BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2026

LEARNING, LEADERSHIP, JUSTICE AND BELONGING

This Black History Month, North West Migrants Forum is bringing together a month-long programme exploring Black heritage, education, leadership, racial justice, belonging and community.

Under the theme Learning, Leadership, Justice and Belonging, the programme goes beyond celebrating Black history to ask what we can learn from the past to address challenges facing our communities today: from racism and inequality to misinformation, online hate and division.

Through conferences, educational discussions, community conversations, culture, food, storytelling and celebration, we will bring together communities, educators, policymakers, public institutions, academics and international voices to share knowledge, strengthen relationships and explore how we can build a fairer and more inclusive future.

North West Migrants Forum

From Commitment to Action: Building Fairer & More Inclusive Public Institutions

16 October 2026 | 10am to 3pm | Belfast

As Northern Ireland becomes increasingly diverse, misinformation around migration, housing, faith and community safety can fuel stereotypes, mistrust and division.

This event, taking in place in the **Indian Community Centre, Belfast**, will bring together representatives from government, housing, policing, faith communities, racialised communities and civil society to explore how public institutions can build greater trust and belonging. Discussions will address housing and migration myths, integration, freedom of religion, community safety, hate crime and confidence in policing.

Commonwealth & Empire: Recognition, Rights and Redress | One-hour session

A dedicated session to explore the Windrush Compensation Scheme and its relevance to people from across Commonwealth backgrounds. It will challenge the perception that Windrush is exclusively a Caribbean story while providing practical information on eligibility, rights, compensation and access to support.

Confirmed speakers and contributors:

- Keith Fraser CBE - Former police officer & former Chair of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales
- Dr Umar Al-Qadri - Irish Muslim Council
- Valda Jackson - Jamaican sculptor and writer
- Agrippa Njanina - Assistant Curator National Museums NI

Registration: Open for registration. Please use the registration link at the end of this information pack to register your interest in attending.

North West Migrants Forum

Beyond Division: Leadership, Truth and Belonging in an Age of Online Hate

Cross-Border Policy Conference
22 October 2026 | 10am to 2pm | Derry

Bringing together policymakers, academics, elected representatives, civil society and anti-racism advocates from across the island of Ireland, this conference will examine the growing impact of online racism, misinformation and intimidation on Black and minoritised communities.

Drawing on international perspectives and lived experience, discussions will explore leadership and representation, online hate, institutional responsibility, community solidarity and practical policy responses. The programme will include learning from Howard University alongside voices from policing, justice and human rights.

The conference, being held in **Derry's historic Guildhall**, aims to move from conversation to action, identifying practical recommendations for policy, institutional practice and cross-border cooperation.

Confirmed speakers and contributors:

- Dessie Donnelly – Lead Researcher, Mapping Far-Right Activity Online in Northern Ireland, and Co-founder, Rabble Cooperative
- Alyson Kilpatrick – Chief Commissioner, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission
- Dr Ebun Joseph – Race relations consultant, author and academic
- Allison Morris - Belfast Telegraph Crime Correspondent and columnist
- Takura Donald Makoni – Policy Officer, ACSONI (African and Caribbean Support Organisation Northern Ireland)

Registration: Open for registration. Please use the registration link at the end of this information pack to register your interest in attending.

North West Migrants Forum

Learning Together: Knowledge Changes Everything

Annual Black History Month Summit
23 October 2026 | 10.15am to 3pm | Belfast

Our Annual Black History Month Summit will bring educators, communities and leaders together to explore Black history, racial justice and the transformative role of education.

We are delighted to welcome Professor Wayne A. I. Frederick of Howard University as keynote speaker, bringing an international perspective on education, leadership and racial equity.

The Summit, being held in the **Ulster Museum**, will also have a strong practical focus for educators, with two interactive workshops designed to build teachers' knowledge and confidence in teaching Black history in the classroom. The sessions will explore approaches to introducing Black history across the curriculum, developing educators' own understanding, addressing difficult or sensitive topics, and using inclusive resources to support meaningful learning.

Confirmed speakers and contributors:

- Professor Wayne A. I. Frederick, M.D., MBA – President Emeritus, Howard University
- Dr Naomi Green – Researcher, lecturer, and community advocate
- Charlotte Carson – National Education Union (NEU)

Registration: Open for registration. Please use the registration link at the end of this information pack to register your interest in attending.

North West Migrants Forum

Honouring Our Communities

Black History Month Community Celebration
23 October 2026 | 5pm to 10pm | Belfast

An evening dedicated to recognising and celebrating the contribution of Black and minoritised communities to Northern Ireland.

Through culture, food, music, storytelling and conversation, Honouring Our Communities will bring together communities, allies, organisations and public representatives to celebrate achievement, creativity, leadership and community contribution.

The evening in the beautiful surrounds of **Stormont**, will also provide an opportunity to build relationships and create new connections across communities. At its heart is the importance of recognition – recognising the journeys people have made, the contribution they continue to make and the value of creating spaces where everyone can participate, share their culture and feel a sense of belonging.

