



**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**

OCTOBER

**07**

**PROGRAMME**



**ISLINGTON**

## Celebrating Freedom

**On behalf of Islington Council, our schools and partners, I am proud to introduce Islington's programme for Black History Month 2007.**

After more than 30 years, Black History Month continues to grow in size and profile, in recognition of the achievements and contributions made by the black and minority ethnic community. We are delighted to report that Islington has a jam-packed itinerary for September/October, with events ranging from lively discussions and opera, to writing workshops and a festival. There's also plenty of music, dancing and food thrown in!

### What is Black History Month?

Black History Month originated in America in 1926 in response to people of African descent being classified as a race that had not made any contribution to human civilisation. This view of black people has led to historic injustices such as slavery and apartheid as well as continuing social inequalities throughout the world.

Black History Month is a way of telling the stories of those people written out of history, and understanding the impact this has today.

It is 200 years since Parliament passed the Act to abolish the slave trade in the British Empire and events are taking place throughout the year to mark this historic anniversary.

**Front Cover:** Picture of Andrea Wright, holding a cast glass sculpture by Angela Thwaites. Photograph by Robert Taylor ([www.taylor-photo.co.uk](http://www.taylor-photo.co.uk))



## What you can look forward to

Islington has produced an exciting programme for this bicentenary year, with a focus on the theme of freedom.

Events include:

- **FREEDOM FESTIVAL**  
– an exciting, fun-packed afternoon for all the family at Highbury Fields
- **PORTRAITS OF SUCCESS**  
– a discussion exploring and celebrating contemporary black success stories
- **TREEMONISHA**  
– an opera and dance performance reflecting the black experience

Black History Month, along with other events throughout the year, contributes to achieving our 'One Islington' vision by bringing all communities together to learn,

to celebrate and to take action to reduce inequality and improve community cohesion.

There will also be a number of other activities running throughout the month including visual displays and competitions. For all details check our website [www.islington.gov.uk/bhm](http://www.islington.gov.uk/bhm)

We are proud of Islington's diverse heritage, and we have designed this event to offer something for everyone. So whatever your racial background, get involved, learn a little and most importantly have fun!



**CLLR RUTH POLLING**

Executive Member for  
Leisure and Equalities

### Islington Council is very grateful to the following organisations for their contribution to this year's Black History Month.

- Arsenal Football Club
- BHM planning group
- CEA@Islington
- Homes for Islington (Hfi)
- IRIS (Islington Refugee Intergration Service)
- Islington Fire Service
- The Listen Up project
- Metropolitan Police Service
- Vision Opera
- Sanadi

// **Ira Aldridge** (1807 - 1867) - Famous black 19th century Shakespearean actor, whose first known British performance was at the Royal Coburg (now the Old Vic).

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

# Freedom fest<sup>07</sup>

**SATURDAY  
6 OCTOBER**

**12noon-4pm**

**Highbury Fields**

 **Highbury & Islington**

**Main stage including**

Nathan • N Dubz • Sincere  
Karen Ramirez • Motown tributes  
Street dance • DJ Wayne Anthony

- Arsenal giveaways and penalty shoot out
- Face-painting
- Food and clothing stalls
- Bouncy castle
- information stands

See page 8 for all details.

**FREE  
EVENT!**  
Everyone  
welcome



**ISLINGTON**

## CALENDAR

Date	Event	Venue	Page
28 September	Launch - Celebrating our Freedom	Islington Town Hall	6
28 September	The Freedom Exhibition	Islington Town Hall	6
October	A range of library events	Various Islington libraries	11
4 October - 31 December	Exhibition - From Slave Boy to African National Hero	Islington Local History Centre	7
4 October	Community Leadership	Islington Town Hall	10
6 October	Freedom Fest	Highbury Fields	8
8, 12, 17 & 19 October	Freedom is a Winner! (Writing workshops)	Barnsbury Complex	13
13-14 October	Word Power International Book Fair	Arsenal Stadium	11
15 October	Adoption Event	Stoshus Restaurant	12
15 October	The Great Speech Debate	Islington Town Hall	13
20 October	Treemonisha	Lilian Baylis Theatre Sadler's Wells	9
24 October	Portraits of Success	Islington Town Hall	10
30 October	Finale - Free at Last	Islington Town Hall	7

