



TODAY WE COMMEMORATE



WINDRUSH DAY!



The British Empire



Over the course of three centuries Britain had colonised (taken control of) countries across the world, and governed them as part of the British Empire.

Countries in the Caribbean like Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad & Tobago, St Lucia were part of the British Empire and this meant that the people who lived there were **British citizens, too.**

During the Second World War many Caribbean men served in the British army in defence of the 'Mother Country'. At this time, Caribbean countries were still under **British rule and not yet independent.**

Windrush Generation

In 1948, after The Second World War, Britain was just starting to recover. Thousands of buildings had been bombed and houses destroyed, and it was all needed to be rebuilt. **There was a shortage of labour in Britain** after the war. Many Caribbean's answered an advert to come to Britain where there were lots of jobs to do. People from countries such as Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, St Kitts and many more were excited to join the 'motherland' (as they had been promised they were also a part of the country)

On 22 June 1948 the Windrush sailed into Tilbury Dock, Essex with about 500 immigrants from the Caribbean on board. There had been Black immigrants from Africa and the Caribbean in Britain for centuries but the migration from the Second World War brought thousands of Black people to Britain on a large scale. From the year 1948 to 1970 almost half a million people moved from the Caribbean to Britain and today we call this '**The Windrush Generation**'.





ON
DEMAND
NEWS

THE NATIONAL
WINDMILL
MONUMENT



Racial Tensions

Although this was an opportunity for a better life, many Caribbean men and women **did not receive a warm welcome from Britain.**

The only jobs available were low skilled manual work in public transport, building and construction, and if there were cutbacks, the immigrants were the first to be fired. There was outright **racial discrimination** in the field of housing, and Black people were outlawed from many rented rooms.

By 1958 there was mounting resentment from some groups of white British people towards Caribbean's and white youths in gangs started to target Black men on the street. Racial tensions and post war housing shortages led to riots in the 1950s the most notorious being the **1958 Notting Hill Riots** which went on for two weeks.

Impact on the UK

It is important to remember the positive contributions that Caribbean men and women made to Britain. Despite being wrongly treated many worked hard to rebuild Britain and **contributed to the successes we have today.**

One being the start of the the National Health Service which was established within a month of the Windrush generation arriving in the UK in 1948. **Caribbean nurses in particular played a vital role from the earliest days.**

These early post-war workers **made a huge contribution** to the British economy and economic growth, not only in the immediate post-war period but also across decades of continuous employment.

Caribbean communities brought with them their colourful style of dressing, vibrant flavours and of course music.

