October marks the start of Black History Month and we are delighted to be offering a programme of exciting online events, recognising the remarkable contributions of Black people in the UK and beyond.

The theme for Black History Month 2020 is **dig deeper, look closer, think bigger** and our events, blogs, podcasts and talks will provide opportunities for us to share the history and showcase and celebrate the achievements of Black people.

Black History Month is a global reflection and celebration of Black History, and with Inclusive at the heart of our own Aberdeen 2040 strategy and our 525th anniversary celebrations, our programme, developed with staff and students, is an opportunity for our community to collaborate and engage. We will continue to work with our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic staff and students, to listen and to enhance our ongoing work to tackle racism and ensure our University is inclusive for people from all ethnic backgrounds.

There will be opportunities to engage with inspirational speakers from literature, music, science and the arts as well as podcasts reflecting on important topics such as mental health, and online exhibitions.

Check our Black History Month [webpage](#) for more information on our online resources including podcasts and blogs!
University of Aberdeen Celebrates BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Nigerian and Cameroon Independence Day Celebration
Thursday 1 October 2020 | Organised by BAME Forum

On October 1st 1960, Nigeria was granted independence from British Colonial rule. On the same day in 1961, southern Cameroon was also emancipated from British rule. In both nations, October 1st are national holidays celebrated with parades, parties and concerts. Get a taste of West African music and dance along the way to Nigeria afro beats and Cameroonian makossa. Spotify link available here.

Please check @ausabame for updates

Black Music Legends
Saturday 3 October 2020 | Organised by BAME Forum

Join us for Black History Month in celebration of black musical greatness with our Spotify playlist. Let’s travel back in time with the soundwaves of legendary artists throughout the years. Spotify link available here.

Please check @ausabame for updates

Black Pound Day
Saturday 3 October 2020 | Organised by BAME Forum

An event looking into the history and background of Black Pound Day and the importance of the Black Pound. The event will highlight black owned businesses locally in Aberdeen and online.

Please check @ausabame for updates

Two Kings: Empire, Abolition, and Aberdeen
Thursday 8 October 2020 | 5pm – 6.30pm

Nathaniel King (MB 1876) was the first African-born graduate of the University of Aberdeen. His father, Thomas King, rose enslavement in West Africa to become a missionary and linguist. This talk explores the life of an African-born father and son and the connected histories of Scotland and early colonial West Africa.

In collaboration with University of Aberdeen History Society

World Mental Health Day
Saturday 10 October 2020 | Organised by BAME Forum

Check out our social media sites for some infographics exploring mental health.

Please check @ausabame for updates

www.abdn.ac.uk/events/bhm/
University of Aberdeen Celebrates BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Spoken Word Workshop with Jayda David
Saturday 10 October 2020 | 11am – 12.30pm
Emerging young poet and spoken word artist Jayda David will lead a spoken word workshop with themes varying from Identity to Black British History to Mental Health and everything in-between, Jayda’s poetry centres around social and racial politics, inspired by her life and experiences as a working-class, dual heritage woman. She was the winner of Poetic Unity’s Black British History Competition 2019 and has performed on London Live, BBC Radio 5 and at The Television Centre for Mental Health Week.

In collaboration with WORD Centre for Creative Writing

In conversation with Jamala Osman
Wednesday 14 October 2020 | 6pm – 7pm
Social entrepreneur and inspirational speaker Jamala Osman joins us to discuss how a young person facing a difficult start in life turned her life around to become Britain’s youngest bank manager, a dedicated mentor and role model for other young people. Jamala will discuss her journey of pivoting from challenging circumstances to a life ‘spiralling into control’. As a speaker and spoken word artist Jamala continues to be a force for positive change.

Supported by Development Trust student experience fund

Online Panel Discussion with BAME groups and more
Wednesday 21 October 2020 | Organised by BAME Forum
A discussion with groups from BAME Law, BAME Medic, Fem Soc and Disability Forum.
Please check @ausabame for updates

Centering Race in International Law
Thursday 22 October 2020 | 2pm – 3pm
This lecture prepared to commemorate Black History Month at the University of Aberdeen in October 2020 will use examples of Scottish merchant adventurers and explorers in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to show that race has always been at the center not only of colonial and imperial relations, but of present day international law. Written from the perspective of Third World Approaches to International Law, (TWAIL), the lecture makes the case for more scholarly inquiries to uncover the continuities and discontinuities of the role of race in international law and international relations. This lecture will be delivered by Professor James Thuo Gathii.

