

In this month's  
newsletter...

- Media Update
- African History Month
- Crime
- Education
- me2we
- Events
- R.I.O list

Welcome to the August issue of the Ligali newsletter... It would be difficult to sum up the past few months in a few words but to say it has been 'challenging', 'productive' and on occasion 'pleasantly surprising' would not be a bad attempt. We've been accused of being 'troublemakers' as well as being called 'revolutionary' but whatever the case, Ligali is and always will be about fighting for equal rights for the African Diaspora in the UK.

We would like to thank all our members for their continued and varied forms of support, particularly those who have gone that extra mile for the cause, you know who you are!

Ed  
[www.ligali.org](http://www.ligali.org)

*\***African British** is the name now used to describe the community previously mislabelled as Afro-Caribbean, Black British, UK Black, Coloured and Black. It embraces all British nationals with antecedents originating directly from Africa or indirectly via African diasporic communities, such as those in the Caribbean and South America.*



## MEDIA

It's been an incredibly busy and enlightening few months for Ligali's Media Affairs department. What with the new Lilt 'ladies' adhering to the tired old stereotypes of Jamaican women, the use of members of the Maasai tribe to promote Landrover, and Dotun Adebayo's celebration of the 'easiness' of 'white girls' we've had much to keep us on our toes.

Channel 4 have become self-imposed representatives of hypocrisy for denouncing the BBC's policies on minority ethnic programming while commissioning some of the most overtly negative and stereotypical programmes that we have seen for some time. As if that isn't bad enough, C4 rejected a 600 name petition championed by Tony Warner from 100 BMOL calling for more educational and quality programming for Our community. Channel 4 that Black like Beckham and J-Lo: Behind the Behind did constitute quality programming!

Meanwhile, Black Like Beckham has become a mantra for the general media with the Daily Star generating an image of David Beckham with shackles around his neck accompanied by the caption 'Becks: I'm being traded like a slave' for its front page and a presenter on This Morning claiming that corn rows are now called 'Beckham braids'.

On a more positive note, the Black Music Congress hosted 'Black Music: Scapegoat or Violence' debate which was well attended and the Radio Authority and Choice Fm resolved to air the advert for the theatre production of 'Wicked Bitches' as 'Wicked Witches' during the times when children would be likely to hear the advert.

Click [here](#) to read more about these and other media related issues.

AFRICAN HISTORY MONTH



OCTOBER 2003

[www.africanhistorymonth.org](http://www.africanhistorymonth.org)

## AFRICAN HISTORY MONTH

AfricanHistoryMonth.org is the UK's first website totally devoted to the activities taking place during the annual celebration of African History in October.

This definitive guide will be fully interactive from 1 September 2003 (although you can preview the site at any time). Anyone holding an event relevant to African History can submit information to the website completely free of charge. The site will have information on everything from film screenings and radio shows to local events and TV programmes.

For further information about AfricanHistoryMonth.org or to submit information about your event, visit the website at [www.africanhistorymonth.org](http://www.africanhistorymonth.org)



## CRIME

The Voice Newspaper recently reported that Operation Trident has secured its first murder conviction. However, this is no cause for celebration. The initial motivations behind the establishment of Operation Trident may have been honourable but the reality is that it has contributed to the continued demonisation of diasporic African communities in the UK. Trident's 'black on black' remit promotes and encourages the racial labelling of gun crime, giving the media full endorsement to run exotic stories about so called 'Yardie' gangs, painting them as the second biggest threat to terrorism. This 'threat' has led to the Government instigating racist immigration procedures that target honest Jamaican nationals, and implementing of over zealous anti-social bills which will ultimately serve to place more young brothas and sistas into penal institutions.

Gun crime is fuelled largely by issues of disrespect and drug crime, themes which run throughout London and the UK's expanding multicultural communities. It is time the remit of Trident was reformed to reflect this reality and to stop 'colouring' crime. As a community we want guns and drug dealers off our streets but we do not want our young people stopped by abusive section 60 orders or painted as prime suspects simply because they are 'black'. It's time the media stopped using the label 'black on black' and focused on the real issues. If we only talk about gun crime after the event then the problem will never disappear. If, however, we tackle it in a sustained manner, then maybe we can reverse the negative trend in London as a whole. These facts remain; Five years of Trident, and less than one murder conviction per year. Something is not working.

Click [here](#) to read more Crime news stories on Ligali.

## EDUCATION

It is no secret that Ligali is an advocate for mentors in schools. What is less known is how we are attempting to do this. One of the ways we are tackling this task is through forging relations/partnerships with existing mentoring organisations like the 100 Black Men of London and the EIC project based in the Learning Trust in Hackney.

We hope to unite various mentoring organisations and individuals serving our community as well as hosting meetings in which all participants help to formulate a culturally aware mentoring scheme/programme specific to the needs of our young people; a consistent mentoring approach designed and agreed by the community for the community. We are also seeking positive individuals of all ages who are willing to become learning mentors as part of a valid and institutionally recognised career choice.

The biggest obstacle in implementing these initiatives is funding. Learning mentors, for example are often paid directly from the host schools budget, if the school cannot afford to pay the salary of a learning mentor then the children do without. These kind of situations are clearly unacceptable. New Labour famously

pledged Education, Education, Education. Ligali is tired of the excuses and demands Funding, Funding, Funding.