Registration: Open for registration. Please use the registration link at the end of this information pack to register your interest in attending.

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North West Migrants Forum

Learning from History, Shaping the Future: Education, Racial Equality & International Exchange

24 October 2026 | Guided Tour & Discussion | Derry
12.30pm – Guided Tour
3.30pm to 5pm – Discussion

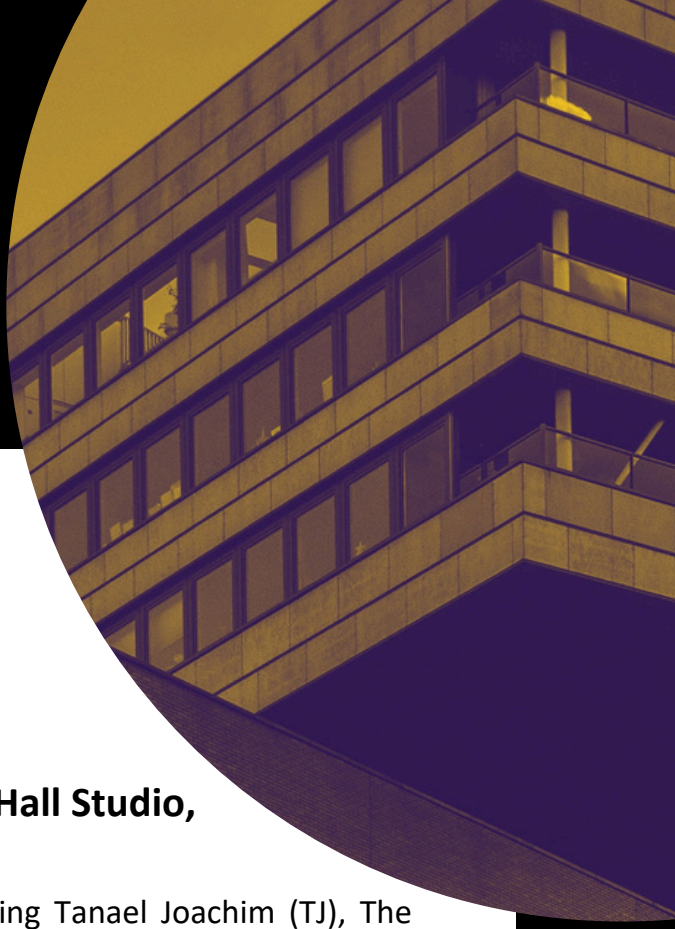
Beginning with a guided tour of the Derry City Walls and key historical and cultural sites, participants will explore the city's history, heritage and identity and consider how the past continues to shape communities today.

The tour will be followed by an informal discussion in **North West Migrants Forum** which will bring community representatives and international guests together to exchange experiences and ideas around education, racial equality, leadership, migration and community development.

The conversation will explore what communities can learn from one another, how experiences from different places can inform local approaches, and opportunities for future international collaboration, learning and exchange.

Registration: Open for registration. Please use the registration link at the end of this information pack to register your interest in attending.

North West Migrants Forum



The Alien Everywhere

Black History Month Comedy Special
28 October 2026 | 7pm | Waterfront Hall Studio, Belfast

An evening of comedy and storytelling featuring Tanael Joachim (TJ), The Alien Everywhere.

Through his distinctive conversational comedy, TJ explores immigration, identity, belonging, relationships and the everyday experience of navigating different countries and cultures.

Using humour as a form of storytelling, the evening offers an accessible and entertaining way to reflect on migration and identity while bringing people from different backgrounds together through laughter and shared experience.

As part of our wider Black History Month programme, the event celebrates cultural expression as a powerful way of challenging assumptions, finding common ground and reflecting the diversity of modern Northern Ireland.

Tickets: Tickets are now on sale through the Waterfront Hall website. Please use the ticket link at the end of this information pack to book.

Our Shared Home

Official Opening of The People's Café
29 October 2026 | 5pm to 11pm
The People's Café – North West Migrants Forum

Our Black History Month programme will culminate with the official opening of The People's Café, a permanent intercultural community space for people to meet, eat, learn, share cultures, access support and build relationships.

The evening will include a discussion with Dr Paul Mullan MRIA and Professor Philip McDermott exploring food as intangible cultural heritage and its connection to culture, identity, acceptance and belonging.

Rather than ending Black History Month with a one-off celebration, we want to end it by opening a door – creating a lasting space where the conversations, relationships and sense of belonging developed throughout October can continue throughout the year.

Registration: Open for registration. Please use the registration link at the end of this information pack to register your interest in attending.

Register for Black History Month Events
Registration is open for our conferences, Summit, discussions, community celebration and other free events.

Click Here

The Alien Everywhere – Comedy Special
Tickets for Tanael Joachim (TJ) – The Alien Everywhere at Waterfront Hall Studio are now on sale.

Click Here

North West Migrants Forum

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