

Wednesday 2 April 2008 14:30

Boris says sorry over 'blacks have lower IQs' article in the Spectator.

Boris Johnson apologised again over race issues today after he was accused of condoning an article that claimed black people have a lower IQ.

The Tory mayoral candidate came under fire from Ken Livingstone and a leading black lawyer over pieces published in the Spectator magazine when he was editor. In one, columnist Taki wrote that "Orientals ... have larger brains and higher IQ scores. Blacks are at the other pole." In another, he described black American basketball players as having "arms hanging below their knees and tongues sticking out".

When asked today if he had condoned the articles, unearthed by black newspaper-New Nation, Mr Johnson told the Standard: "I am sorry for what was previously written as it does not reflect what is in my heart.

(...)

The Evening Standard

JUNE 17, 2015, 10:43 AM

Racial Fluidity Complicates the Value We Assign to Race

Our society values some racial identities more than others. Moreover, it values racial identities differently in different circumstances. White racial identity is often of great value — it helps those viewed as white get jobs, find mentors, buy cars and sell items on Ebay.

So long as different racial identities have different values, the racially fluid will have an incentive to present themselves in the way most favorable under the circumstances.

But in certain situations nonwhite racial identity is also valuable. In recent research published in the Harvard Law Review, I examined how white people and predominantly white institutions value nonwhite racial identity. Our society values diversity — or, at least, its appearance — with the result that we often hear white people bragging about their nonwhite friends or see companies and schools going to great lengths to display nonwhite people on their websites. For example, a survey of colleges' promotional materials found that black and Asian students were overrepresented in photos by about 50 percent.

Racial fluidity complicates the value we assign to race. The recent rise in interracial marriage has led to more people identifying as two or more races. Racial fluidity allows people who identify as "white and something else" to choose how to maximize the value of their identity. When it's more socially valuable to be white — renting an apartment; interacting with police — they can present themselves as white. In the limited situations when it's more valuable to be nonwhite — applying for a diversity scholarship — they can present themselves as nonwhite. Ironically, racial fluidity is often most valuable to people who appear white. (...)

Nancy Leong is an associate professor of law at the University of Denver's Sturm College of Law.

The New York Times

November 2015

Bitter Roots: The Search for Healing Plants in Africa

Since the 1992 'Earth Summit' in Rio de Janeiro and its Convention on Biological Diversity, the potential pharmaceutical value of medicinal plants and the question of benefits sharing—of who profits from scientific research and commercial development—has occupied scientists, pharmaceutical companies, lawyers, governments and indigenous peoples around the globe.

This book, by a historian of science, focuses on the stories of six African plants, all of which have been subject to scientific experimentation and pharmaceutical development over the past 150 years (...)

Abena Dove Osseo-Asare, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2014. Pp. 300. \$35/£24.50. ISBN 978 0 226 08602 6.
Ruth J. Prince - *Social History of Medicine*, Volume 28, Issue 4, November 2015, Pages 943–944

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Oxford University Press

on behalf of the Society for the Social History of Medicine.

Sun 29 Oct 2017 15.00 GMT

Last modified on Thu 22 Feb 2018 14.20 GMT

Tudor, English and black – and not a slave in sight

From musicians to princes, a new book by historian Miranda Kaufmann opens a window on the hitherto unknown part played by black people in 16th-century England

Within moments of meeting historian Miranda Kaufmann, I learn not to make flippant assumptions about race and history. Here we are in Moorgate, I say. Is it called that because it was a great hub of black Tudor life? “You have to be careful with anything like that,” she winces, “because, for all you know, this was a moor. It’s the same with family names and emblems: if your name was Mr Moore, you’d have the choice between a moorhen or a blackamoor. It wouldn’t necessarily say something about your race.”

Her answer – meticulous, free of bombast, dovetailing memorable details with wider issues – is typical of her first book *Black Tudors: The Untold Story*, which debunks the idea that slavery was the beginning of Africans’ presence in England, and exploitation and discrimination their only experience. The book takes the form of 10 vivid and wide-ranging true-life stories, sprinkled with dramatic vignettes and nice, chewy details that bring each character to life. Africans were already known to have likely been living in Roman Britain as soldiers, slaves or even free men and women. But Kaufmann shows that, by Tudor times, they were present at the royal courts of Henry VII, Henry VIII, Elizabeth I and James I, and in the households of Sir Walter Raleigh and William Cecil. (...)

Bidisha

The Guardian

Aug. 14, 2018

How Can I Cure My White Guilt?

The thing about privilege is that it can be used for good.

Dear Sugars,

I'm riddled with shame. White shame. This isn't helpful to me or to anyone, especially people of color. I feel like there is no "me" outside of my white/upper middle class/cisgender identity. I feel like my literal existence hurts people, like I'm always taking up space that should belong to someone else.

