



Review of the Month

Lend with Care



Carmen Potosí is 58, married and lives in the canton of Antonio Ante, Ecuador. Carmen has been working as a seamstress for the past 10 years, making clothes for her various customers. She works from morning to evening every day with her daughter's help. Her husband works as a builder which helps the household income.

Carmen is requesting a loan of US \$2,400 (£1698) over 24 months to be repaid in monthly instalments. She plans to buy cement, blocks for building, sand, shelving, corrugated roofing, and a small amount for sundry expenses. This investment will provide the necessary equipment to build a workshop and to improve her working environment so that she can increase her household income.

Queen's Birthday Honour's List

This is the most ethnically diverse list to date, with one in seven recipients from an ethnic minority background.

The proportion of ethnic minority recipients has been rising steadily and has more than doubled over the past decade, from 6 per cent in 2012 to 15 per cent of the list this year.

It is also the first time more women than men featured on the list for six years.

Some 50.2 per cent of recipients are female - the first time women have outnumbered men since 2015.

The youngest star of the list is 21-year-old Amika George, founder of the #FreePeriods Campaign, who is made an MBE for services to education after campaigning against period poverty.



Ms George, who is from an Indian background, said she decided to accept the award in part for "other young people, particularly from the Asian community, who maybe don't feel very empowered politically or don't feel seen".

She said: "I want to show them that your opinions and political actions are just as valid and needed as an older white man who seems to be in Parliament and seems to have a lot more power than you do."

International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

This is a United Nations observance on June 19 to raise awareness of the need to end conflict-related sexual violence.

The UN defines conflict-related sexual violence as "... rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilization, forced marriage, and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity perpetrated against women, men, girls or boys that is directly or indirectly linked (temporally, geographically or causally) to a conflict".

The day was created, not only to raise awareness but to honour survivors of sexual violence and to pay tribute to all those who have devoted and lost their lives around the world when standing up against these crimes.

"Sexual violence is now widely recognized as a deliberate strategy used to shred the fabric of society; to control and intimidate communities and to force people from their homes. It is rightly seen as a threat to international peace and security, a serious violation of international humanitarian and human rights law, and a major impediment to post-conflict reconciliation and economic development," stated Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary-General.

Influential Women:

Helen Suzman, DBE (1917 – 2009) was a South African anti-apartheid activist and politician. She represented a succession of liberal and centre-left opposition parties during her 36-year tenure in the whites-only, National Party-controlled House of Assembly of South Africa at the height of the apartheid era. (*apartheid: a policy or system of segregation or discrimination on grounds of race [South Africa]*)



Suzman has been described as having had "among the most courageous Parliamentary careers ever"

She was elected to the House of Assembly in 1953 as a member of the United Party for the Houghton constituency in Johannesburg.

The United Party caucus supported the second reading of the 1953 Separate Amenities Bill that provided for separate (and effectively unequal) facilities for Blacks, Coloureds, Indians and Whites. When the vote was taken, Helen Suzman and one other UP member refused to vote and walked out of the House.

Dissatisfied with the supine stance of the United Party to the apartheid policies of the Government, Suzman and eleven other liberal members of the United Party broke away to

form the Progressive Party in 1959. The party rejected race discrimination and advocated equal opportunities for all with a qualified franchise and a common voter's roll.

At the 1961 general election all the other Progressive MPs lost their seats, leaving Suzman as the sole parliamentarian unequivocally opposed to apartheid for 13 years from 1961 to 1974. Suzman herself retained her seat by a margin of just 564 votes.

During that 13-year period she was the only Member of the South African Parliament consistently and unequivocally to oppose all apartheid legislation.

Suzman was instrumental in improving prison conditions for members of the banned African National Congress including Nelson Mandela, despite her reservations about Mandela's revolutionary policies. She was also known for using her parliamentary privilege to evade government censorship and pass information to the media about the worst abuses of apartheid. She was twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Jane Mennell

How we all gain from the trickle-down financial benefit of slavery

Because of the geographical distance between Britain and the West Indies and the Americas, and the time distance between the centuries of African enslavement and the present day, it's easy for us to forget British involvement in slavery. We imagine perhaps that just a few rich people were involved. And a few ships. And

thanks to William Wilberforce, a leading abolitionist, we can also think that we were on the side of the angels really.

'Britain's forgotten slave-owners' is a two-part TV documentary presented by David Olusoga, the British historian. I learned a lot from it. British plantation records list the names, ages and worth, in sterling, of the women, children and men who were enslaved on British plantations. So, we know that, with the Slavery Abolition (SA) Act of 1833, 800,000 Africans, the legal property of British owners, were (technically) freed.

