

# Women & Non-binary Identities

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CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

# KEY QUESTIONS.

What is Black History month to you?

How do you believe Black History Month represents women and non-binary folk?

How effective is the mainstream when talking about representation and archiving marginalised voices in the arts?

What can we do as young people/students to ensure diverse voices are heard?

What does the representation of black artist look like on your curriculum?

# KEY TERMS.

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AFAB	Assigned female at birth
AMAB	Assigned male at birth
Black	A member of a dark-skinned people, especially one of African, Australian and Caribbean Aboriginal ancestry. A term used in certain countries, often in socially based systems of racial classification or of ethnicity.
Black Feminism	The belief that sexism, class oppression, gender identity and racism are impossible to separate. These concepts relate to each other through intersectionality
Black History Month	First celebrated in the UK in 1987, Black History Month in the UK is marked annually during the month of October and in the USA during the month of February, with important reference to the black society.
Black Panthers	Originally the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, was a revolutionary black nationalist and socialist organization active in the United States from 1966 until 1982. The Panthers practiced militant self-defense of minority communities against the U.S. government, and fought to establish revolutionary socialism through mass organizing and community based programs.
Cisgender	A person who identifies with the gender that was assigned for them at birth
Cultural Appropriation	When a person of the dominate culture borrows something of cultural significance from minority groups, whilst lacking a contextual understanding of what makes the cultural symbols, art forms and modes of expression significant.
Diaspora	scattered population whose origin lies within a smaller geographic locale. Diaspora can also refer to the movement of the population from its original homeland.

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Femininity	A set of behaviours, presentations and roles which are culturally associated with being a woman and/or possessing female sex characteristics. People of any gender identity or sexual orientation can be feminine, but those who are assigned female at birth often experience societal pressure to be so.
Femme	Femme is a feminine gender role which is sometimes used as a gender identity. The term femme originated in communities of lesbian and bi women. Those who identify as femme may have the gender identity of woman and have a strongly feminine gender expression, or they may use femme as a non-binary gender identity aligned with femininity.
Gender Expression	Refers to the way that a person uses appearance, mannerisms and other personal traits to communicate their gender. Gender expression can be any or a combination of masculine, feminine and androgynous traits.
Gender Fluid	A gender identity which refers to a gender which varies over time. A gender fluid person may at any time identify as male, female, neutrois, or any other non-binary identity, or some combination of identities.
Homophobia	Prejudice against the LGBTQ+ community
Intersectionality	A term coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw which examines how social identities are used as a way to discriminate against marginalised groups who experience multiple forms of oppression simultaneously. Specifically women of colour who suffer from both gender and racial discrimination.
Intersectional Feminism	A perspective within feminism that doesn't exclude people from the movement based on their Gender, Race and Class.

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Intersex	An intersex person is has sex characteristics e.g.sexual anatomy, reproductive organs, and/or chromosome patterns that do not fit the typical definition of male or female. This may be apparent at birth or become so later in life.
Marginalise	To relegate to the fringes, out of the mainstream; make seem unimportant:to place in a position of marginal importance, influence, or power.
Misogyny	
Misogynoir	A term referring to misogyny directed towards Black women, where race and gender both play roles in bias.
Matriarchy	A social system in which females hold primary power, predominate in roles of political leadership, moral authority, social privilege and control of property at the specific exclusion of men i(at least to a large degree.
Masculinity	A set of behaviours, presentations and roles which are culturally associated with being a man and/or possessing male sex characteristics. People of any gender identity or sexual orientation can be masculine, but those who are assigned male at birth often experience societal pressure to be so.
Non-Binary	Non-binary gender describes any gender identity which does not fit within the binary of male and female.
POC	Person of colour
Political Blackness	Political blackness is the idea that all non-white people can define themselves under one term: black.
Prejudice	Hatred towards someone based on their identity. Example: An oppressed person of colour can be prejudice against privileged races but cannot be racist.
Privilege	A special right, advantage, or immunity granted or available only to a particular person or group.

