



IMPACT REPORT

2022/2023

Be kind to all kinds!

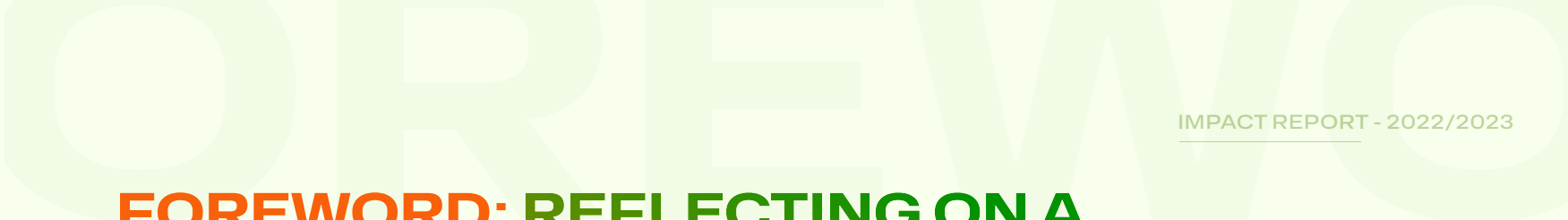


- Guided by the belief that embracing identity is an act of empowerment, we have tirelessly worked to provide children and young people with a platform that
- promotes kindness in their interactions,
- celebrates their identity and culture,
- builds racial harmony, and
- fosters positive character development.
- It is only on this basis that we can have an inclusive society where every child thrives.



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FOREWORD: REFLECTING ON A YEAR OF IMPACT AND PROGRESS

As I reflect on the journey of Afrikindness throughout 2022–2023, the urgency and relevance of our mission have never been more palpable. The profound impact of lack of empathy, increase in racial bullying, discrimination, and harassment on the mental health of young people, and the consequential fragmentation of families is only beginning to reveal its depth.

We hear of parents facing the dilemma of shielding their children from the harsh realities of racial bias in the UK, while parenting under the shadow of fear. The negative experiences taking an increased psychological and emotional toll on our young ones, call for a collective response to break this cycle of distress.

In the 2020–21 academic year, the alarming surge in [racially motivated bullying](#) (pdf link), with 1,198 reported instances in Scottish schools alone, marked the highest figures on record. The statistics tell a stark tale—a 20% rise in incidents over four years and a staggering 60,177 [racist incidents](#) recorded in UK schools over five years. The urgency to address this issue became even more evident in 2023 with a [racially aggravated assault](#)¹ on a Black pupil in Ashford, Surrey, emphasizing the prevalence of racist bullying in our schools and the involvement of adults in some cases.

A debate pack on racial discrimination in schools by the [House of Commons Library](#) stated:



In [October 2020, a report from the YMCA](#)² (link to PDF) looked at young Black people's experiences of racism. The outcome included that: -

- 95% of young Black people report that they have heard and witnessed the use of racist language at school.
- 49% of young Black people felt that racism was the biggest barrier to attaining success in school, while 50% said the biggest barrier was teachers' wrong perceptions of them – e.g., being seen as "too aggressive."
- 70% of young Black people had felt the need to change their hair to be "more professional" at work or school.

As an organisation, we cannot ignore this harsh reality. It raises some critical questions about the impact of racism on children and their sense of identity and belonging. This troubling scenario propelled Afrikindness into a realm of unparalleled activities in 2023.

¹ [Five arrested after Ashford schoolgirl hurt in racial attack – BBC News](#)

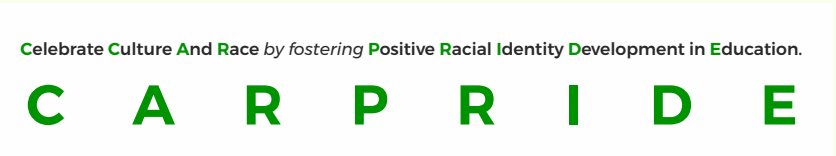
² YMCA – Young Men's Christian Association

OUR FOCUS

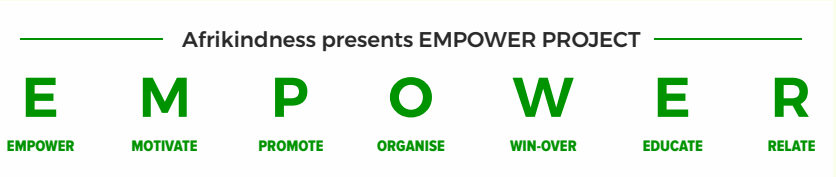
Guided by the belief that embracing identity is an act of empowerment, we have tirelessly worked to provide children and young people with a platform that promotes kindness in their interactions, celebrates their identity and culture, builds racial harmony, and fosters positive character development. It is only on this basis that we can have an inclusive society where every child thrives.

In 2023, we launched our flagship initiative – Africa Awareness Week, under the CAR-PRIDE³ services for schools during Black History Month. This is a beacon for fostering cultural awareness, diversity, and kindness.

We recognize the damaging stereotypes and misconceptions about Africa. We have endeavoured to challenge these narratives by creating educational content designed by UK teachers that aligns with the UK school curriculum, building racial knowledge, and promoting inclusivity through extracurricular activities as well. It is also why we produced a short film on one of Africa's most prominent cultural histories – the Benin Kingdom. We are facilitating vital connections with the Arts and Media to co-produce more short films alongside schools to support children's cultural knowledge and appreciation of traditions and diversity.



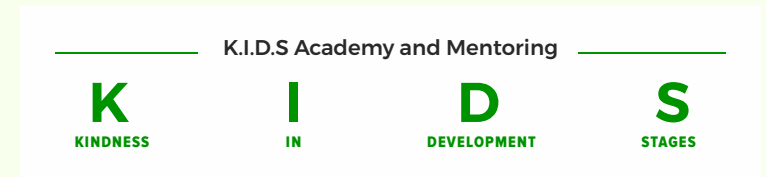
The impact of our initiatives extends beyond the classroom and homes. Our groundbreaking EMPOWER project program equips children and young people to take charge of community projects, connecting them to their cultural roots and instilling a sense of positive identity. We had 7 children-led projects. One of the projects saw a child in the UK fundraise over £1000 for a feeding project for vulnerable children in his community.



