



March 2009

Welcome to this month's e-news.

March 8 is International Women's Day which is celebrated around the world. Indeed, IWD is yet another example of how a group of committed individuals, this time in the US in 1909, can change the world for the better.

Many [IWD](#) events, which are taking place all over the UK throughout March, recognise, acknowledge and celebrate females and particularly their immense contributions to all aspects of human development. And our Education Through Film event on March 6 falls into this category.

But others are far more serious, such as the [Million Women Rise](#) event on March 7 where the participants will take a welcome stand against male violence against women, in all its forms, all over the globe. The reported statistics are truly horrific. Among the stats is the revelation that all men can expect at least one close female relative to be the victim of male violence at some point in their lives. Such a situation is plainly intolerable and inexcusable. Indifference is simply not an option.

Quite rightly, the event is only open to women and children. We are confident that all right-thinking brothers will encourage all women in their lives to attend, and that these same men will join with us in being there in spirit. But further action is required. Checking ourselves, and inculcating sensible family-strengthening values into *all* the young men

we know is an excellent place to start. Right now.

Wishing you an achieving month. Blessings.

Education Empowerment: Exclusions X-Factor (part 1)



by Audrey 'Global Asset' Beckford

Like many others I attend the annual London Schools and Black Children Conference. It is considered a staple diary date for those who are motivated in propelling our young people into success.

The theme of this year's conference was exclusions.

During the panel discussions Diane Abbott MP and others made reference to the Priority Review report [Getting it. Getting it right](#), published by the then DfES in 2006. Pages 5 and 6 in this report provide you with an ethnic breakdown of exclusions for 2003/2004. For both fixed period and permanent exclusions you will see there are specific disparities between black boys. The data reveals that boys who have a Caribbean heritage ('Black Caribbean' and 'White and Black Caribbean') are at far greater risk than boys whose heritage is African.

Too often this fundamental point is overlooked when the rhetoric regarding the exclusion of "black boys" clumps them together as one homogenous group. Evidence shows that there is a specific discrimination against black boys whose heritage is Caribbean. Therefore any solutions provided by our institutions and in the community needs to acknowledge this disparity in order that solutions are targeted and focused based on evidence.

The report outlined targeted support in 3 broad areas to close the exclusions gaps. As part of the interventions to ensure 'school leaders and staff are equipped with the knowledge and understanding for deliver' included targeted support from National Strategies in the top 100 schools that disproportionately exclude black pupils. However it was much to my dismay that Baroness Morgan Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Department for Children, School and Families (DCSF) during her speech revealed that the schools targeted by National Strategies were randomly chosen and not targeted.

The reversal of this policy decision was not explained or justified leaving conference delegates of whom many were parents frustrated and annoyed further heightening their distrust of the education system. This is institutional racism - "decisions made by people, who themselves may not be

consciously racist have the unintentional and the cumulative effect of producing a racist outcome (one that has a disproportionately negative impact on one or more ethnic group)" (see page 26). Rather ironic and hypocritical given the reports disease with the use of the "R word" (Institutional Racism) which states is not such a "scary" thing, downplaying its significance in the fear of isolating schools.

So how do parents/carers reduce the risks of their child(ren) being excluded from school? Part 2 of this article next month will discuss this in more depth.

Walk Good,

Audrey 'Global Asset' Beckford

propelsolutions@gmail.com

London Mayor's African Diaspora Conference



by Queen Mother Nzingha Assata

Greetings Afrikan family,

I want to raise a matter of serious concern and if not dealt with is going to put Afrikan people in serious jeopardy.

On 19/2/09, I went to City Hall to a conference titled African Diaspora Conference and whilst I didn't go there expecting a radical, revolutionary conference, I am telling you that I left in a state of shock.

Let me state that we are in serious danger from our sisters and brothers who are getting comfortable jobs with the council and other places.

Brother Abu often speaks of it on Galaxy Radio and I had first hand experience of it.

The conference was chaired by an Afrikan Pastor Nims Obunge MBE. He was going to meet fellow collaborator in selling Black people out Desmond Tutu after the conference.

A number of Afrikans were involved in the planning of the conference. There were absolutely no Afrikans speaking at the conference, so after the 3rd white person had spoken and I saw a white woman arriving who was announced as the next speaker, I raised my hand and stated:

"I thought this conference was about the Afrikan Diaspora and

yet we have heard nothing from any Afrikans, you have 4 white people telling us things, this is outrageous, when do we get to say what we want to say."

