

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
June 2023

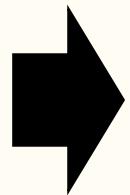
Marks the  
**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
of the arrival of  
the HMT Empire  
Windrush at  
Tilbury Docks in  
1948



# Events leading up to the Windrush

After the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, the Caribbean, also known as the **West Indies**, became one of the first of England's overseas empire.

An empire is a group of countries ruled by a single country.



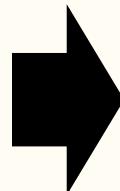
England was in search of wealth and **2.3 million Africans were forcibly taken to the British Caribbean to work on plantations.**



# Events leading up to the Windrush

During WW2, over 10,000 Caribbean men and women crossed the Atlantic to support Britain in WW2.

Some resented colonial rule, others felt it their patriotic duty to help the 'Mother Country'.



After WW2 Britain needed help to rebuild. They sent out adverts to the Caribbean asking for workers.

1948 British Nationality Act - All countries who were part of the Commonwealth now British citizens.



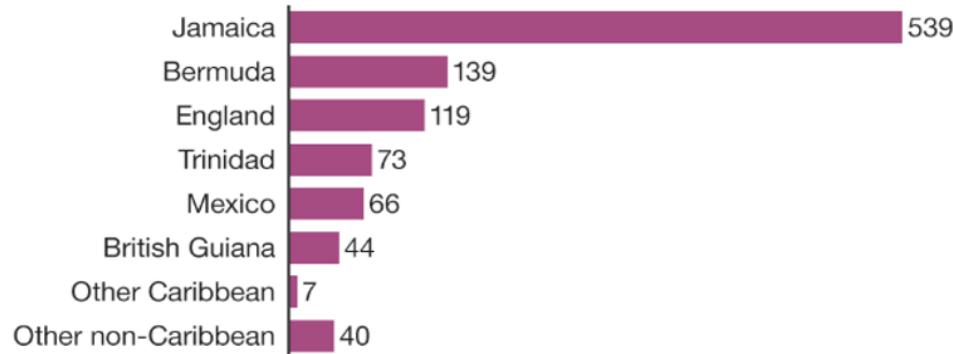
# Listen carefully to the History of the Windrush

[https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=Si3IRAPJkkU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Si3IRAPJkkU)