In collaboration with University of Aberdeen School of Law

www.abdn.ac.uk/events/bhm/
University of Aberdeen Celebrates **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**Charles Heddle: An Afro-Scottish trader and the abolition of the slave trade in Sierra Leone**  
**Tuesday 27 October 2020 | 1.15pm – 2pm**  
In the nineteenth century, Charles Heddle – the son of a Scottish father and Senegalese mother – became the richest man in the British Colony of Sierra Leone. This talk explores Heddle’s career and what his success reveals about race, class, and Scotland’s connections with Britain’s empire in West Africa.  
*In collaboration with Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities*

**Blackness and Disability Talk**  
**Tuesday 27 October 2020 | Organised by BAME Forum**  
Collaboration with disability forum, sociology and disability advisors with staff discussing intersectional issues.  
*Please check @ausabame for updates*

**Black (Zimbabwean) Literary Imaginaries**  
**Wednesday 28 October 2020 | 3pm – 5pm**  
Critically acclaimed Zimbabwean author, Tendai Huchu will lead a discussion giving a glimpse into Zimbabwean identity to texturise the celebration of diverse Black identities during Black History Month. The talk stands in solidarity with the Zimbabwe’s localised #BlackLivesMatter movement: #ZimbabweanLivesMatter. Tendai has transitioned from Zimbabwean literature to the fantasy genre. He will discuss his evolutionary journey as an author.  
*In collaboration with Race Equality Network and Race and Racism Group (RRG)*

**A Discussion: Under representation of Black and Ethnic Minority Women in Scottish Politics**  
**Wednesday 28 October 2020 | 5pm – 6pm**  
Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh OBE, Scotland’s first and only female BAME MP, and Fatima Zahra Joojy, a director of the 50:50 Parliament campaign dedicated to an inclusive and gender-balanced parliament, will participate in a panel discussion to consider why there is such underrepresentation of Black women and women from within other ethnic minority groups in Scottish politics and understand the impact this has as well as discussing approaches to address the issue.

[www.abdn.ac.uk/events/bhm/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/events/bhm/)
University of Aberdeen Celebrates BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor – Music, Life, Legacy
Thursday 29 October 2020 | 6pm – 7.30pm

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912) was among the best-known composers of his day. This forum, featuring author and music educator Nate Holder, will introduce some of Coleridge-Taylor’s most celebrated compositions and explore his political activism. We will also ask how his legacy might inform and inspire current efforts to diversify musical education and challenge the implicit whiteness of classical concert culture.

In collaboration with School of Language, Literature, Music and Visual Culture

In conversation with Professor Christopher Jackson
Friday 30 October 2020 | 4.30pm – 5.30pm

Professor Christopher Jackson is an academic, adventurer and the first black scientist to give the prestigious Royal Institute Christmas Lecture. As a Professor of Basin Analysis at Imperial College of London, Chris has become a leading figure in Geology and has delivered a number of notable talks in his specialism. He has also appeared on television on several occasions including his involvement in the BBC 2 series ‘Expedition volcano’ where he travelled with a group of other scientists to visit two of the world’s most volatile volcanoes on the border of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.

Supported by Development Trust Student Experience

Black Horror Showcasing’s and Recorded Lectures
Saturday 31 October 2020 | Organised by BAME Forum

A collaboration project with CineClub and the University’s Film and Visual Culture department showcasing Black Horror films.

Please check @ausabame for updates

Supported by: Development Trust Student Experience Fund,
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Collaborators and Partners: Law School, WORD centre, BAME Forum, AUSA, Race Equality Network and Race and Racism Group (RRG), School of Language, Literature, Music and Visual Culture, Museums and Collections, Alumni and Student Experience.

Check out our social media pages for more online content