The Afrikan chair, regurgitated some nonsense about the workshops and us remembering that we are there for the benefit of our children. He was clearly oblivious to the fact that white peoples agenda could never benefit our children or our people. In the workshops which followed I was spoken to by an elder who praised me for speaking up. She said that before I spoke, she turned to the Afrikan sister who had been identified as part of the planning group and asked her why there were no Black people speaking, the sister told her that she did not have to be at the conference if she didn't like it; the elder was really glad that I spoke up.

Our workshop refused to collaborate with the Mayor's agenda and told the brother running the workshop of the dangers of Afrikans colluding with their own exploitation and oppression, we asked him to feed back that we were not going to cooperate without being able to decide the agenda. When he fed back from the workshop he told the meeting what he knew the white people wanted to hear and not what we had said, so myself and another sister had to stand up and tell the meeting that he did not feed back what we had said in our meeting.

I am sending you this information because this type of outrageous behaviour is going on across the country and is a very serious threat to our well being as a people. What was frightening was that it was not only older Afrikans with this mentality but the younger ones were just as uninformed about who they are and what is expected of them. If they could advance their career or business then all was well. They were not even listening to objections. It was clear that if Massa said "Jump they would ask how high." Clearly Afrikans who are aware must now come out of our comfort zone to deal with our own people otherwise we will be sold once again.

Remember what goes around comes around. How will we respond this time? Will we sit back and allow ourselves to be sold once again?

This is very serious, please pass on to others.

Queen Mother Nzingha Assata



A few weeks back ,at the height of the Carol Thatcher/BBC row, Sarah Lyall of the New York Times called in for our take on the whole affair. See [Racial Epithets in Cultured Accents](#).

Thanks to Tiata Fahodzi who sponsored our Man of the Year Award which was won by Mr B. Obama. Olu Alake, President of the the 100 Black Men of London and a Tiata Fahodzi Trustee noted:

"Barack Obama represents all the ideals that we tirelessly inculcate into the youths, especially, attending our programmes and events - the ideals of hope, self-belief, the daring to dream the biggest dreams of all and willingness to move all the necessary mountains to make it happen.

The Obama moment is one which all peoples of African descent should be very proud of and, more importantly, be empowered by."

[Tiata Fahodzi](#) also deliver great theatric productions. Check them out.

Education Through Film

Fannie Lou Hamer



Learn, Conclude, Action

Black Women Resistance Leaders: 1600- 2000

Visual biographical details of Black women from all over the world who have resisted slavery, colonialism and racism. Women do not get the historical credit they deserve. This event will give the audience video and documentary evidence of the who, what and why of 40 female fighters who used guns, pens or placards.

Bring notepad and pen and be on time, this is a small venue, latecomers will end up standing . Women include: Queen Nzinga, May Jemison, Dora Akunyili, Dame Jocelyn Barrow, Una Marson, Edna Ismail, Lieutenant Sanite Belair, Althea Gibson, Mavis Best, Fawzia Hashim, Dr Beryl Gilroy, Leyla Hussein, Edna Ismail, Benadita Da Silva, Ellen Sirleaf Johnson, Dr Patrica Bath, Professor Elizabeth Anionwu and many more.

All proceeds will be go towards the Girl Child Concerns School in Kaduna state Nigeria where £200 sends a poor girl to school for one year.

[BWL](#)

Date: Friday 6 March

Time: 7pm-9.30pm

Place: Unit 9 Eurolink Business Centre, 49 Effra Road SW2

Cost: £5.00

Palestine and Africa: Whats the connection?

A special presentation sampling the work of Ben Bousquet, Tony Tee, Lord Balfour, Edward Said, Golda Meir, John Pilger, Tony Benn, Chaim Weizman, Noam Chomsky, and John Henrik Clarke to examine the background to the recent attacks on Gaza.

Unusual and little known facts such as the following will be discussed in this interactive session.

West Indian Troops in WW1 defeated the Turks in winning Palestine for the British.

Uganda and Guyana were considered as homeland nations for European refugees.

Date: Friday 13 March

Time: 7pm-9.30pm

Place: Unit 9 Eurolink Business Centre, 49 Effra Road SW2

Cost: £5.00. Latecomers may end up standing

White King, Red Rubber, Black Death

King Leopold II of Belgium in the early 20th century turned the Congo into a vast rubber-harvesting labour camp in which he killed millions and amputated the hands of tens of thousands while claiming he was civilising the African. Although represented in the west as typical "african savagery" the chopping off of hands was promoted by white people as a means of terrorising Africans to collect rubber in order to make Europeans rich. This is why one of the world's richest countries is home to such misery today. This award winning documentary sets the context for understanding the crisis in Kivu, the 5 million Congolese deaths in the last ten years and why Patrice Lumumba was assassinated by Western governments.

