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Greetings all, welcome to this month's newsletter. While much of our time this month has been spent doing what we call, 'invisible work' (i.e. setting the foundations for future projects, alliances and organisational development) we have nevertheless been involved in our fair share of 'visible' activities.

We would also like thank all those people who have emailed us words of encouragement and support, which have come from as far as Australia, Trinidad and Belgium to those closer to home in Leicester, London and Nottingham. You keep us going.

Love and Liberation, The Ligali Family.

www.ligali.org

***African British** is the name now used to describe the community previously mislabelled as Afro-Caribbean, Black British, UK Black, Coloured, Black other 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



In an attempt to maintain their position as the most offensive terrestrial broadcaster, Channel 4 continue to produce more shoddy and inappropriate items with little care for the stereotypes and misinformation they promote about African Britons. Infected with a serious bout of urbanitis (i.e anything 'black' must be rebranded, repackaged and ultimately diluted to become more digestible to mainstream palates), Channel 4 thought it clever to produce a quiz entitled 'How black are you?' Predictably, the questions played on stereotypes and trivialised elements of 'black' culture in a bid to determine 'Just how Black is Beckham and actually, how Black are you?' Exciting stuff, we don't think. Aside from raising questions about the creative integrity of the people that worked on this quiz (including two 'black people'), we couldn't help wondering why Channel 4 persist in trivialising elements of 'black' culture in a way that they would never do to Jewish or Muslim culture. Can you imagine them having a 'How Jewish are you' quiz?. We think not. We have had a substantial number of complaints from people about this item, and despite feeding this back to Channel 4, they remain defensive about their right to promote 'light-hearted' items that celebrate 'diversity' (two of Channel 4's current buzz words). We've decided to create our own satirical version of the quiz, entitled '[How Urban Are You?](#)'.

Setting aside the serial offenders, The Source magazine have come under criticism for their hypocritical stance on Eminem's racist and misogynistic lyrics, while being well-known for supporting American-African (yes, it was supposed to be ordered that way around) artists such as Ja Rule, who has one of the most [disgusting album skits](#) we have heard for some time. That old saying about glass houses and stone throwing comes to mind.

Meanwhile, Ligali called in to BBC London to discuss the lack of representation of African British families on TV and the media and the politics of fear.

To read more about this and other recent media stories, visit our [media page](#).

Crime



Imagine the scene; You drive into a petrol station and see an Asian sales assistant having an argument with an African brother. What's the first thing that comes to mind? Do you think a) Here's another 'angry black man' causing trouble or b) What has the sales assistant done to provoke this kind of reaction in the brother?

As previously documented, Ligali Founder Toyin Agbetu, was racially abused by a Shell petrol station employee in September this year. To add insult to injury, no more than 15 minutes after leaving the petrol station he was subsequently hauled out of his car and surrounded by 6 policemen acting on the malicious phone call by the sales assistant who initially abused him! On writing to Shell to complain, we were assured that the matter would be thoroughly investigated. Several weeks later, Shell issued an apology having discovered that their employee had indeed been at fault.

But what happened between the time that the complaint was received and eventually resolved? Click [here](#) to read a transcript of Shell's internal investigation.

Other crime related news this month include Ligali's attendance at the DISARM funding seminar and our presence on ACTV's new current affairs programme 'Hot Seat', which focused on Gun crime in the UK with an emphasis on practical, workable solutions.

For more information on these and other crime related stories, visit the Ligali [crime page](#).

Education

The DfES has recently published a report we deem essential reading for all African British parents, teachers and governors. The report contains the interim findings of a two year research project examining the disproportionate numbers of our pupils excluded from schools. The report comes as new figures released reveal children from ethnic minority communities will be in the majority in London's schools within a few years, as accelerating population shifts transform the composition of the Capital.

Visit the Ligali [education page](#) for further information on this and other stories.

Events

Looking forward....

What?: Book Launch of 'N**gers, N*groes, Black People and Afrikans'. This will be an informal event, offering you the opportunity to find out about (and buy for £10) the book, direct from the author.

Who?: Author Paul Grant with Guest Speaker, Paul Obinna

Where?: St Luke's Church Hall, St Lukes Avenue, Baxter road, Ilford (Click here for a map).

When?: Saturday 6th December, 7pm

Saturday 6th December sees the London launch of one of the most important books of the year, a must for anyone who is interested in the advancement of our community. The book, written by Paul Grant, raises some very pertinent issues about Afrikan people with a particular focus on Afrikan organisations.