We also had 3 UK children carry out a fundraising campaign which raised over £5000 to renovate a school in a local community. The tangible outcomes, such as fundraising for vulnerable children and renovating schools, underscore the transformative power of kindness and community engagement and, most importantly, bring a sense of belonging, pride, and positive identity. The Empower Project stands as a transformative initiative cultivating positive racial identity in children and young people while honing real-time skills such as empathy and leadership. Fostering a sense of community inspires children to become solution-seekers, instilling the belief that they are integral contributors to the collective progress of their community.

³CAR-PRIDE – Celebrate Culture and Race by fostering Positive Racial Identity development in Education

Our K.I.D.S⁴ Academy portrays our commitment to social, emotional, and character development. The program, aligned with CASEL's Framework,⁵ equips students with essential life skills and values, fostering a holistic approach to education that extends beyond academic success.



We launched the 30-day Summer of Kindness challenge and Earth Day competitions, engaging over 500 children and young people in the UK and Africa, which exemplifies our dedication to instilling kindness as a habit. These children's competitions, along with our Kindness Heroes podcast, showcase the positive impact on participants' sense of purpose, gratitude, and happiness.

Our teachers' training workshops and research initiatives underscore our commitment to continuous learning and improvement. Our collaborative approach extends to parents through webinars and podcasts addressing cultural and racial barriers, providing expert insights, and building a thriving parent community with over 2000 members.

The Afrikindness Podcast, inaugurated in May 2023 to coincide with the annual Africa Day, spearheads Afrikindness's mission to dismantle stereotypes and challenge negative narratives about the continent. In alignment with the Organization of African Unity's objectives, the podcast contributes to fostering a more nuanced understanding of pertinent issues surrounding Africa. By popular demand, with 15 episodes streamed over 19 platforms, we have extended our reach to 4 continents (Africa, Europe, North America, and Asia). Securing charitable status with the Charity Commission in 2023 signifies a remarkable milestone for Afrikindness, amplifying our commitment to transparency, accountability, and the ability to access broader avenues of support to further our mission of fostering positive racial identity, kindness and inclusivity.



We are grateful for the support of over 50 volunteers, engagement with over 20 charities and organisations, and the partnerships that allowed us to effect positive changes in the lives of children and families.

As we close the chapter on 2023, it is with gratitude for the organisations, individuals, and our dedicated team who have fuelled our progress. We are proud of the positive outcomes we have achieved, while recognizing the challenges ahead. The coming year beckons us to redouble our efforts in building a more equal and cohesive society. If your organization shares our mission and values, we invite you to join us in shaping a transformative 2024. Thank you for your unwavering support.

Bunmi Owolabi
CEO, Afrikindness

⁴K.I.D.S – Kindness in Development Stages

⁵CASEL – Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning

WORDS FROM OUR TRUSTEES

Our teams have had an incredible year of children-led projects, parent and teacher community groups, mentoring and counselling, engaging with schools and religious institutes and continuing our advocacy and research programs, under the dedicated and skilled stewardship of our CEO, Bunmi Owolabi.

I truly believe that our work has had the blessings of the universe – It was no coincidence that it was at the exact moment of our 2nd board meeting of the year that the Charities Commission finally granted us Charitable status, allowing us to celebrate the moment together as a team!

I am very confident that with the continuing commitment, perseverance, the right attitude and teamwork of our volunteers, executive team, and trustees, Afrikindness will be able to realise our vision to create a world where every child transforms their community and makes a difference through Kindness.

Creating a society where children feel safe and included regardless of their race or ethnicity, teaching young people the core values of humanity and to make them kind and productive citizens. Our mission is centred around taking steps to help address the underlying structural and systemic factors that perpetuate racial discrimination and bullying, and to support character development, enabling young people to be resilient, kind, emotionally balanced, and thrive in society.

Health and happiness to you and yours in the new year ahead!

Sukwinder Bassi

Chair of Trustees, Afrikindness



OUR TRUSTEES



SUKWINDER BASSI
Chair of Trustees



CAROLYN DICKINSON (EDU.)
SW Hub Director,
Avanti Schools



ADE BAMIGBOYE (DIGITAL)
CTO Royal Borough
of Kensington and Chelsea



MANJINDER CACACIE (LEGAL)
Founder,
OptimumLex



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Commercial Lead, GCO,
Cabinet Office



ANN PALMER (EDUCATION)
CEO & Founder
FigTree Intl Ltd DEI Expert



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Finance Manager,
Spitalfields Housing
Association



EDDY WIFA (RESEARCH)
Lecturer in Law
University of Aberdeen



MARA MAKONI (PARTNERSHIPS)
Consultant
PA Consulting



JOY OBALLUM (INT'L EDUCATION)
Senior Consultant
Oxford Policy Management



BUNMI OWOLABI (CEO)
Shift Manager
Boc-UK

ABOUT US

INSPIRE. EDUCATE. EMPOWER. ADVOCATE

Afrikindness is a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting positive racial identity development, fostering racial harmony, and instilling kindness in children and young adults.

By emphasizing racial diversity, we aim to help children build a strong cultural identity, fostering a sense of belonging and confidence, while also promoting curiosity, fairness, and kindness.

Afrikindness actively works towards these goals by celebrating cultural diversity, building racial harmony, and promoting social and emotional learning in schools; supporting children of colour in developing positive racial identities; educating teachers and parents on racial knowledge; and creating public awareness about the impact of identity crises on the mental health of young people.

We believe in translating kindness into action, teaching children to embrace and celebrate differences while learning acceptance.

OUR VISION

To create a world where every child transforms their community and makes a global difference through kindness.

OUR MISSION

To foster positive racial identity development and promote kindness in children and young people.

AREAS THAT WE WORKED IN

UK Regions: - Yorkshire & Humber - South East - East England - South West - West Midlands - North West.