I consider myself an ally. I research proper etiquette, read writers of color, vote in a way that will not harm P.O.C. (and other vulnerable people). I engage in conversations about privilege with other white people. I take courses that will further educate me. I donated to Black Lives Matter. Yet I fear that nothing is enough. Part of my fear comes from the fact that privilege is invisible to itself. What if I'm doing or saying insensitive things without realizing it?

Another part of it is that I'm currently immersed in the whitest environment I've ever been in. My family has lived in the same apartment in East Harlem for four generations. Every school I attended, elementary through high school, was minority white, but I'm now attending an elite private college that is 75 percent white. I know who I am, but I realize how people perceive me and this perception feels unfair.

I don't talk about my feelings because it's hard to justify doing so while people of color are dying due to systemic racism and making this conversation about me would be again centering whiteness. Yet bottling it up makes me feel an existential anger that I have a hard time channeling since I don't know my place. Instead of harnessing my privilege for greater good, I'm curled up in a ball of shame. How can I be more than my heritage?

Whitey

By **Cheryl Strayed** and **Steve Almond**

The Sweet Spot

The New York Times

Wed 20 Mar 2019 07.00 GMT

Academics: it's time to get behind decolonising the curriculum

It's been four years since the first Rhodes Must Fall protests, yet people misunderstand what decolonising reading lists means.

Students at British universities are increasingly calling for their reading lists to include more black and minority ethnic (BAME) writers. But four years after the first Rhodes Must Fall protest in South Africa, the campaign for decolonising the curriculum still faces scepticism and resistance.

While Meghan Markle recently came out in support of the campaign, not all academics are on board. Doug Stokes, a lecturer at the University of Exeter, has claimed that calls to decolonise the curriculum are “a big mistake” since “the last thing our universities need are to have ‘male, pale and stale’ voices sidelined.”

This narrow view has become a common complaint of those who feel threatened by recent challenges, yet what these critics miss is that decolonising universities is not about completely eliminating white men from the curriculum. It's about challenging longstanding biases and omissions that limit how we understand politics and society.

Many advocates of decolonisation don't want to abolish the canon; they want to interrogate its assumptions and broaden our intellectual vision to include a wider range of perspectives. While decolonising the curriculum can mean different things, it includes a fundamental reconsideration of who is teaching, what the subject matter is and how it's being taught. (...)

James Muldoon

The Guardian

9 november 2019

Benin President Orders Economic Decolonization From France

For the first time a Head of State from Africa's CFA currency region has openly spoken about a very politically and economically sensitive subject that could ruin relationship with colonial master, France.

President Patrice Talon has ordered that his country's foreign currency reserves colonially deposited in French Central Bank be immediately withdrawn. Such a decision has been a taboo and no other French colony has ever done this.

All CFA zone countries are former colonies of France and have historically deposited their foreign exchange reserves to Banque de France. This has been an unchangeable rule for decades but the Benin leader seems to have a different route he wants to take his country. (..)

Taarifa

Sat 25 Jan 2020 16.27 GMT

First published on Fri 24 Jan 2020 21.56 GMT

Outrage at whites-only image as Ugandan climate activist cropped from photo

Vanessa Nakate was excised from image, which also featured Greta Thunberg, ‘purely on composition grounds’ says Associated Press.

Ugandan climate activist Vanessa Nakate has called out racism in media after she was cropped out of a photo featuring prominent climate activists including Greta Thunberg, Loukina Tille, Luisa Neubauer and Isabelle Axelsson.

Nakate made the comment in a video which has since gone viral, adding that she now understood “the definition of the word racism” for the first time in her life. (...)

Kenya Evelyn
@LiveFromKenya

The Guardian

2020-02-14

Colonialism, The Hidden Cause Of Our Environmental Crisis

Greta Thunberg tapped into a growing area of scholarship when she wrote recently that to save the planet, we first need to dismantle "colonial, racist, and patriarchal systems of oppression."

PARIS — They may only be a few short sentences, but they have sparked strong reactions among critics of Greta Thunberg, the Swedish teenager who became a figurehead for the climate movement. On Nov. 9, 2019, an article entitled "Why we strike again," written by Thunberg and two others, claimed, "The climate crisis is not just about the environment. It is a crisis of human rights, of justice, and of political will. Colonial, racist, and patriarchal systems of oppression have created and fueled it. We need to dismantle them all. Our political leaders can no longer shirk their responsibilities."

The article takes up one of the arguments of de-colonial environmentalism: that the climate crisis is linked to the history of slavery and colonialism by the Western powers.

