

MARY PRINCE

1788 – sometime after 1833

Mary Prince was born in Bermuda to an enslaved African family. When brought to England in 1828, Prince fled her slave owners and was taken in by the Anti-Slavery Society. Though a free woman in Britain, she risked becoming enslaved again if she were to travel back to Bermuda. With help from the Society, she petitioned Parliament for the freedom of herself and all other enslaved people in the Caribbean, thus becoming the first woman in Britain to ever petition Parliament!

She began working for writer and secretary of the Society, Thomas Pringle, recounting the brutality of her enslavement to him. In 1831, her book *The History of Mary Prince* was published, becoming the first book by a Black woman to be published in Britain! To date, hers is the only autobiographical account of a formerly enslaved woman. Its story had a great impact, and six months later Britain saw the total abolishment of slavery.



WAAD AL-KATEAB

1931 – present

When protests against the Assad regime broke out in Syria in 2011, Al-Kateab taught herself how to film and become a journalist in an attempt to document the horrors around her. During this time, she began reporting for Channel 4, creating a series of reports titled 'Inside Aleppo'. These reports became the most-watched pieces on Channel 4 News, gaining almost half a billion views and 24 awards!

Al-Kateab decided to stay in Aleppo and document her life, which then became the basis for her feature film 'For Sama'. 'For Sama' became the most nominated documentary in the history of the BAFTAs and went on to win Best Documentary! After fleeing Aleppo in 2016, Al-Kateab now resides in London with her husband and their two daughters. She continues to work with Channel 4 and also works on Action for Sama - her campaign which focuses on raising awareness of the suffering in Syria, specifically the continued targeting of Syrian healthcare facilities.



QUEEN NANNY OF THE MAROONS

roughly 1685 – roughly 1733

Queen Nanny of the Maroons was the leader of the Jamaican Windward Maroons, and is now a Jamaican hero. In 18th Century, the Windward Maroons escaped the plantation and sought refuge in the nearby mountains. Nanny founded Nanny Town, a village in the Blue Mountains where her people could live in peace away from the European Settlements.

With Nanny's great leadership strategies, she freed almost 1,000 enslaved people during her lifetime and helped orchestrate many successful battles, leaving the British colonies suffering great losses. She is currently the only woman to have received the Order of National Hero, Jamaica's highest civic award and appears on the country's \$500 note.

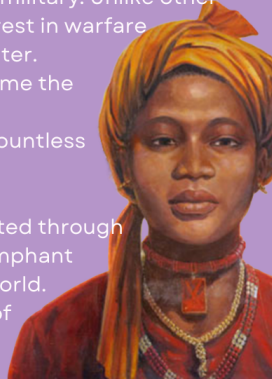


QUEEN AMINA

around 1533 – around 1610

Also known as the warrior queen, Queen Amina was a Hausa woman who ruled during the 16th Century over what we now know as Zaria, Nigeria. Whilst her brother was reigning King of Zazzau, Amina trained ruthlessly to become a warrior, gaining respect from the male-dominated Zazzau military. Unlike other women of her time, Amina took great interest in warfare and became an impressive and skilled fighter. Following her brother's death, Amina became the first queen of her people, and went on to successfully expand her empire and win countless battles and conquests.

Although much of Amina's life is documented through folktales, her legacy as a fearless and triumphant queen lives on in Nigeria and around the world. Amina represents the strength and spirit of womanhood.



NOOR INAYAT KHAN

1914 – 1944

Khan was a British wartime secret agent of Indian Muslim descent. In late 1942, she was recruited to join the Special Operations Executive as a radio operator, becoming the first female operative to be sent into Nazi-occupied France. In October of 1943, however, she was betrayed. Despite being imprisoned, sent to solitary confinement and subjected to repeated torture, Khan refused to give up any information. The following year she was transferred to a concentration camp where she was shot.



For her defiance and courage, Khan was posthumously awarded the George Cross in 1949.

