

Black History Month Teaching Resources



Black History Month is a time to celebrate the contributions of the African diaspora to the world—a time to celebrate Black people’s contributions to academia, politics, culture, the arts and more. The theme of Black History Month 2023 in the UK is **Saluting Our Sisters**—a celebration of the monumental and often forgotten contributions of Black women globally.

Below are some key resources to help raise awareness of the contributions of Black women throughout history and today:

POSTER SERIES AND TREASURE HUNT

Black History Month’s 2023 **poster series** could be used as a starting point for several fun and educational activities in your school. Consider placing the posters around the school building and setting students on a fact-finding treasure hunt. Alternatively, if you don’t have the budget to buy the poster series, consider setting students the task of researching key female Black figures to make their own posters and use these pieces of work for your fact-finding treasure hunt. A good starting place for research is Black History Month’s **inspirational women page**. Don’t forget to take photos of your students’ work to showcase on your school’s websites.

CELEBRATING THE CONTRUBITIONS OF BLACK WOMEN POETRY COMPETITION

Students can showcase their own talents by submitting an entry to Black History Month’s **poetry competition**.

“We want you to learn about and celebrate black women who have made significant contributions in various fields. You can submit a poem about a pioneering black woman who has made an impact in their chosen field, explaining why she is an inspiration to you. Remember, the poems don’t have to be about famous people; they can be about members of your family, women who have inspired you in your community, or even about you and your experiences as a woman or young person. We want you to get creative and have fun with it!” (BHM, 2023)

The submission form to download is [here](#) and all entries should be emailed to [Black History Month](#). Deadline: 15 November 2023. You could also do an internal competition and publish the best submissions on your website to share with your wider school community. The competition is open to students of any age from Primary School to University and poems will be judged in age categories with the winner announced on the 21 March 2023.

Below are some key resources and suggestions for celebrating Black History Month and ensuring that lasting changes can be made beyond October to ensure students of colour feel safe, represented and appreciated in their schools:

INVITING SPEAKERS FROM YOUR COMMUNITY

Speak with Black students in your school to see how they would like to celebrate this month and if they or their family members would like to be involved by giving a talk in assembly or running a workshop. Research organisations in your local community who support Black people or work with Black children and youth to see if they would like to visit your school and showcase what they do. An excellent example is [Kids of Colour](#) in Manchester. Kids of Colour have a [bank of resources and reports](#) to help schools, nationally, to become better at understanding and supporting Black students, and in becoming anti-racist institutions.

MAKING SCHOOLS SAFE SPACES FOR BLACK STUDENT

SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS CAMPAIGNS

No More Exclusions (NME) is a policy and advocacy group that challenges the overuse of exclusions against racialised and working class students across the UK. Based in London, NME are a coalition of young people, parents, educators, trade unionists, social workers, lawyers, faith leaders, local councillors, journalists, academics, SEND specialists, psychologists and mental health practitioners. They have a [bank of resources](#) for educators to access, learn from and utilise in their work.

POLICING IN SCHOOLS CAMPAIGNS

Kids of Colour alongside the [Northern Police Monitoring Project](#) published a report on the over policing of Black students to help enhance schools' awareness of the harms of involving police in our schools. The infamous case of [Child Q](#), a 15 year old Black student who was strip searched on her school's premises by police in 2020, serves as a stark reminder of the trauma that policing can cause for our students.

RETHINKING SAFEGUARDING CAMPAIGNS

Download **Maslaha's Radical Safeguarding Workbook** which seeks to bring social justice analysis into schools safeguarding procedures to ensure they do not harm and do not allow unconscious biases around race, religion, culture and class to determine assumptions made, actions taken and support given to students and families.

ANTI-RACIST TRAINING FOR EDUCATORS

EVERYDAY RACISM

Everyday Racism have recently launched their Anti-Racist Schools training. Further information and pricing can be found on their **website**. They also run an online **Book Club** which centres voices from the global majority (formerly BAME).

THE BLACK CURRICULUM

The Black Curriculum is a social enterprise formed in 2019 to address the Eurocentricity in our current local and national curriculums and fight to bring about changes so the curriculum mirrors our racially, culturally and religiously diverse population, here in Britain. They meet with parliament to discuss the national curriculum, run educational programmes for **learners aged 3-25** and training and resources for **educators**. They also have a **resource bank of lessons**.

HEALING CLASSROOMS TRAINING

Our free Healing Classrooms training programmes seek to support schools to become culturally competent and to adapt teaching styles, topics and approaches to fit the needs of learners in our diverse classrooms. Created to support refugee and asylum-seeking students, the majority of whom are from racialised communities, the **Healing Classrooms Approach** is the International Rescue Committee's trauma-informed teacher training programme to make schools safe and healing spaces for children and youth dealing with trauma and displacement. Two key pillars of Healing Classrooms is growing students' self-worth and creating intellectually stimulating lessons for all students. Students who do not see their identities reflected in the curriculum can feel alienated from their education and the rest of the class can miss out on the skills and knowledge they bring with them from their country of origin and their lived experiences. This is why we advocate for the use of **Culturally Responsive Pedagogy** across all subjects.

Students who are refugees in your classes may not have celebrated Black History Month before and this may be a good time to check in with them to see if their needs are being met in your school and that they feel comfortable to speak with staff if they do encounter racism, xenophobia or anti-refugee bullying.



CLICK BELOW TO SIGN UP TO OUR HEALING CLASSROOMS TRAINING:

5 Module Healing Classrooms CPD Course

(5x sessions lasting 1.5 hours, weekly or half-termly)

Healing Classrooms Basics Course

(3x online sessions lasting 1.5 hours)