Since the 1970s, African-American researchers have made the link between the environment and colonialism. "The real solution to the environmental crisis is the decolonization of the black race," Nathan Hare wrote in 1970. Five years later, sociologist Terry Jones spoke of "apartheid ecology," a concept that would be further developed in the 1990s by Latin American decolonial thinkers at American universities, such as Walter Mignolo at Duke (North Carolina), Ramón Grosfoguel at Berkeley (California) or Arturo Escobar at the University of North Carolina.

"The true beginning of the Anthropocene is the European colonization of America. This major historical event, which had dramatic consequences for the Native American people and founded a capitalist world economy, has also left its mark on our planet's geology," (...)

Séverine Kodjo-Grandvaux

LE MONDE

Mon 17 Feb 2020 19.51 GMT

Boris Johnson adviser quits over race and eugenics controversy

Andrew Sabisky says he is stepping down as ‘contractor’ to No 10 after fierce criticism across political spectrum

A controversial new adviser to Boris Johnson resigned on Monday night after MPs and experts accused No 10 of condoning his controversial claims that intelligence is linked to race.

Andrew Sabisky, who was brought into Downing Street by Johnson’s senior aide Dominic Cummings as part of his appeal for “misfits and weirdos”, became the subject of intense media scrutiny after details emerged of his views on subjects ranging from black people’s IQs to whether benefits claimants should be encouraged to have fewer children.

But amid mounting criticism within the Conservative party after No 10 stood by the appointment, Sabisky said that he would be stepping down as a “contractor” to No 10.

He tweeted: “The media hysteria about my old stuff online is mad but I wanted to help [the government] not be a distraction.

Accordingly I’ve decided to resign as a contractor. I hope No 10 hires more [people with] good geopolitical forecasting track records and that media learn to stop selective quoting.” (...)

Rowena Mason Deputy political editor

The Guardian

Tue 18 Feb 2020 22.37 GMT

Dave attacks Boris Johnson in Brit awards performance: 'Our prime minister's a real racist'

South London rapper, who won album of the year for Psychodrama, also called for support for the Windrush generation and castigated the media over their coverage of Meghan Markle

South London rapper Dave has accused Boris Johnson of being a racist on stage at the 2020 Brit awards.

Performing *Black*, a freestyle track that charts the difficulties of black Britons and celebrates black excellence, he added a newly written final verse that began: “It is racist, whether or not it feels racist, the truth is our prime minister’s a real racist / They say – ‘you should be grateful, we’re the least racist’ / I say the least racist is still racist.”

He moved into a criticism of the British press’s treatment of Meghan Markle, compared with that of Kate, Duchess of Cambridge: “If you don’t want to get it, then you’re never gonna get how the news treats Kate versus how they treated Meghan.” Responding to the prime minister being called a racist, the home secretary, Priti Patel, said it was “utter nonsense” and Johnson was “absolutely not a racist”. In a round of media interviews on Wednesday morning, she added: “Artists and entertainers say all sorts of things.” (...)

Ben Beaumont-Thomas and **Kevin Rawlinson** and **Rowena Mason**

The Guardian

Last modified on Fri 21 Feb 2020 15.52 GMT

The BBC normalised racism last night, pure and simple

Hate crimes have doubled in just five years. Why did our national broadcaster uncritically tweet the vile views of a Question Time audience member?

This is how racism and rightwing extremism is normalised. Thursday night's Question Time featured a lengthy racist rant by an audience member: "Close the borders, completely close the borders," she frothed with hateful rage, adding in lies about foreigners being showered with never-ending freebies while destroying the education system and the NHS. It took the commentator Ash Sarkar to challenge her unabashed bigotry with truth, pointing to research that migrants pay in more to the state than they get back. In a cheeky recycling of a quote popularised by the rightwing US pundit Ben Shapiro, Sarkar silenced the bigot: "Facts don't care about your feelings." (...)

Owen Jones

The Guardian

Sunday 23 February 2020

Cambridge University don apologises after black student “physically prevented” entering college

Collin Edourd said his treatment showed “implicit bias” facing students of color.

A University of Cambridge don has apologised to a black student who was “grabbed” by a porter as he tried to enter a college for a meeting with a professor.

Collin Edouard, a master’s student at the university, was left “shocked” after an employee prevented him walking into St Catharine’s College this week.

He said he informed the porter he was a student and gave the professor’s name and room number, but was only allowed to continue after a white friend vouched for him.

Mr Edouard told The Independent the experience showed the “implicit bias” faced by black students at Cambridge.

He said: “My experience being grabbed by an employee was traumatising. I felt shocked and I still feel uncomfortable going through porters lodges.

“There is a reason the man felt entitled to grab me as I entered the building. I find it challenging to find another reason other than implicit bias.” (...)