## MAIN VENUES

### Barnsbury Complex

Offord Road, N1 1QF

**Tel:** 020 7527 2000

Disabled access, disabled parking, toilets

### Lilian Baylis Theatre, Sadler's Wells

Rosebery Avenue, EC1R 4TN

**Tel:** 020 7863 8198

**Ticket office:** 0844 412 4300

**Minicom:** 020 7863 8197

### Islington Town Hall

Upper Street, N1 2UD

**Tel:** 020 7527 2000

**Minicom:** 020 7527 1900

Disabled access, disabled parking, lift

### Stoshus Restaurant

230 Hornsey Road, N7 7LL

**Minicom:** 020 7527 1900

Disabled access, disabled parking, lift

### Highbury Fields

Highbury Place, N1 1AR

Accessible public space

### Arsenal Stadium

Highbury, N5 1BU

### Islington Local History Centre

245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

# POLITICS & HISTORY

## Launch - Celebrating our Freedom

Friday 28 September  
6pm - 8.30pm  
Islington Town Hall

This event will set the tone for a vibrant, informative and exciting Black History Month.

Set against the uplifting tones of gospel singing, including Adelaide MacKenzie and Jonas Singers, the launch event will look at the history of slavery, its far-reaching effects, and explore ways of developing a positive future. Guest speakers include Cllr Ruth Polling, Executive Member for Leisure and Equalities; Vusi Mchunu, House of Memory; Alex Pascall OBE, and Wangui Wa Goro PhD. Refreshments will be provided from 6pm.

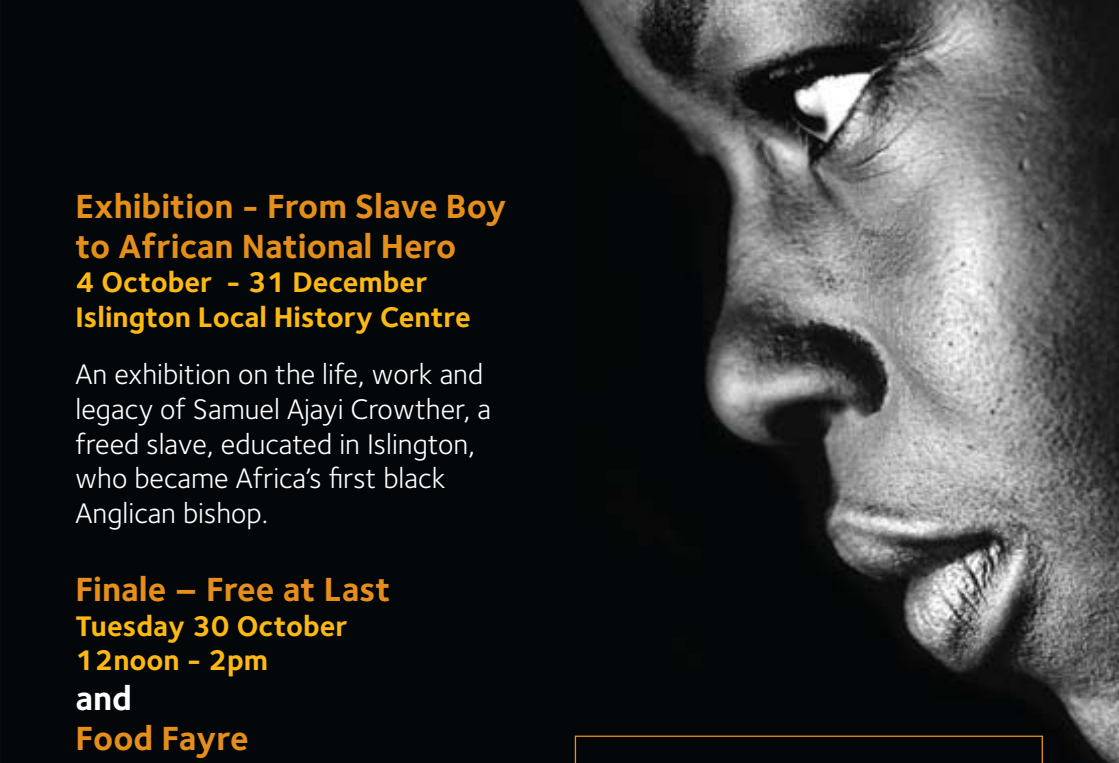
There will also be a duologue "Varied Responses" by Reginald Ofodile, international playwright and actor, also featuring Tyrone James. St Mary's Islington Youth Centre, who have performed nationally and internationally, will also be singing.

