



Bernie Grant Trust

Guide to the Bernie Grant Archive

inspiration | innovation | inclusion

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Bernie Grant – the People’s Champion

On 18 April 2000 thousands of people lined the streets of Haringey to follow the last journey of a charismatic political leader. Bernie Grant had been the Labour leader of Haringey Council during the politically turbulent late 1980s, and went on to become the Member of Parliament for Tottenham, a multi-cultural area of north



Bernie Grant aged 6 years at Ituni, Guyana

London. The 4000 people who attended the service at Alexandra Palace made this one of the largest ever public tributes at a funeral of a black person in Britain.

Bernie Grant gained a reputation for being controversial because he tackled some of the most difficult issues that affected the lives of people in this country

and overseas. He was a committed anti-racist activist who campaigned against apartheid South Africa, against the victimisation of black people by the police in Britain and against racism in health services and other public and private institutions.

As one of the most outspoken black political leaders in recent times, campaigning for racial and social justice for over three decades, Bernie Grant made an indelible impact on the public, through the attacks on him in the media and through his speeches at meetings. In making the transition from left wing activist to Parliamentary office, the story of his life mirrors the changes that the country was going through, as it attempted to come to terms with becoming a multi-racial society after decades of being an imperial power.

Born into a family of educationalists on 17 February 1944 in Georgetown, Guyana, Bernie Grant was the second of five children. A popular, sociable child at primary school, he won a scholarship to St Stanislaus College, a Jesuit boys’ secondary school. Although he passed his O Levels with flying colours, he left school a year later because he wasn’t allowed to study his preferred subjects. He then worked for two years as a laboratory analyst before he left for England to join his family.

Bernie Grant’s first job on arrival in London was railway clerk, before studying at Tottenham Technical College in 1965-67. After leaving college, Bernie Grant went to study for a degree in Mining Engineering at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh. He left the University in 1969 without completing his degree in protest at the discrimination against



Bernie celebrates being elected as leader of Haringey Council

black students that prevented them from participating in work experience in apartheid South Africa.

For the next nine years, he worked as an international telephonist, becoming a shop steward in the Union of Post Office Workers, and fighting for the rights of fellow workers. By 1978 he became a full time Area Officer for what was then the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE), responsible for its local authority and health workers. Bernie Grant then founded the Black Trade Unionists Solidarity Movement, and by 1983 worked for

it full time.

He joined the Tottenham Labour Party in 1975, and was elected a councillor for the London Borough of Haringey in 1978. He helped to found a national organisation for Black and Asian councillors, and was a prime mover in the fight for Black Sections in the Labour Party. Not everyone accepted Black Sections, as some claimed that they were divisive. However, Bernie Grant argued that it was necessary to set them up as the Labour Party had failed to listen to its black members and was not doing enough to promote black



Bernie Grant and Neil Kinnock meet with local community representatives following Brodwater Farm disturbance 1985

people to positions of responsibility within the party. By 1985 he had become the Leader of Haringey Council, responsible for services to its ethnically diverse population of 250,000 people. He was the first ever black person to hold such a position, or in fact to hold any real political power, in Europe.

Equal opportunities policies and practices are now commonplace but this was not so in the 1980s when Margaret Thatcher

was Prime Minister. Bernie Grant was a pioneer of equalities for all and insisted that Haringey Council's jobs and services should be equally available to everyone. Positive action for lesbian and gay people, for women, for black and minority communities, were hallmarks of his leadership, as was his stance against the Government attempts to curb the spending powers of deprived inner city Councils. In the early to mid 1980s, England was

unsettled by civil unrest across the country. In Liverpool, Birmingham, and London young people rioted. Although frequently described as 'race riots' the people involved were often from those black and white communities who felt that their voices were not being heard by politicians and officials. Violent disturbances took place on Haringey's Broadwater Farm Estate in 1985 after police raided the home of Cynthia Jarrett who collapsed and died in

the unrest, a policeman was murdered and Bernie Grant quickly rose to national prominence, as he defended the youths who had rioted against police harassment.

Bernie Grant's remarks about the riots were consistently misrepresented in newspapers, and the British tabloid press in particular singled him out as a figure of hate. But in spite of a negative campaign of crude racial stereotyping, the Tottenham electorate voted him into Parliament in 1987, as one of the first black MPs in modern times. Famously, ever conscious of his ancestral roots, he entered his first State Opening of Parliament in African clothing something he continued to do throughout his career, attracting outrage from some quarters - but huge respect from others.