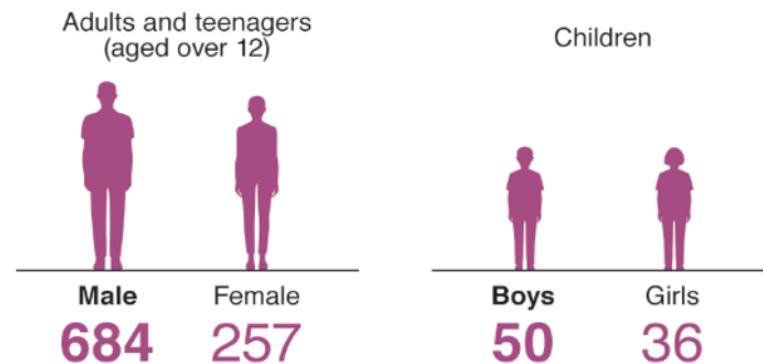


## Most gave Jamaica as their last country of residence

Last country of residence



## Most of those on board were male

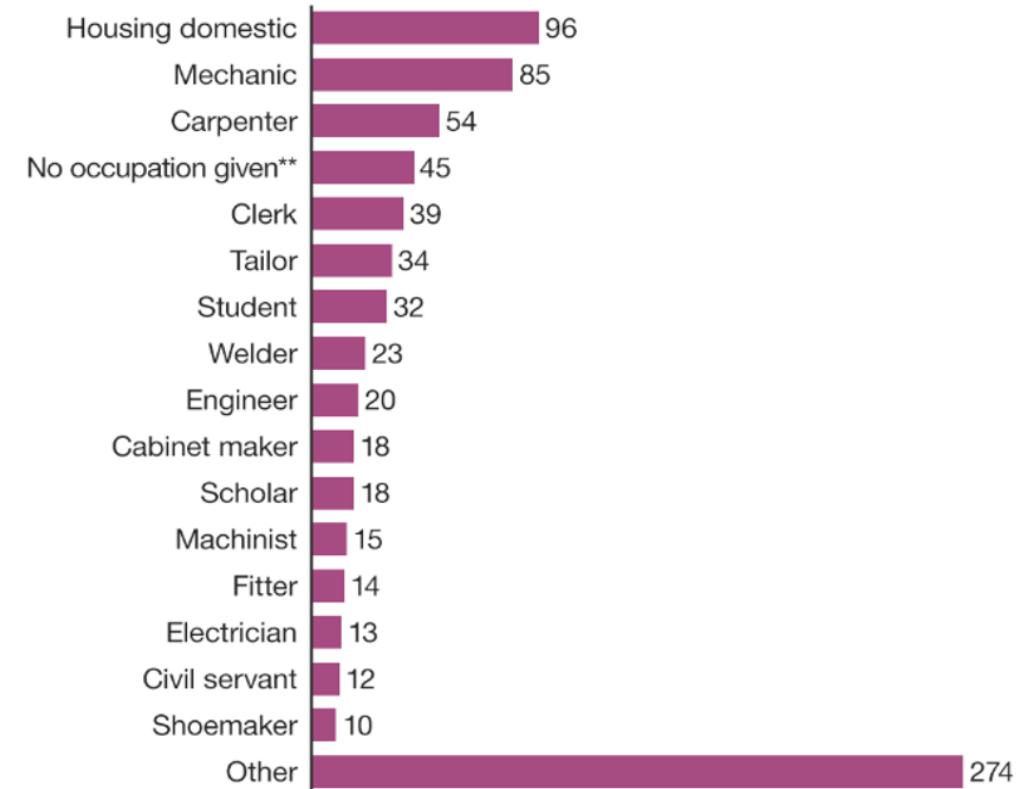


## London was the most popular destination for Caribbean passengers



## The skills of Caribbean passengers were varied

Occupation\*



\*For those giving a Caribbean last country of residence

\*\*Including children

# Windrush Generation's Contribution to British Society

Most common sectors in which Caribbean people found jobs:

- Manufacturing
- Construction
- Public transport
- Post Office
- NHS



# Notting Hill Carnival

- The first ever **London Caribbean carnival** was **organised by Claudia Jones** (known as the Mother of Caribbean Carnivals in Britain).
- She was **part of a movement aimed at empowering cultural education and representation.** 'Heal' racial tensions.
- After her death in 1964, Rhaune Laslett was influenced by Jones' events and created the Notting Hill Carnival. It is now the largest street festival in Europe.

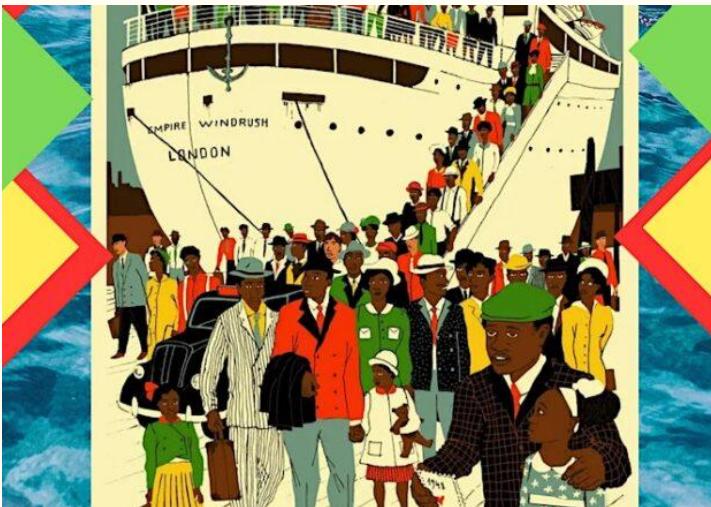


# Windrush Scandal

- Changes in immigration laws meant some Commonwealth citizens who have lived in the UK from an early age had been threatened with removal from the country.
- The Immigration Act of 1971 required any Commonwealth citizen who was questioned about their residency to prove that they were a legal citizen.
- Some citizens struggled to provide paperwork required by the Home Office to prove they could remain in the UK.
- It was discovered that the Home Office destroyed thousands of landing card slips recording Windrush immigrants' arrival dates in the UK.

It was an integral part to the multicultural Britain we see today.

Symbolic moment in the story of the History of the Black British contribution to the country.



Why is it important to remember the arrival of the Windrush today?

Supported the economic boom in the 1950's by many skilled workers from the Caribbean.

To continue conversations between different racial groups to promote mutual respect and tolerance and understanding.