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# The Black Lesbian Power List

Putting Black lesbians  
in the spotlight  
this Lesbian Visibility  
Week





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I'm thrilled to have been asked to be part of Lesbian Visibility Week, powered by DIVA, and even more excited that we will be putting Black women and non-binary people front and centre as we celebrate our amazing lesbian community.

Long before UK Black Pride became the world's largest celebration for LGBTQIA people of African, Asian, Caribbean, Latin American and Middle Eastern descent, its origins were in Black Lesbians in the UK (BLUK), a sisterhood of Black women who wanted to come together, be seen and celebrate our queerness. The incredible diversity, power and visibility of UK Black Pride today stands on the shoulders of BLUK.

That desire to be seen, when the world tries so hard to make Black LGBTQIA people invisible, still burns bright within me. That's why it's so important to turn the spotlight on the Black lesbians who exemplify leadership, positive influence and support within our community.

UK Black Pride's We Will Be Heard survey found that 82% of LGBTQIA people of colour don't feel represented by queer media. UK Black Pride is working with DIVA to change that.

Thank you to everyone who nominated an inspirational Black lesbian. This groundbreaking list ensures that our amazing community is seen in all its Diversity this Lesbian Visibility Week.

**Phyll Opoku-Gyimah**

Executive Director and Co-Founder of UK Black Pride



# The Black Lesbian Power List



## VALERIE MASON-JOHN

📧 [valeriemason-john.com](http://valeriemason-john.com)

Dr Valerie (Vimalasara) is one of Britain's Black gay icons. A public speaker, mindfulness teacher and award-winning author of 10 books.



## OG COURTS

📧 [@ogcourts](https://www.instagram.com/ogcourts) 📧 [@thesceneee](https://www.instagram.com/thesceneee)

An events host, OG provides a central directory for QTPOC looking for safe spaces in London and nearby cities. A self-proclaimed “troublemaker”.



## ADELE ROBERTS

✂️ 📧 [@adeleroberts](https://www.instagram.com/adeleroberts)

Adele is an award-winning British broadcaster, TV personality and DJ with over 20 years' experience. After being diagnosed with stage two bowel cancer in October 2021, she raises colostomy visibility and lesbian representation.



## DELOVIE KWAGALA

Also known as Papa De, Delovie is the first openly queer non-binary photographer from Uganda, and founder of #Hashtagwhatnext, a community-led movement dedicated to empowering queer youth migrants through activism.



## DENISE JOHNSON

📧 [@dnice\\_jamaicanunicor\\_n](https://www.instagram.com/dnice_jamaicanunicor_n)

Denise is a Jamaican award-winning hairstylist, makeup artist and hairdressing teacher who amplifies the LGBTQIA community. Known for her creativity and bold hairstyles, Denise is often a partner in creative projects in her community.



## SHILOH COKE

A Black British woman of Jamaican and Grenadian heritage, Shiloh is a composer, multi-instrumentalist, writer and actor. Managing director of Blacktress UK, she has worked extensively across radio, TV, theatre and film.



## MOUD GOBA

✂️ 📧 [@MSMGoba](https://www.instagram.com/MSMGoba) 📧 [@microrainbow](https://www.instagram.com/microrainbow)

Moud is national director for Micro Rainbow, providing 30,000 bed-nights a year to homeless LGBTQIA asylum seekers. She is one of the founding members of UK Black Pride and is the current chair of its board of trustees.



## HELEN CHARLES

An activist for over 35 years, Helen first began philosophising and writing about “whiteness”, lesbian politics and racism in the 1980s.



### **ABI MCINTOSH**

✕ [@abimci](#)

Abi is a writer and producer who has covered music, pop culture, race and the LGBTQIA community for publications including the Guardian, The Independent, Stylist and Gay Times.



### **JANAE OWYN**

[@curvyblackwitch88](#)  
[@curvyblackwitch](#)

Janae is an influencer and co-creator of the podcast Lez Vibe... Lez Talk About That, talking about issues and things we face in our everyday life.



### **JADE COLES**

Jade is an expert creative consultant and events curator, crafting inclusive spaces. An advocate for innovation and collaboration.



### **ANDREENA LEEANNE**

[@poetrylgbt](#)  
[@andreena.leeanne.speaker](#)

Andreena is an experience speaker and wellbeing workshop facilitator. Founder of Poetry LGBT open mic night.



### **KIESHA SADLER**

✕ [@KSsense](#)

A spoken word artist, poet and self-published author, Kiesha 'KSsense' channels personal experiences and societal injustices into her evocative work.