Bernie Grant had built up credibility with a range of communities

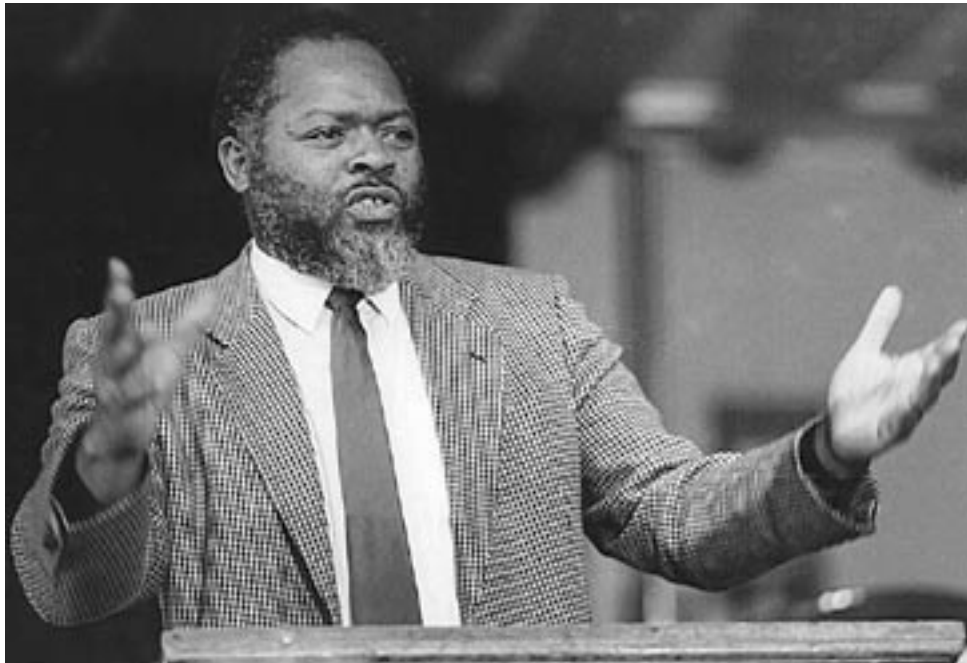
who felt excluded from politics and from society in general. Migrants, black people, pensioners – all sought his support on the concerns that mattered to them. He brought to Parliament a wealth of political experience, and quickly set about using his new status to convene a wide variety of events and organisations to take those issues forward locally, nationally and

internationally. He was a founder member and chair of the Parliamentary Black Caucus, which was established in 1988, and brokered links between black people in Britain and people of African descent elsewhere in the world.

Making links between what happened in north London, in the rest of Britain and across the



Bernie outside parliament



A powerful orator - the collection contains Bernie Grant's many speeches

world was an important aspect of Bernie Grant's political work, and he came to be seen as the unofficial 'Minister for Black People': his public speaking skills were in great demand both in the this country and abroad. He travelled widely, especially to Africa and to his beloved Caribbean region. In 1990 he accompanied the African-American former presidential candidate, Reverend Jesse Jackson to South Africa, greeting Nelson Mandela on the day

of his release after 22 years imprisonment. Later on, Bernie Grant established an information technology centre amid the impoverished townships in the Free State, South Africa, which is named after him.

Noting the problems that black people encountered when travelling around Europe, Bernie Grant founded the Standing Conference on Racism in Europe in 1990. Another important initiative that he helped

to establish was the Africa Reparations Movement (ARM) in Britain in 1993. As chair of ARM, he was keenly aware of the importance of history and heritage for African diaspora peoples: 'Only if we understand our past can we as Black People move forward in the future. We must demand compensation for the biggest crime in history – the colonization and enslavement of our people.'

The Global Trade Centre (founded 1995) and Caribbean Links were both concerned with ensuring that black communities in Britain maintained and developed economic and cultural ties in the developing world. Building on his desire to develop pride in their locality through regenerating the area, Bernie Grant's last big battle was to work towards establishing a dedicated black arts and cultural facility in his Tottenham constituency.

This major building project – which has been granted £12m – is now to be named The Bernie Grant Arts Centre.



Caribbean Links, co-founded by Bernie Grant, recognized the links between history, culture and identity.

For 13 years, he used the floor of the House of Commons to considerable effect, to further his campaigns against racist policing methods, deaths in custody, and apartheid. He spoke on institutionalised racism in health, in sport, housing, education and in immigration policy, and arguing for greater resources for inner city areas. With the advent of the Labour Government in 1997, he became Chair of the All Party Group on Race and Community, and of the British Caribbean Group. In addition, he was appointed as member of the Select Committee on International Development, continuing to argue for the elimination of overseas debt for poor nations, and for the recognition of the ongoing consequences of the past injustices of colonialism and slavery.

