South Africa).
Wole Soyinka Writer, poet, and playwright (Nigeria).
Yaa Asantewaa (1840-1921) Royal and anti-colonialist (Ghana).
Yana Johnson Businesswoman (UK).
Yosef Ben-Jochannan, Dr Scholar and historian (USA).