QTIPOC	Queer Trans and Intersex People of Colour
Queer	An umbrella term for sexual and gender minorities that are not heterosexual and/or cisgender
Queerphonia	
Reverse Racism	A belief that ethnic minority groups and people of colour are capable of being racist towards white folk, which is a politically incorrect term since the societies function under white supremacy.
Self Defining women	A person who identifies as a woman, regardless of what gender was assigned for them at birth.
Trans Feminine	A term used to describe transgender people who were assigned male at birth, but identify with femininity to a greater extent than with masculinity.
Transgender	The term transgender is an umbrella term for anyone whose internal experience of gender does not match the gender they were assigned at birth.
Trans Man	Someone who is both a man and transgender/transsexual. Trans men were assigned female at birth but their gender identity is male.
Trans Masculine	A term used to describe transgender people who were assigned female at birth, but identify with masculinity to a greater extent than with femininity.
Transphobia	Prejudice against the Trans community
Trans Sexual	The term transsexual predates the term transgender, but has become less popular as it may imply that sex characteristics are more important than gender identity.
Trans Woman	Someone who is both a woman and transgender/transsexual. Trans women were assigned male at birth but their gender identity is female.

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White Feminism	A type of feminism that ignores the fight for equality of anyone who don't identify as white, cisgender and heterosexual
White Supremacy	White supremacy is an ideology centered upon the belief, and promotion of the belief, that white people are superior. It is argued by critical race theorist that all white people have a level of white supremacy values because of the media, education and politics have embedded whiteness as superior in society.
White Washing	A term used to describe white actors or actress playing non-fictional and historical non-white character roles. Therefore writing and disconnecting historical events and achievements to the non-white community.
WoC	Woman of Colour
Woman	Woman is a gender identity which is part of the gender binary. Woman is a term used for adults, and corresponds to the terms girl.
Womanism	Because mainstream feminism goals and ideologies differed to that of the needs of Black women, Alice Walker coined the term womanism where Black Women were at the center of the ideology without the need to racialise how gender plays an important role in the life of Black Women.
Xenophobia	Fear and hatred of strangers or foreigners or of anything that is strange or foreign.

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Learn more gender related keywords here:  
[gender.wikia.com](http://gender.wikia.com)

# FURTHER READING.

Campt, Tina. *Image Matters: Archive, Photography, and the African Diaspora in Europe*. Durham: Duke UP, 2012.

Dent, Gina, and Michele Wallace. *Black Popular Culture*. Seattle: Bay, 1992. Hall, Stuart. *What is This "Black" in Black Popular Culture*

Davis, Angela. *Blues Legacies And Black Feminism: Gertrude "Ma" Rainey, Bessie Smith and Billie Holiday*. 1999

Hooks, Bell. *Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism*. Boston, MA: South End, 1981. Print.

Hooks, Bell. *Black Looks: Race and Representation*. Boston, MA: South End, 1992. Chapter 2: "Eating the Other"

Lorde, Audre. *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name*. Berkeley, CA: Crossing, 1982. Print.

Lorde, Audre. *Need: A Chorale for Black Woman Voices*. 1990. Print.

Yancy, George. *Black Bodies, White Gazes: The Continuing Significance of Race*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Pub. 2008.



# HELPFUL ORGANISATIONS.

## Black Ballad

Black Ballad is a UK based lifestyle website that taps into the conversations Black British women are having over dinner, through the changing room walls of Zara, online and anywhere else in between.

[www.blackballad.co.uk/about-us/](http://www.blackballad.co.uk/about-us/)

## Black Blossoms

Black Blossoms highlights the voices of Black Women by hosting regular events which Black Women are the centre of the conversation. It also aims to provide safe spaces for women in academia.