The British government then borrowed £20 million (which is about £17 billion in today's money) to pay reparations. This was the largest bailout in history, until that of the banks in 2009. The word 'reparation' means making amends, usually financial, to those who have been wronged. However, not one penny of the money went to those who had been enslaved. It went instead to those who had, as a result of the SA Act, lost their human 'property'. Reparation is thus the wrong word to use.

The Slave Compensation Commission (there is irony in that name too!), a committee of ten men, divvied up the bailout money and kept detailed records of the financial outgoings. So, we know exactly who the slave owners were who registered for and received compensation. The records are a de facto census of British slave owners, as of 1834. We might imagine that there were just a few hundred wealthy British slave owners at the time. In fact, slave ownership was very common and some

Women inspiring action, transforming lives

46,000 British people, slave owners, are on the list, together with the amounts of money they received.

Thanks to the 'Legacies of British Slave Ownership' project, a team of historians at University College, London have been combing through the 46,000 entries. As a result, we now know that British slave owners not only grew rich from slave labour while it was legal, but also received generous amounts of money as compensation for the loss of their human property. We learn, for example, that a country vicar received the equivalent of £800 or so for his single servant, and that John Gladstone (father of prime minister William) received the equivalent of £80 million for the 'loss' of thousands of unpaid workers on his plantations in Guyana. There are some famous people, some high and mighty families, firms, companies on the list. But there are also in the records a lot of very ordinary people, and lots of women, often widows who inherited slaves or part shares in plantations from their dead husbands.

Thanks to the Legacy project and the paper trails that the researchers have found and investigated, we can also see the extent of the trickle-down effect of all this wealth on our cultural and social institutions. For, as well as passing the wealth to the next generations, these rich individuals bought houses and estates for their families, had their portraits painted, collected and donated fine art, put money into banks, schools, colleges, insurance companies, libraries, and museums.

I did not know any of this. If it

weren't for Olusoga and other historians, this would have been airbrushed out of history.

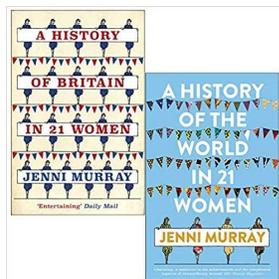
So, even if I check the names on the compensation list and, with a sigh of relief, do not find my ancestors' names there, can I say I have not benefitted from slave ownership? This is something worth thinking about when I next pop into a library or museum, visit a grand National Trust property, stare at an oil painting of some 'worthy' gentleman in an art gallery or use an established bank or insurance company.

'Britain's forgotten slave-owners' is available to view on BBC iPlayer.

The 'Legacies of British Slave Ownership' project is at <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/>

Tessa Woodward

Books of the Month



They were famous queens, unrecognised visionaries, great artists and trailblazing politicians. They all pushed back boundaries and revolutionised our world. Jenni Murray presents the history of Britain as you've never seen it before, through the lives of twenty-one women who refused to succumb to the established laws of society, whose lives embodied hope and change, and who still have the power to inspire us today.

The history of the world is the history of great women. Marie Curie discovered radium and

revolutionised medical science. Empress Cixi transformed China. Frida Kahlo turned an unflinching eye on life and death. Anna Politkovskaya dared to speak truth to power, no matter the cost. Their names should be shouted from the rooftops.

10 Facts about Women

- 1 Every 90 seconds, a woman dies during pregnancy or childbirth. Most deaths are preventable, but due to gender-based discrimination many women are not given the education or care they need.
- 2 1 in 4 women experience physical or sexual violence during pregnancy.
- 3 Women make up 80% of all refugees and displaced people. Instruments of genocide such as sexual violence and rape are often directed at women and girls.
- 4 Women are seldom included in formal peace processes- they are less represented among decision-makers and military leaders, who participate in the processes.
- 5 As of January 2020, women held 15.1% of all presiding officer posts in world governments.
- 6 More than 16.4 million women in the world have HIV/AIDS.[
- 7 600,000 to 800,000 victims (mostly women and children) are trafficked globally each year.
- 8 Women account for 70% of the population living in absolute poverty (on less than \$1.00 a day).
- 9 Over 60 million girls worldwide are child brides, married before the age of 18.
- 10 603 million women live in countries where domestic violence is not yet considered a crime[

Women inspiring action, transforming lives