CLAUDIA JONES

1915 – 1964

Claudia Jones was an activist, journalist and the founder of Notting Hill Carnival! Originally born in Trinidad but later moved with her family to America, Jones had a great interest in Communist politics and fought tirelessly for the emancipation of Black women. However, her outspoken approach posed a threat to the US status quo, and in 1955, she was deported and later offered residency in the UK.

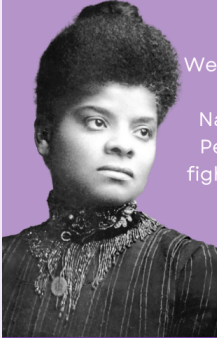
Racial tensions had been growing in the UK throughout the 1950s, with an influx of Caribbean migrants creating resentment amongst the white working-class population. This tension acted as a catalyst for the 1958 Notting Hill Riots, which saw crowds of white youths chasing Caribbean people through the streets of Notting Hill, London. It was this that inspired Jones to hold what we now know as Notting Hill Carnival, as an attempt to forget the horrific events and instead, celebrate Caribbean culture.



IDA B. WELLS

1862 - 1931

Born into an enslaved family, Ida B. Wells was an American Civil Rights activist, feminist and journalist. Triggered by her own experiences with racism, she began writing about issues of race and politics in the South for Black newsletters and periodicals. In 1892, Wells focused her work on anti-lynching, following the murder of one of her friends by a lynch mob. Wells began an anti-lynching campaign that she later brought to the White House in a call for reform.



Wells also formed several civil rights organisations and played a great role in what we now know as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She was an indomitable figure in the fight for women's suffrage and her dedication to Black women's rights played a crucial role in the passage of the 1913 Illinois Equal Suffrage Act.

MARY KENNER

1912 - 2006

Mary Kenner was born into a family of inventors, with her father sparking her interest in discovery and creation. She went on to invent an adjustable sanitary belt with an in-built, moisture-proof napkin pocket - which we now know as the sanitary pad!

Although her patent application was approved in 1956, the first company to show interest immediately rejected her after finding out she was Black. Kenner sadly never made any money from her sanitary belt as other companies also refused to work with her and the patent expired and became public domain, allowing it to be freely commercially manufactured.



BENAZIR BHUTTO

1953 - 2007

Benazir Bhutto was the Prime Minister of Pakistan, serving two terms in 1988-90 and 1993-96. Gaining political degrees at both Harvard University and Oxford University, Bhutto took on from her father's leadership of the centre-left political party, Pakistan Peoples Party.

In 1988, Bhutto was elected as Prime Minister, making her one of the youngest chief executives in the world and the first ever female Prime Minister of a Muslim nation! She was an ardent supporter of women's rights, dedicated to undoing the damage of Pakistan's oppressive patriarchal laws. During her governance, Bhutto implemented women's studies centres, Pakistan's first women's bank, and other initiatives to help regain women's autonomy.

In late 2007, she was tragically assassinated at an election rally and to the present day, she stands as Pakistan's only female Prime Minister.



SOJOURNER TRUTH

1797 - 1883

Sojourner Truth was an American abolitionist and civil rights activist. Formerly enslaved, in 1827, Sojourner managed to run away to an abolitionist family who bought her freedom for \$20. Sojourner became a preacher, speaking on the evils of enslavement. In 1851, Sojourner joined a women's rights tour and whilst at Ohio Women's Rights Convention she delivered her infamous speech, 'Ain't I a Woman?', demanding equal rights for all women.



"That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman? Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man - when I could get it - and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne thirteen children, and seen most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me! And ain't I a woman?"