Africa: -Nigeria - Ghana



OUR APPROACH

WE BELIEVE THAT MEANINGFUL CHANGES WILL ONLY HAPPEN IF A COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENT IS NURTURED BETWEEN PARENTS, TEACHERS AND THE CHILDREN.

OUR APPROACH IS KINDNESS

CREATE IMPACT

We work with schools, parents and young people building on character development and empowering them to be part of the solution through children led projects and academy sessions.



INQUIRE

We conduct research to support our work, reaching to communities and drilling down to the core behavioural & psychological issues faced by children & young people.



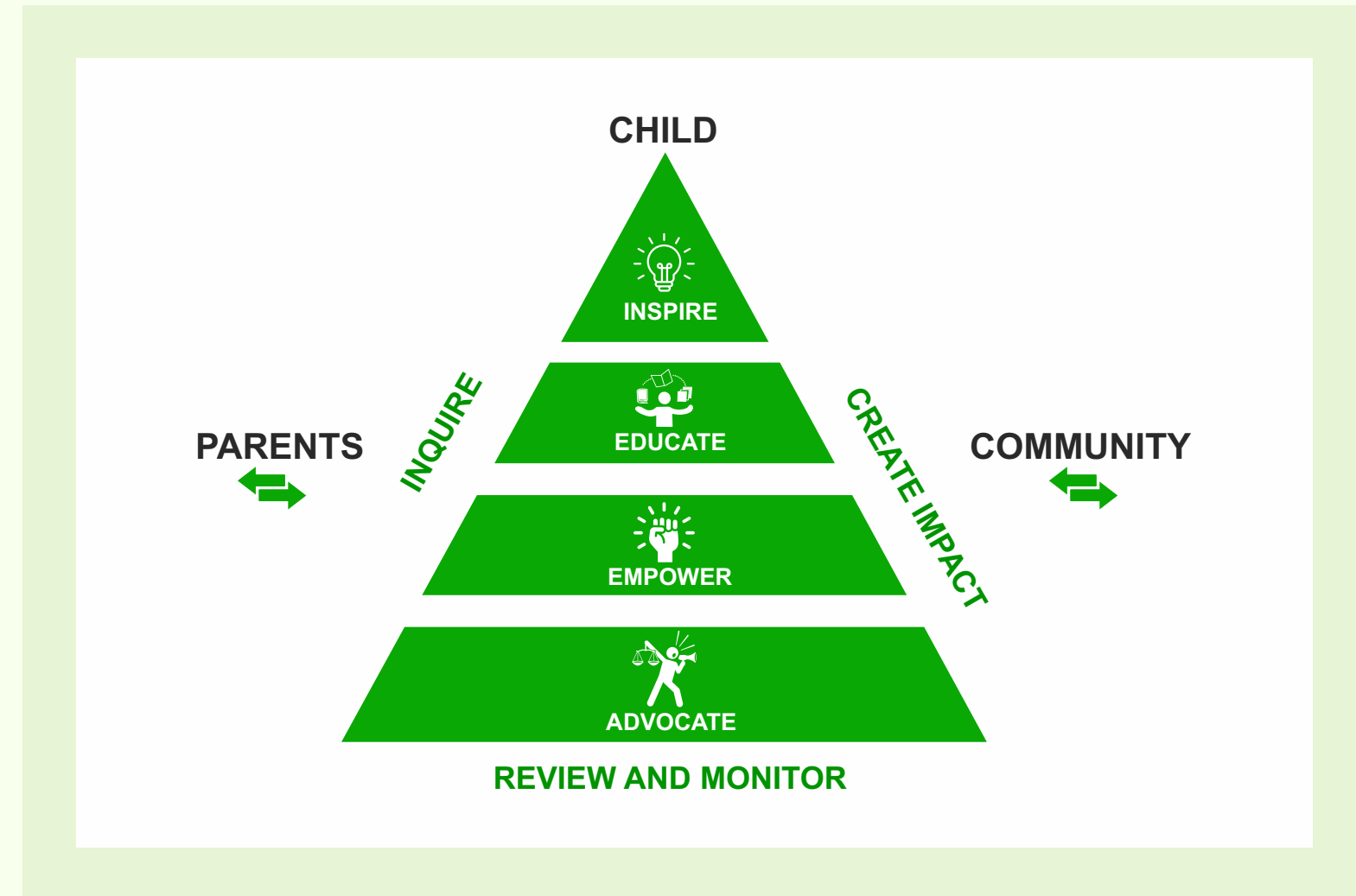
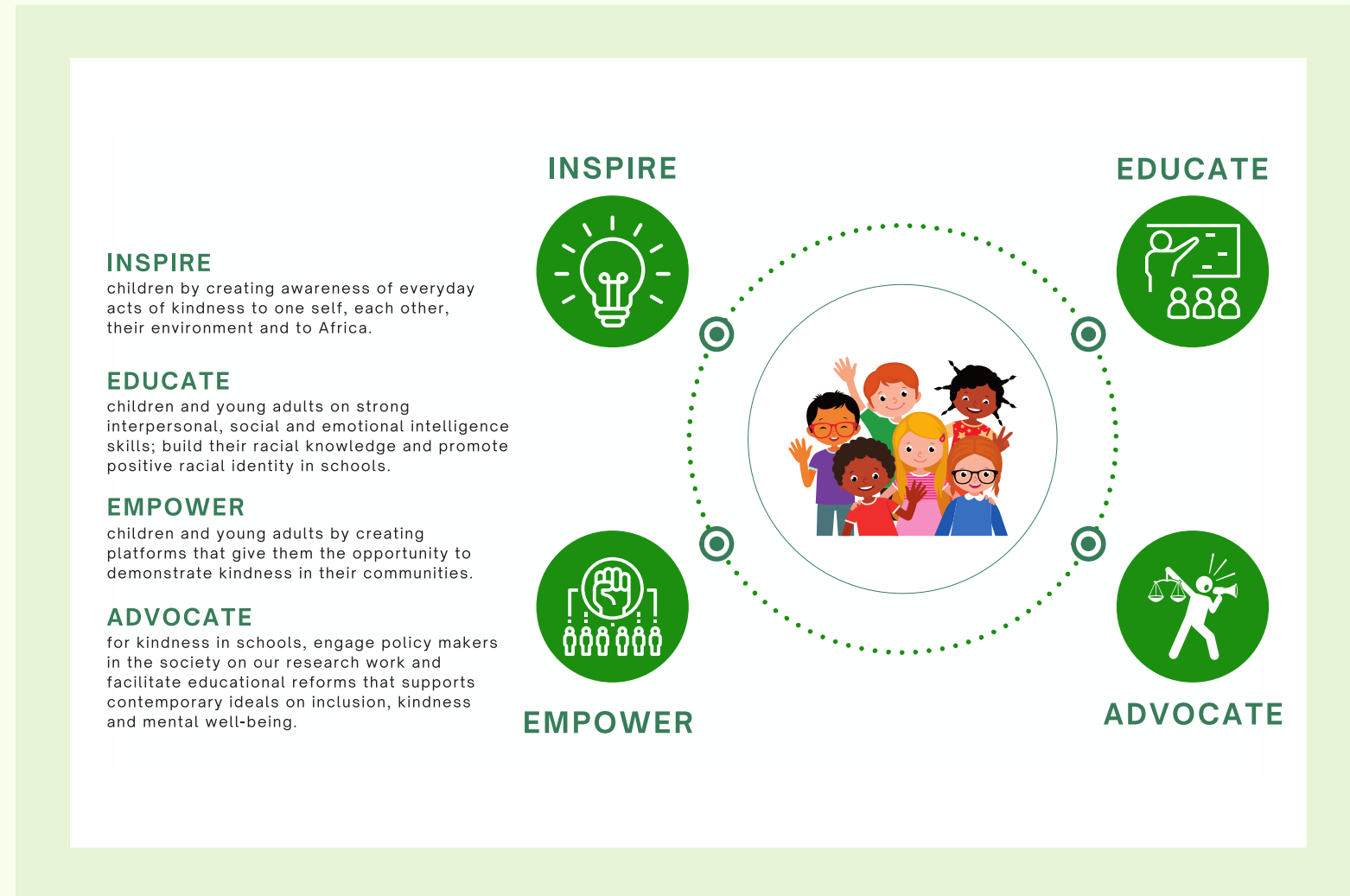
REVIEW & MONITOR

