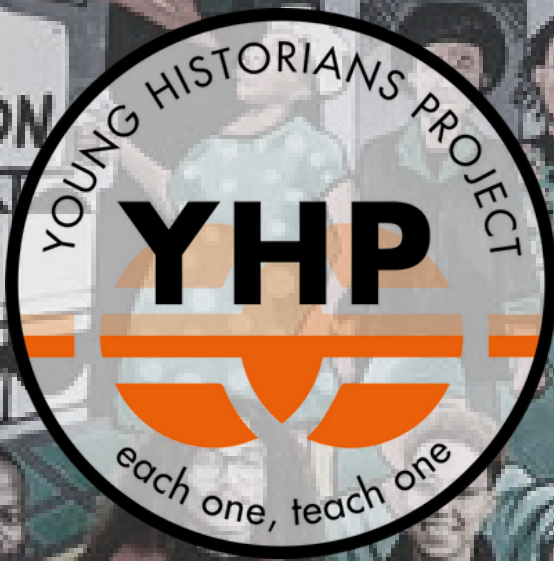


03/24

ISSUE  
05



# Volunteers' Guide

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|    |                             |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 1  | WHAT IS YHP?                |
| 3  | HOW DO I JOIN YHP?          |
| 4  | OUR ETHOS                   |
| 5  | ROLES WITHIN YHP            |
| 6  | WHAT WORK DOES YHP DO?      |
| 8  | YHP'S COMMITMENT TO MEMBERS |
| 10 | EXPECTATIONS OF YHP MEMBERS |
| 11 | OVERVIEW OF OUR PROJECTS    |
| 14 | CURRENT PROJECTS            |
| 16 | OUR SOCIAL MEDIA            |
| 18 | VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT         |
| 19 | #FAQs                       |



YHP was founded by Professor Hakim Adi and the late Cheryl Phillips following a [History Matters conference](#) in April 2015 to address the worryingly low numbers of Black academics, teachers and students in the History field.

**The Young Historians Project** is a UK based non-profit organisation which supports the development of young people of African and Caribbean heritage as historians. YHP produces public history projects on Black British history. This work involves archival research, oral history interviews,

documentary film-making, exhibition curation, schools outreach. YHP is run by volunteers, with support from consultant historians and project coordinators. We're a collaborative team of young people based across the United Kingdom. YHP operates through bi-monthly online 'general

meetings' which are used to plan projects, share research updates, provide feedback on each other's work, organise events, and more. Members also meet for in-person social events and workshops. YHP has calendar breaks during winter, spring, and summer.



# HOW DO I JOIN?

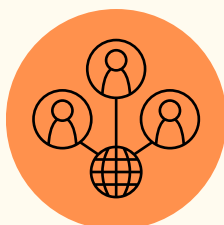
Reading through the volunteers' guide is a helpful introduction to YHP and provides an overview of how we operate.

If you are interested in joining YHP, or have any questions about YHP after reading the guide, please fill in the [contact form](#) on our website and you will receive an email response.



We typically assess new members by discussing the research projects available and why they want to join YHP.

# ETHOS



## Community

YHP aims to be a positive and welcoming community of historians and researchers



## Empowerment

We hope to empower communities with knowledge & foster an appreciation for Black British history in the public



## Respect

YHP strives to foster an environment of mutual respect and fairness in which everyone's ideas are heard



## Inclusion

YHP welcomes all marginalised groups to our membership



## Collaboration

Teamwork and open discussion are essential to our research and project development



## Public Engagement

Our projects encourage the public to engage with underrepresented histories





# PROJECT COORDINATORS

**PERRY BLANKSON**

**TIONNE PARRIS**

**AMELIA FRANCIS**

**ISRA HUSSEIN**

**KAITLENE KORANTENG**

# ROLES WITHIN YHP

---

## RESEARCHER

This is the role undertaken by the majority of YHP members.

## SCHOOL WORKSHOP FACILITATOR

YHP has presented educational workshops on Black British history in schools across the UK. Members can volunteer to organise workshop activities, create teaching materials, visit schools, and collect feedback from students.

## BLOGS EDITOR

Before blogs are published online, the editor will review their clarity, grammar, argument, and formatting – making edits where necessary.

## WEB-DESIGNER

The YHP website is designed, edited, monitored, and updated by our members as needed.

## EVENTS PHOTOGRAPHER

## WRITER

Members are welcome to publish their writing in our blog or submit to the [History Matters](#) journal. YHP is also often approached to write articles for external blogs, journals, and magazines. View a sample of this work [here](#).