## The Freedom Exhibition 28 September - 31 October Islington Town Hall

A photographic exhibition on the life of Steve Biko as well as other artistic expressions on the theme of freedom.

**An enduring legacy • Steve Biko** was a well known anti-apartheid activist in South Africa during the 1960s and 1970s. As founder of the Black Consciousness Movement, Biko helped to empower oppressed black society and famously pioneered the slogan 'Black is Beautiful'. Following his role in organising the notorious Soweto uprising in 1976, Biko became a focus for the anti-apartheid movement and a thorn in the side of the South African government. In 1977, following his arrest, Biko died in police custody. Ten years later, the film "Cry Freedom", which starred Denzel Washington as Steve Biko, helped raise awareness across the world of the brutality of the apartheid regime.

// **Captain Barrington Irving Jnr** - the first black man and the youngest man at the time to fly around the world solo.



**Exhibition – From Slave Boy  
to African National Hero**  
**4 October – 31 December**  
**Islington Local History Centre**

An exhibition on the life, work and legacy of Samuel Ajayi Crowther, a freed slave, educated in Islington, who became Africa's first black Anglican bishop.

**Finale – Free at Last**  
**Tuesday 30 October**  
**12noon – 2pm**  
**and**  
**Food Fayre**  
**2pm – 4pm**  
**Islington Town Hall**

Join us in celebrating the journey to freedom, with music, poetry and speeches, helping us to reflect on the past and move into the future with greater energy and resolve. Musical performances, dramatic expressions, a film excerpt, and guest speakers, including Hakim Adi (Phd), founding member of the Black and Asian Studies Association; Nkosinathi Biko – the son of Steve Biko and activist in his own right; and Darcus Howe – writer and social commentator best known for the Channel 4 programme “Devil’s Advocate”. And afterwards, you can experience exotic cuisine from around the world.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

When Vasco Nunez de Balboa, a Spanish explorer, landed in South America in 1513 he found a small community of black people already living in America.

**James Albert was born as Ukawsaw Gronni Osaw in what is now Nigeria. His was the first handwritten account of life as a black Londoner, which appeared in 1770.**

Phyllis Wheatley became the first black woman to be published in London when her book, “Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral” was printed in the late 1700s.

// **Samuel Coleridge-Taylor**, (1875–1900), born in Croydon, a composer who incorporated black traditional music with classical concert music.

# MUSIC & DANCE

## **Freedom Fest** **Saturday 6 October** **12noon – 4pm, Highbury Fields**

Freedom Fest is the flagship event of Islington's Black History Month. Held in the picturesque Highbury Fields, it is a tantalising mix for the whole family. From music to face-painting, right through to delicious food and ethnic clothes for sale, you can't fail to be entertained!

