

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Black Lives Matter (BLM) is a movement without a specific leader or hierarchy. They promote non-violent movement to eradicate white supremacy and stop violence towards the black community by the Police.

In July 2013, the movement began with the use of the hashtag **#BlackLivesMatter** on social media after the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of African-American teen Trayvon Martin earlier in February 2012. The movement became nationally recognized for street demonstrations following the 2014 deaths of Michael Brown—resulting in protests and unrest in Ferguson, Missouri and Eric Garner in New York City. Since the Ferguson protests, participants in the movement have demonstrated against the deaths of numerous other African Americans by police actions or while in police custody. In the summer of 2015, Black Lives Matter activists became involved in the 2016 US presidential election.

The originators of the hashtag expanded their project into a national network. The overall Black Lives Matter movement is a decentralized network of activists with no formal hierarchy.



Trayvon Benjamin Martin (1995-2012)

Killed by George Zimmerman.



Michael Brown Jr. (1996-2014)

Killed by Darren Wilson.



Eric Garner (1990-2014)

Killed by Daniel Pantaleo.



The movement returned to national headlines and gained further international attention during the global George Floyd protests in 2020 following the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin. An estimated 15-26 million people, although not all are members or part of the organization, participated in the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests in the United States, making Black Lives Matter one of the largest movements in United States history. The movement has advocated to defund the police and invest directly into black communities and alternative emergency response models.



George Floyd (1973-2020)



Protests across America (2020)

The popularity of Black Lives Matter has rapidly shifted over time. Whereas public opinion on Black Lives Matter was net negative in 2018, it grew increasingly popular through 2019 and 2020. A June 2020 Pew Research Centre poll found that the majority of Americans, across all racial and ethnic groups, have expressed support for the Black Lives Matter movement.



Support shown for
#BlackLivesMatter at various
sporting events around the
world, 2020.



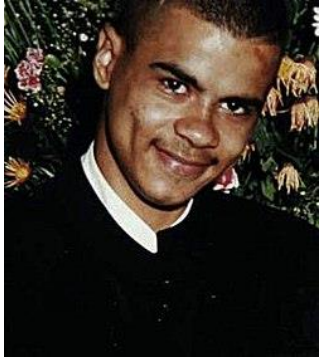
BLACK LIVES MATTER

United Kingdom

In 2015, after the death of Freddie Gray in Baltimore, black activists around the world modelled efforts for reform on Black Lives Matter.

In August 2016, Black Lives Matter protesters blocked London City Airport. Several demonstrators chained themselves together on the airport's runway. Nine people were arrested in connection with the incident. There were also BLM-themed protests in other English cities including Birmingham and Nottingham. The UK-held protests marked the fifth anniversary of the shooting death of Mark Duggan.





Mark Duggan

Mark Duggan, a 29-year-old British man, was shot and killed by police in Tottenham, North London on 04 August 2011. The Metropolitan Police stated that officers were attempting to arrest Duggan on suspicion of planning an attack and that he was in possession of a handgun. Duggan died from a gunshot wound to the chest. The circumstances of Duggan's death resulted in public protests in Tottenham, which led to conflict with police and escalated into riots across London and other English cities.

Duggan was under investigation by Operation Trident, at the Metropolitan Police. He was known to be in possession of a handgun given to him by Kevin Hutchinson-Foster, 15 minutes before he was shot. At a trial of Hutchinson-Foster in September–October 2012 the jury failed to reach a verdict. At his re-trial, in January 2013, Hutchinson-Foster was convicted of supplying Duggan with the gun and jailed. In August 2013 the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) said its investigation had substantially ended and that they had found no evidence of criminality by the police.

A public inquest on the Duggan death began on 16 September 2013, and ended on 8 January 2014 with an 8–2 majority concluding that Duggan's death was a lawful killing.



The official account of Duggan's death has undergone numerous changes, attracting criticism and suspicion from invested parties and other supporters. These critics accuse police of misconduct and of failing to cooperate with those investigating Duggan's death



In June 2017, another death, that of Edson Da Costa caused BLM supporters to protest in Stratford, London who died in police custody. There were no arrests made at the protest.

In December 2019, Black Lives Matter UK worked with the coalition *Wretched of the Earth* to represent the voices of indigenous people and people of colour in the climate justice movement.

But it was in 2020, that **Black Lives Matter UK** held protests in support of the BLM protests in the US. London protests took place in Trafalgar Square on 31 May, Hyde Park on 03 June and Parliament Square on 06 June. Also there was a protest outside the US Embassy on 07 June. Similar protests took place in Manchester, Bristol, and Cardiff. The UK protests not only showed solidarity with US protesters, they also commemorated black people who have died in the UK, with protesters chanting, carrying signs, and sharing social media posts with names of victims on them.