Although he is best known for his work in the field of racial justice especially in relation to the police, Bernie

Grant's campaigning energies were also directed towards issues as diverse as the incidence of TB, pensioner's rights, prostitution and its negative impact on Tottenham residents, and disabled parking permits. Away from the public gaze he was renowned for his empathy with the many thousands who approached him with their personal difficulties. Queues at his MP's advice surgery were legendary, as was his passionate advocacy for victims of injustice.

Bernie Grant articulated the concerns of his community at the highest levels of Government, and was regarded as the authentic voice of Britain's ethnic minorities. However, diabetes dogged his health, and with his sight and mobility already impaired, he underwent major heart surgery in 1998, which left him with renal failure. Despite this he continued his work until his death on 8 April 2000.



Funeral procession for Bernie Grant, enters Alexandra Palace

By the time of his death, the activist of the 1970s and 1980s was seen as a statesman of rare integrity. Cabinet Ministers, scores of MP's, ambassadors and high commissioners, Scotland Yard Officers and many of the most notable black British figures attended the funeral at Alexandra Palace. His family were joined by members of the public, black and white in equal measure, united in a multi-cultural celebration of his life.

Locally, Alexandra Palace is known as the People's Palace: it was a fitting place for the many who admired his tireless struggle against injustice to unite in a multi-cultural celebration of Bernie Grant's life.

Official and public debates about racism, social equity and cultural identity were undoubtedly the richer for Bernie Grant's sustained, committed contribution to political, socio-economic and

cultural life both in Britain and abroad. With his finely honed sense of social justice, his belief in equality for all peoples, and his pride in the history, culture and achievements of black diaspora peoples, the impact of Bernie Grant's work will be with us for many years to come.

What's in the Bernie Grant Archive?

The Bernie Grant Archive contains original documents and publications relating to Bernie Grant's personal life and public role dating from his entry into the United Kingdom in 1963 until he died in April 2000.

The collection includes:

- Correspondence (eg racist/hate mail, letters regarding the first Gulf War, Black Businesses, Ministerial and general letters);
- Personal papers (eg tributes to his work, book of condolences, biographical files, legal papers);
- Speeches;
- Newspaper cuttings;
- Trade union papers;
- Files on general issues and international affairs;
- Files on racial incidents;
- Files regarding Council matters;
- Broadwater Farm and Joy Gardner Campaign files;
- Files on Parliamentary affairs;
- Party Political Papers;
- MP Constituency case files;
- Campaign fliers and invitations;
- African clothing, campaign placards, posters, awards and plaques;
- Photographs;
- Video and audio recordings from, for example interviews, speeches, television and radio appearances





Bernie campaigns for justice for Joy Gardner

Almost all the key activities undertaken by Bernie Grant are represented in the archive, and there is a particular concentration of material from the 1980s and 1990s. In addition to the records personally created by Bernie Grant, the archive also includes a notable collection of records belonging to the organizations that he helped to establish: many of these were the first institutions of their kind in the United Kingdom (see 'system of arrangement' below for listings). Among such organizations, the papers of the African Reparations Movement form the largest body of records

within the collection, providing invaluable research material on black history, art and culture as well as material encompassing the history of slavery, colonialism, and the return of cultural artifacts to their countries of origin. A small collection of trade union papers help to document Bernie Grant's early activist years in addition to revealing his pioneering efforts in establishing organizations such as the BTUSM.

Bernie Grant kept no personal diaries, but his personal letters, biographical files, memorabilia, photographs and

handwritten notes all provide a more intimate portrait of the public figure.

Council papers and files regarding landmark campaigns such as Joy Gardner, Broadwater Farm and the 'Tottenham Three', are among record series that document the historic measures undertaken by Bernie Grant throughout the 1980s and early 1990s. Archival records relating to other campaigns are also well represented within the collection. For example, as part of the African Reparations Movement campaign for the return of Benin Bronzes, the archive contains campaign files and the original 'repossession' notice, which Bernie Grant and fellow campaigners positioned on the front steps of the British Museum.

Files such as those relating to party political matters, parliamentary affairs, MP constituency cases and the Parliamentary

Black Caucus, are among the many records that provide an important insight into Bernie Grant's role as a politician. For example, there is considerable research potential for examining issues such as:

- Bernie Grant's relationship with the Labour Party, Parliament, and his constituents;
- How Bernie Grant used the parliamentary democratic system to campaign for racial equality and social justice;
- The numerous lobbying efforts undertaken concerning the development of black leadership, representation and empowerment in the political arena.