There will be eye-opening musical performances from around the globe, (see main stage acts right) and lots of activities for youngsters including a bouncy castle, face-painting and balloon modelling. And in special attendance is Gunnersaurus Rex! Arsenal's mascot, who will be giving away prizes and hosting a special penalty shoot out.

Whatever grabs your fancy on the day, you won't be able to resist the

tempting smells of freshly-cooked Caribbean and African specialities.

Also, there will be a range of information stands on the council's services. This includes stalls on adoption, out-of-hours learning for youngsters and better environmental awareness in Islington.



### **Main stage acts**

Nathan • N Dubz • Sincere  
Karen Ramirez  
Tina Turner tribute  
Diana Ross tribute  
Spirit & Ivy street dance  
Spirit of Carnival  
And featuring  
DJ Wayne Anthony

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

The banjo originated in Africa and up until 1800 it was considered an instrument only played by black people.

**The Ganges – the sacred river in India – is named after an Ethiopian King who conquered Asia as far as the river.**

**Quincy Jones is the most Grammy-nominated artist in the history of the awards; he has been nominated 76 times and received 26 awards.**

Jesse Owens was the first athlete to win four gold medals in a single Olympiad.

**Treemonisha**  
**Saturday 20 October**  
**7pm, Lilian Baylis Theatre**  
**Sadler's Wells**

We are delighted to be bringing you this unique opera as part of this year's Black History Month. Performed by Vision Community Opera, the multicultural cast combines both professional and amateur singers. The opera will be preceded by performances from youth group 'Nu Generations', and will include sketches, dances, raps and spirituals on the theme of slavery.

Treemonisha was composed by the first African-American composer, Scott Joplin (see below). It tells the inspiring story of former slaves ruled by superstition who are finally released from their fears through education.

Lost for some fifty years following Joplin's death in 1917, Treemonisha was finally rediscovered and performed in 1970. Hailed by critics as a 'semi-miracle', Joplin was awarded a Pulitzer Prize posthumously for this work.

**The music of hope • Scott Joplin** (1868-1917) was an African American musician and composer of ragtime music – piano or banjo-based dance music which pre-dates jazz. Raised in Texas, the young Joplin



showed great musical talent, studying music at college before working mainly as a pianist in black social clubs. A keen composer, Joplin began selling his piano compositions including his most famous "Maple Leaf Rag" which helped move ragtime music into the mainstream. In 1910 he completed his unique opera Treemonisha which tells the story of a young, educated black woman who despite the initial suspicion of her peers shows her community that education is the key to freedom.



// **Elizabeth Pease** – became the leader of the women's abolition of slavery society in her early 20s.

## DEBATE & INSPIRATION

### Community Leadership Thursday 4 October 6pm – 8.30pm Islington Town Hall

An inspirational seminar led by Police Constable Gamal Turawa, discussing the importance of effective community leadership. Everyone with a community-focused role is invited to attend this event. Refreshments provided.

A short film, “Investigating Freedom” will also be screened. It was developed by young people in conjunction with the British Museum and is based on the abolition of slavery.

### Portraits of Success An audience with Robert Taylor Wednesday 24 October 2007 6pm – 8.30pm Islington Town Hall

Chaired by renowned photographer Robert Taylor (see right), the panel will consist of five guest speakers:

**Dr Rob Berkeley** – Deputy Director of the Runnymede Trust, an independent policy and research organisation focusing on race and social policy.

**Elsie Owusu OBE** – Awarded her OBE in 2003 for services to architecture, Elsie is also a board member of the Arts Council of England.

**Shirley J. Thompson** – An award-winning composer and conductor, widely celebrated for fusing orchestral classical with popular and world music.

**Edwin Atiegoba-Bello** – Islington-born, Edwin is part of the Warwick Leadership Foundation.

**Chief Inspector Dalton McConney, MBE, QPM** – Recently retired Chief Inspector of the London Metropolitan Police Force.

Find out about their achievements and successes to date and hear their views on some searching questions facing the black community.

