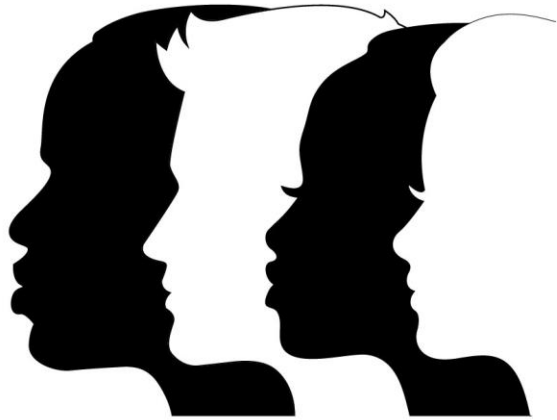


Welcome to the second meeting of the...



White Allies Network

Aspiring to be true allies against racism

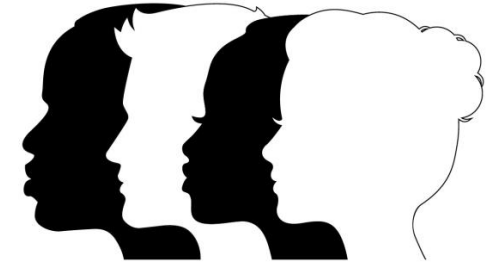
8-9.30pm, Thursday 2nd September 2021
Facilitator: Adrian Lock

Our agenda...

- A reminder of our purpose
- A reminder of our '10 Qualities'
- Three short videos
 - Who owns history? - Clive Myrie (5 mins)
 - The history you don't learn at school – David Olusoga (7 mins)
 - Where are you from? – Afua Hirsch (4 mins)
- Breakout room discussion
- Sharing from breakout rooms
- Next time...



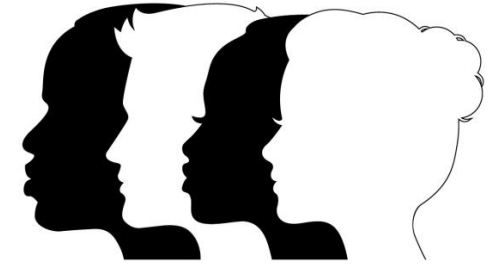
‘Aspiring to be true allies against racism’



The White Allies Network aims to help us :

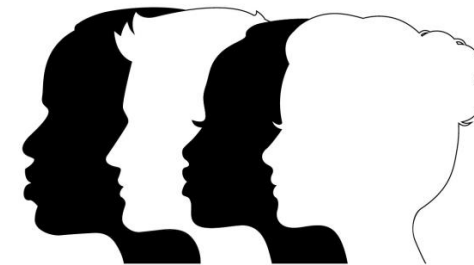
- **Become true allies of people of colour**
- **Learn about ourselves**
- **Learn about people of colour**
- **Develop ideas for action** that we can take individually, collectively and in partnership with others

Ideas for sessions



- **A) Educating ourselves**
- Histories – All our yesterdays... UK history – the contribution of ethnic minorities over time towards the UK today
- Filling in the gaps in our whitewashed histories – what do we most need to know?
- What is the lasting legacy of empire on Africa, Asia, America and the Caribbean?
- Understanding the consequences and impact of racism when I don't experience it
- Going deeper – inward as well as outward work. Suggestion: work through Layla Saad's book *Me and White Supremacy*
- **B) Action – Individual/Personal**
- Inner work, and how that translates into individual actions
- What impact can we have in our various roles and circles of influence on society?
- When should we challenge each other, how and why?
- Build relationships with those of other people groups
- Work hard not to put everyone's differences in one blob – ensure South and East Asian voices/experiences are heard as well as those from African, Caribbean and Jewish origin
- What does it really mean to be there for people dealing with racial trauma?
- How do we have conversations with our black friends to ask if they're ok
- Mentoring – could this help? If so, how can we get involved?

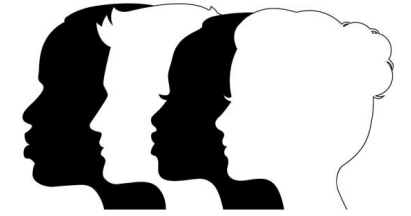
Ten Qualities of our spaces



We commit to be...

1. **Respectful and non-judgemental** - we're at different stages of learning
2. **Ignorant** - allowed to own our ignorance and to let others own theirs – towards learning
3. **Careful** - thinking before we speak, considerate in our contributions
4. **Personal** - able to speak my truth
5. **Emotional** - holding back from rationalising away each other's feelings or experiences.
6. **Sensitive** to each other's needs - building relationships first: different levels of sharing
7. **Not wallowing** in white guilt – guilt as a prompt to action
8. **Accepting of each other** if we stumble
9. **Confidential** - to the space in which something is shared
10. **Courageous** – open to challenge and be challenged

New Steering Group Members...