On 07 June, protests continued in many towns and cities. During a Black Lives Matter protest in Bristol, the city centre statue of Edward Colston, a philanthropist, politician and slave trader, was pulled down by protesters, rolled along the road and pushed into Bristol Harbour.



In London protesters defaced the statue of Winston Churchill, Parliament Square, Westminster with graffiti for a second time. Black spray paint was sprayed over Churchill's name and the words 'was a racist' were sprayed underneath. A protester also attempted to burn the Union Jack flag flying at the Cenotaph, a memorial to Britain's war dead. Later in the evening violence broke out between protesters and police. A total of 49 police officers were injured after demonstrators threw bottles and fireworks at them.



Over the weekend, a total of 135 arrests were made by police. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson commented on the events, saying 'those who attack public property or the police – who injure the police officers who are trying to keep us all safe – those people will face the full force of the law; not just because of the hurt and damage they are causing, but because of the damage they are doing to the cause they claim to represent.'



Peaceful protests took place in Leeds' Millennium Square on June 14, 2020 organized by a coalition of organizations: Black Voices Matter', which included Black Lives Matter Leeds. A second protest was held on Woodhouse Moor on June 21, organized by Black Lives Matter Leeds.

On June 18, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab aroused controversy when he said in a radio interview that the 'taking the knee' gesture associated with Black Lives Matter 'feels to me like a symbol of subjugation and subordination, rather than one of liberation and



emancipation', and suggested that it had originated in the TV series Game of Thrones.

As in America, the beginning of the movement in 2016 was not met with respect in the UK, however, from 2018 onwards, after events like Grenfell and the Windrush scandal, the movement was viewed more favourably by black Britons, in particular senior black Britons.

But what are some of the issues in the UK which prompted so many to react so strongly to the killing of George Floyd 4,000 miles away?

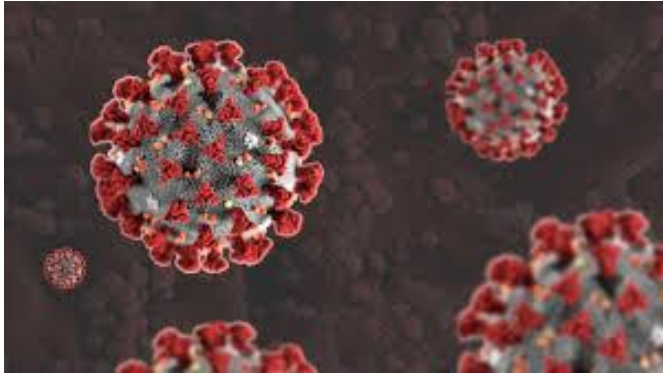


The brutal killing of George Floyd was recorded on video for all to see for themselves. This has prompted similar such footage to be recorded in the UK. It is harder not to notice such cruelty when the evidence is in front of you.

Since 1990, there have been 1,743 people in England and Wales who have died following contact with the police, according to the charity Inquest.

As a proportion of the population in these countries, black people are more than twice as likely to die in police custody and force or restraint is more than twice as likely to be involved in their deaths.

It has also been a feature of Black Lives Matter protests in the US to make the names of those who died due to police violence a focus of demonstrations and online activism, with the hashtag **#saytheirnames**.



Coronavirus has heightened social divides: The government's review into the impact of coronavirus on ethnic minority communities told a tale of social and economic inequalities with poverty, overcrowded housing, and being employed in lower-paid roles being put forward as factors for this disparity.

BLM started in protest at police killings of black people in the US, came to Britain as a coalition of black activists opposing unjust policing and other forms of racism.



Here in the UK we witnessed the Grenfell Tower fire in 2017, which led to the deaths of 72 people, many of them black and Asian, amid claims of official neglect. Then there followed the Windrush scandal emerged in 2018, with thousands of people from Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean and Africa wrongly told

they were in Britain illegally. It would seem that this succession of issues affecting black communities has made people more willing to speak out and demonstrate.