We aim to instill the values of kindness, empathy, mindfulness and compassion in children from an early age, these values need to be modelled daily.

OUR IMPACT STRATEGY

OUR KEY STRATEGIC AIMS ARE AMBITIOUS IN INTENT

OUR MODEL





HOW WE DO IT

EDUCATION & KIDS INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

- EMPOWER Projects:** The EMPOWER projects aim at inspiring and empowering children to connect with their cultural roots. The projects further instil confidence in children to tackle big, real-world problems. It brings a sense of community belonging and autonomy. Young People get involved in a diverse range of community initiatives and projects around the world.
- K.I.D.S Academy:** Our Kindness In Development Stages (K.I.D.S) Academy is a training program delivered to primary (ages 5- 11) and secondary schools (ages 11 – 18) engaging students in critical thinking, self-development, and habit formation. The curriculum promotes self-awareness, self-control, and interpersonal skills, preparing students for life challenges while also teaching them the core values vital for school, work, and life success.
- Competitions & Challenges:** Afrikindness offers kindness competitions and challenges that cover all our focus areas needed to build a well-rounded child. It is a free program intended for children and young people to develop a sense of purpose, gratitude, and happiness, and practice being kind towards their friends, teachers, environment, community, and most importantly, to themselves. The goal of our Kindness competition and challenges across the UK and Africa is to instil kindness in children and young people until it becomes a habit.
- Mentoring and Counselling:** Our mentoring and counselling services promote listening, empowering, and supporting children and young adults to build and develop resilience, and social and emotional skills.



HOW WE DO IT

RACIAL IDENTITY & HARMONY

- CAR-PRIDE:** Our goals are to help children learn, appreciate and celebrate other cultures and race by building their racial knowledge and celebrating cultural diversity in schools.
- And not stopping there, helping children of colour develop a positive racial identity, supporting teachers and parents in building their racial knowledge, and creating public awareness on the impact of identity crisis on the mental health of young people.
- Schools and Religious Institutes:** Engagement with schools and religious institutions to develop education in racial harmony, kindness, identity, and anti-racism through cultural heritage events, cultural educational contents, activities and programs.
- We offer Kindness workshops based on the CASEL framework. We also offer DEI School partnership programs & teachers' training workshops to support teachers' racial knowledge and promote inclusive school environments.



HOW WE DO IT

ADVOCACY & COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

- Parent Community Group:** This group provides support and information to parents, especially parents migrating to the UK. We host webinars and community engagements organised in collaboration with professionals, teachers and parents to help tackle the issues relating to race, other sensitive topics around race and discrimination as well as the mental health and wellbeing of children. We provide support to parents, empowering them with the right tools, information, and expert views to support their parenting journey.

- Research:** Our research focuses on promoting children's mental well-being and improving the understanding of issues affecting children of colour – their health and psychological well-being. Our 4 key priorities include: positive racial identity development, neurodiversity in children from minority ethnic communities, mental health, and education.



Other areas that align with our priorities include the intersection of race and mental health, accessibility to resources, social prescription, racial profiling and cultural sensitivity and awareness in children and education settings.