The traditional African dress that Bernie Grant proudly wore into the State Opening of Parliament may be viewed at the archive as well as press files documenting the widespread and intense media reaction leveled against Bernie

Grant. The countless tributes and letters of condolence recording the widespread public affection provide a stark contrast to the vitriolic hate mail he received throughout his political career.

An important and sizeable series of files relate to general, mainly UK, issues. Whilst international subject files provide firsthand evidence of how the extensive range of issues championed by Bernie Grant on a local, national and global scale, related to a wide range of people.

The Bernie Grant Archive documents the concerns of numerous oppressed peoples and diverse communities as championed throughout various campaigns for social and racial justice, often initiated by Bernie Grant. The records also testify to the significant cultural and economic contribution made by many black and minority ethnic communities in helping to shape multicultural Britain. This

includes individual cases such as those relating to racial harassment, miscarriages of justice and appeals for the release of hostages during the 1990 Gulf War.

From paper documents to records such as photographs, memorabilia and audio-visual recordings, the collection is a unique and enduring testament to the work of the late Bernie Grant.



How it's organised

The collection has been arranged into 12 larger record groupings as follows:

- Bernie Grant – Personal Records
- African Reparations Movement (ARM)
- Standing Conference on Racial Equality in Europe (SCORE)
- African University Project (AUP) (aka Black University Project)
- Black International Construction Organisation (BICO)
- Black Trade Unionists Solidarity Movement (BTUSM)
- Caribbean Links
- Parliamentary Black Caucus (PBC)
- Bernie Grant Memorial Trust - Memorial Committee
- Global Trade Centre (GTC)
- Bernie Grant Centre (BGC)
- Organization of Africans in Europe (OAE)

Working from general to specific, each of the 12 categories are further subdivided into record series (and occasionally record subseries) and then files. The material has been arranged into record series reflecting either the form of the record (eg everyday objects, photographs, audio-visual material such as videos) or the activities to which they relate (eg International affairs, Joy Gardner Campaign, Racial Incidents/'Cases of Injustice' Dossiers etc).

Index entries

African Diaspora
African history | National history
African-Caribbean peoples | Ethnic groups
Asian peoples | Ethnic groups
Asylum seekers
Black peoples | Ethnic groups
Civil and political rights | Human rights
Cultural heritage - Repatriation
Cultural Identity
Curriculum development | Curriculum
Ethnic conflicts | Interethnic relations
Ethnic discrimination | Interethnic relations
Ethnic groups
Industry
Immigration
International politics
International relations
International trade
Law
Labour movements | Labour relations
Migrants
Multiculturalism | Cultural pluralism | Cultural systems
Pan-Africanism
Police
Political history | History
Political participation | Political behaviour | Political sociology
Politicians | Political leadership |

Internal politics
Politics | Political science
Press
Protest movements | Political movements
Psychology of prejudice | Racial discrimination
Institutional racism | Racial discrimination
Racial prejudice | Racial discrimination
Racism (doctrine) | Racial discrimination
Refugees
Returnees
Resistance to oppression | Oppression | Political movements
Trade Unions | Labour relations

Personal names

Grant | Bernard Alexander
Montgomery | 1944-2000 | Bernie Grant | politician x Tottenham | political activist of London | anti-racist campaigner | humanitarian

Tributes - 2000

'Bernie Grant's death left a huge sense of loss. Here in Tottenham you lost a dedicated MP, and for many of you, a dear friend. The black community across Britain lost an inspiration. And injustice everywhere lost a fierce opponent.'

**Prime Minister
Tony Blair, April
2000**

Though in life he was an outspoken maverick, in death, Bernie Grant was praised from the heights of the Establishment, from Cabinet ministers and Scotland Yard to political associates and black community leaders...".

**Campaign group
Operation Black
Vote**

'He enjoyed tremendous affection from many who surrounded him, but more importantly his integrity, because of his doggedness and unwillingness to compromise deeply held principles, was an inspiration to many, particularly within the black community. The fact that he was able to command such a huge majority as Tottenham's MP is a testimony to this.'

**John Walker, Chief
Press and Publicity
Officer, Haringey
Council 1985
– 1989, September
2000**

'Bernie's particular contribution to racial understanding was to the self-confidence of the British Afro-Caribbean community. Their right to be treated exactly the same as the white community did not mean that they had to act exactly the same as the white community...He added the big factor of respect for diversity to the equation of racial equality.'