LONG WALK to FREEDOM

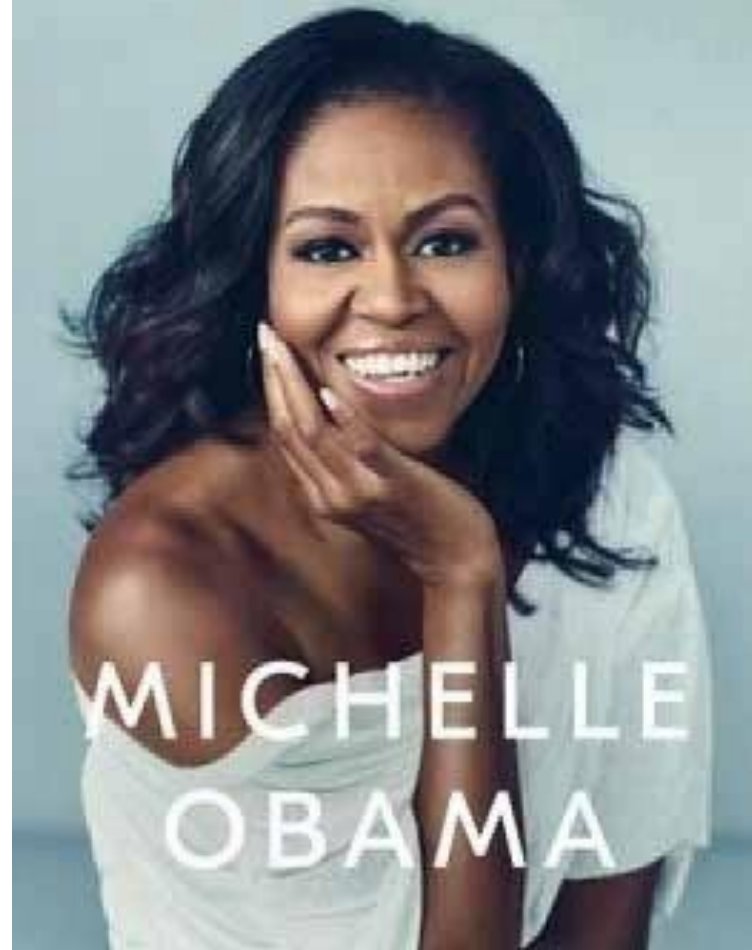
'Enthralling ... Mandela emulates the few great political leaders, such as Lincoln and Gandhi, who go beyond mere consensus and move out ahead of their followers to break new ground'

Donald Woods in the *Sunday Times*



NELSON MANDELA

BECOMING



MICHELLE OBAMA

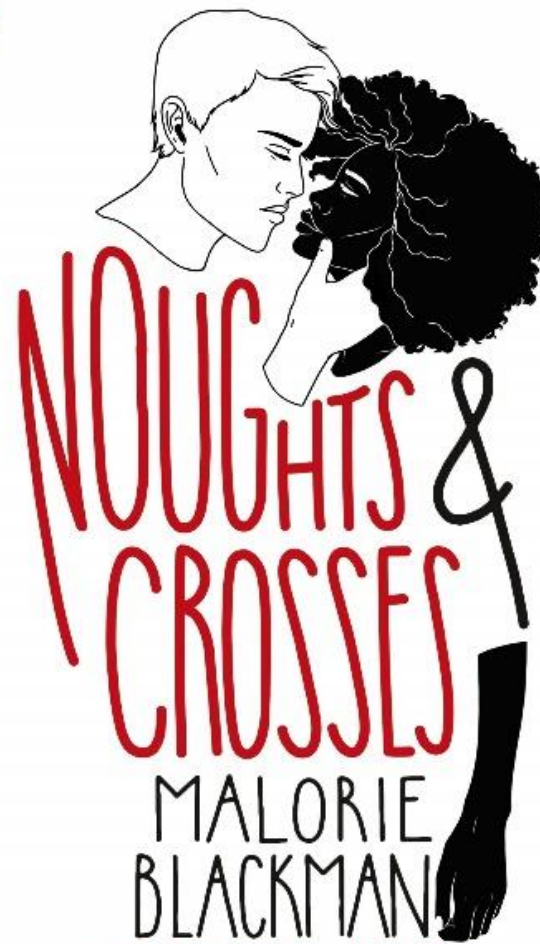
She was fierce and strong,
she looked like a different person ...
a person who didn't make mistakes.

