

# Important Black People in British History



# Ignatius Sancho

**Ignatius Sancho lived in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.**

**He was born on a slave ship and brought to England by his 'owner', where he worked as a butler. A butler is a person who works in a house as a servant.**

**He wrote plays, poetry and music and used this to speak out against the slave trade. He managed to open his own shop with his talents**

**He was the first Black person to be allowed to vote. At this time, you could only vote (like for a prime minister) if you owned property. Since most Black people were in slavery, they couldn't afford to buy property, so they could not vote.**



# Olaudah Equiano

**Olaudah Equiano was a slave in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.**

**He wrote a book about slavery which became very popular.**

**He managed to make enough money to buy his freedom.**

**He helped to abolish slavery.**



# Mary Seacole

**Mary Seacole was born in Jamaica over 200 years ago.**

**She spent most of her life taking care of ill people and making them better.**

**She travelled to England as an adult and took care of ill British soldiers.**

**During the Crimean War, Mary paid to travel to Crimea, where she created a hotel to care for ill soldiers.**



# William Cuffay

**William Cuffay was born in the West Indies over 200 years ago.**

**He was very important in protesting that Black and working men should be able to get jobs in the British parliament.**



# Una Marson

**Una Marson was born in Jamaica over 100 years ago.**

**She was a writer who moved to England.**

**She wrote a lot about feminism and racism.**

**Feminism is the belief that men and women should be treated equally.**



# Charles Wooten

**On June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1919, in Liverpool, Charles Wooten – who was 24 years old – was chased by an angry group of people. Charles was hit on the head by a rock and died.**

**This started the ‘race riots’. Black people were unhappy about their treatment and white people didn’t like Black people being in Liverpool.**

**There is a plaque in Liverpool to remember him.**



# Olive Morris

**Olive Morris was born in Jamaica about 70 years ago and moved to London when she was a child.**

**When she was 17 or 18, she saw some police officers beating a Black man and she tried to help the man. The police officers attacked and arrested Olive.**