**Compelling images • Robert Taylor’s** work is held in the National Portrait Gallery, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and a number of private collections.

Recent works include a series of photographs of art works by prisoners, an exploration of bereavement, and portraits of high-achieving women.

Robert has also helped produce a documentary for Channel 4, and is currently co-writing a play. His work is also featured on the cover of this programme.

// **Rosa Louise Parks** – her courageous actions created an enduring legacy for civil rights movements around the world.

## LITERATURE

### **Lest we forget: The triumph over slavery**

Highly acclaimed UNESCO pictorial exhibition, opened by the Mayor of Islington.  
22 October - 16 November, 6.30pm  
Central Library Hall

### **Stories from Africa and the Caribbean**

For children aged five -11 with Jan Blake.  
Tuesday 2 October  
10.30am - 11.30am  
Finsbury Library

### **Storytelling**

Interactive storytelling, song, movement and poetic rhythms from African-Caribbean tradition for 11-12 year olds.  
Thursday 4 October, 11am - 12noon  
N4 Library

### **Sing it to the rhythm**

Stories of escape to freedom for children aged five -11 by Sunnie Dae.  
Saturday 6 October, 11am - 12noon  
Sunday 7 October, 2.30pm - 3.30pm  
South Library and Central Library

### **"Africa's Greatest Resources"**

Documentary film tracing the slave trade with filmmaker Steve O. Taylor.  
Thursday 11 October, 6.30pm  
Central Library Hall

### **Displays of books, DVDs and music**

For the whole family during October at all Islington libraries.

### **Word Power International Book Fair**

An international black literature festival and book fair hosted by a leader of the independent African/Caribbean literary scene - The Bookshop.  
13 October - 14 October  
10am - 6pm  
Arsenal Stadium

## **ISLINGTON LIBRARIES**

### **South Library**

115-117 Essex Road, N1 2SL

### **Central Library**

2 Fieldway Crescent, N5 1PF

### **N4 Library**

26 Blackstock Road, N4 2DW

### **Finsbury Library**

245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB



## FAMILY

### **Adoption Information Evening - Making a difference in the black community Monday 15 October 6.30pm - 9pm Stoshus Restaurant**

Come and join us to hear first-hand how adoption has changed the lives of adults who were adopted as children, and families who have already begun their life-changing journey by adopting a child of their own.

Members of council's adoption team will be on hand to cover all aspects of adoption; the reasons why children need adoption, details of the children who need new families now and the financial support packages available to help you build a positive future with these children.

The evening will be relaxed while providing you with information to really consider whether adoption is right for your family. And, with our compliments, you can also sample a delicious African Caribbean buffet menu prepared by Stoshus chefs.

#### **In need of a loving family home**

Some of the children needing a new family are black or dual heritage including an African or Caribbean background. We need families who can reflect and promote their culture, ethnicity and religion, and help them be proud of who they are, enabling them to take their place in a black community of the future.

No matter whether you are single or in a couple, with or without children already, if you have thought about adopting a child we would like to meet you. You can live in or out of Islington, and don't have to own your home, but you should be settled and able to care for a child now and in the future.

Please book your place by emailing [adoption@islington.gov.uk](mailto:adoption@islington.gov.uk) or call **0800 073 3344**.



## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### Freedom is a Winner!

**Monday 8 October**

**Friday 12 October**

**Wednesday 17 October**

**Friday 19 October**

**4pm - 6pm**

**Barnsbury Complex**

Writing workshops and competition for young people aged five-18 led by Alex Pascall (see right). Young people will be given encouragement and advice on writing essays, short stories or poems, which will form part of a special anthology on the experiences of young people in Islington.