Pedi Obani
AfriKindness Parent Team Lead

Fadzai Beatrice Mashingaidze
Safeguarding Children Lead Nurse, NHS

Ekanem Robertson
Child Protection Community Lead, Africa

Ann Marie Christian
International Safeguarding Consultant

WHY OUR SERVICES MATTER

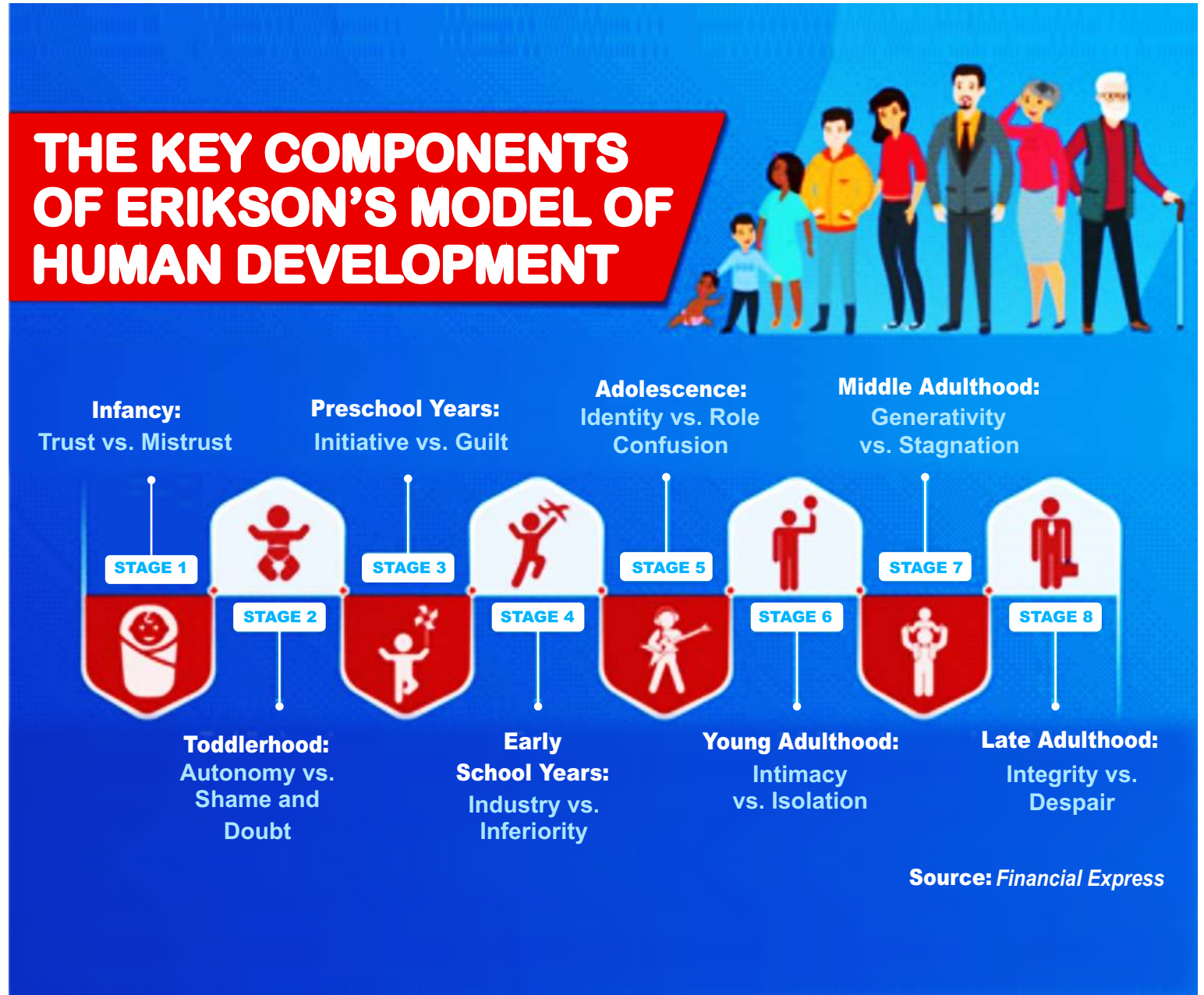
NAVIGATING CRUCIAL STAGES: FOUNDATIONS OF CHARACTER, IDENTITY, AND KINDNESS




Afrikindness plays a pivotal role in today's world by aligning with the foundational principles derived from extensive research, notably Erik Erikson's [psychosocial development stages](#). Our focus on Stage 4 — Early School Years (Industry vs. Inferiority) and Stage 5 — Adolescence (Identity vs. Role Confusion) addresses critical junctures in [human development](#)⁶.

By nurturing positive character, fostering a strong sense of identity, and promoting kindness, Afrikindness contributes significantly to guiding children and adolescents through these crucial stages, laying the groundwork for resilient, self-assured individuals in adulthood. Our approach is COLLABORATIVE – connecting parents, schools, and communities to achieve our goals.

⁶[The eight stages of human development - Erik Homburger Erikson](#)





Dr. Ollie Folayan
Co-Founder AFBE-UK
DEI Expert

Dr. Ollie Folayan MBE; Confounder AFBE-

Dr. Ollie Folayan is a distinguished Chartered Process engineering consultant and Head of Process and Safety at Optimus Plus (Aberdeen). As a visiting professor to the School of Science and Engineering, University of Dundee, Dr. Folayan's expertise extends to academia. He co-founded AFBE-UK (Association of Black Engineers Scotland UK) and played a pivotal role in the All Energy Diversity and Inclusion task group established by Oil and Gas UK in 2019.

Acknowledged for his commitment to diversity and inclusion, Dr. Folayan received the Diversity and Inclusion Award from the Institution of Chemical Engineering (IChemE) in 2021. His impactful journey was further recognized with an MBE for services to diversity and inclusion in engineering in the King's First New Year Honours' List in 2023. As a mentor and member of the Royal Academy of Engineering DE&I committee, Dr. Ollie Folayan continues to be an award-winning diversity trailblazer.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Niki Cooper
Clinical Director, Place2Be

Place 2Be

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO TACKLE RACIAL IDENTITY CRISIS AND MENTAL HEALTH

AFRIKINDNESS PARENT WEBINAR

GCSE & A-level Qualifications with Ofqual:

What you need to know as a Parent

Connect - Live - Thrive




Bunmi Owolabi
Host, Afrikindness

Sian Blount
Associate Director Policy & Strategy Relationships, Ofqual

FREE

Wed. 10th May 2023
12:30PM - 1:15PM (London Time)

REGISTER HERE:
<https://bit.ly/GCSEwithOfqual>

Registration is required to attend.
LIVE Online event on zoom



ANN PALMER
Afrikindness Trustee

AfriKindness

British cup of tea? Where have things really come from?



Tea?
Cup?
Sugar:

A pint?
English rose:
Humans?

Fish and chips?