## CURATOR

Where we produce exhibitions for our projects, members can take on a curatorial role and help shape their design.

## PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

Project co-ordinators oversee projects, check in with members, handle external communications, plan group meet ups, and lead funding applications. This role is typically taken on by people who have gained the most experience in YHP.

## SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Members can upload promotional material, photo from YHP events, share fun history facts, or generate ideas to reach out to the public.

# WHAT WORK DOES YHP DO?

---

## **PRESENTING OUR RESEARCH**

YHP is often invited to universities, conferences, roundtables, and other events to discuss our work and share our perspectives on history. We have worked with organisations like the National Archives, Institute of Historical Research, National Portrait Gallery, Oral History Society, SSHM, Museum of London Docklands, and the South London Gallery. YHP members have also spoken at Kings College London, Birkbeck University, University of Nottingham, Newcastle University, and the University of York. When these opportunities arise, we encourage members to volunteer so that everyone has the experience of speaking as a YHP representative at least once. Project coordinators support members through this process.

## **COMMEMORATIVE MURAL INSTALLATIONS**

## **ARCHIVAL & DIGITAL RESEARCH**

YHP members use both archival and digital research materials to develop our projects. with group visits to places like the Black Cultural Archives and the George Padmore Institute.

## **DOCUMENTARY FILM- MAKING**

YHP has produced a documentary on the Black Liberation Front and an 8 episode documentary series on the history of African women in the NHS. YHP members can take part in documentary film-making in terms of planning episodes, recording footage, working on sound, video-editing, or subtitling.



---

## ORAL HISTORY

Oral history interviews are an important part of our research and feature prominently in our projects. We record the stories of important activists, community educators, writers, and more, with a focus on under-researched figures, themes, organisations, and historical periods. The footage and transcripts are then preserved by the Black Cultural Archives.

### ?

We welcome members sharing ideas and introducing YHP to new activities or possibilities of project outputs.

## DOCUMENTARY SCREENINGS & EXHIBITIONS

## PRODUCING LEARNING RESOURCES

YHP has collaborated with organisations like The National Archives and publishers like Lawrence & Wishart to produce learning resources in the form of booklets, activity plans, and teachers' notes. These are available to view on our website [here](#). YHP members have also independently created classroom resources based on our projects which include history themed word-searches, crosswords, and quizzes. These are designed to introduce young audiences to Black British history and develop their history skills.

# YHP'S COMMITMENT TO MEMBERS:

YHP aims to provide an enriching experience for all members and equip for further work in history, archives, the humanities, the heritage field, and more. We do this by offering practice-oriented opportunities to develop transferable skills, knowledge and experience. In order to achieve this, YHP is committed to the following:



## 1 INDUCTION

New members receive a formal induction from project coordinators, during which they are familiarised with YHP's areas of work and introduced to the wider YHP team and research sub-groups.



## 2 TRAINING

There will be training workshops for members to gain skills in film-making, oral history interviewing, archiving, video-editing, research, podcasting, writing, and public engagement. Members are also offered opportunities to develop public speaking skills by representing YHP at conferences and other events.



## 3 MEETINGS & COMMUNICATION

We hold bi-monthly online meetings in which we discuss our research, review project progress, and plan tasks, meet-ups, workshops, and events. In between meetings we communicate primarily through WhatsApp and a semi-regular newsletter.



#### **4** **YHP MEET-UPS**

YHP hopes to build a friendly and diverse network of historians across the UK – therefore we encourage all members to get to know each other. We try to provide semi-regular opportunities for all members to meet up, such as for a group meal or visit to an exhibition.



#### **5** **CONFIDENTIALITY**

We will respect and adhere to your right to privacy and confidentiality and will not share your details, unless agreed, with third parties.



#### **6** **EXPENSES**

We will do our best to ensure financial means are never a barrier to engagement. We agree to reimburse transport costs incurred during YHP activities.

# EXPECTATIONS OF YHP MEMBERS

There's a lot to get involved with in YHP! Alongside core activities like research, we would like YHP members to be active, enthusiastic, and engage with all the opportunities we have to offer, like speaking at external events or spreading the word about our work.

It is important for YHP members to put effort into administrative tasks like taking meeting minutes, chairing meetings, writing agendas, and keeping files organised. These

responsibilities are rotated throughout the group.

It is your duty to make a concerted effort to attend meetings and contribute to discussions and collective decision making. On the occasion that attending a meeting, workshop, or event is not possible for a YHP member, they are required to inform the project coordinator or group in advance.