### The Great Speech Debate

**Monday 15 October**

**4pm - 6pm**

**Islington Town Hall**

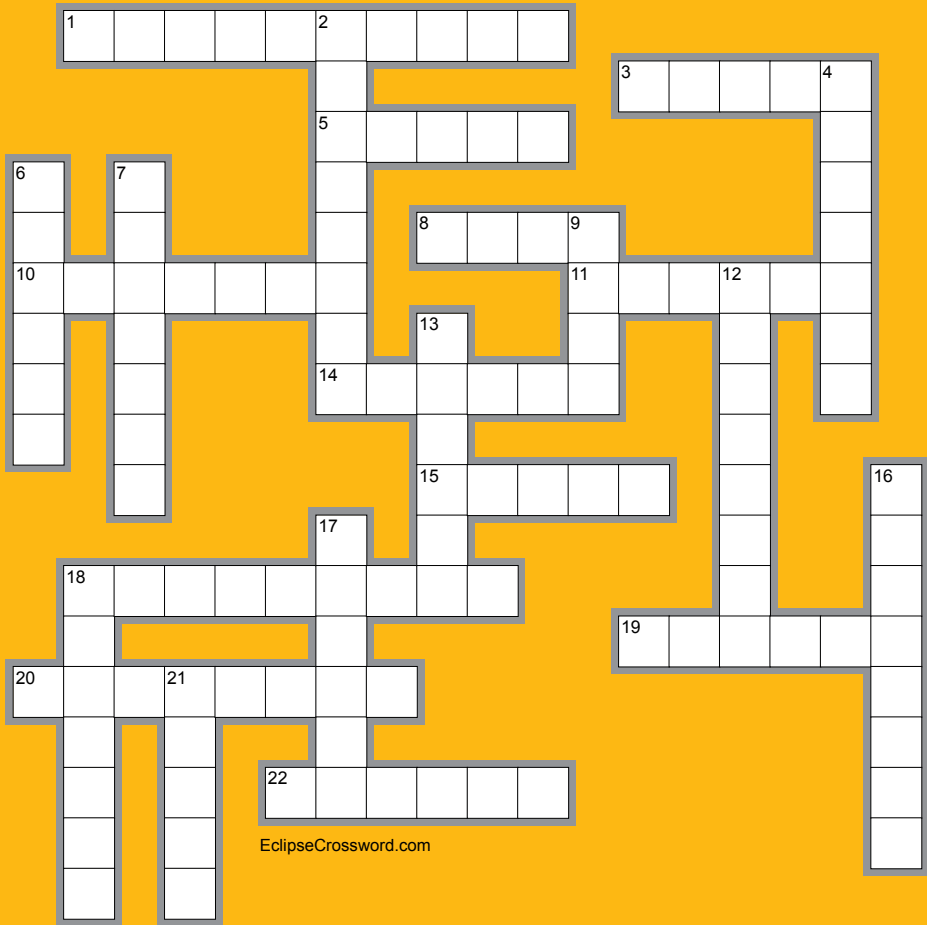
Linking Black History Month with Local Democracy Week, young people aged seven - 18 will present their favourite speech from black history. Refreshments provided.

### The voice of a community •

**Alex Pascall OBE** has been a prominent voice in London's Caribbean community since the 1970s. For 14 years he produced and presented "Black Londoners," the first daily black current affairs programme on BBC radio. In 1982, Alex co-founded "The Voice", Britain's best known black newspaper, and also chaired the Notting Hill Carnival for four years. He is also a playwright, percussionist, vocalist, and songwriter, and has developed a host of creative educational programmes aimed at promoting diversity in education.

// **Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela** – imprisoned for 27 years for his campaign against apartheid in South Africa before becoming its first democratically-elected president in 1994.