Eleanor Busby Education correspondent

THE INDEPENDENT

Wed 18 Mar 2020 06.00 GMT

Last modified on Mon 28 Sep 2020 11.22 BST

'Tip of the iceberg': is our destruction of nature responsible for Covid-19?

As habitat and biodiversity loss increase globally, the coronavirus outbreak may be just the beginning of mass pandemics

Mayibout 2 is not a healthy place. The 150 or so people who live in the village, which sits on the south bank of the Ivindo River, deep in the great Minkebe Forest in northern Gabon, are used to occasional bouts of diseases such as malaria, dengue, yellow fever and sleeping sickness. Mostly they shrug them off. But in January 1996, Ebola, a deadly virus then barely known to humans, unexpectedly spilled out of the forest in a wave of small epidemics. The disease killed 21 of 37 villagers who were reported to have been infected, including a number who had carried, skinned, chopped or eaten a chimpanzee from the nearby forest. (...) There, I found traumatised people still fearful that the deadly virus, which kills up to 90% of the people it infects, would return. (...) Only a decade or two ago it was widely thought that tropical forests and intact natural environments teeming with exotic wildlife threatened humans by harbouring the viruses and pathogens that lead to new diseases in humans such as Ebola, HIV and dengue. But a number of researchers today think that it is actually humanity's destruction of biodiversity that creates the conditions for new viruses and diseases such as Covid-19, the viral disease that emerged in China in December 2019, to arise – with profound health and economic impacts in rich and poor countries alike. (...)

John Vidal

The age of extinction - Environment

The Guardian

4 Apr 2020

Racism row as French doctors suggest virus vaccine test in Africa

Two doctors spark criticism for discussing in a TV show the idea of testing a vaccine for the coronavirus in Africa.

Africa is currently the continent least affected by COVID-19, with nearly 7,500 cases and more than 320 deaths.

Two French doctors have been accused of racism for suggesting that a potential vaccine for coronavirus should first be tested on people in Africa. The comments were made on the French television channel, LCI, during a discussion on Wednesday about COVID-19 trials set to be launched in Europe and Australia to see if the BCG tuberculosis vaccine could be used to treat the virus.

“It may be provocative. Should we not do this study in Africa where there are no masks, no treatment or intensive care, a little bit like it’s been done for certain AIDS studies, where among prostitutes, we try things, because we know that they are highly exposed and don’t protect themselves?” said Jean-Paul Mira, head of the intensive care unit at the Cochin Hospital in Paris.

Camille Lochet, research director at France’s national health institute, Inserm, agreed: “You are right. And by the way, we are thinking of in parallel about a study in Africa using this same approach.” (...)

By **Rebecca Rosman**

BBC News

8 April 2020

Coronavirus: Exploiting nature 'drives outbreaks of new diseases'

New evidence has emerged of a link between human exploitation of nature and pandemics.

Close contact with wild animals through hunting, trade or habitat loss puts the world at increased risk of outbreaks of new diseases, say scientists. Coronavirus is thought to have originated in bats, with other wild animals, possibly pangolins, playing a role in transmission to humans. There are strong indications of a wildlife source and a link to trade. In the latest study, researchers trawled scientific papers for reports of diseases that have crossed from animals to humans, then combined this data with information on extinction risk compiled by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Wild animals at risk of extinction due to human exploitation were found to carry over twice as many viruses that can cause human disease as threatened species listed for other reasons. The same was true for threatened species at risk due to loss of habitat.

"As natural habitat is diminished, wildlife come into closer contact with people," Dr Christine Johnson of the University of California, Davis, US, told BBC News, "Wildlife also shift their distributions to accommodate anthropogenic activities and modification of the natural landscape. This has hastened disease emergence from wildlife, which put us at risk of pandemics because we are all globally connected through travel and trade." (...)

By **Helen Briggs**

Science & Environment

BBC News, Science and Environment

Fri 10 Apr 2020 17.53 BST

Last modified on Wed 1 Jul 2020 17.47 BST

UK government urged to investigate coronavirus deaths of BAME doctors

Exclusive: Doctors' organisation concerned at 'disproportionate severity of infection'

The head of the British Medical Association has called on the government to urgently investigate if and why black, Asian and minority ethnic people are more vulnerable to Covid-19, after the first 10 doctors in the UK named as having died from the virus were all BAME. Those doctors have ancestry in regions including Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Even allowing for the overrepresentation of BAME staff in the NHS – they comprise 44% of medical staff compared with 14% of the population of England and Wales – the fact that they were all from ethnic minorities was “extremely disturbing and worrying”, the BMA chair said. “At face value, it seems hard to see how this can be random – to have the first 10 doctors of all being of BAME background,” Dr Chaand Nagpaul said. “Not only that, we also know that in terms of the BAME population, they make up about a third of those in intensive care. There’s a disproportionate percentage of BAME people getting ill. “We have heard the virus does not discriminate between individuals but there’s no doubt there appears to be a manifest disproportionate severity of infection in BAME people and doctors. This has to be addressed – the government must act now.” As well as the 10 doctors, three out of six nurses named as having died have also been BAME as was a hospital pharmacist and at least one healthcare assistant. (...)