As a YHP member, you are trusted

to work both as part of a wider team and independently to contribute to our integral ethos.

We expect all members to maintain regular communication with the group, in terms of confirming availability for meetings or events, raising any questions or concerns, letting us know if you need a break from YHP, etc. YHP was formed to be a collective of historians – meaning it's important for all our members' voices to be heard.





# OUR PROJECTS



1

2015-2017



2

2018-2022



3

2021-PRESENT



4

2023-PRESENT

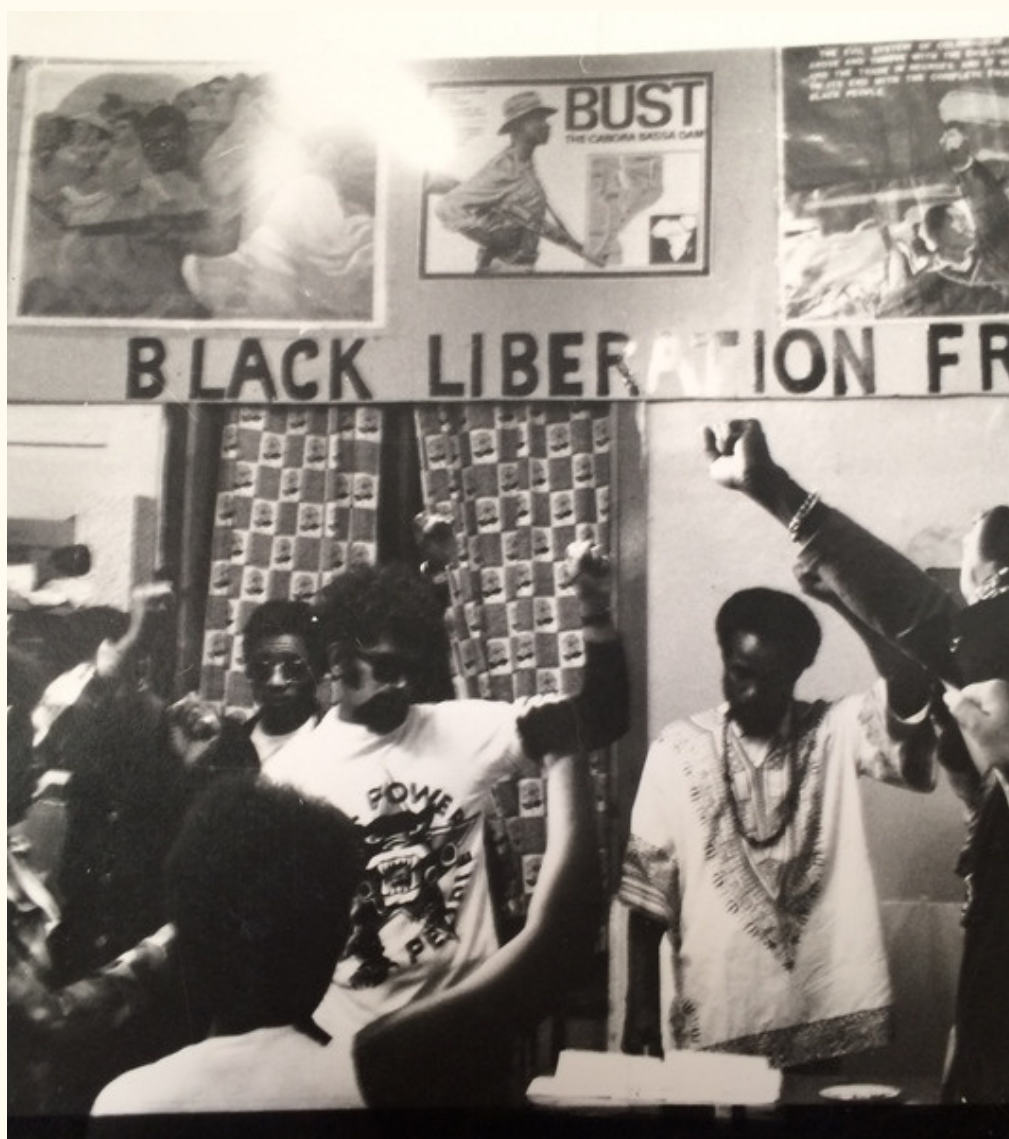


# 'WE ARE OUR OWN LIBERATORS': THE HISTORY OF THE BLACK LIBERATION FRONT

PROJECT 1

This project explored the history and impact of the Black Liberation Front – a radical Black Power organisation founded in 1971. By establishing supplementary schools, community bookshops, affordable housing for Black families and support for Black prisoners, the movement focused on consolidating Black political identity, challenging the impact of racism in Britain, and developing Pan-African consciousness.

