

Starter

Learn
About
Britain



What
stands out
to you
about this
image?

Enquiry Question:
**How did the women's rights
movement shape modern
Britain?**

Lesson Title:
How did black and south
Asian women shape the
women's rights movement?

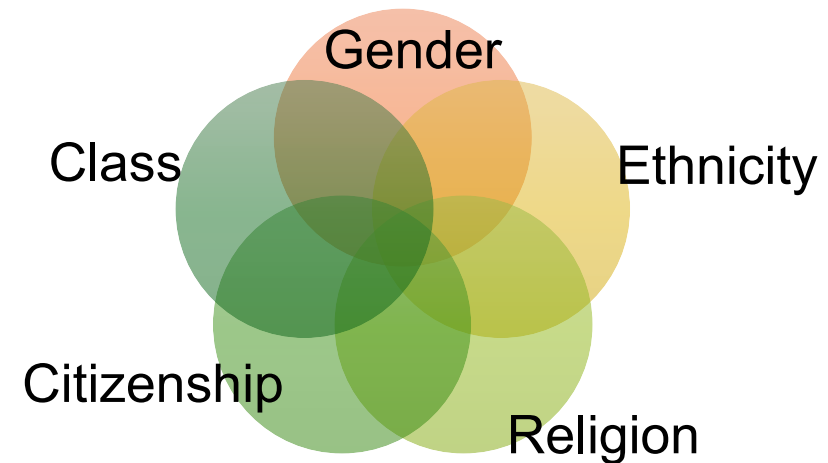


What is intersectionality?

Intersectionality refers to the interlocking and overlapping identities we all have.

Our intersecting identities shape the way we experience and view the world.

Can you think of any other elements which might shape someone's identity?



Intersectionality: Jayaben Desai

- Jayaben Desai was an activist known for leading the Grunwick Dispute
- She was born in India and lived in Tanzania before coming to Britain to escape anti-Asian discrimination
- She was from a middle-class background but in Britain she had to work at a factory making poor wages
- She was a wife and a mother.

What intersecting identities did Jayaben Desai hold?



Intersectionality Worksheet

Fill out the worksheet: what identities do you have?

my
Identities

The Grunwick Strike Handout

As you watch the BBC video, take notes on the handout. Your responses should cite evidence from the film.

What stereotypes did the factory managers have about the women workers?	
What were the workers at the Grunwick factory protesting against?	
Why did Jayaben view the conclusion of the strike as a victory?	
What role did intersectionality play in Jayaben's activism?	

BBC Witness: the Grunwick Strike



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06y4c2k/player>

As you watch the film, consider the worksheet questions:

- What stereotypes did the factory managers have about the women workers?
- What were the workers at the Grunwick factory protesting against?
- Why did Jayaben view the conclusion of the strike as a victory?
- What role did intersectionality play in Jayaben's activism?

Black and Asian Women's Activism Handout

Independently read through the notes on Black and Asian Women's Activism and answer the questions below.

What do you think Gerlin Bean meant when she said, "The problems as women are the same; the problems as black women are different"?	What is the significance of the Abasindi Co-Operative's name? Why do you think it was selected?
According to Suzanne Morris, what kind of work did the Liverpool Black Sisters do in their community?	Why do you think the Organisation of Women of African and Asian Descent (OWAAD) addressed such a wide range of social issues at their conferences and events?
How do the Southall Black Sisters continue to support south Asian women?	

The Brixton Black Women's Group

- The 1970 Women's Liberation Conference in Oxford had very few black attendees. One of them was Gerlin Bean.
- In an interview about the conference, Bean said: "The problems as women are the same; the problems as black women are different."
- Bean would go on to co-found the Brixton Black Women's Group in 1973.



- The Brixton Black Women's Group provided community space for black women to discuss the issues specifically impacting them
- They produced a newsletter called 'Speak Out' where writers explored the connections between the women's rights movement and the black liberation movement
- 'Speak Out' included articles about current events, poems, and reviews of plays and novels.