Haroon Siddique

The Guardian

Sun 12 Apr 2020 12.00 BST

Last modified on Wed 1 Jul 2020 17.46 BST

Inequality doesn't just make pandemics worse – it could cause them

Historically, disease outbreaks have happened at a time of social inequality and discord.

‘Pandemics don’t always trigger social unrest, but they can do.’ The title artwork from a 17th century pamphlet on the effects of the plague on London. A lot has been written about how this pandemic is exacerbating social inequalities. But what if it’s because our societies are so unequal that this pandemic happened? There is a school of thought that, historically, pandemics have been more likely to occur at times of social inequality and discord. As the poor get poorer, the thinking goes, their baseline health suffers, making them more prone to infection. At the same time they are forced to move more, in search of work, and to gravitate to cities. The rich, meanwhile, have more to spend on luxuries, including products that hail from far-flung places. The world becomes more tightly connected through trade, and germs, people and luxury goods travel together along trade routes that connect cities. On paper, it looks like a perfect storm. What about in reality? Historian Peter Turchin has described a strong statistical association between global connectedness, social crises and pandemics throughout history. An example is the second century CE, when the Roman and Chinese empires were at the peak of their wealth and power; the poor in both places were very poor, and the ancient silk routes were enjoying a heyday. Starting in 165CE, the Antonine plagues struck Rome; within a decade plague was devastating China too, and both empires then went into decline. (...)

Laura Spinney

The Guardian

Thu 21 May 2020 07.00 BST

Last modified on Wed 1 Jul 2020 17.23 BST

Why are Africa's coronavirus successes being overlooked?

Examples of innovation aren't getting the fanfare they would do if they emerged from Europe or the US

Remember, early on in the Covid-19 pandemic, the speculation as to how apocalyptic it would be if this disease hit the African continent? I do. There was deep anxiety about what it would mean for countries with lower income populations, dominant but harder-to-regulate informal economies and far fewer healthcare facilities than the UK or Italy.

There have been coronavirus mistakes and misjudgments, and deaths, and each one is a tragedy. And no one knows the course the pandemic may take next – the continent, like the rest of the world, isn't out of the woods yet. But what has also happened is that many African nations, realising early on that large-scale, expensive testing and hospitalisation was not an option for the populations, had no choice but to take a more creative approach. (...)

Afua Hirsch

The Guardian

Thu 28 May 2020 03.57 BST

First published on Wed 27 May 2020 13.30 BST

George Floyd killing: sister says officers should face murder charge as protests grow

Street protests break out in Minneapolis and Los Angeles after Bridget Floyd says police officers involved ‘should be in jail’

The sister of George Floyd, the black man killed by police in Minneapolis after an incident captured on video in which an officer knelt on his neck as he lay on the ground, has called for those involved in his death to be charged with murder.

Bridget Floyd said that four of the officers involved, who were fired on Tuesday, “should be in jail for murder”.

George Floyd, 46, died on Monday. The FBI and authorities in Minnesota have launched investigations into his death. The officer who knelt on Floyd’s neck is white, and has been identified as Derek Chauvin, a 19-year veteran of the force.

The killing prompted huge protests in Minneapolis on Tuesday night. Police in riot gear fired teargas and rubber bullets into the crowd.

Joanna Walters and Jackie Renzetti

Associated Press and Reuters contributed to this report

The Guardian

13:05, 31 MAY 2020

UPDATED 15:28, 31 MAY 2020

Thousands of protestors march in London chanting 'I can't breathe' for George Floyd

Thousands of protestors have taken to the streets of London to protest the death of George Floyd, who died on Monday at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department

Thousands of people protesting the death of African-American George Floyd have taken to the streets of London as part of the Black Lives Matter movement.

In footage shared online, hundreds of protestors can be seen standing outside the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square, chanting "I can't breathe." The words echo those of George Floyd, who was killed at the hands of Minneapolis Police Department Officers in the United States on Monday.

The Metropolitan Police have confirmed people have also gathered outside the US Embassy in London, and officers are on scene and "engaging" with those in attendance. (...)

Emma Parker

Daily Star

2 June 2020

Exclusive: Government censored BAME covid-risk review

The government removed a key section from Public Health England's review of the relative risk of covid-19 to specific groups, HSJ has discovered.

