

## Resource

Read through the information below, which explores the history of Black History Month and this year's campaign focus. Share your thoughts on this year's Proud to Be campaign.

# The history of Black History Month

In 1926, Carter Woodson a man from the USA who was the son of two black slaves, realised that the history of black people in America, and in other countries around the world, was often being ignored. He thought of the idea to have one week in the year to celebrate black history. The idea then developed into Black History Month in the USA.



Over in the UK, it wasn't until 61 years later, in 1987 that two men, who worked for the Greater London Council, called Akyaaba Addai Sebbo and Ken Livingstone, became angry that the diversity in London and across Britain wasn't fully recognised.

They pointed out that the history of black people was all too frequently ignored or forgotten. They felt there was a need to raise awareness of black people's contribution to society, even in a city as multicultural as London.

Ken Livingstone, who went on to become the Mayor of London said at the time, "Despite the significant role that Africa and its Diaspora have played in the world civilization since the beginning of time, Africa's contribution has been omitted or distorted in most history books."



Black History Month is now celebrated in the USA in February and in October in the UK each year.



**Proud to Be** is the focus and campaign behind Black History Month 2021.

Catherine Ross, Editor at Black History Month UK, explained why they are launching the campaign, "By asking people to share what they are Proud to Be we can share both individual stories and the vast richness of diversity that Black and Brown people bring to the UK. Everyone deserves the right to be Proud to Be everything they are and want to be in life."