Click [here](#) to read more about Ligali's Education policies and news stories.



## Me2We

**Me2we** is about the formation of partnerships with individuals and organisations that share our community ethos. As such, in the Me2we section of every newsletter, Ligali will focus on the work of no more than 2 organisations. If you are the head of an organisation or would like to recommend an organisation that you feel should be covered in the Me2we section, please contact [mail@ligali.org](mailto:mail@ligali.org)

## 100 Black Men Of London

The past few months have seen a series of film screenings hosted by the 100 Black Men of London as part of their Education through film programme. They have included documentaries and films on Marcus Garvey, Samuel Coleridge Taylor, Harold Moody and other historical figures. They were informative, insightful and most of all, necessary – Our thanks to 100 Black Men and all those involved for hosting and continuing to host these events.

100 Black Men of London is an organisation of professional men who help young people and the community. The organisation was formed in April 2001 and through its proactive nature has positively influenced the lives of young African British children. Amongst its many initiatives 100 Black Men runs 'The Me I Can Be', a community orientated mentoring and education programme for young people from 10 to 15 years old, 'Mentoring the 100 way', the 'Quality Time' event and Community Service Projects... . To find out more about 100 Black Men or how you can become a member, check out their [website](#).

## Adornment



April saw the second year of the UK's only major conference on locks, natural hair, health, beauty and wearable art hosted by Adornment. Ligali attended this wonderful event, which featured various workshops, seminars, stalls and an amazing fashion show. Credit must be given to Margot Rodway-Brown, founder of Adornment and all those involved for organising such a successful and positive event.

Adornment was set up in 2000 with the aim of facilitating a network of African creative services and raising the profile of practitioners whose work explores, creates, re-defines and celebrates African identity in the UK. Adornment focus primarily on functional and wearable art as well as on services and products which promote physical, spiritual and emotional well being and which enhance our lives in a positive a progressive way. The work of Adornment takes the form of public events, network building, workshops and training. Adornment aim to help practitioners and the wider public to communicate, meet, combine skills and exchange knowledge. They are about recognising and actively supporting creative skill and enterprise within our community. Click here to check out their [website](#).

## EVENTS

### African (Black) Family Day Cultural Celebration

*Saturday 16th August 2003, 10am - 6pm*

The **Afrikan United Action Front** are organising cultural celebrations and an Increase the Peace Procession outside the Ritzy cinema in Brixton, opp. Brixton Town Hall. Please arrive promptly at 10am for the increase the peace procession. Between 12 and 6pm there will be a Reparations rally in commeration of the honourable Marcus Mosiah Garvey along with speeches, singing, dancing, drumming, poetry and rapping.

For further information call 07940 005 907/0208 539 2154/ 020 8801 0205.

---

### Remembering Enslavement at the Rendezvous of Victory

*21st - 24th August 2003*

Four days of live music and dance, histories and heritage, film and food and much much more all taking place in Greenwich and Brixton. Events for all ages, to raise awareness of the heritage of enslavement and its impact on the lives of people in Britain today.

For further information go to [www.antislavery.org](http://www.antislavery.org)  
Call Martine Miel 020 7501 8935 or email [m.miel@antislavery.org](mailto:m.miel@antislavery.org) call Esther Stanford 07751 143043 or email [rendezvousofvictory@hotmail.com](mailto:rendezvousofvictory@hotmail.com)



---

### HITG Youth Talks at Nando's

*26th August 2003*

The Hackney Independent Trident Group (HITG) in association with LIGALI and 100 Black Men of London are hosting a series of themed talks with young African Britons to explore their views on crime and policing in the Borough of Hackney. The first event is taking place at Nando's on Tuesday 26 August 2003 between 6 – 10pm. Food will be provided by the HITG while the event will be hosted by Ligali and chaired by mentors provided by the 100BMOL. The theme for discussion is Gun Crime.

The event is for young African Britons between the ages of 16 and 24. Please register first as places are limited and there will be a strict admission policy on the night. There is an online submission form at [www.ligali.org/hitg/youthtalks.htm](http://www.ligali.org/hitg/youthtalks.htm) for this purpose. The latest date for submissions will be Friday 22nd August.

Click [here](#) to read more information on these and other events.

---



## RIO (Racially Insensitive Offenders) Paul McKenzie

It's not often that we put individuals in the RIO list but Paul McKenzie, journalist, presenter and writer of Black Like Beckham (an offensive programme broadcast by Channel 4 in April) has worked hard as a racially insensitive offender and we feel it only fair that he should be recognised for his labour. After all, it can't be easy to do what you are actively working against your own community. It takes a special kind of man to admit live on radio that he does not care about professional integrity or about having the trust of the his community when making programmes for or about our community. Paul's advice to us; 'lighten up' (pun intended?).

[Listen](#) to Paul incriminating himself on Choice Fm. You can also read the transcript from the post-show talk with Paul in which he says 'in short, what we hope the programme did is replace black culture with urban culture'... Need we say more?

Click [here](#) to read about more Racially Insensitive Offenders

---

If you were sent this newsletter in error or you wish to unsubscribe then please send an email with the word "NEWSLETTER" in the subject line to [unsubscribe@ligali.org](mailto:unsubscribe@ligali.org) or alternatively click [here](#)

LIGALI, PO Box 1257, London, E5 0UD - Copyright © 1995-2003 LIGALI. All rights reserved.