The review reveals the virus poses a greater risk to those who are older, male and overweight. The risk is also described as “disproportionate” for those with Asian, Caribbean and black ethnicities. It makes no attempt to explain why the risk to BAME groups should be higher. An earlier draft of the review which was circulated within government last week contained a section which included responses from the 1,000-plus organisations and individuals who supplied evidence to the review. Many of these suggested that discrimination and poorer life chances were playing a part in the increased risk of covid-19 to those with BAME backgrounds. HSJ understands this section was an annexe to the report but could also stand alone. Typical was the following recommendation from the response by the Muslim Council of Britain, which stated: “With high levels of deaths of BAME healthcare workers, and extensive research showing evidence and feelings of structural racism and discrimination in the NHS, PHE should consider exploring this in more detail, and looking into specific measures to tackle the culture of discrimination and racism. It may also be of value to issue a clear statement from the NHS that this is not acceptable, committing to introducing change.” One source with knowledge of the review said the section “did not survive contact with Matt Hancock’s office” over the weekend. The review was published with very little pre-publicity, following claims government was delaying it because of concerns it would stoke racial tension.(...)

By **Alison Moore**

HSJ – Health Service Journal for healthcare leaders

6 June 2020

Campaigners rename Glasgow streets linked to slave owners

Anti-racism campaigners have renamed streets in Glasgow city centre that have links to the slave trade.

In several streets, signs with a black background and white font have appeared alongside the originals

Activists replaced the names of tobacco merchants and slave trade owners in favour of black campaigners, slaves and those who died in police custody. More than 11,500 people have previously signed an online petition to rename streets linked with slave owners. The petition, set up last September, has gained several thousand more supporters in the wake of the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Cochrane Street - named after 18- Century tobacco lord Andrew Cochrane, was alternatively named "Sheku Bayoh Street". Sheku Bayoh died in 2015 in police custody in Scotland, aged 32 after he was restrained by officers responding to a call in Kirkcaldy, Fife. His sister - who is a nurse - said her family would have attended planned demonstrations in Scotland this weekend but the danger of spreading coronavirus was "still too great". Buchanan Street, named after another Tobacco Lord, Andrew Buchanan, was given the name George Floyd Street, however the sign has now been removed. Wilson Street has been suggested as Rosa Parks Street instead - after the American civil rights activist. George Floyd died after a white police officer knelt on his neck in Minneapolis on 25 May. His death has sparked days of protest around the world.

BBC News

7 June 2020

Slave trader statue torn down in Bristol anti-racism protest

A statue of slave trader Edward Colston has been torn down during an anti-racism protest in Bristol.

It's believed Colston trafficked around 80,000 men, women and children from Africa to the Americas in the 17th Century.

In a statement, Avon & Somerset Police confirmed there would be an investigation into the "act of criminal damage".

Thousands of people have been demonstrating in cities across the UK this weekend, sparked by the death of black man George Floyd in the US.

BBC News

8 June 2020

Why Every Environmentalist Should Be Anti-Racist

Environmentalists tend to be well-meaning, forward-thinking people who believe in preserving the planet for generations to come. They will buy reusable cups, wear ethically made clothing and advocate for endangered species; however, many are hesitant to do the same for endangered Black lives, and might be unclear on why they should. As a Black environmentalist, I've struggled with this. Why is fighting for my humanity considered an optional or special add-on to climate justice? I've stood beside white environmentalists during climate protests, but I've felt abandoned by my community during acts of unjustifiable violence toward Black and Brown people. I've had enough. The time is now to examine the ways the Black Lives Matter movement and environmentalism are linked.

During the summer of 2014 I was on break from college in my hometown of Florissant, Missouri, when Michael Brown, an unarmed Black teenager, was shot at least six times by a police officer before dying in the street just a few miles from my house. His body lay there uncovered for hours as the community tried to piece together what happened without communication from authorities. Tension boiled over, and uprisings followed. Then I had to go back to Southern California to continue on with my environmental science and policy degree. (...)

BY Leah Thomas

Vogue

19:47, Tue, Jun 9, 2020

UPDATED: 21:19, Tue, Jun 9, 2020

London statue of Robert Milligan REMOVED from West India Quay after protesters' demands

A STATUE of the founder of West India Quay, Robert Milligan, has been removed due to his links to the slave trade.

The statue of a prominent slave trader, Robert Milligan, has been removed by the Canal and River Trust following mounting pressure from the Black Lives Matter movement.

This comes after protesters removed Edward Colston's statue in Bristol at the weekend.

By **Steven Brown**

Express

11 Jun 2020

Grenfell Tower relatives call for inquiry to investigate role of racism in fire tragedy

This Sunday will mark the third anniversary of the Grenfell fire tragedy.