Manchester Black Women's Co-operative

- The Manchester Black Women's Co-operative was founded in 1975 by several important local activists: Ada Phillips, Coca Clarke, and Kathleen Locke
- They worked to serve the women of Manchester's Moss Side neighbourhood
- The co-op provided educational opportunities for mothers wanting to re-enter the workforce

- In 1980 the co-op rebranded itself as the Abasindi Co-operative. 'Abasindi' is a Zulu word which means 'survivor.'
- The Abasindi co-operative funded itself by offering hair-braiding services and selling African clothing
- These initiatives celebrated the culture of the members while funding their community initiatives.



- In 1975, a young black power and housing rights activist named Olive Morris moved to Manchester for her studies
- She quickly became involved in the Manchester Black Women's Co-Op
- Morris connected the activism of black women in Britain to anti-sexism and anti-racism initiatives worldwide. She travelled across the world to countries like China, Morocco, and Algeria to learn about the social and economic structures of other countries.

Liverpool Black Sisters

- The Liverpool Black Sisters organisation was founded in 1979 by local activists
- They operated a community centre which worked to advocate for and empower local black women. At one point they had more than 100 active members.
- Today this center is known as the Kuumba Imani Millennium Centre and it continues to serve the Liverpool community.



“We attended national campaigns and took part in marches across the country. We campaigned on mental health issues and against threatened deportation of African women. We started an afterschool project which picked children up from local schools and brought them to the centre for learning activities. This enabled a lot of women to get jobs or go into education that they wouldn’t otherwise have been able to.”

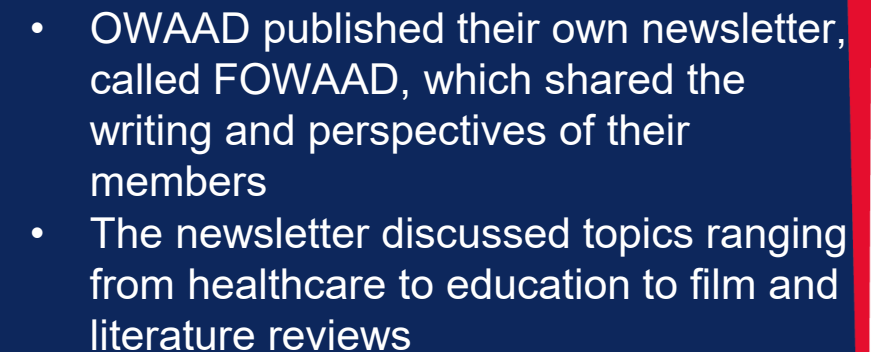
-Suzanne Morris, LBS Secretary

Southall Black Sisters

- The Southall Black Sisters is a non-profit organisation which was founded in 1979 to advocate for the rights of south Asian women, particularly migrants to Britain
- They continue to advocate against gendered and domestic violence, especially within south Asian communities
- Today they operate a helpline, provide counselling, and organise support groups for women and children



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- FOWAAD!** 15p
- Newletter of the Organisation of Women of Asian & African Descent (OWAAD)
- INFLATION**
RAUCOUS DRUGS
RACISM
ALCOHOLISM
SUS
SICKS
IMMORALITY
VIOLENCE
EDUCATION
GUEST WORKERS
CORRUPTION
- (adapted from a cartoon by Tony Aziz)
- Contents:**
- WELCOME**
 1. The Caribbean Bill
 2. Immigration Prospects:
 (how they affect us)
 3. Deportation...
- REVIEWS**
 1. Sir Hilda for Motherly?
 2. Olympia Boycott? So What?
- IMPRESSIONS**
 1. The London ... for the
 first time.
 2. The ... from
 Greek
 3. Let Women Liberate!
- Feb 1980



How did the intersecting identities of black and Asian women activists shape their contributions to the women's rights movement?