**Jack Straw, then
Home Secretary,
April 2000**

'Respect Dear Brother. Respect. Yours was a true and great heart.'
Paul Boateng MP

What are Archives?

"Archives are records produced by individuals, families or corporate bodies (such as local government organizations, companies or universities) during their activities or business. Archives may be in various formats, including paper files, parchment documents, bound volumes, maps, plans, audio and video recordings and photographs. They may be of any date, from early centuries up to the present day. Archives are retained by their creators, or in record offices and other repositories, because of their abiding interest for researchers - interest which their original creators might never have expected."
**Public Records Office,
National Archives,
Kew, Greater London**

Looking in the Archives

The BGA is available for visits on Mondays and Tuesdays, from 9am to 5pm and on Wednesdays 1pm to 5pm. You must make an appointment before you visit the archive as space is restricted.

Archives often have objects that are delicate and need to be handled with care. The papers or photographs may well be unique and if everybody is to be able to gain knowledge from them, they need to be looked after. There may even be some parts of an archive that you cannot look at because the documents are too delicate or because there is sensitive material in it. Access to restricted files may be

possible under certain conditions and you will need to consult with the archivist before you visit regarding permission. If there is anything likely to cause offence or distress – such as examples of hate mail – the archivist should alert you to this possibility.

You will not be allowed to eat or drink where the documents are stored, and you may be asked to wear cotton gloves when handling documents or other objects, to prevent damage or staining. Often, pens are not allowed in archives, so if you want to take notes, make sure you take plenty of freshly sharpened pencils and a rubber with you!

What is the Value of the Bernie Grant Archive?

Why Archives are Important

- Archives provide evidence of past actions, and can explain why people or organizations acted in the way they did;
- They can act as a cultural or community memory. The existence of archives can reveal what a society chooses to remember and what it chooses to forget;
- Archives are central to individuals seeking to establish their identities. Records can help people to find their individual, family or community histories, know who they are and where they come from;
- Documents produced by organizations such as the United Nations (UN) can help people to understand their basic human rights. The publication of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (one of the first actions of the UN) is a good example;
- Making archives accessible has played an important role in assisting with claims for social justice, re-uniting families, and finding out more about personal identities;
- Archives can undermine myths & open up new ways of thinking about a problem;
- Archives can help in finding new avenues of research;
- Allow voices to be heard that may not have access to mainstream institutions like the media or history books.

Anyone interested in exploring the life and times of Bernie Grant will find much that is of interest in this fascinating collection of papers, letters, and audio-visual material. But the BGA does more than give insights in to the work of well-known politician. It helps us to understand how perspectives on issues change, and why policies and practices develop in the way they do.

“Only if we understand our past can we as...people move forward in the future.”

Bernie Grant

What politicians do or say is of great importance to future generations. Private political papers such as Bernie Grant's are of considerable value because they:

- **Document insights into the actions of major political players and campaigners of our time;** Look at letters written by Bernie Grant to famous politicians and see how they respond to his questions;
- **Offer rich biographical material, and interesting detail not revealed elsewhere, on society's political leaders, unsung heroes and community leaders and activists;** Search through some of the early material, when Bernie Grant was a Haringey Councillor and you will find some names that have since become familiar and some that are not well known at all. Why do you think this is?
- **Help to give a voice to marginalized and neglected aspects of political and**

community history, from the local to the national and international; Look at all the different countries Bernie Grant visited, and think about why this was an important aspect of his work;

- **Reveal evidence of cultural change and transformation;** When Bernie Grant pushed for equalities policies, he was labeled 'barmy' in the Press but many of the changes he argued for are now taken as the norm. See if you can trace this change in attitude by examining press cuttings from the 1980s to 2000;
- **Provide the source material through which new perspectives on history can be explored or examined;** Bernie Grant was keen to promote knowledge of black history and culture. How do his statements on the subject relate to what you see on display in museums, libraries and archives?

- **Give insight into how the political processes which affect all our lives, work;** How did Bernie Grant draw the public's attention to important issues? Look through papers that refer to Haringey Council and Parliamentary procedures; what do they tell us about how changes happen (or not)?
- **Represent a valuable 'unofficial', often controversial version of events, frequently including details left out of formal, official accounts;** Look through the correspondence between Bernie Grant and other MPs and between him and the Press Complaints Council. What can you find out from this material that is not discussed in the media a) about the people involved in these exchanges; and b) about how our ideas about what is true are shaped?