### **CHAR BAILEY**

✕ [@char\\_bailey\\_](#)

An NLP practitioner and performance coach, Char is director at Birmingham Pride, officer for UK Black Pride, and a broadcast journalist at DIVA.



### **DOREENE BLACKSTOCK**

A professional actor in West End theatre, TV, film and radio, storytelling and poetry are Doreene's passion. You can read her poetry featured in *Sista! An Anthology Of Writings By Same Gender Loving Women Of African/Caribbean Descent In The UK.*



### **NICOLE ABA BLOOMGARDEN**

Ghanaian-American personality celebrated for her engaging and relatable online videos, which leverage humour and storytelling.



# The Black Lesbian Power List



## OLIVIA (LIV) ANDREWS

✂ [@livkiera](#)

Liv is an outspoken Black lesbian and intersectional feminist, and a Stonewall LGBT+ POC Young Campaigner alum.



## CHANTAL HERBERT

f [@sister.shack](#) @ [@bend.shakencl](#)

Newcastle upon Tyne-based Chantal is a community and event organiser, audio producer, DJ, director, public speaker, exhibited artist and Black rights feminist.



## VERONICA MCKENZIE

Veronica is a filmmaker and curator. Her film *Under Your Nose* (2017) traces the history of Europe's first Black Lesbian and Gay Centre, and is noted as a seminal work by the Black Cultural Archives.



## NETANYA CLIXBY

Netanya is a lawyer in Sidley Austin LLP's London office, and head of income generation for Open For Business, a global charity that uses economic data to make the business case for LGBTQIA Inclusion.



## BERYL OHAS

@ [@berylahas](#)

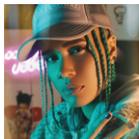
Beryl is an award-winning public speaker and writer, passionate about masc visibility and expression.



## SHONA CHITATE-SAMURIWO

✂ @ [@its\\_sho\\_sho](#)

Shona is a youth worker, anti-racism educator and lead practitioner for Football Beyond Borders.



## NOR KIN4LIFE

@ [@nor\\_kin4life](#) @ [@norkin4lifevr](#)

Nor is a Grammy-considered global musician, producer, songwriter and videographer. Formally part of the acclaimed hip-hop duo, KIN4LIFE.



## DETTIE GOULD

@ [@thatblackheartedcaptain](#)

Dettie is the author of a Black lesbian satirical thriller, a trade unionist and co-chair of the LGBT+ mental health charity MindOut.



### **DR OPE LORI**

📧 [@opesarahlori](#)

Ope is founder and CEO of PILAA. A practising artist, she specialises in using video and photography in her political practice.



### **AISHA SHAIBU-LENOIR**

📧 [@aisha\\_shaibu\\_lenoir](#)

A social entrepreneur and LGBTQIA activist, Aisha is founder of Moonlight Experiences, an award-winning company dedicated to celebrating diverse queer culture.



### **BANDY KIKI**

✂️ [@BandyKiki](#) 📧 [@bandykiki](#)

An entrepreneur and LGBTQIA activist, Bandy is a trustee for Rainbow Migration which supports LGBTQIA people through the asylum and immigration system.



### **ANGEL NERA**

📧 [@thecandyshopevents](#)  
📧 [@2lesbiansworldwide](#)

Angel is CEO of 2 Lesbians Worldwide, which ran the first ever urban stage act to perform for Nottingham Pride main stage festival 2023, and the first company to host an urban afterparty tailored to POC.



### **EMS PALMER**

Ems is head of Diversity and Inclusion at Innovate and also supports LGBTQIA young people as an advisory board member at R;pple Suicide Prevention Charity.



### **LISA SMITH**

✂️ [@DigitalLisaS](#)

Lisa is Deloitte UK's first Black consulting partner and a digital partner who is also the global strategy and EMA practice lead for consumer experience.



### **SUE LEMOS**

✂️ [@SueMLemos](#) 📧 [@suelemos](#)

Sue is a researcher and public speaker, and is working on a PhD with Warwick History. Sue works to historicise the political and community organising of queer and trans Black people and people of colour in mid to late 20th century Britain.



### **FUNEKA SOLDAAT**

Funeka is a survivor of homophobic violence, an activist in Khayelitsha township in Cape Town, and author of the book Uhambo.



# The Black Lesbian Power List



## JACQUI RHULE-DAGHER

[@@cloakndagher](#)

Jacqui is a lawyer, writer and LGBTQIA advocate. Jacqui founded Legally Lesbians, an initiative that involves lesbians in the legal industry writing about their careers and the importance of lesbian visibility.



## JADE MADINGWANE

Jade is a South African activist and organiser of the annual Soweto Pride which aims to raise awareness and celebrate queer identities.