- Sojourner Truth, *Ain't I a Woman?*

BESSIE COLEMAN

1892 - 1926

Bessie Coleman was the first Black woman to hold a pilot's license. Initially, Coleman applied to many flight schools across America, though was declined for being Black and a woman. After taking French lessons, she later got accepted into a French flying school where she received her international pilot's license in 1921, becoming the first American to do so! Coleman returned to the US where she gave speeches and showed off her air tricks. She was known for her defiant nature, and refused to speak anywhere that segregated or discriminated against Black people. Coleman's dream had always been to open a flight school to inspire other Black people and break down the barriers of becoming a pilot. Three years after her tragic death caused by a plane malfunction, the Bessie Coleman Aero Club was established, encouraging many Black pilots to also follow their dreams.



MISS MAJOR GRIFFIN-GRACY

1940 - present

Miss Major Griffin-Gracy is a transgender activist who has been fighting for the rights of trans people - specifically trans women of colour - for over 40 years. After moving to New York in the 60s, she soon discovered that most of the city's gay bars heavily excluded trans women. She began frequenting at the Stonewall Inn, and was there on the night of the police raid that was the catalyst for the Stonewall Riots. After a stint in prison, Miss Major focused her activism on helping incarcerated trans people, becoming the long-time executive director of the Transgender Gender Variant Intersex Justice Project, an organisation advocating for trans people of colour who are disproportionality incarcerated under the prison-industrial complex.



WILMA MANKILLER

1945 - 2010

Wilma Mankiller was an activist and member of the Cherokee Nation, who fought hard for the rights of Indigenous Americans. As a young person, her family was affected by the relocation and 'termination' laws that ended government support for Native Americans in an attempt to move Native peoples from their tribal lands into cities. When forced to relocate to San Francisco, it was here she began campaigning for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and for the reversal of these laws. In 1985, she became the first woman to serve as principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, a position she held for a decade. During her career, Mankiller worked tirelessly to improve conditions for Indigenous peoples, such as improving rural Cherokee community services, and bringing running water to some indigenous areas for the first time.



HUDA SHA'ARAWI

1879 - 1947

Huda Sha'arawi was an Egyptian nationalist, feminist leader, and suffragette. Sha'arawi was born into a prestigious family in the harem system - in which women were confined to secluded apartments within the home and wore face veils when going outside. Angered at the oppression she faced, in 1923, she founded the Egyptian Feminist Union, fighting for reforms to personal status laws and increased educational opportunities for girls and women. Sha'arawi continued to be an outspoken opponent of the place of women in Egyptian society. Also in 1923, when travelling home from a women's suffrage convention, she famously removed her face veil in a train station, causing a commotion. Sha'arawi remained president of the Egyptian Feminist Union for the rest of her life and became the founding president of the Arab Feminist Union in 1945.



WANGARI MAATHAI

1940 - 2011

Wangari Maathai was a Kenyan environmental and political activist and the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. After attending an American university, Maathai became the first woman in East Africa to earn a doctorate, gaining a PhD from the University of Nairobi. In 1977, she founded non-governmental organisation, the Green Belt Movement, in response to the deteriorating environmental conditions in the rural regions of Kenya. Through the Green Belt Movement, Maathai mobilised thousands of people to plant millions of trees throughout Kenya, subsequently restoring streams and providing fuel and food communities. She was later elected as a Member of Parliament, where she fought tirelessly for environmental and women's rights. In 2004, Maathai was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her 'contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace'.



KIMBERLÉ CRENSHAW

1959 - present

Kimberlé Crenshaw is a professor, civil rights advocate and one of the most important figures in Critical Race Theory. In the 1980s, when exploring anti-discrimination laws, Crenshaw grew increasingly aware of how gender and race were looked at separately. Consequently, the justice system was failing Black and other women of colour experiencing overlapping forms of discrimination. She then developed the theoretical framework of intersectionality to explain what happens to individuals who experience multiple forms of oppression. Although this concept was not new, it was not formally recognized until Crenshaw's theory. With Black women at the center of her work, she developed this now widely popularised notion, to question why discrimination in dominant ideals is typically described along a singular axis, when in actuality, it operates in a multifaceted way.