How we set up the Bernie Grant Collection

The Bernie Grant Archive has been established as a result of the determination and commitment of the many people who admired and supported him. However to take the project from an idea to a reality was not without difficulty – and the process says much about the real challenges still associated with preserving the heritage of excluded groups in society.

The first step in establishing the archive was taken by Bernie's widow, Sharon Grant, who donated the collection to the Bernie Grant Trust in 2001, and led the project as the Secretary of the Trust. She persuaded the National Archive to view the archive. They readily agreed that the collection was worthy of preservation, and their support and guidance proved invaluable. Suitable archival facilities are rare, and after a long

search, the agreement by Middlesex University to house the collection proved a major step forward.

Next we approached numerous organizations for the funding we needed to pay for the work of sorting, listing and conserving the collection. Eventually, a grant was obtained from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and supplemented by donations given by Bernie's family, many friends, colleagues, and organizations. A shortage of professional archivists in the UK proved another setback, but when Joanne Anthony, an Australian archivist, agreed to undertake the project, the work began in earnest April 2003.

The past year has been one of often hectic activity and hard work, by the archivist and the staff of the Bernie Grant Trust, and by many others who have given their time, money

and skills to ensure that this ambitious project was delivered on time. We have succeeded in establishing an accessible collection, in a local location, to a high standard, within a tight budget, as well as an accompanying website which will ensure that the life of a remarkable black man is not lost to history. We believe that the collection provides a rich and unique resource for future generations who seek to understand a key period in the making of the multi-racial Britain.

There is much more that we wish do to develop the collection, and the Bernie Grant Trust will continue it efforts to resource further work. However, in the meantime, we list below all of those who have supported the current project, and say a big "thank you" to all of them.

Thank you

Ms Y M Ababa
Miss A Childs
Leyland Grant
Waveney Grant
Peter Herbert QC
Hazel House
Denise McGuire
Stuart McNamara
Richard Charles Martin
Peter Montoute
A B Muhammad
Caroline Newton
St Lucian Assoc. of London(1963)
Ms Jessie Stephens, MBE
Cecil Agard
JBS Management Ltd
Nicky Gavron
Andreas Michaelides
Dr D A Neil
Dr Edgar Neufeld
M O'Connor
Suzy Rigg
Gill Sargeant
Ben Summerskill
Harry Barnes, MP
Margaret Beckett, MP
David Blunkett MP
Richard Caborn, MP
Jean Corston, MP
John Cryer, MP
Jim Cunningham, MP
Terry Davis, MP
Barry Field
Paul Flynn, MP
David Haslam
Piarra Khabra, MP

Ashok Kumar, MP
Mike O'Brien, MP
Dennis Skinner, MP
Clive Soley, MP
Teddy Taylor, MP
Jenny Tonge, MP
Yasmin Alibhai-Brown
Keith Bennett
Suzie Constantinides
Liz Davies
Louise Ellman, MP
Paulette Fuller
Pauline Green
Hilary Moraes
Crystal Rose
Sam Smethers
Albert Fortune
S Gibson
C Jeffries
Elsie Blair & Family
James Doolan
M M Hamilton
Pat Tonge
Carol Cheryl Joseph
Lord Victor Adebowale
Wayne Harber
Lord Desai
Miss J Mitchell
M Salmon
Baroness Prashar
Marsha Singh, MP
Patricia Hewitt, MP
Lord Bhikhu Parekh
Barbara Roche, MP
Lord King
Mr & Mrs Stephens

Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London
Tina & Rubuen Bilan Carroll
Janice Panton
African Caribbean Leadership Council
Brian Boylan
Chris Ofili-Afroco
Rumi Verjee
David Adjaye
Cllr Herbie Brown
Stone Ashdown Trust
C Jeffries
P Younge
Lela Kogbara
Sharon Grant
Darshna Soni
Joanne Anthony, Project Archivist
Reading Room
Bruce Castle Museum
Middlesex University
National Archives
Heritage Lottery Fund
Focus International (UK) Ltd
Capital Accommodation
Interact New Media
Karen Wong
Judy Richmond
Steve King
Dr Norman James
Dr Lola Young
Satellite Consortium Ltd

Related resources

Websites relating to Bernie Grant

www.berniegrantarchive.com
Bernie Grant Archive

www.obv.org.uk/blackhistory/berniegrant.html
Accessible, detailed piece that outlines Bernie Grant's general life, and then political career.

