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UNIVERSITY OF
ABERDEEN

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

1-31 OCTOBER 2022



#BHMUK2022



October is **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**, a time to celebrate the extraordinary contributions that Black people have made in the UK and beyond. Initiated by American historian Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of African Life and History (ASALH) in 1926, it comprises a series of events each October, to promote Black history and acknowledge the achievements of Black people. Observed across the world, Black History Month continues to educate, inspire and motivate millions of people, whilst acting as a catalyst for change.

We are delighted to present the University's programme for **BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2022**. There are a range of events on offer, including discussion sessions and food tastings, pamper sessions and podcasts, all of which will provide opportunities for our community to engage with the theme of this year's celebration - **TIME FOR CHANGE: ACTION NOT WORDS**.

The theme this year resonates with us, as we progress our antiracism work. Since last year's celebrations, we have continued to prioritise this work through the University's strategic plan, Aberdeen 2040, and our **Antiracism Strategy which was launched in 2022**. The Strategy commits us to creating safe working and learning environments and to fostering a true sense of belonging for our staff and students, with this being overseen by the Race Equality Strategy Group (RESG).

Building on training delivered in 2021, race literacy training was offered to staff and postgraduate research students earlier in the year. During 2022, we established an Antiracism Roundtable with our local partners such as the North-East Scotland Police division, NHS Grampian, Aberdeen City Council, and Grampian Regional Equality Council (GREC) to identify where shared action could support antiracist work in the northeast of Scotland.

Our thriving Staff and Postgraduate Research Race Equality Network continues to raise awareness of race-related issues in the Higher Education sector, empowering staff and postgraduate students and providing support when needed. Throughout the academic year, the BAME Students Forum has hosted events such as a Black Asian Minority Ethnic LGBTQIA+ Consent Workshop for Pride Month and DJ sets featuring Afro-fusion, neo-soul, African jazz, and Afro-funk/disco music.

Last year, **21 Race Equality Champions were appointed**. They are a point of contact for staff and students for advice, guidance, to share ideas, or just for a listening ear.

While **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** provides an important opportunity to celebrate our Black community, it is also a time to reflect. We understand that our commitment to racial equality on our campuses is an ongoing journey and one that requires action from all members of the University of Aberdeen community.

We hope you enjoy the **BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2022** programme and we encourage you to support and engage in our wider race equality work. Through our collective effort and dedication, we will make positive changes so that all staff and students can reach their full potential and experience a sense of belonging in the University and in the Northeast of Scotland.

Professor Siladitya Bhattacharya & Professor Ruth Taylor, Co-conveners of the Race Equality Strategy Group.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

1 - 9 OCTOBER

SATURDAY 1 OCTOBER

Black Pound Day

MONDAY 3 OCTOBER

Student Union's Black History Month Playlist

10 - 17 OCTOBER

MONDAY 10 - 14

BeWell & Inclusion Week
BeWell Podcast

TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER

Tasty T (Sample Nigerian dishes)

WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER

Black Girls' Pamper Night (Student only event)

18 - 31 OCTOBER

FRIDAY 21 OCTOBER

Intersectional Cellist - Simone Seales

WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER

Climate Injustice: Decolonising Climate Change'



BLACK POUND DAY

Black Pound Day is a UK wide campaign to invest in Black businesses and entrepreneurship. It happens every month on the **first Saturday of the month**.

This October we wanted to add it to the program to share awareness on how you can partake regularly. See blackpoundday.uk and follow The Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic Students' Forum on social media [@ausabame](https://twitter.com/ausabame) to find local businesses.

STUDENT UNION'S BHM PLAYLIST



Our student officers Akua and Vanessa have put together a playlist of their favourite tunes and classics to celebrate Black History Month.

**NEED TO
FIND SOME
NEW MUSIC?**

**YOU'RE
WELCOME!**

Check out the **BAME Spotify List** included in the website for more information.

BEWELL PODCAST



The **BeWell Podcast series** kicked off in October 2020 with the episode "World Mental Health Day: Mental Health and Racism".

2 years later we will be recording a new episode for season 3 of the podcast series "Black History Month: Action not Words"



BEWELL & INCLUSION WEEK

Times: Week commencing **10th October**

Venue: Old Aberdeen & Foresterhill Campuses

Price: **FREE** / Drop-in, booking required for some taster events

BeWell and Inclusion Week takes place across our Aberdeen Campuses 10 – 14 October to raise awareness of the different pillars of mental health and wellbeing, empowering and supporting our community to make a positive change in their lives.

Check out the full programme for details. Highlights include the **BeWell & Inclusion Fairs** and the **AUSA Live lounge hosted by DJ Hazel**. Both will provide a relaxed environment to meet other people, learn about the support available and win some fabulous prizes.

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/students/support/bewell-4038.php>

TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER



Times: 12 - 2PM

Venue: Union Brew, SUB Building,
Elphinstone Road,
University of Aberdeen

Price: Drop-In

Pop down to Union Brew to enjoy some **FREE** samples of Nigerian food from the fantastic TastyT restaurant and be in with the chance of winning some excellent prizes!



WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER



Times: 7 - 10PM

Venue: The Old Senate Room, University of Aberdeen

Price: **£2**, Pay at the door

An evening on campus for self-care, enjoyment, and good vibes. Join us to meet new people and relax! This is a safe space organised by the students' union and The Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic Students' Forum. If you have any questions, please contact: ausapresident@abdn.ac.uk or bame-forum@abdn.ac.uk



FRIDAY 21 OCTOBER

INTERSECTIONAL CELLIST - **SIMONE SEALES**

Originally from Florida, **Simone Seales** is a Glasgow-based cellist who completed their postgraduate studies at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in 2021. They focus on free improvisation (both tonal and atonal) and devising music for theatre. Simone is passionate about exploring sound, how sound can reflect emotional states of being and how emotions are embodied. Their creative influences come from Black feminist leaders such as Audre Lorde, Assata Shakur and bell hooks. Within Simone's creative work, they centre Blackness, sexuality, intersectional feminism and anti-racism. They believe Western Classical musicians are capable of making meaningful social change. Passionate about reaching new audiences and increasing access to arts education, Simone is a Senior Lead Ambassador and the Teaching Ambassador Coordinator for the Benedetti Foundation, and focuses on trauma-informed teaching practices.

Simone is currently the Young Artist in Residence for Chamber Music Scotland, a recipient of the Sphinx MPower Grant, and they are the co-artistic director of 'demo theatre collective'. Recently, Simone has received grants from Chamber Music Scotland and National Theatre Scotland in partnership with NEUROSTAGES. They are also in residency alongside their dear friend and collaborator Rylan Gleave with BOOM at Oxford Contemporary Music (OCM).

<http://simoneseales.com>

PARTICIPATORY EVENT: **INTERSECTIONALITY AND CROSS-DISCIPLINARY ENGAGEMENT**

Times: 11 - 12PM

Venue: King's Pavillion, University of Aberdeen

Price: **FREE**, No Booking required

An hour-long event led by Simone Seales who will discuss the importance of speaking to and connecting with people in a variety of fields. Together with the audience, Simone will question the importance of knowing and engaging in conversations with scientists, artists, doctors, paramedics, bin collectors, and custodians. Most people can agree that community is important, but what does that look like in practice? How do we actively value the people in our communities?

PERFORMANCE: **HOPE AND JOY**

Times: 7 - 8.30PM

Venue: King's Pavillion, University of Aberdeen

Price: **FREE**, No Booking required

Since the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement in 2020, there has been an increased focus and criticism of trauma porn, an acknowledgement of Black anger, and a rise in discussion of anti-racist policies. This has left little space for the exploration of Black joy, hope, and love. In this hour-performance, Simone Seales hopes to create room for more positive feelings and discussions around these experiences through the mediums of poetry and music. The audience is encouraged to engage in topics of joy, hope, and love, and to hold their pain and sorrows with compassion. Simone will also be joined by their dance collaborator **Taylor Han**.



WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER

CLIMATE INJUSTICE: **DECOLONISING CLIMATE CHANGE**

Times: Please check out website for event detail updates.

Venue: More event details to be updated soon.

Price: **FREE**, No Booking required

The Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Students' Forum together with the Students' Union is hosting a panel talk with external and our university's own speakers who are passionate about decolonising the discourse on climate change.

In this panel talk discussions will focus on the realities of capitalism, the global colour line, and social justice in the global climate crisis. Join for a discussion on climate injustice with activists, professionals, and those eager to learn more.



LOOK OUT FOR



B BLACKWELL'S
FOR LEARNING · FOR LIFE

Blackwell's Aberdeen is offering **3 FOR 2** on all books in their **Black History Month Display**, which were chosen by the staff and students of the University of Aberdeen.

Pop along to browse their selection in the **High Street, Old Aberdeen Branch**.

INTRODUCING **UNION BLACK**

Did you know that university students and staff in the UK still experience racial harassment and exclusion because of their race?

Santander Universities and **@futurelearn** are pleased to present **'Introducing Union Black'**, a one-hour course which is designed to introduce learners to some of the concepts and learning experiences in the full course and help build confidence as a change agent for equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging.

Sign up to start the course **here**.

Promo Video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Er2ix3cWKTE>



COMPETITION: CREATE '23 BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAMME GRAPHICS!

What does Black History Month in University of Aberdeen mean to you as a student? Show us through a design! Now is your chance to make sure the branding reflects how we as students celebrate and commemorate Black History Month.

The Student's Union and UoA Student Experience are giving out new Beats headphones for the winner. The winner will be chosen by representatives from the Student Union, Student Experience, and Events Marketing team.

You can send in your design to ausapresident@abdn.ac.uk, from the 17th of October to 14th of November – the winner shall be contacted at the end of November.

Win
A PAIR OF BEATS
HEADPHONES*



* BEATS IN IMAGE DO NOT
REPRESENT THE PAIR YOU CAN WIN

#BHMUK2022

MS: CL0922