Becoming DINAH

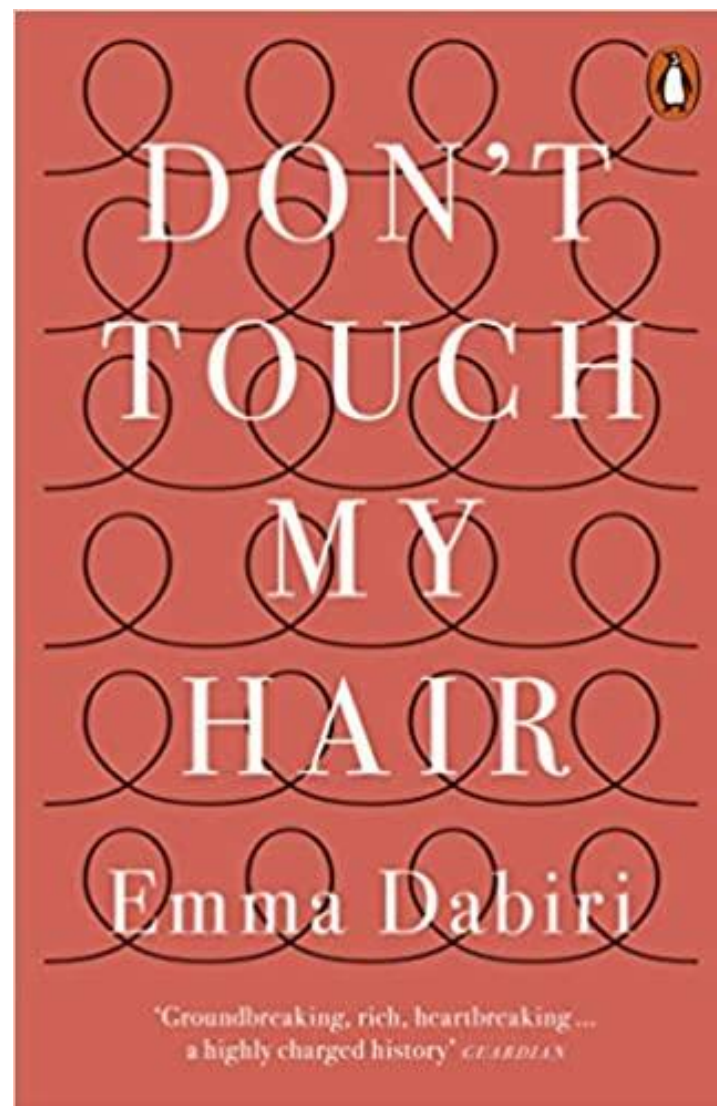
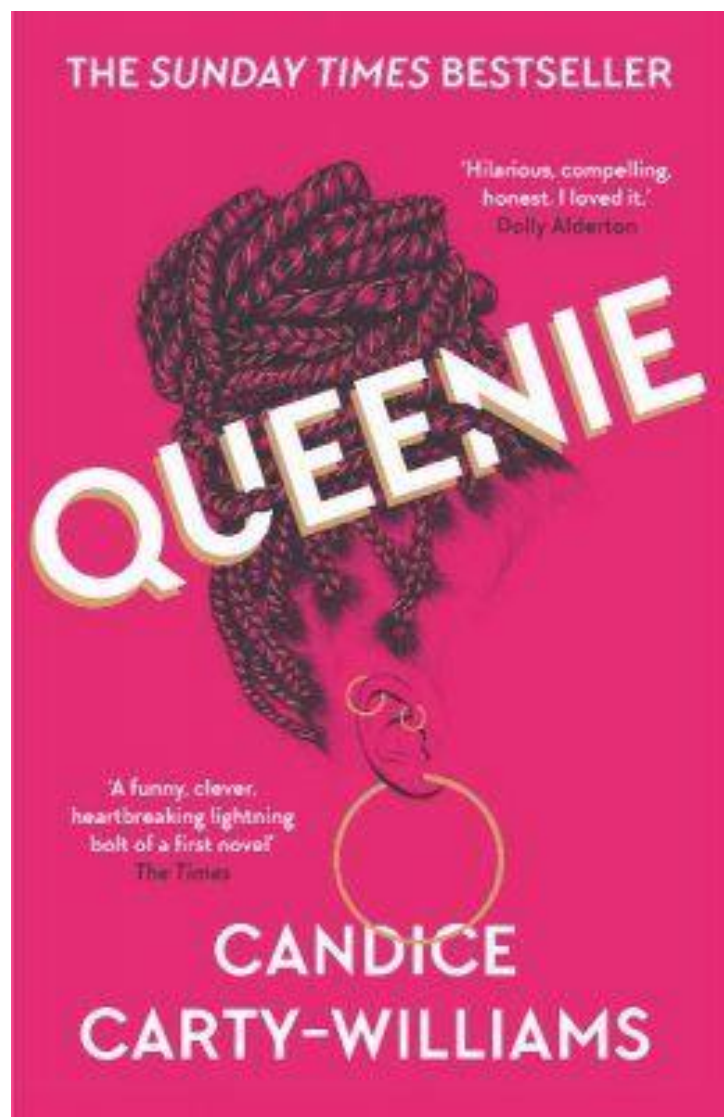


Kit de Waal

Costa Award shortlisted author of
My Name is Leon



'THE NOUGHTS & CROSSES SERIES ARE MY
FAVOURITE BOOKS OF ALL TIME' STORMZY



Reni Eddo-Lodge

WHY I'M NO LONGER TALKING

TO WHITE
PEOPLE

featuring
new material
from the
author

ABOUT RACE

'Essential' Marlon James, Winner of the Man Booker Prize 2015

'A wake-up call to a nation in denial' *Observer*

BLOOMSBURY

THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER

KILEY REID

Such A Fun Age

**'I couldn't
put this down'**
JOJO MOYES

**'A new
literary star'**
THE TIMES

'A firecracker debut'
GUARDIAN

BLOOMSBURY