<http://politics.guardian.co.uk/politicsobituaries/story/0,1441,563450,00.html>
Bernie Grant obituary published in The Guardian.

www.blackpresence.co.uk/pages/politics/grant.htm
Short obituary briefly outlining the life of Bernie Grant.

www.globaltrade.co.uk/BERNIE_GRANT.htm
Brief outline of the life of Bernie Grant and his political accomplishments.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/706403.stm
BBC report detailing of Bernie Grant's life in Parliament.

www.arm.arc.co.uk
African Reparations Movement

www.bgtrust.com
Bernie Grant Trust

Archive and History web resources

Access to Archives (A2A Database)
www.a2a.org.uk

CASBAH
www.casbah.ac.uk

The Black Presence In Britain:
www.blackpresence.co.uk

Runnymede Collection
www.mdx.ac.uk/www/runnymedecollection/

Future Histories
www.futurehistories.org.uk

Black British History
www.blacknet.co.uk

Black and Asian Studies Association (BASA)
www.blackandasianstudies.org.uk

Channel Four: Black and Asian History Map
www.channel4.com/history/microsites/B/blackhistorymap/index.html

Black and Asian Studies Association
www.pro.gov.uk/pathways/blackhistory/default.htm

Institute of Race Relations
www.irr.org.uk

Archives, Museums and Galleries

**Black Cultural Archives/
Archives and Museum of Black Heritage**
378 Coldharbour Lane
Brixton
SW9 8LF
Tel: 020 7326 4154
or 020 7738 4591
Fax: 020 7738 7168

I98 Gallery
198 Railton Road
Herne Hill, London, SE24 0LU
England
Contact details
Tel: 020 7978 8309
Fax: 020 7737 5315
E-mail: gallery@i98gallery.co.uk
Website: www.i98gallery.co.uk

The Museum of Immigration and Diversity
19 Princelet Street
London
E1 6QH
England
Tel: 020 7247 5352
Fax: 020 7375 1490
E-mail:
information@i9princeletstreet.org.uk
Website: www.i9princeletstreet.org.uk

Museum of London

London Wall
London
EC2Y 5HN
England
Tel: 020 7600 3699 or 0870 444 3852
Fax: 020 7600 1058 or 0870 444 3853
information line: 0870 444 3851
Email: info@museumoflondon.org.uk
Website: www.museumoflondon.org.uk

The National Archives/Public Record Office

Kew
Richmond
Surrey TW9 4DU
Tel: 020 8876 3444
Fax: 020 8392 5286
Minicom: 020 8392 9198

Moving Here Project

The National Archives
Kew, Richmond
Surrey.
TW9 4DU
Email: enquiry@movinghere.org.uk
Website: www.movinghere.org.uk

The British Museum

The Sainsbury African Galleries
The British Museum
Great Russell Street
London WC1B 3DG

National Maritime Museum

Greenwich
London SE10 9NF
Tel: 020 8858 4422
Information Line: 020 8312 6565
Website: www.nmm.ac.uk

Bruce Castle

Curator
Bruce Castle Museum
Lordship Lane
London N17 8NU
Telephone: 020 8808 8772
Fax: 020 8808 4118
Website: www.haringey.gov.uk/leisure/bruce_castle_museum.htm
Email:
museum.services@haringey.gov.uk

Grange Museum of Community History

Neasden Roundabout
Neasden Lane
London
NW10 1QB
Tel: 020 8452 8311
Fax: 020 8208 4233
Email: grangemuseum@brent.gov.uk

The Horniman Museum

100 London Road,
Forest Hill
London SE23 3PQ
Tel: 020 8699 1872

Useful terms

Apartheid – political system in South Africa that brutally denied human rights, justice and equality to the majority black African population.

Archive – (1) records preserved because of their continuing value. (2) a place or building where archival material (eg documents, photographs etc) is kept.

Archivist – professional staff member who selects, preserves and makes accessible, the contents of the archives.

ARM – the Africa Reparations Movement, co-founded by Bernie Grant to campaign for compensation to African countries devastated by colonialism and international economic policy. ARM also campaign for the return of ancestral treasures from museums in the west to Africa

Black Sections – this grouping was formed within the Labour Party to ensure that black members were treated fairly.

Curator – a curator is someone who chooses and looks after exhibits and displays in a museum or an art gallery.

Diaspora – people who are forcibly moved from their country of origin or who move because of harsh

conditions such as racial or religious persecution are said to belong to a diaspora.

English Heritage – the organization that is charged with looking after the built environment heritage of England.

Early Day Motion (EDM) – the purpose of EDMs is to allow MPs to express their opinion on a subject and to get support for their views by inviting other MPs to add their signatures in support.