Alice Crawford

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Ade Samigboya



Q&A

- How does culture and safeguarding intersect?
- What are some of the most pressing safeguarding concerns?
- When safeguarding, ethnicity, race or culture intersect, what can go right and what can go wrong?

Ann Marie Christian

AFRIKINDNESS HIGHLIGHTS

January

- Our EMPOWER projects, led by children, have grown to encompass [seven impactful initiatives](#), driving community engagement through activities such as fundraising, charity walks, birthday pledges, and bake sales. Through our compelling video series, we share inspiring stories of positive change, highlighting how these projects actively promote social and emotional learning. Our overarching goal is to empower both young people and adults, encouraging their contributions to building safe, healthy, and just communities.

March

- **Community Group Spotlight:** Afrikindness Research team attended the EMRI⁷ [Conference](#) and participated in the world café, discussing the need to promote research on children's mental well-being, neurodiverse children and race-related issues.
- **Newsletter Publication:** Afrikindness's work with young people was highlighted in the NIHR-EMRI Newsletter for Yorkshire and Humber.
- **Neurodiversity Week:** In commemoration of the week, a series of [videos and parent resources](#) on Neurodiversity with a specific emphasis on black culture were launched, offering educational insights and awareness while guiding parents to the necessary support for navigating the challenges of raising a neurodivergent child. These resources aim to provide valuable information and assistance in fostering understanding and inclusivity within the realm of neurodiversity.

April

- **Afrikindness' Earth Day Competition,** featuring 14 judges and spanning Nigeria and Ghana, received over 600 entries, culminating in six standout winners and 25 commendable entries recognized with consolation prizes. The competition showcased the creative prowess of students committed to environmental causes, fostering a platform for impactful contributions and discussions on sustainability and Earth Day awareness.

May

- **Africa Day:** Launched Afrikindness Podcast during the Africa Day celebration. Africa Day commemorates the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (now known as the African Union). 15 podcast episodes done with a reach of 4 continents.

May / October

- Teachers' training workshops: – Gained widespread coverage in all major [news media outlets](#). This accomplishment solidified Afrikindness as a prominent figure in the [educational landscape](#) contributing significantly to our overarching goal of bolstering the educational sector.

October

- **Africa Awareness Week:** During [Africa Awareness Week](#), we unveiled educational resources tailored for schools in the UK, distributing educational content to over 5000 institutions. These materials meticulously covered National Curriculum Statutory Requirements, ensuring alignment with Relationships, Health, and Sex Education (RHSE) guidelines, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of Africa's rich cultural diversity.
- Research outcome: – Our Research associate, Dr. Vivian Okoye unveiled key [research findings](#) on the challenges Black African Parents face in accessing timely autism diagnosis in the UK.

January – December

- **Parents Community:** The parent team successfully organized 10 [impactful webinars](#) featuring experts covering crucial topics like school safeguarding, racial identity, online safety for children, and essential insights on GCSEs and A-levels. With participants spanning four continents— Africa, Europe, North America, and Asia —the global reach of these webinars reflects their widespread impact. Positive feedback and individual support provided to attendees have marked this initiative as a resounding success, fostering knowledge exchange and empowerment across diverse communities.

⁷EMRI – Ethnic Minority Research Inclusion

2023 IMPACT AT A GLANCE

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- 1** CONFERENCE
- 2** TRAINING EVENTS
- 6** PARENT RESOURCES DELIVERED VIA OUR EXPERT NETWORK
- 14** WEBINARS
- 15** PODCASTS
- 43** COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS & BLOGS

OUR CHARITY MISSION IS SUPPORTED BY 50+ SKILLED VOLUNTEERS

AFRIKINDNESS REACHED AN AVERAGE OF OVER 10,000 PEOPLE (INCLUDING CHILDREN)

OUR CHARITY SUPPORTED 3000+ PARENTS, TEACHERS AND CHILDREN

OUR PODCAST AND WEBINARS EXTENDED TO 4 CONTINENTS, 16 COUNTRIES



OUR THEORY OF CHANGE IMPACT JOURNEY

Activities	Focus	Tasks – What we do	Outputs– What it produces	Outcomes– What it achieves	Impact– long term
EMPOWER PROJECT	Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Delivering age-appropriate projects in the community/globally ➤ Delivering Kindness Workshops using the CASEL framework in schools. ➤ Delivering capacity development programmes and training ➤ Providing 1-2-1 support ➤ Kindness Challenges & Competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 7 community & global projects with over £7000 fundraised led by 4 children in the UK ➤ 4 Charity organisations supported the projects, including 3 schools. ➤ 4 months of mentorship by parents & teachers. ➤ 1-2-1 support for reported bullying relating to racial issues. ➤ Over 5000 children & families benefitted from the projects in the UK and Africa. ➤ Measurable results in enhanced social, and emotional well-being. Character development with improvement in behaviour and school academics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enhanced sense of community belonging and social cohesion reported by children. ➤ Holistic development resulting in heightened social and emotional skills, strong character, and a positive cultural identity. ➤ Fostering a new generation of resilient leaders with a sense of purpose and active engagement in meaningful community initiatives. ➤ Parenting confidence ➤ Instilling essential life skills - self-awareness, control, and interpersonal skills preparing them for life challenges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Transformative development of young individuals ➤ Fostering enhanced social and emotional wellbeing, character growth ➤ Lasting positive cultural identity within their community. ➤ Building Community Resilience ➤ Character development to be kinder and better citizens.
KIDS Academy					
Kindness Challenge					
PARENT Community	Parent & Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conducting informative webinars and podcasts. ➤ Organizing professional training & development sessions and workshops to empower teachers ➤ Addressing parenting challenges, cultural complexities, and educational topics for parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Completion of 14 informative and engaging webinars for parents, providing valuable expert insights and practical knowledge. ➤ Implementation of 2 professional development sessions for teachers, resulting in enhanced skills, increased cultural competence, and improved educational strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increased knowledge and confidence among parents in handling parenting challenges and understanding cultural nuances. ➤ Improved teaching effectiveness and cultural competence among educators, positively impacting classroom dynamics and student engagement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increased level of public awareness about the consequences of racial identity crisis & mental health. ➤ Knowledge generation & learning ➤ Empowering Communities
Teachers' Workshop					

