



BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH  
WALLES CYMRU



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WALLES CYMRU



## Press Release From Race Council Cymru

The Black History Wales wide network acknowledge and celebrate 100 significant African/African Caribbean's, as our

### **11th Year Anniversary of Black History Month celebrations in Wales - Our 2018 Wales-wide theme is: ICONS OF BLACK WALES**

Race Council Cymru manages the Black History Wales wide (BHW) and Black History Cymru 365 portfolio in Wales and acknowledges the contributions made by Black people to local, national and world history and culture. It does this through delivering an informative educational and celebratory programme of events through the year, culminating in an end of year celebration of Black History Month in October annually. It encourages everyone, irrespective of ethnicity or colour, to take part in events, learn about our shared global history and celebrate diversity and cultural understanding.

Cardiff – the capital of Wales – was one Britain's first multi-cultural cities, where numerous nationalities have lived side-by-side for decades.

BHM Wales is hosted by Race Council Cymru (RCC), which is the overarching umbrella body in Wales established by ethnic minority community who work to combat racial prejudice, race

discrimination, harassment, abuse and violence. RCC promotes art, heritage and cultural activities for Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities across Wales. Black History Month Wales is a network that engages, educates and empowers individuals, community groups and Wales-wide communities in acknowledging and recognising the contributions that the African Diaspora has made in the history of Wales' economic and cultural development. It also allows the wider community to take part, learn and celebrate together to promote understanding and share our global history.

The ultimate goal is to see meaningful activities happening all year round, 365 – hence our Black History 5-year strategy BHCumru365 for all the days of the year and not just in October. **Black History is Welsh history and should be studied, celebrated and showcased as part the national curriculum, additional educational activities, artistic programmes, College and University Studies and Museum and Gallery exhibits.**

This year marks the 11th Year Anniversary of Black History Month celebrations across Wales and we are delighted to announce that the theme for Black History Month 2018 is **'Icons of Black Wales'**

These icons may be Welsh or have touched Wales in some way.

Over the past few months, we have been asking our grassroots communities to nominate significant individuals whose work and contributions have been impactful for recognition and acknowledgment across Wales to mark the theme

Icons of Black Wales and we have been overwhelmed by the brilliant contributions people of African descent and diaspora have been making here in Wales, both those on the list and many who's names are not featured on the list.

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## **Upcoming Black History Month Events Around Wales**

Working with Walesonline, the nominations have been narrowed down to a 100 significant African/African Caribbean's. The list will be published online on the 28th of September 2018 11.30am – 4.30pm to align with the launch of Black History Month with a Black History Youth Awards in Wales hosted by Professor Mark Drakeford AM with special guest Lord Herman Ouseley at the Pierhead Building Cardiff Ba, Performance by Kizzy Crawford & Ify Iwobi – **Free Event and all welcome to attend.**

The Creative Arts Launch will take place the following day on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September from 11.30am-4.30pm at St Fagans National Museum of History.** This event will include the unveiling of parliamentary portraits, music performances and much more. It will be launched by Vaughan Gething AM and Joyce Watson AM; with performances by Kizzy Crawford and Band, Wahda Placide Duo flex, Melissa Dunkley, SOEL Connect Gospel Choir etc, Acapella Choir from Atlantic College - **Free Event and all welcome to attend.**

**The Bangor Launch will take place on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September from 12 Midday-4.00pm at Bangor Town Clock and then parade onto Bangor Town Hall.** This event will include music, drumming and poetry - **Free Event and all welcome to attend.**

**On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September from 2.00pm-6.00pm there will be the launch in Wrexham at Ty Pawb on Market Street.** There will be African dances, hip-hop music and more - **Free Event and all welcome to attend.**

On Monday 1st of October 9.30am - 4.30pm, the Police and Crime Commissioner In Dyfed Powys Dafydd Llywelyn will partner with Race Council Cymru, Aber Fund and Aberystwyth University Students Union at Student Union Main Hall, Aberystwyth University, with Jazzy Africana, Bongo Clive, Wahda etc. - **Free Event and all welcome to attend.**

There is a Windrush themed event on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October from 9pm-10.45pm at Ffresh, Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff Bay and in Wrexham, there shall be a Workshop: Tribute to Cesaria Evora from 7pm till late at Vasco da Gama, 30-32 Lord St, Wrexham – **Tickets may be purchased from Wales Millennium Centre Box Office – call 01792 475715.**

On 8<sup>th</sup> October, Swansea will have two events at Swansea Grand Theatre (Arts Wing), firstly there is a Race Equality Conference from 9.30am-2.30pm **Free Event and all welcome to attend click this link to register for the conference free of charge:**