If one were to try to describe in simple terms the problem this book seeks to address, then it could be summed up by the question 'Why Do We Lose?'. That is, why is it that wherever you go on this planet Afrikans are firmly rooted to the bottom of the socio-economic ladder. Why is it that Afrikan run countries, be they in Afrika or the Caribbean are so often economic and social basket cases? Why is it that so-called 'Black' organisations are generally dysfunctional? The book moves beyond simply describing these well known problems and sets out ideas describing

'How We Can Win'.

This book uses Black organisations as a vehicle for addressing these issues and is designed to act as a practical toolkit/handbook for individuals seeking to set up or who are currently active in community organisations. With this in mind the book is divided into very short chapters, similar to the approach adopted by Tony Browder in his book 'The Browder Files'. The rationale for this is to aid comprehension, provide a logical structure and encourage readers to dip in and dip out on a regular basis, using the book as an 'active resource' and aide memoir.

The book is written from an Afrikan-British experience whereas most similar books are written by Afrikan-Americans. It also combines a grassroots perspective with international and global analysis. The reader will find something in this book for them if they are simply looking for personal improvement and development or for an incisive socio-political analysis of Why We Lose.

To read the book's full synopsis, please [click](#) here.

Looking back...

Sunday 30th November, saw the presence of the long-awaited Dr. Tony Martin at an event that finally took place at Ezekiel's in Peckham, despite attempts to prevent the event from going ahead. As expected, people attended in abundance to hear the man that Jewish lobbyists and the Mayor's office had made so much effort to unsuccessfully discredit and censor.

For more information about events in December, visit africanhistorymonth.org or the Ligali [events page](#)

Spirit

Spirit is a brand new section on the Ligali website and is intended to cover all family and health related issues. We start with a story about the need for fathers in the lives of their children. We also touch on get rich quick pyramid scams and the issue of racism in the mental health profession.

Visit the Ligali [spirit page](#) for further information on this and other stories.

ABC Award

Poet Benjamin Zephaniah refused it, Yasmin Alibhai-Brown has declared she will return hers (MBE). Would you accept an OBE?

"No. It is perverse to have an award that is a celebration of empire. It is at worst an insult and at best highly insensitive given the cost of that empire".

Peter Herbert, Barrister and chairman of the Society of Black Lawyers

Ligali awards Benjamin Zephaniah for publicly maintaining his integrity and for his consistent, creative work with and for the African British community. Not much more to say really. Respect.

Visit the Ligali [ABC awards page](#) to read about more community s/heros.

RIO (Racially Insensitive Offender)





Trevor Phillips was appointed as Chair to the Commission for Racial Equality by the Home Secretary David Blunkett, so it seems apt that the month following David's appointment to the hall of Racially Insensitive Offenders, Trevor should keep him company.

Trevor, like his RIO mentor David Blunkett, is prone to making publicly offensive statements. In a recent appearance on LBC, he supported and joined in the barrage of abuse being directed at 'black men'. Now we are not saying that all brothers are perfect, but neither are men from other cultures. Yet you rarely see or hear other public figures from other ethnic communities using such a public arena to bemoan how bad men in their communities are.

Not content with publicly supporting this overtly negative image of brothers, Trevor goes on to state that if you get ten black women in a room, they will ultimately be talking about the state of black men. Clearly our Trev thinks sisters have nothing else substantial or constructive to talk about.

And we can not forget Trevor's assertion that it is not particularly important for African British children to learn about their history. But then when he makes a statement like 'Empire happened. It wasn't all bad' you begin to see exactly where Trevor is going...

His most recent trick was an attack (in the Evening Standard of all papers), on Benjamin Zephaniah for his refusal to accept an OBE. When Trevor says that Benjamin's actions did not reflect the views of the average 'black' Briton he was speaking solely for himself. Trevor's willingness to kneel before the queen to receive his own OBE, his public insult of African British men and women and his denial of the importance of African history does not place him in the best position to discuss or indeed understand the integrity of Benjamin's actions.

We find it incredible that he can label people like Benjamin Zephaniah 'self righteous prigs' while citing Kanya King as a role model and displaying just how out of touch he is with the African British community. There are so many offensive and patronising comments made in his 'self-righteous' attempt to discredit the positive actions of a political and social activist and world-renowned poet, we would suggest you read the article for yourself.

So here's to you Trev – RIO of the month. Another 3 letters to add to your name.

Don't forget that you are free to nominate people or institutions that you feel should be placed on our [RIO list](#). Similarly, please send us your recommendations for African British Community activists who you feel have or are making great strides for the liberation of African people.

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 or alternatively click [here](#)

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