## STEPH LITTLE

[@@stephlittlemcr](#)

Steph has been creating spaces for over 17 years at Vanilla and beyond, making it more inclusive and accessible to the LGBTQIA POC community.



## CATHERINE OBANDA

[@@iamcwezy](#) [@@iamcwezy](#)

Catherine is artistically known as Cwezy, a trailblazing musical artist, producer and songwriter with a captivating sound and powerful lyrical style, hailing from Nairobi, Kenya.



## LEXIE SHAIBU-LENOIR

[@@queerweddingsuk](#)

Lexie is creator of Queer Weddings, the pioneering wedding company exclusively serving LGBTQIA couples. Lexie is also a volunteer at UK Black Pride.



## RACHEL HARVEY

[@@artistnamednobody](#)

Rachel is an advocate for a broader understanding of representation. They are a digital illustrator and artist, crafting a diverse collection of portraits portraying Black faces.



## **CHARLENE MARECHEAU**

[in linkedin.com/in/charlenemar](https://www.linkedin.com/in/charlenemar)

Charlene is a senior manager at KPMG, and her leadership and advocacy drives her to be the change she wants to see towards a more inclusive and equitable environment.



## **MIA BLAKE**

[@afiyamia](https://www.instagram.com/afiyamia)

Mia is a costume designer, seamstress and burlesque performer. A prominent fixture in Birmingham's queer and drag scene.



## **EMMANUELLE ANDREWS**

Emmanuelle is a campaigner who has worked globally against state violence, with a particular focus on police racism, LGBTQIA rights, and anti-colonialism grassroots organising around trans solidarity and protest movements.



## **FEMI OTIOJU**

An iconic lesbian activist for over 40 years and one of the founding members of the UK's first Black Lesbian Group, Femi is involved in LGBTQIA activism, most recently supporting Switchboard LGBT+ with its 50th anniversary celebrations.



## **LIZ WARD**

[X @lizmaryward](https://www.instagram.com/lizmaryward)

An Equity, Diversity and Inclusion consultant across the charity and sports sectors, Liz is an educator, collaborator and activist passionate about safeguarding and climate justice.



## **OLIVETTE COLE-WILSON**

One of the founding members of Stonewall, Olivette has worked in theatre, TV, film and as a voiceover artist. She also has experience of working with people who have experienced trauma.



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## MONICA BEADLE

An activist, mentor, trade unionist, mother to Gary Beadle and Rikki Beadle-Blair, Monica is a highly respected elder in the community.



## NANA DUNCAN & RO FRIMPONG: TWO TWOS

Having met through an ex-girlfriend 10 years ago, Ro and Nana's Two Twos Podcast went on to become a go-to source of entertainment for Black British lesbians.



## ADERONKE APATA

[@africanrainbowfamily](#)  
[@AfricanRainbow1](#)

Aderonke is founder of African Rainbow Family, and a multi-award-winner for her work in LGBTQIA rights. An unstoppable force in fighting for justice, also having achieved her Bar Professional Training Course and Master of Law.



## YVONNE TAYLOR

[@yveelicious](#)

With over 20 years' experience in the hospitality industry, Yvonne is a force to be reckoned with, running club nights including the very successful Sunday Happy Day and curating prominent spaces for lesbian, bi, trans and non-binary people.



## LAUREN SPINK

[@newpowersoulclub](#)  
[newpowersoulclub.co.uk](#)

Lauren is a versatile vocalist and performer, a music lecturer at The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts, and a company director at New Power Soul Club, a bespoke music agency celebrating music of Black origin.



## KELSEA SELLARS

[@\\_delatango](#)

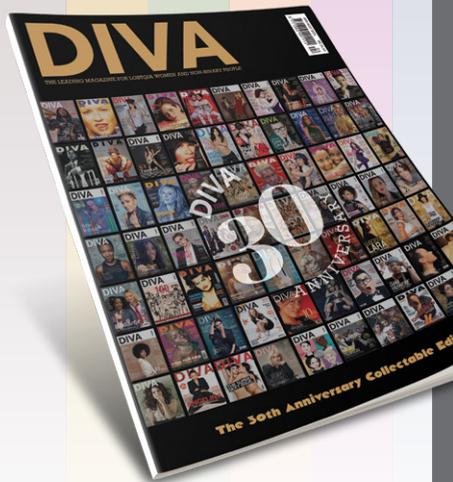
Cultural producer focused on decolonising theatre, visual arts, fashion and events. Founder of bare radicals, a creative production studio that centres social justice and curates Black-, queer- and neurodivergent-led spaces.



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