[blackblossoms.org](http://blackblossoms.org)

## For Harriet

For Harriet is an online community for women of African ancestry. We encourage women, through storytelling and journalism, to engage in candid, revelatory dialogue about the beauty and complexity of Black womanhood. We aspire to educate, inspire, and entertain.

[www.forharriet.com/](http://www.forharriet.com/)

TW: @ForHarriet // FB: forharriet

## AAPF

The African American Policy Forum (AAPF) is an innovative think tank that connects academics, activists and policy-makers to promote efforts to dismantle structural inequality. We utilize new ideas and innovative perspectives to transform public discourse and policy. We promote frameworks and strategies that address a vision of racial justice that embraces the intersections of race, gender, class, and the array of barriers that disempower those who are marginalized in society. AAPF is dedicated to advancing and expanding racial justice, gender equality, and the indivisibility of all human rights, both in the U.S. and internationally.

[www.aapf.org](http://www.aapf.org)

# SOCIAL JUSTICE WARRIORS/EDUCATORS.

## Kat Blaque- Youtuber

Kat Blaque is a transgender African American feminist vlogger, YouTube personality, activist and illustrator. In 2010, she began to vlog more publicly about her life and made an concerted effort to produce a channel with educational content about feminism, gender identity, race, and other social justice issues.  
[www.youtube.com/channel/UCxFWzKZa74SyAqpJyVIG5Ew](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxFWzKZa74SyAqpJyVIG5Ew)

## Franchesca Ramsey- Youtuber

Ramsey's YouTube channel contains topical and socially conscious comedy sketches and song parodies among other videos. Her chescalocs channel is about natural hair. In 2015, Ramsey became the host of the MTV web series Decoded where she takes on racism and culture.  
[www.youtube.com/user/chescaleigh/featured](http://www.youtube.com/user/chescaleigh/featured)

## Dr Gabriel

Dr Gabriel is a full-time academic at Bournemouth University in the faculty of Media and Communication and during her academic career has lectured in journalism, media, politics and corporate marketing communications. She is concerned with contributing to social change through the innovation of pedagogies of social justice and cultural democracy and prides herself on creative thinking and embedding her philosophy of social justice and equality across teaching, research and professional practice.

## Twitter Users to Follow

@UnmaskedWoman

@galdemzine

@BlackTransMedia

@blackqueenCol

@AllBlackWomen

@BlackTransWomen

@AIAWC

@BlackFems

@GNBlackPride

@bgjlonline

@spelmanmuseum

@centerblacklgbt

@ShequalityMatte

@projectfem4all

@BlackGirlNerds

@WomenEnabled

# HASHTAGS TO FOLLOW.

## #BlackLivesMatter

An activist movement in the United States that began in the wake of the July 2013 acquittal of George Zimmerman in the Florida shooting death of African-American teen Trayvon Martin. The Black Lives Matter movement campaigns against police brutality in the United States against African-Americans.

## #BlackGirlMagic

"We're using it to celebrate ourselves because historically black women haven't had the type of support that other groups have...Black Girl Magic tries to counteract the negativity that we sometimes hold within ourselves and is sometimes placed on us by the outside world." Cashawn Thompson

Read more: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/blogs-trending-35263240>

## #SandraBland

A vigil in the memory of Sandra Bland, a 28-year-old black woman who was found hanged in a jail cell in Waller County, Texas, on July 13, 2015. Her death was classified as a suicide by the county coroner and was followed by protests against her arrest disputing the cause of death and alleging racial violence against her.

## Campaigns:

### #SayHerName

A Vigil in Memory of Black Women and Girls Killed by the Police

### #WhyCantWeWait

Elevating the life experiences of women and girls of color and pushing for the incorporation of gender in our definition of racial justice.

### #BlackGirlsMatter

Raising awareness of the fact that girls of color face much harsher school discipline than their white peers but are excluded from current efforts to address the school-to-prison pipeline.

*Read more about these Campaigns at [aapf.org/sayhername/](http://aapf.org/sayhername/)*