



Reach Society

Building Connections

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Patrons: Lord Herman Ouseley, Prof Trevor Williams, Mr John Budu-Aggrey & Prof Sir Geoff Palmer Newsletter Issue: 012

Welcome: Dear Friends & Supporters, This is a Special Issue of the Newsletter that is designed to launch the new idea of a **“Windrush Day Thanksgiving in the family.”** This is an opportunity for the Modern Black Community (or MBC) to own this symbolic opportunity. This idea does not require a grant or any external funding to make it happen: **“It is for us, by us!”**



Why Windrush Day Thanksgiving in the Family? On 22 June 2018, the first Windrush Day Thanksgiving Service was held in Westminster Abbey. It was attended by more than 2,300 members of the MBC, government officials and the Queen's representative marking this symbolic date.

Furthermore, Reach Society has estimated that in Britain there are roughly 750,000 families in the MBC, and we believe that each one should use the symbolic value of Windrush Day to share, with their children and grandchildren, the story of the development of the Black community in the UK since 1948.

Additionally, although the Windrush Day is inspired by the arrival of Caribbean people in the UK on a ship, the Empire Windrush in 1948, migrants from African countries should also embrace the Windrush Day in the family idea as they too are of the MBC, and have contributed a great deal to the UK.

It is for these reasons that Reach Society is urging families, and groups of friends, in the MBC to use the first Sunday after Windrush Day to talk about their extended family's experiences in the UK, to talk about the changes in the MBC since 1948, and to talk about their hopes for the future. Sunday 23 June 2019 will be the first chance to celebrate Windrush Day in the family.

What Windrush Day Thanksgiving in the Family Means? Reach Society believes that by families in the MBC choosing to talk about the story of their journey, and their range of contributions in the UK since 1948, they will be taking responsibility for ensuring that their children, grandchildren, and future family members know of their origins, and what it takes to shape their future.

Dr Dwain A Neil, Chairman, Reach Society

Study and Work! Africans came to the UK after the Second World War, to study and work, thus laying down the African roots of the MBC. There was no similar landmark voyage. Rather it was a gradual migration of Africans from the 1950s and 1960s. Thus, the MBC comprises people of Caribbean and African backgrounds, plus people of Dual Heritage. It's commonly known that the host community regards Black people, irrespective of origin, in the same light. Consequently, everyone in the MBC should take the

opportunity of **“Windrush Day Thanksgiving in the family”** to acknowledge how far our community has come in the UK, and continue working to shape our future growth and development. **Professor Frank Chinegwundoh, Barts Health NHS Trust**

We Really Don't Know Grandma's Stories! Talking about our journey, especially those of my parents' early days, with family members revealed that we need to reconnect with the pioneering zeal of those early settlers, why they came, what they encountered, how they overcame challenges and obstacles and the legacy they now leave behind. My nephew sums it up well: **“...we really don't know grandma's stories.”**

“The Windrush Thanksgiving Day in the family” gives us a target day to prepare for, to get excited about, to recognise and remember those who paved the way to provide a platform of opportunities that we can be proud of and are using. **Karl Murray, Independent Organisational and Strategy Consultant**

The First Sunday After the 22 June 2019! As a business owner who has trained hundreds of young adults to become self-employed in the construction sector, I can see the symbolic importance of *The Windrush Day Thanksgiving in the family* (Sunday, 23 June) for all migrants in the Modern Black Community who have chosen to make the UK their home.

My local church has agreed to encourage families to talk with their children and grandchildren about the meaning of Windrush Day in their own families on the first Sunday, after the 22 June 2019. In addition, my pastor has agreed to encourage other church leaders to adopt a similar approach with their church congregations across London.

I hope other business owners and people of faith will follow this example for spreading the word of the Windrush Day Thanksgiving in the family (on 23 June 2019), across our community, and in the period of the Windrush Day season. **John Budu-Aggrey, Alpha BSE, Director**

Modern Black Community Supporters Reach Society is aware of many others in the community who fully support the idea of a Windrush Day Thanksgiving in the family, and who see it as a beneficial symbol for the MBC. Some notable advocates are:
○ **Sir Geoff Palmer**, Professor, Heriot-Watt University;
○ **Dr Patrick Vernon OBE**, Founder of Every Generation Media;
○ **Professor Clive Fraser**, Professor of Economics, University of Leicester; and
○ **Angela Clarke**, Executive Director, Council of Leaders in the Black community.

About Reach Society It was founded by a group of professional Black men in 2010. Its core purpose is **to encourage, motivate and inspire young people, especially our boys and young men**, to own the development of their potential and make viable transitions into adult life.