It's a particularly painful time to mark the date, as communities affected by the fire are unable to get together and mourn the 72 people who lost their lives.

Some relatives of the dead also say that racism played a role in the tragedy and continues to be a factor in their recovery, and are asking why the ongoing Grenfell Inquiry isn't considering it.

Fatima Manji Reporter
channel 4 news

Saturday 13 June 2020 17:06

Boris Johnson said colonialism in Africa should never have ended and dismissed Britain's role in slavery

MPs call on prime minister to explain whether he still believes 'the problem is not that we were once in charge, but that we are not in charge any more'

Boris Johnson said colonialism in Africa should never have ended and downplayed Britain's role in the slave trade, an article written by the prime minister while he was a Tory MP reveals.

Critics are urging Mr Johnson to explain whether he still holds the views expounded in the 2002 piece, where he argued that Africans would not have grown the right crops for export without British direction.

"The continent may be a blot, but it is not a blot upon our conscience," he wrote. "The problem is not that we were once in charge, but that we are not in charge any more."

The prime minister this week argued for the retention of controversial statues of slavers and British colonialists in UK cities, which he said should stay up because they "teach us about our past with all its faults". But the article, written while Mr Johnson was editor of *The Spectator* magazine, reveals that the prime minister in fact has held an active admiration for Britain's colonial activities on the continent. "Consider Uganda, pearl of Africa, as an example of the British record. Are we guilty of slavery? Pshaw. It was one of the first duties of Frederick Lugard, who colonised Buganda in the 1890s, to take on and defeat the Arab slavers," Mr Johnson says in the piece. (...)

Jon Stone

Policy Correspondent

Independent

Tue 16 Jun 2020 17.36 BST

Last modified on Wed 1 Jul 2020 17.17 BST

Historical racism may be behind England's higher BAME Covid-19 rate

Calls grow for UK government to act as delayed report says ethnic minorities less likely to seek help or raise concerns

A delayed report into the reasons why black, Asian and minority ethnic people (BAME) are disproportionately contracting and dying from Covid-19 has increased pressure on the government to act immediately to address the problem. The Public Health England (PHE) review, based on stakeholder engagement with more than 4,000 people, says historical racism may make BAME individuals less likely to seek care when needed or, as NHS staff, to speak up when they have concerns about personal protective equipment (PPE) or increased risk.

Dr Jennifer Dixon, the chief executive of the Health Foundation, said: “Black and minority ethnic communities speak loudly in this report and say discrimination is among the fundamental causes of ill health. They should be listened to. (...)

Haroon Siddique and Jamie Grierson
The Guardian

Wednesday 17 June 2020 20:03

Cecil Rhodes: Oxford University to remove statue of imperialist after anti-racism protests

Campaigners argue 19th century imperialist glorified racism

The controversial statue of Cecil Rhodes at a University of Oxford college is set to be removed following anti-racist protests.

Oriel College's governing body announced its wish to remove the statue of the 19th century British imperialist and said it was launching an independent inquiry into the key issues surrounding the monument.

Demonstrations have recently taken place outside Oriel College calling for the statue to be removed from the High Street entrance of the building.

The Rhodes Must Fall campaign received renewed support as Black Lives Matter protests spread across the UK following the death of George Floyd in the US.

Samuel Osborne

independent

Thu 18 Jun 2020 00.50 BST

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Lloyd's of London and Greene King to make slave trade reparations

Firms will make payments to benefit the BAME community and promote diversity

When slavery was abolished in the British empire in 1833, the government paid compensation; not to the enslaved people, but to slaveholders such as Simon Fraser, a founder subscriber of Lloyd's.

Photograph: Hannah McKay/Reuters

Two major British firms have pledged to make payments to representatives of black people, as well as those of other minority ethnic backgrounds, as they seek to address their founders' roles in the trans-Atlantic slave trade. The pub chain and brewer Greene King and the insurance market Lloyd's of London both revealed on Wednesday evening that they would be making the reparations.

The news, first reported by the Telegraph, comes as people outraged by the killing of an African American man in Minnesota, George Floyd, as well as continuing racial discrimination closer to home, demand that the UK recognise the ongoing legacy of the British empire's extensive role in the enslavement of millions of Africans. Records archived by researchers at University College London (UCL) show that one of Greene King's founders, Benjamin Greene, held at least 231 human beings in slavery and became an enthusiastic supporter of the practice. When slavery was abolished in the British empire in 1833, the government agreed to pay compensation; not to the enslaved people, but to the slaveholders. (...)