Heritage Lottery Fund – the HLF is responsible for giving out grants to groups and organizations that wish to promote knowledge of history and heritage.

Parliamentary Black Caucus – a group of MPs from African, Caribbean and Asian backgrounds decided that they would be more powerful as spokespeople if they worked together.

Racism – actions and attitudes based on the belief that people from some countries/communities are inferior to others.

Reparations – government compensation for previous acts that have severely damaged whole countries or communities.

Repatriation – this means to voluntarily or forcibly send someone, or sometimes money or other property such as cultural artifacts, back to their own country.

SCORE – the Standing Conference on Racism in Europe was formed to develop initiatives on the xenophobia that prevents ethnic minority people enjoying the same level of rights in Europe as other, majority communities

Xenophobia – hatred and fear of foreign people

About The Bernie Grant Trust

The Bernie Grant Trust is a registered charity, established in April 2000 to record the life and work of Bernie Grant MP, and to carry on his work to make racial injustice a thing of the past.

In addition to the archive project, the Trust seeks to undertake practical projects for the education and empowerment of Britain's black and minority ethnic communities. At the heart of this is the Community Leadership Programme, which runs a series of training sessions designed to, amongst other things, build social capital, community cohesion and develop strategies to tackle institutional racism.

Bernie Grant was able to achieve so much because he got involved. He made sure that he was at the table when decisions were being made affecting

his community, and helped others to do the same. We need more people to get involved, wherever power lies, and we need to give them the skills they need to be effective. Our aim is to continue his work of ensuring that Britain's black and minority ethnic communities have the skills and opportunities they need to become champions for their communities in the future.

Trustees

Professor Chris Mullard
Sharon Grant
Peter Herbert QC
Baroness Howells of St David, OBE
Beverley Bernard OBW
Courtenay Griffiths QC
Joanna Baxter
Rosamund Grant
Darshana Soni
Derma Ioannou
Oona King MP
Dr Trevor Hall OBE
Bob Purkiss OBE

Bernie Grant Trust
Bernie Grant House
266-268 High Road
Tottenham
London N15 4AJ
Telephone: 020 8880 9100
e-mail:
info@bgtrust.com
Registered Charity No.
1021451

Posters of the late Bernie Grant are available.

AFRICAN REPARATIONS MOVEMENT

REPOSSESSION NOTICE

DATE: 15th March, 1997
REFERENCE: ARM150397

Dr Robert Anderson, Director
The British Museum
Great Russell Street
London WC1B 3DG.

ACTING UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE OBA OF BENIN ON NOVEMBER 19TH 1996, a liability order was issued against you in respect to the plunder of thousands of valuable artefacts and treasures of significant historical and spiritual value.

You are hereby ordered to return the goods listed below forthwith. Costs have already been incurred and could increase if you fail to comply.

ITEM 1: The Festac Mask

ITEM 2: All Bronze Oba Heads in your possession

ITEM 3: All Benin Ivories

ITEM 4: All Bronze Plaques

ITEM 5: All other items stolen from the kingdom of Benin since 1897, or otherwise appropriated from that place in the process of colonisation which are now in your possession.

MONETARY VALUE: Priceless

SIGNED:



BALIFFS NAME: Bernie Grant MP

(On behalf of the Benin Centenary Committee)

DATED: 15/03/97

The office is open MONDAY - FRIDAY 10.00AM - 5.00PM. Personal visits and telephone calls cannot be accepted outside these times.

Payment must be made now to the COUNTRES OF ORIGIN by postal / money orders crossed & CD bankers draft or cheque dated within seven days of the notice. Cash must be registered by post. Receipts will not be issued unless a stamped addressed envelope is supplied.

Registered Office: 3 DEVONSHIRE CHAMBERS, 577 HIGH ROAD, TOTTENHAM, LONDON N17 6SL.
Telephone: 0181 880 9100 Facsimile: 0181 880 9101

Repossession notice for the return of the Benin Bronzes

Contacting the Bernie Grant Archive

The BGA is currently housed at:

Middlesex University

Cat Hill Campus

Cat Hill

Barnet

Herts EN4 8HT

Map available at <http://www.mdx.ac.uk/campus/ch.htm>

The Bernie Grant Archive has wheelchair access.

Visits to the BGA are by appointment only.

Please contact the archivist Judy Vaknin on 0208 411 6686

or email j.vaknin@mdx.ac.uk

A catalogue list and special virtual exhibitions can be viewed on the website:

www.berniegrantarchive.com

Bernie Grant Trust

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