Followed by panel discussion

Date: Saturday 21 March

Time: 2pm-4.30pm

Place: BFI Southbank (near Royal Festival Hall), Belvedere Road SE1

Tickets: £5

Phone: 0207 928 3232

[BFI](#)

Welcome Back?

In 1946, after Black people had fought and died all over the world for Britain in WWII, those still in England were told to go back where they had come from. Come and hear the untold stories of the post-war generation with films, audio clips and testimony from war veterans who were also veterans of the Civil Rights movement in Britain. As a Black person in the post-war years you were: refused bank loans, refused jobs, restricted to live in bombed out areas, blocked from buying homes, harassed by police, refused entry into churches, refused service in pubs, hotels and restaurants, forced to pay a higher mortgage than whites, spat at on public transport, attacked by the general public, and treated as if stupid in schools.

War veterans such as Billy Strachan, Sam King and Connie Marks used their organising skills to fight such discrimination. We will focus on how such obstacles were overcome and if the lessons have been learned/remembered by the present generation

Date: Saturday 21 March

Time: 13:00-16.30

Place: Imperial War Museum

Cost: Free entry. First come, first served.

www.iwm.org.uk

2 Ladies Fundraising for 100 BMOL

Natasha (left) & Sifundo (right)



Silverstone March 15

Sifundo Msebele-Manzini and Natasha Antoine are still going strong in their training for the [Adidas Silverstone Half-Marathon](#) on March 15.

They hope that their 13.1 mile efforts on the day, not to mention the hours of training beforehand, will help to raise least £1000 for the 100 BMOL.

Please support them. See [Sifundo & Natasha half-marathon](#).

This half-marathon thing is catching. Our most athletic member, Ron Daniel, has clearly passed on the long distance running gene to his daughter, Sophie, who is running in the Mizuno Liverpool Half- Marathon on behalf of Christians Against Poverty, the national debt counseling charity. [Inspire her too](#).

Images of Black Women Festival



27-29 March, Tricycle Theatre

Now in its 5th year, the Images of Black Women Film Festival goes from strength to strength. This year, the cinematic treats include: *The Secret Life of Bees* starring Queen Latifah, Alicia Keys, Jennifer Hudson and Sophie Okonedo and *Afro Saxons* "an insight into the world of Afro hair politics..which follows four hair stylists preparing to create

bold and innovative Afro styles for the Black Beauty Hair Awards in London."

Plus celebrity panel Q+A, educational workshops and information. For further details, see: [Images of Black Women](#)

Anansi and The Magic Mirror



Talawa @ The Hackney Empire, until 7 March

Don't miss this one. The naughtiest spider in folklore is only around

until March 7. In [Anansi and The Magic Mirror](#), the multi-legged samfie wretch leaves his usual trail of woe before justice is duly administered.

Thanks to all those who entered last month's competition and special congratulations to the winners: DCreative One, Mandy, Khadijah, M1, and A1, who were quickest off the mark in correctly identifying Ghana as the country where the legend of Anansi originated.

Feelings: Jean Adebambo Memorial & Benefit Concert



Sunday March 15, Hackney Empire

Unmissable.

All roads lead to the Hackney Empire on March 15 for the Jean Adebambo memorial and benefit concert.

Hosted by Angie Le Mar and Eddie Nestor, the concert will generate

funds for the education and upbringing of Jean's two teenage daughters.

Scheduled performers include many of the Lovers Rock greats such as Janet Kay, Carroll Thompson, Sandra Cross, Donna Rhoden, Sylvia Tella, Lorna Gee, Paulette Tajah, Winsome, Victor Romero Evans, Vivian Jones and Matumbi. Also on the bill are comedians Donna Spence and Robbie Gee. So dust off the Farahs and CG's, shine up the moccasins, and dally on down for a real rub-a-dub session.

Tickets: £15, £17.50 and £20

Time: 7-11pm

More: [Hackney Empire](#)

Courtney Pine



March 8 @ Theatre Royal Stratford East

Our second favourite saxophonist, Courtney Pine, leads the latest vintage of the Jazz Warriors in a performance of *Afropeans* at the Theatre Royal Stratford East. on March 8.

Did we hear "What is an Afropean?" [Check it out.](#)

Date: Sunday 8 March 2009

Time: 7:30pm

Tickets: £20 (£10 Concs)

Venue: Theatre Royal Stratford East

www.stratfordeast.com

The House of Plays



Tottenham, Feb 28

The House Of Plays contains 5 dramatic short plays which were devised/directed by students on the BAP Acting Workshop course for adults.

Guest Director: Judith Jacob (BBC Real Mckoy).

What: A Festival Of Plays.