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE IMPACT JOURNEY

Activities	Focus	Tasks – What we do	Outputs– What it produces	Outcomes– What it achieves	Impact– long term
CAR- PRIDE	Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop educational contents that challenge stereotypes and promote racial harmony/cultural diversity in schools ➤ Cultural Films ➤ Cultural Projects & Events ➤ Black History Month ➤ Cultural Competition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Launched Africa Awareness Week ➤ Teachers' training workshops on racial identity with expert DEI speakers ➤ Distribution of resources (activity packs) to over 5000 UK schools to combat prevailing narratives about Africa. ➤ Cultural Short Film on Benin Kingdom ➤ Black History Month campaign awareness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improved cultural inclusivity and understanding in schools. ➤ Enhanced awareness and knowledge about racial identity and diversity among students and educators. ➤ Reduction in racial bullying through the dissemination of resources challenging stereotypes and fostering positive cultural identity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cultivation of inclusive and harmonious communities with sustained cultural understanding. ➤ Long-term positive shifts in education, marked by reduced racial biases, increased cultural competence, and a more inclusive learning environment.
Research	Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conducting research ➤ Advocating and campaigning ➤ Community Initiatives ➤ Hosting events / conferences ➤ Disseminating information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Research blogs on Racial Identity & Suicide, Mental Health ➤ Research output on the disparities of autism in Black communities. ➤ EMRI conference on ➤ Community awareness & campaign during Neurodiversity Week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Heightened awareness achieved. ➤ Stakeholders are well-informed and actively engaged. ➤ Empowered communities through informed decision-making. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Establishment of resilient communities with sustained awareness ➤ Lasting positive social, economic, and cultural transformations.

PARENT COMMUNITY | Connect. Live. Thrive

**NAVIGATING MODERN PARENTING CHALLENGES:
EMPOWERING PARENTS THROUGH COMPLEXITY**

In today's complex world, a strong community presence is indispensable for parents to thrive, and Afrikindness is at the forefront with its Parent Web App, embodying the motto "Connect, Live, Thrive." This online platform not only provides a safe space for parents to share views, worries, and access expert insights but also serves as a vital resource hub.

The launch of six comprehensive parent resources on crucial topics such as Neurodiversity, GCSE & A-level guidance, Online Safety, Digital Citizenship, Safeguarding in Schools, and Racial Identity and Mental Health has been a game-changer. These resources, assessed across four continents, equip parents with the right information to navigate the challenges of contemporary parenting.

Afrikindness recognizes that breaking down complexities and barriers is essential, especially when addressing cultural or language hurdles. Through engaging webinars, the initiative highlights cultural intricacies that may impede parents' understanding of key topics.

Solutions and recommendations are provided, resulting in a remarkable 98% of participants gaining a better understanding of the discussed topics, enhancing their knowledge to support their parenting journey and guide their children.

Our range of speakers are carefully selected from key organisations like Place2Be, AFBE-UK, The Diana Awards, Afruca, NHS, Digitallem, Ofqual and Minds Charity.

The impact of Afrikindness extends beyond knowledge enhancement; the community has become a beacon of support for parents in critical situations.

Many have been referred to Afrikindness for guidance, and our initiative has offered advice, made referrals, and signposted to the right sources for additional support.

Our events, including expert discussions, online webinars, drop-in sessions, and practical parenting guides, have garnered overwhelming response and engagement, particularly from parents who have recently migrated to the UK.

We aim to empower parents and guardians with the right tools across all key areas, fostering environments where children can thrive, be kind, and reach their full potential. By ensuring parents have the necessary tools, we believe in creating a supportive foundation for children's development and helping families become the best versions of themselves.



Alex Holmes
Deputy CEO, The Diana Award

AFRIKINDNESS PODCAST

PARENT AND YOUNG PEOPLE

In our Afrikindness Podcast⁸ series, we have delved into diverse and thought-provoking topics, exploring themes like embracing Africanness, unveiling African identity, and busting myths associated with the continent.

Despite the challenge of being volunteer-driven, we have produced 15 insightful episodes, each offering expert views and dismantling negative narratives.

Looking ahead, we aim to enhance production quality and expand our reach, seeking corporate sponsorships to amplify the impact of these crucial conversations.

AFRIKINDNESS PODCAST

195 DOWNLOADS | 16 COUNTRIES

15 EPISODES | 519 MINUTES

buzzsprout

⁸Afrikindness Podcast <https://afrikindnesspodcast.buzzsprout.com>

AFRIKINDNESS PODCAST

Real stories & Real Impacts:
Embracing the African Identity & Challenging Stereotypes

EPISODE 3
Series 3



Afrikindness podcast serves as a powerful platform, breaking stereotypes and fostering a nuanced understanding of Africa, thereby contributing to the dismantling of harmful narratives, promoting positive racial identity, and fostering a more inclusive perspective.

Afrikindness is not just a platform; it's a community-driven initiative committed to facilitating positive parenting journeys and nurturing environments where both parents and children can flourish.

TESTIMONIALS FROM PARENTS

"Thank you all so much for the innovation and most resourceful webinar/presentation! I love the abundance of support, resources, and networking. I work with young people and their families in the juvenile corrections in California. I definitely would like to see more webinars like this! These are powerful skills/tools we can use in our everyday way of life! Again, thank you so much! Keep doing what you are doing! we are changing lives one story at a time!".....**Parent**

"Kudos to Afrikindness – for the discussion and all the good initiatives taken."**Shanthisree R**

"Thank you all, very informative, hence we managed to stay engaged all right to the end."**Parent**

"Such an important conversation. Thank you Afrikindness."..... **Parent**

"We're looking forward to seeing more of this." **Temitope Osekita**

98%

of participants gaining a better understanding of the discussed topics, enhancing their knowledge to support their parenting journey and guide their children.



Janice Richardson

Advisor-European, African, and International projects on Education, AI & digital citizenship

WHAT'S NEXT?