**Throughout her life, Olive fought to end racial, sexual and class oppression.**

**She died from cancer when she was 27.**



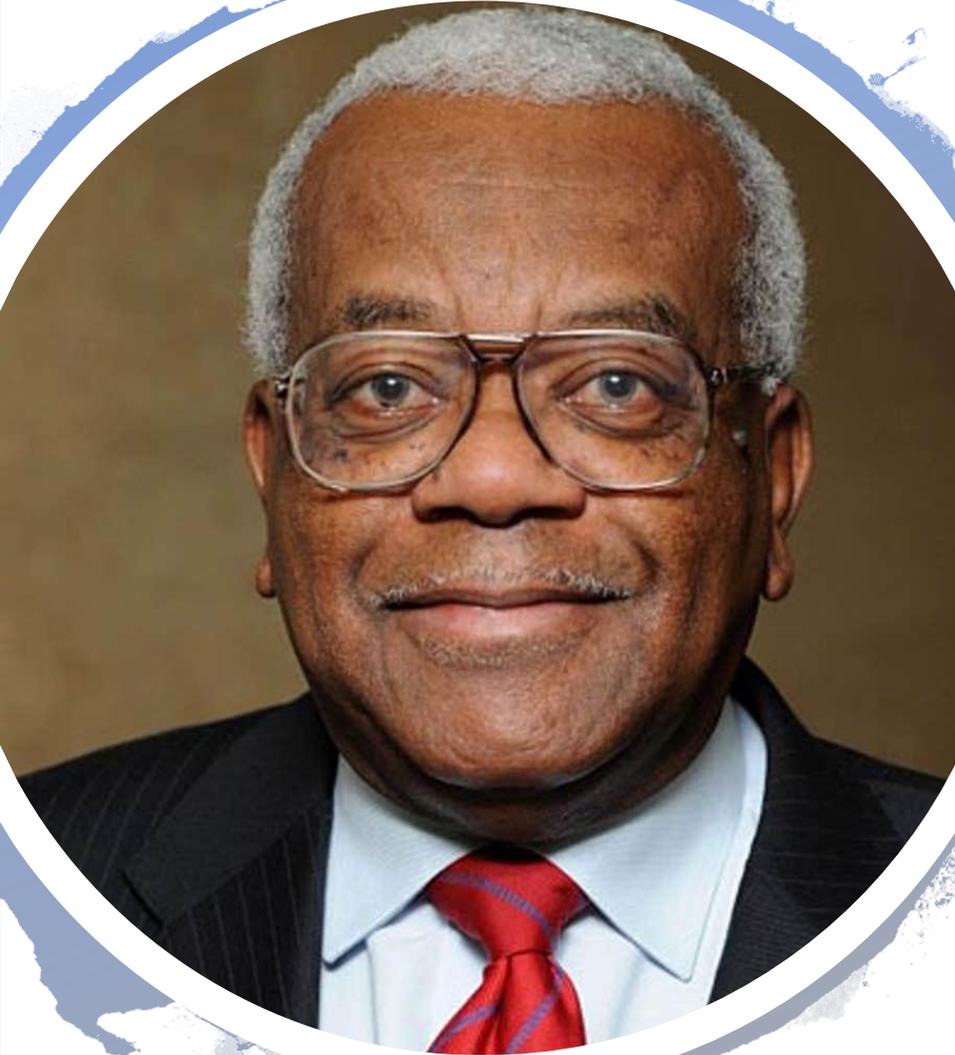
# Paul Stephenson

**Paul Stephenson was born in England in 1937.**

**He went to a school where he was the only Black child there.**

**He spent his life fighting to stop racism.**

**He became Bristol's first Black social worker.**



# Sir Trevor MacDonald

**Sir Trevor MacDonald was born in Trinidad in 1939.**

**He moved to London when he was an adult to work for BBC Radio.**

**He was the first Black TV news presenter.**



# Bernie Grant

**Bernie Grant was born in 1944 in British Guiana.**

**He came to England in 1963.**

**He spent his whole adult life working to get justice the rights upheld for Black and minority ethnic people.**

**He was our first Black councillor.**

**He was elected (voted by other people) to be a member of parliament for the labour party in 1987.**



# Cherry Groce

**Cherry Groce was born in Jamaica in 1948 and moved to England when she was a teenager.**

**During a police raid on her home, Cherry was shot by the police, which caused her to become paralysed from the waist down.**

**That meant she couldn't move her legs or walk, so she had to use a wheelchair for the rest of her life.**

**What happened to Cherry made a lot of people angry in Brixton, in London, and there were protests and riots.**

**After she died, the Cherry Groce Foundation was created to help Black and other ethnic groups who have disabilities.**



# Lennox Lewis

**Lennox Lewis was born in 1965.**

**He is one of the most successful British sportsmen of all time.**

**He was a boxer and won 41 out of the 44 professional fights he did.**

**He retired from boxing in 2004.**



# Val McCalla

**In 1982, Val McCalla started a newspaper that came out every week, called The Voice.**

**The Voice was, and still is, the only national black newspaper in the United Kingdom.**

**The Voice is a newspaper that talks about the issues affecting the Black community and celebrates Black people.**

**Val McCalla died in 2002, but The Voice is still a very successful newspaper and online newspaper.**



# Diane Abbott

**Diane Abbott was Britain's first Black woman MP. An MP is a member of parliament, someone that in the government that has a say in how we run the country.**