When: Saturday 28 February 2009

Where: White Hart Lane, Tottenham N17

Time: Doors open 7.30pm show starts 8pm

Tickets: Tickets contact BAP on 0208 809 6878

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[Click here for more information of RESPECTisms Community](#)

Twinkle Brothers & Alliance of Afrikan Women

Since they threw the
combs away...



Feb 28, Brixton

Like many other top reggae outfits of the 1970s-early 80s (i.e. Culture & Burning Spear come to mind), the [Twinkle Brothers](#) fell out of mainstream favour as Jamaican popular music forgot its consciousness and became increasingly digitised, frantic and mainstream. However, they kept on making the righteous sounds they loved and felt we needed to hear. And now those roots stylings are back in the foreground where they belong.

Anyway, with over 40 years in the game, Norman & Ralston Grant know how to run a live show. So head for the [Brixton Jamm](#) on Feb 28.

And while you're in SW2, please check out the Alliance of Afrikan Women who invite the Afrikan family to a Black History Ball on the same night. There will be a fashion show, cultural artists performing and the vibes are guaranteed to be level.

Date: Saturday 28th February 2009

Time: 7.00pm until late

Venue: Karibu Centre, 7 Gresham Road, Brixton, London, SW9 7HP

Tickets: £20.00 - includes food and non- alcoholic drink, wine available for sale.

Note: Entrance will be by ticket only

Contacts: Nzingha - 07908203533 - anzingha@hotmail.com

Valerie - 07507581517

Winona - 07985618771

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educational and mentoring programmes.

For more information, contact editor@100bmol.org.uk

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- Brent: Bridge Park Centre, Brentfield, Harrow Rd, NW10 0RG, 11- 1pm
- Hammersmith and Fulham: (venue to be announced)
- Haringey: St Anne's Library, Cissbury Rd, N15 5PU (11-1pm)
- Islington: (venue & time to be announced)



South London

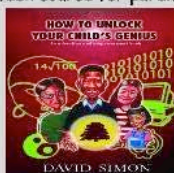
- Brixton: Ferndale Sports Centre, Nursery Rd SW9 8PB (9.30 - 11.30am)
- Croydon: St Joseph's College, Beulah Hill, SE19 3HL (11am - 1pm)
- Greenwich: Greenwich West Community Arts Centre, 141 Greenwich High Rd, SE10 8JA (1 - 3pm)
- Lewisham: St Hilda's Church, Courtrai Rd, SE23 (9.15-11.15am)
- Lewisham: St Dunstan's College, Stanstead Rd, Catford SE6 4TY (12- 2pm)
- Peckham: Peckham Library, Peckham Hill St, SE15 (2.30 -4.30pm)

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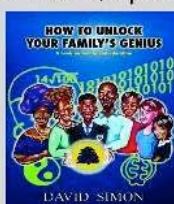


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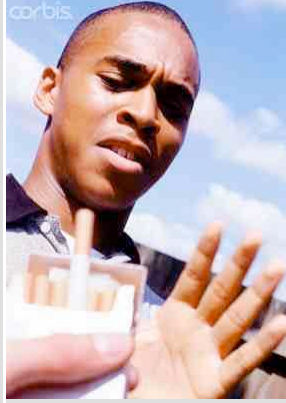
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No thanks, I'm chewing



March 11, No Smoking Day

March 11 is [National No Smoking Day](#).

With support groups and forums up and down the country its the perfect time to make a new attempt to drop the habit. If you are a 20 cigarettes a day smoker then after one year you will have halved your risk of a heart attack and have an extra £2000 in your pocket.

Of course you could use the extra 2 grand to buy more of some other stuff. But that would be unwise as, among other debilitating impacts, getting blunted can seriously reduce your thrust. US scientists have recently found that men who regularly smoke cannabis sharply increase their risk of suffering from [testicular cancer](#).

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April 11 2009, Camden Centre

ON THE DOWNLOAD



2 Face Idibia

Enter the Place is the hot Naija jam right now, performed by arguably its most consistent artist. Its standard party fare with Dr Dre and and bashment stylings, and all the standard ingredients are in plentiful supply (flaming red sports car, nightclub shades, chandeliers etc.). Nonetheless, any tune which holds it down by

pointing out that our men and women should come together like rice and peas gets a big pass.

[Enter the Place](#)

Tuface also has a more conscious side as illustrated by African Queen which featured in the film Phat Girlz. He's also recorded with Wyclef Jean (the classic Proud to be African), Beenie Man, R Kelly & Reggie Rockstone among others.

Check his [website](#).

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT



Words of wisdom for the month

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

Maya Angelou (1928-)

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