# CROSSWORD



EclipseCrossword.com

## Across

1. French-speaking Caribbean island
3. Capital of Bangladesh
5. Black community newspaper
8. National dish of Ghana
10. Surname of the youngest black designer to own a shop on Saville Row
11. Music with religious lyrics and dominant vocals originally sung by slaves
14. Birth place of St George - Patron Saint of England
15. Island with the capital city of Port Au Prince
18. Caribbean volcano
19. Sacred river in India named after an Ethiopian King who conquered parts of Asia
20. Indian Mausoleum
22. African Saint 189AD - 203AD

**Down**

2. Occupation of Chinua Achebe
4. Turkish city formally known as Adalia
6. Currency of Angola
7. Theme of Islington's Black History Month programme
9. Book by Judge Constance Briscoe
12. Type of cooking banana
13. Surname of Britain's first black Councillor
16. Capital of Brazil
17. Hindu festival of lights
18. Official language of Kenya
21. African conquerors of Spain in 711AD

**WIN a gift hamper worth £30!**

To enter the crossword competition, please send your completed entries to:

Yansie Rolston  
4th floor, 222 Upper Street  
London N1 1XR.

All entries will be placed in a box and one lucky (and clever) winner will be drawn, receiving a gift hamper worth £30.

# It's your freedom of speech

## Join the voters list now

For further details please visit:

**[www.islington.gov.uk](http://www.islington.gov.uk)**

call electoral services on

**020 7527 3110**

or email:

**[electoral.services@islington.gov.uk](mailto:electoral.services@islington.gov.uk)**



**If you need help translating this programme on Black History Month, please contact Islington Council on 020 7527 3433 with your required language and your telephone number and an interpreter will contact you.**

**If you would like this document in large print, Braille or on audiotape please contact 020 7527 3433.**

**Albanian** Nëse keni nevojë për përkthimin e këtij programi për Black History Month (Muajin e Historisë së Personaliteteve Zezakë), ju lutemi kontaktoni Këshillin e Islingtonit në 020 7527 3433 për t'i treguar gjuhën që flisni e numrin tuaj të telefonit dhe do t'ju kontaktojë një përkthyes.

**Greek** Μαύρων (Μπλάκ Χίστορι Μόνθ). Αν χρειάζεστε βοήθεια να το καταλάβετε, επικοινωνήστε με το Δημαρχείο του 'Ισλινγτον στο τηλέφωνο 020 7527 3433 , πείτε μας την γλώσσα που χρειάζεστε και το τηλέφωνό σας, και ένας διερμηνέας θα επικοινωνήσει μαζί σας.

**Bengali** 'ব্লাক হিস্ট্রি মান্থ' (কালোদের ইতিহাস বিষয়ক মাস)-এর এই কর্মসূচীটি অনুবাদ করতে যদি আপনার সাহায্যের দরকার হয়, তাহলে দয়া করে 020 7527 3433 নম্বরে ইজলিংটন কাউন্সিলের সাথে যোগাযোগ করে তাদেরকে আপনার যে ভাষায় অনুবাদ দরকার সেই ভাষার কথা বলুন এবং আপনার টেলিফোন নম্বর দিন। তারপর একজন ইন্টারপ্রিটার (দোভাষী) আপনার সাথে যোগাযোগ করবেন।

**Chinese** 如果你需要別人協助替你翻譯這份有關黑人歷史月的節目表，請致電依士靈頓區政府，電話 020 7527 3433，並說明你所需的語言和你的電話號碼，然後一位傳譯員便會與你聯絡。

**Somali** Haddii aad uga baahan tahay af-celin barnaamijkan Bisha Taariikhda Dadka Madaw, Fadlan kala xidhiidh Kownsalka Islington 020 2527 3433 adiga oo sheegaya luqadda aad u baahan tahay iyo lambarka telefoonkaaga, markaa turjubaan ayaa kula soo xidhiidhi doonna

**Turkish** Afrika Kökenli Halkların Tarihi (Black History Month) kutlamaları programı konusunda size Türkçe bilgi verilmesini istiyorsanız, lütfen 020 7527 3433 numaradan Əslington Belediyesi'ni arayın, bu konuda Türkçe bilgi verilmesini istediĐinizi ve telefon numaranızı bildirin. Bir tercümanımız sizi arayıp gerekli bilgiyi verecektir.