Kevin Rawlinson

The Guardian

JUNE 23 2020

Black Lives Matter protests should lead to rethink of attitudes to Africa

A racial hierarchy is clearly evident, with white nations at the top of the ladder

Sparked by the killing of George Floyd in the US, protests against racism and police brutality have flared across the world. Many demand an end to the structural discrimination faced by people of African descent in Europe and North America and changes in the way the history of their subjugation is remembered (or, more accurately, not remembered). The focus has been on the struggles of black people in white-majority societies for rights, dignity and equality. Less has been said about the racism inherent in the existing international order and the obstacles faced by black-majority nations. In principle, all nations have equal sovereignty; in practice, they have anything but. A racial hierarchy is clearly evident, with white nations at the top of the ladder, those of black Africa at the bottom. The situation of the African continent on the international stage has many parallels with that of American black people, including a history of political and economic marginalisation and exploitation. The continent is home to 54 of the UN's 193 member states and 1.3bn people, but it does not merit a permanent seat at the UN Security Council. Economically, sub-Saharan Africa lives at the bottom of global wealth and trade indices, accounting for less than 1 per cent of global wealth, although their natural resources include a fifth of the planet's gold. The UN's high level panel on illicit financial flows from Africa, described the continent as losing an estimated \$70bn annually to illegal flows, much of it to the west. HSBC documents leaked in 2015 showed that east African elites had stashed away more than \$700m in offshore accounts. (...)

The writer is a commentator based in Nairobi

Patrick Gathara

Opinion African economy

Financial Times

Sat 27 Jun 2020 13.49 BST

L'Oréal to remove words like 'whitening' from skincare products

Announcement comes against backdrop of global anti-racism protests

L'Oréal has announced it will remove words like “whitening” from its products, as global anti-racism protests continue.

“The L'Oréal Group has decided to remove the words white/whitening, fair/fairness, light/lightening from all its skin evening products,” the cosmetics company said in a statement on Saturday. The announcement follows the decision on Thursday by the Indian and Bangladeshi arms of Unilever to rename their locally marketed “Fair and Lovely” skin-lightening cream for the same reason. Anglo-Dutch firm Unilever – which reportedly earned \$500m (£405m) from the product in India last year – said it would stop using the word “fair” in the name as the brand was “committed to celebrating all skin tones”. Several companies – including L'Oréal – have been criticised recently for skin-lightening products after the global rise of the Black Lives Matter movement after the US police killing of unarmed black man George Floyd last month.

Johnson & Johnson said last week it would stop selling some Neutrogena and Clean & Clear products, advertised as dark-spot reducers in Asia and the Middle East.

Several American companies have said they would change their visual identity, such as Mars, which says it plans to develop its Uncle Ben's brand, which uses a caricature of an African American man as its logo.

Agence France-Presse

Sat 27 Jun 2020 02.39 BST

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The Simpsons stops using white actors to voice non-white characters

Move comes amid widespread reckoning for American pop culture following mass protests after George Floyd's death.

The Simpsons is ending the use of white actors to voice characters of colour, the show's producers have said. "Moving forward, 'The Simpsons' will no longer have white actors voice non-white characters," they said in a statement on Friday. The statement did not elaborate, but the move follows years of public pressure about the Fox television show's Indian convenience store character Apu, who has been voiced by Hank Azaria.

Azaria said earlier this year that he would no longer play the character, which has been criticised as a negative portrayal of Indian-Americans.

Azaria has also voiced the Simpsons characters of Black police officer Lou and the Mexican-American Bumblebee Man. The white actor Harry Shearer has played Dr Hibbert, who is Black. Friday's statement did not say whether Apu or the other characters would remain on the series.

Bumbling Homer Simpson, housewife Marge, troublemaker Bart, prodigy Lisa and baby Maggie, have captured the changing face of America for more than 30 years in the longest-running scripted show on US television.

The Guardian

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Médecins Sans Frontières is 'institutionally racist', say 1,000 insiders

Medical charity accused of shoring up colonialism and white supremacy in its work

The medical NGO Médecins Sans Frontières is institutionally racist and reinforces colonialism and white supremacy in its humanitarian work, according to an internal statement signed by 1,000 current and former members of staff.

The statement accused MSF of failing to acknowledge the extent of racism perpetuated by its policies, hiring practices, workplace culture and “dehumanising” programmes, run by a “privileged white minority” workforce.

Addressed to senior management and colleagues, the letter calls for an independent investigation into racism within the organisation and for urgent root and branch reform to dismantle “decades of power and paternalism”.

Signatories include Javid Abdelmoneim, chair of the board of MSF UK, Agnes Musonda, president of the board in southern Africa, and Florian Westphal, managing director of MSF Germany.

Christos Christou, MSF’s international president, welcomed the statement as a “catalyst” to act faster on a series of changes already planned at the organisation.

Karen McVeigh

The Guardian