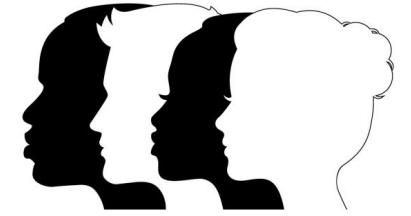


Claire Mathys
Policy and Strategy
Consultant
Impact Policy



Naomi Luff
Youth Coach/Mentor

New Council of Reference Members...



Irene Ng
Freelance Creative



Josephine Namusisi-
Riley
Project Lead at
Citizen UK
Founder,
White Allies UK



All our yesterdays – filling in the gaps in our histories

Part 1

Our journey begins

Who owns history?

Clive Myrie

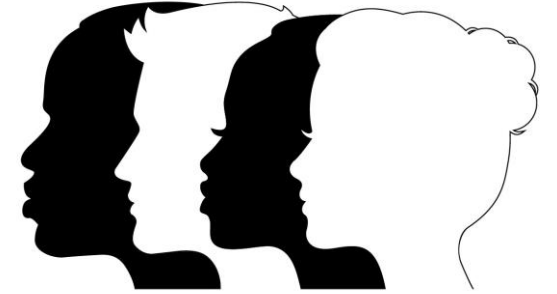
BBC NEWS SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

5 minutes 8 seconds

July 2020

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av-embeds/53314928/vpid/p08k1dmt>

‘Who owns history?’



“The experiences of victor and vanquished are part of the same story – can there be a past we all embrace?”

“British colonialism defines who we all are. It’s left a family album of different peoples and races. It is our story. Every single moment.”

- Clive Myrie

Questions for reflection:

- 1) Can there be a past we can all embrace? A history we can all agree?
- 2) Most people in the UK with a Caribbean heritage sign the name of their ancestor’s slave owner, not the name of their ancestor. How would you live with that truth if you were in that position?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ut5gtrezN4E>

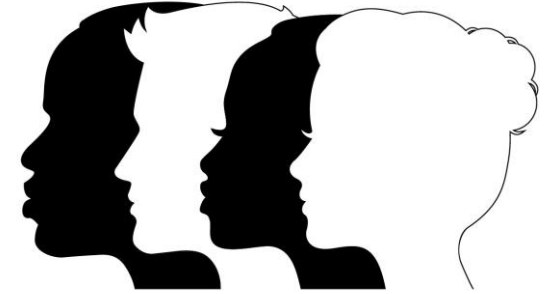
THE 'ALT HISTORY'
YOU DON'T LEARN AT SCHOOL

with David Olusoga

7 minutes 13 seconds

June 2019

‘The “Alt History” you don’t learn at school...’



*“You can’t go forward until you can understand your past”
- unnamed contributor*

Questions for reflection:

- 1) How aware were you that there were black people living in the UK since Roman times? That there have been ‘Black British’ people in the UK for 2000 years?
- 2) What difference does it make to your sense of identity as a white person to embrace that fact?

A close-up portrait of Afua Hirsch, a Black woman with dark dreadlocks, wearing large hoop earrings and a purple top. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with trees and a bright sky.

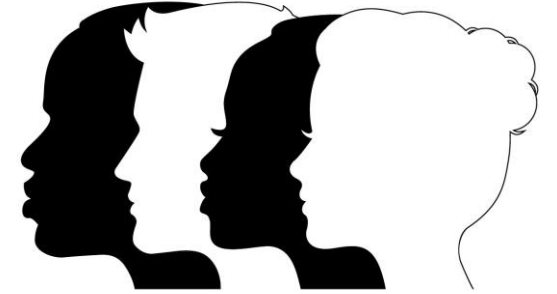
Where are you from?

Afua Hirsch
Author of Brit(ish)

4 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zy9mUluT0XM&t=3s>

‘Where are you from?’

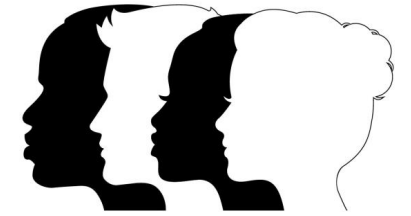


“I’m black, mixed race and British. Where are you from?”

Questions for reflection:

- 1) Knowing what you know now about your ancestors being immigrants, that Africans were here before the Anglo Saxons, how would you describe where you are from?

Breakout group discussion



Safe spaces for honest conversations – please self-select:

Breakout Groups 1,2,3 – for those that identify as white

Breakout Group 4 – for those that identify as people of colour

Questions for discussion

- Question 1. What struck you most from the videos we've viewed tonight and the personal stories you've heard?
- Question 2. What difference should these insights into British history and our collective histories make as we aspire to be true allies against racism in the UK and beyond?

(You have 30 minutes)



Thank you for coming!

- Do sign up as a Member at www.whiteallies.net to be kept in touch with events and resources and for free access to a growing hub of resources to help us become true allies against racism.
- Next Event for your diaries – Wednesday 20th October 8-9.30pm
- All our yesterdays – filling in the gaps in our histories - Part 2
- Sathnam Sanghera – author of Empireland – How Imperialism shaped modern Britain