<https://www.4theregion.com/events-1/wales-race-equality-conference>

and in the evening of the same day, there will be the Swansea launch of Black History Month from 6.00pm-9.00pm – with performances by Bob Bailey and the Jailers, Nimba, Bevin Magama the story teller. Events are hosted in partnership with the City and County of Swansea and 4TheRegion - **tickets may be purchased from Swansea Grand Theatre Box Office.**

At Ffresh in the Wales Millennium Centre on October 13<sup>th</sup> from 9pm-10.45pm, there shall be a storytelling event - **tickets may be purchased from Wales Millennium Centre Box Office.**

On 15th October from 9.30am-4.30pm there is the Black History

**Month launch in Newport at the Riverfront Theatre and Art Centre on the Kingsway.** This event is in conjunction with the Police and Crime Commissioner of Gwent Jeff Cuthbert performances by Zim Voices, Sun of Africa, and others - **Free Event and all welcome to attend.**

At Swansea Museum on the 16<sup>th</sup> October from 10.30am-12.30pm there is the unveiling of the FirstWaves Parliamentary Exhibition. This exhibition focuses on the impact of the Race Relations Act 1968 **Free Event and all welcome to attend.**

On 17<sup>th</sup> October from 6.00pm-8.00pm there shall be a film screening of 'I am not a Witch' hosted by Vaughan Gething AM, Race Council Cymru and Watch-Africa at Pierhead Building Cardiff Bay - **Free Event and all welcome to attend.**

On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October from 11.30am-6.00pm we are hosting a Youth event at the Wales Millennium centre (Glanfa stage), featuring New Town Kings and Reuel Elijah, Crossing Borders Music and Heritage Musicians and Dancers funded by Heritage Lottery Young Roots Fund, as well as an open-mic. On the same evening, there will be another youth event at Ffresh at the Wales Millennium Centre, which will have a Young Performers and Entertainers music at 9pm – 10.45pm - **tickets may be purchased from Wales Millennium Centre Box Office.**

The 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018 marks the official anniversary of 50 years of the Race Relations Act 1968. **The Race Equality Conference will be held in Cardiff at the Pierhead Building in Cardiff Bay from 10.00am-4.00pm.** Hosted by Julie James AM, Leader of the House and Chief Whip. Speakers include Julie James LOH & Chief Whip, Simon Woolley Director Operation Black Vote, Dr Paul Hutchings, Ali Abdi etc. - **Free Event and all welcome to attend.** Please click on this link to register your attendance:

<https://racecouncilcymru.org.uk/race-equality-conference-2018-hosted-by-julie-james-am-welsh-government>

Remembrance Service in Recognition of the contributions of Black Asian and Minority Ethnic Men and Women to the First and Second World Wars, **2nd November 2018, 6pm for 6.30pm – 8.30pm, Temple of Peace, Cardiff** – Organised by Race Council Cymru in partnership with Welsh Government, WCIA, British Legion and Horn Development Association - **Free Event and all welcome to attend**

**The Grand Finale will be held at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November from 11.30am to 6.00pm** featuring Bob Bailey and the Jailers, Ify Iwobi and Co band, Ma Bessie and her Blues Band, Sun of Africa etc. and the event will be opened by our Hon First Minister Carwyn Jones AM.

[VIEW ALL UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

Black History Wales Wide programmes are funded by Arts Council Wales, Welsh Government and other kind supporters and contributors without who's support these events would not have been possible.

If you would like to know more about our Black History Month events across Wales, please visit our website <https://bhmwales.org.uk> **Twitter:** [@BHMWales](#) **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/BHMWales/>

For general information about Race Council Cymru, please visit <https://racecouncilcymru.org.uk/> **Twitter:** [@rccymru](#) **Facebook:** <https://en-gb.facebook.com/rccymru/> Alternatively please email: [info@racecouncilcymru.org.uk](mailto:info@racecouncilcymru.org.uk) or phone us on: 07838 360979

Lead Funders- Arts Council Wales, Big Lottery Fund, Wales Millennium Centre, National Museums Wales, Royal College of Music and Drama, Welsh Government, BAWSO, EYST, Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner, Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner, Unison Cymru, Cardiff MET, University of Wales Trinity St David (UWTSD) Aber Fund, 4thRegion, Admiral and all stall holders whose contributions have made Black History Month 2018 possible. Thank you all – Join us as we celebrate our

year of honouring Icons of African descent.

**ENDS**

**Note to Editor:** Please feel free to send a representative to these events but we would be grateful if you could advise us of your intention on 07838 360979 / 07862735791 / 07862693960 or [info@racecouncilcymru.org.uk](mailto:info@racecouncilcymru.org.uk)