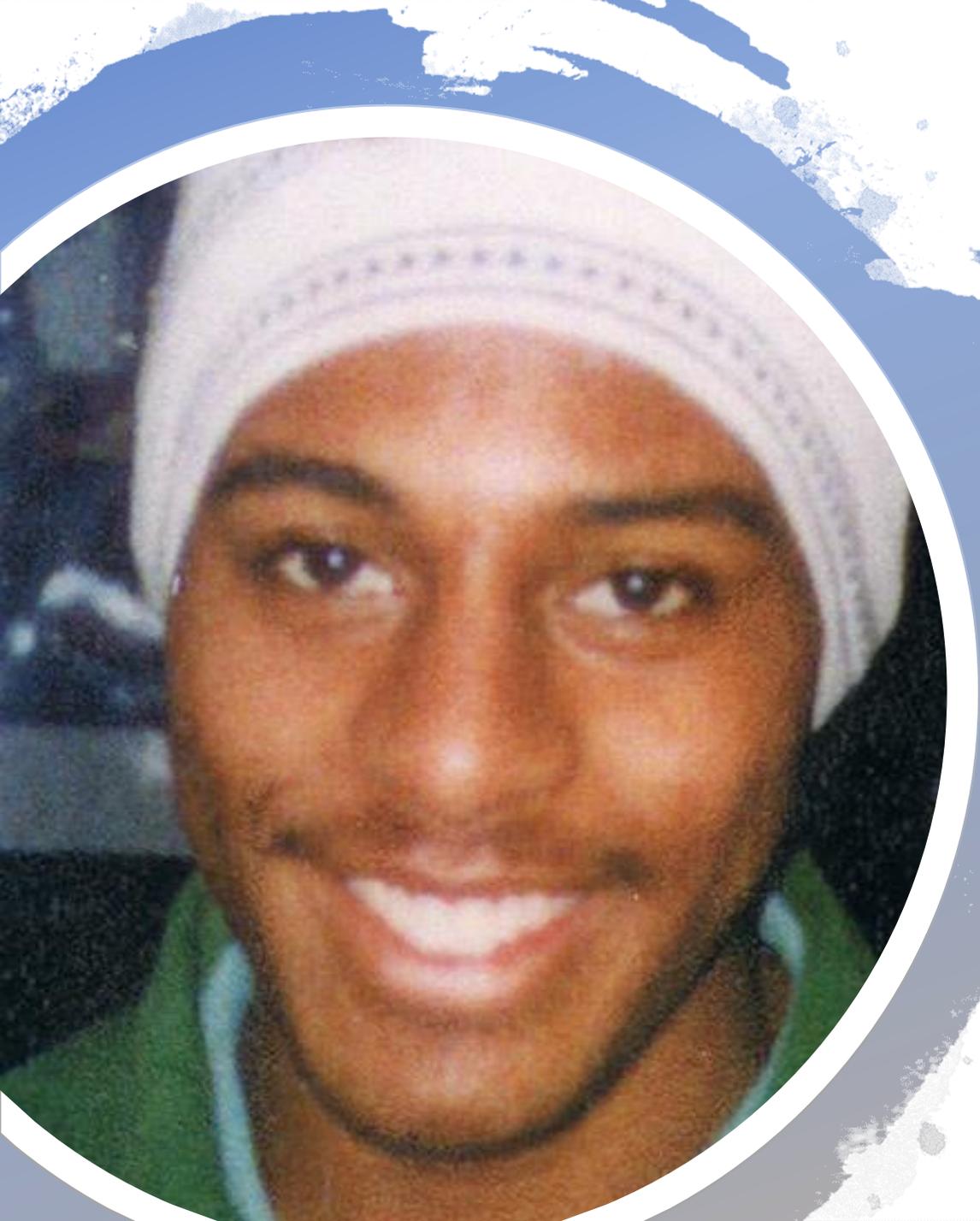
**She is in the labour party (one group of people in the government) and has been outspoken about issues with race.**



# Mark Duggan

**On August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Mark Duggan was shot dead by police in Tottenham, London.**

**Following his death, people protested for justice for Mark Duggan and his family. These began peaceful but then some people started being violent and setting fires and there were riots in many cities in England. Mark Duggan's family said they didn't agree with rioting.**



# Stephen Lawrence

**Stephen Lawrence lived in London.**

**He wanted to be an architect when he was older.**

**22<sup>nd</sup> April 1993, Stephen was crossing the road and he was attacked and stabbed by a group of white teenagers.**

**5 teenage boys were arrested but weren't charged with Stephen's murder.**

**19 years after Stephen's murder, two of the boys who murdered him were sent to jail for the crime.**