YHP produced a [documentary](#) containing our interviews with nine former members of the BLF, reflecting on their activism and wider life experiences during the 1960–70s in Britain. We also created an [exhibition](#) exploring the history and visual materials of this era.



# 'A HIDDEN HISTORY': AFRICAN WOMEN AND THE BRITISH HEALTH SERVICE, 1930 – 2000'

## PROJECT 2



Following celebrations of the NHS' 70th anniversary in 2018, YHP turned its attention to the memorialisation of Black women's contributions in Britain. We discovered a tendency to centre the Windrush generation and wanted to widen this narrative. The 'Hidden History' project aims to shed light on the experiences, contributions, and achievements of African women in the British healthcare sector during 1930-2000.

YHP produced an 8 episode docu-series based around oral history, intergenerational dialogue, archival footage, and original research. Other project outputs include an eBook, an online exhibition, and commemorative murals at Bath and Charing Cross hospitals. All materials relating to this project can be viewed on [our website](#).

# 'EACH ONE, TEACH ONE': THE FOUNDATIONS OF BLACK BRITISH HISTORY

CURRENT PROJECT (3)

This project explores how Black history gained popular recognition and celebration in Britain over the past 75 years. Our research also traces the emergence of Black British history as a field – honouring the decades-long struggle of activists, community educators, writers, artists, filmmakers, and academics.

## WHAT WILL YOU BE WORKING ON?

- Producing a podcast series
- Creating an interactive digital map of historical Black British spaces
- Creating a Black British history timeline





# REMEMBERING ELBWO (EAST LONDON BLACK WOMEN'S ORGANISATION)

CURRENT PROJECT (4)



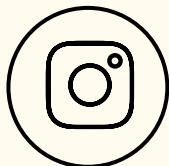
ELBWO was a radical Black women's organisation active from 1979 to 1985. Its formation was inspired by OWAAD (Organisation of Women of African and Asian Descent). ELBWO encouraged the politicisation and empowerment of Black women, and produced community initiatives supporting education, pastoral care, anti-racism, and gender equality. Through oral history, our project will explore ELBWO's journey as an organisation and aims to highlight its impact on the community.

## WHAT WILL YOU BE WORKING ON?

- Interviewing and filming former ELBWO members
- Photographing ELBWO memorabilia
- Transcribing interviews
- Producing a documentary on ELBWO
- Editing footage
- Storyboarding and sound design

# OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

---



On YHP's social media, we share project updates, snippets of our work, events, blog posts, and photographs of YHP activities or outings. Our documentaries and other project footage can be viewed on Vimeo and our Youtube channel. Click on the icons to visit our social media accounts.

YHP members can opt in/out of being photographed or appearing on our social media and website according to their preferences.





Are you an artist?

Are you a filmmaker?

Are you a podcaster?



Do you love photography?

Do you play an instrument?



Do you enjoy creative writing or poetry?



Do you like drawing or painting?

Do you have experience with graphic design or video-editing?



Do you make creative social media content?

Do you enjoy public speaking?



Have you ever thought about exhibition curation?



# LET US KNOW!

We want to see your interests, skills, and passions involved in YHP!  
Any kind of skill, no matter how big or small, can help develop YHP.

# VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_,\* agree to carry out the work of a YHP volunteer in accordance with the information above. I also agree to uphold the commitments and inform YHP in advance when I am unable to attend meetings or meet agreed deadlines (except for in emergencies).

|                   |
|-------------------|
| <b>Name:</b>      |
| <b>Signature:</b> |
| <b>Date:</b>      |

**\*Disclaimer:**

*This agreement is not legally binding and can be cancelled at any time at the discretion of YHP or the volunteer. Neither party intends this as to be used as an employment agreement and no services are to be rendered in a paid capacity either now or in the future.*

# #FAQS

## **WHERE IS YHP BASED?**

Most of us are based in London, but we also have members in Birmingham, Bristol, and Nottingham.

## **DO I HAVE TO BE A HISTORIAN?**

Many of our members are formally trained historians, but we welcome people from any discipline or knowledge level.

## **IS THERE AN AGE LIMIT?**

The age range for our membership is 16–25. A recommended alternative for those above this age range is [History Matters](#), an organisation with which YHP is closely partnered, that produces a quarterly Black British history [journal](#).



<https://www.younghistoriansproject.org/>