Expanding our parenting campaign to reach more communities and launching the fully-fledged Parent WebApp next year. Conducting Parent Training Workshops on Positive Discipline and Parenting, providing expert insights and addressing cultural complexities. Supporting a community campaign for parents migrating to the UK, with a focus on standing with Global Majority World communities often impacted by racial bias, discrimination, and offering personalized 1-2-1 support as needed. Afrikindness Podcast reach to communities and globally.

SCHOOL PROGRAMMES

TACKLING RACIAL BULLYING AND IDENTITY CRISIS: UNYIELDING ACTION IN A TURBULENT YEAR

CAR-PRIDE: Celebrate Culture and Race by fostering Positive Racial Identity Development in Education.

In response to the escalating issue of racially motivated bullying, highlighted in a June 2020 Runnymede Trust report on race and racism in secondary schools, Afrikindness took a proactive stance by launching the Africa Awareness Week campaign. The report identified critical challenges, including a lack of diversity in the teaching workforce, limited representation in school curricula, and low levels of racial literacy among educators.

Afrikindness recognized the imperative to address these issues and consequently initiated Africa Awareness Week. The campaign aimed to equip teachers and schools with the necessary tools to cultivate a more inclusive educational environment. Educational content and research blogs, designed to counter prevailing stereotypes, were disseminated to over 5000 schools in the UK.

The goal was to challenge the prevailing narrative of Africa, often framed by poverty, corruption, conflict, disease, and poor leadership, perpetuating stereotypes, racial bullying, and identity crises among children and young people.

Understanding that racial harmony and identity development require a balanced narrative, Afrikindness facilitated a teachers' training workshop on Racial Identity.

The workshop featured key speakers, including Sardarni Navleen MBE, CEO of Sahara Sisterhood and Community Educator, and Ellen Day, Associate Assistant Head Teacher. The event underscored the importance of using the right narratives to educate children and promote cultural understanding.

We issued certificates to participants for Inclusive Education Training, enhancing their skills and fostering a more inclusive educational environment.

Afrikindness firmly believes that cultural learning should be an ongoing journey, not confined to a limited timeframe.

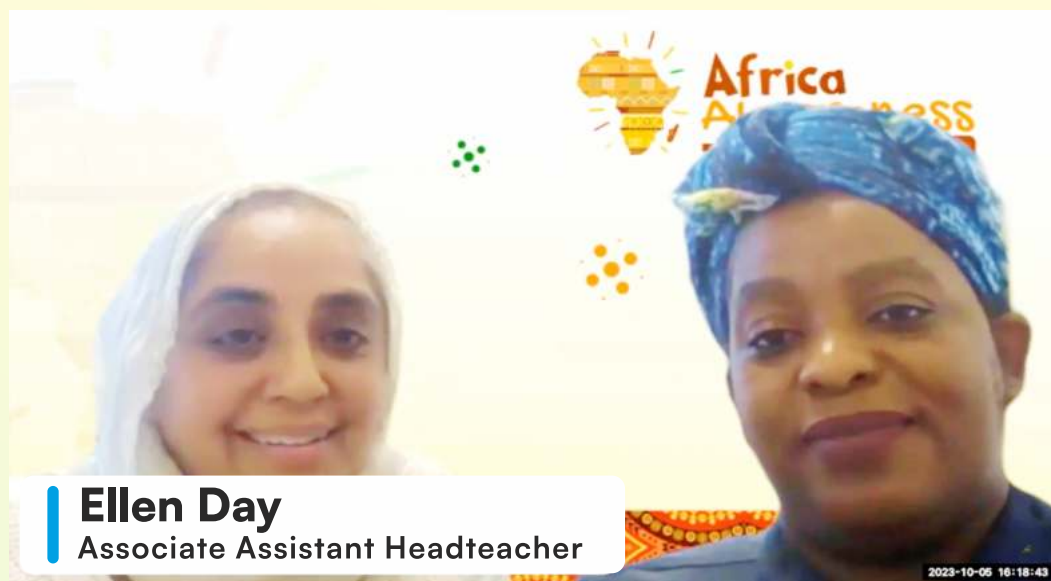
Therefore, the educational contents delivered during Africa Awareness Week are designed to be accessible freely throughout the year. By providing schools with resources that promote cultural diversity and understanding, Afrikindness strives to contribute to a broader shift in fostering inclusivity and appreciation for diverse identities.

⁹AFRICA AWARENESS WEEK www.africaawarenessweek.co.uk

Africa Awareness Week represents a pivotal initiative in Afrikindness' commitment to dismantling stereotypes, combating racial bullying, and fostering a nurturing educational environment that embraces the richness of cultural diversity.

Through these efforts, Afrikindness endeavours to instil a sense of pride, understanding, and harmony among students, educators, and communities alike.

Our campaign reached over 5000 Schools



PARTICIPANT'S TESTIMONIALS

(POST TRAINING WORKSHOP SURVEY - RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM 445 TEACHERS)

Teachers

"I intend to integrate the strategies from the training workshop in my teaching practice by taking into consideration respect for all learners, equity, active engagement of learners, collaborating with learners and co-educators to improve learning and continuously gain more knowledge to assist learners in whatever category as learning evolves".....**Hilda Jidechukwu, Teacher**

"Thanks to Afrikindness, NAPPS for adding more to my knowledge on inclusion. Indeed, am very grateful. Hungry for more educative and impactful training in future"... **Teacher**



WHAT'S NEXT?

Strengthening the Africa Awareness Week publicity campaign in schools and developing additional educational cultural content. Initiating discussions with key stakeholders for an educational conference on racial identity complexities and mental health. Expanding cultural films in schools, diversifying content for various cultures, and continuing teachers' training workshops with personalized 1-2-1 support for schools on racial issues especially with black families and DEI strategies.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

NURTURING YOUNG MINDS: A YEAR OF EMPOWERING KIDS AND FOSTERING KINDNESS

In a challenging year marked by limited funding, our dedicated volunteers played a pivotal role in delivering impactful events under our Kids Intervention Program. The initiative included Kindness Workshops, the Empower Projects, and engaging Kids Academy sessions. Despite constraints, we successfully executed 7 children-led projects, providing essential mentorship to young minds.

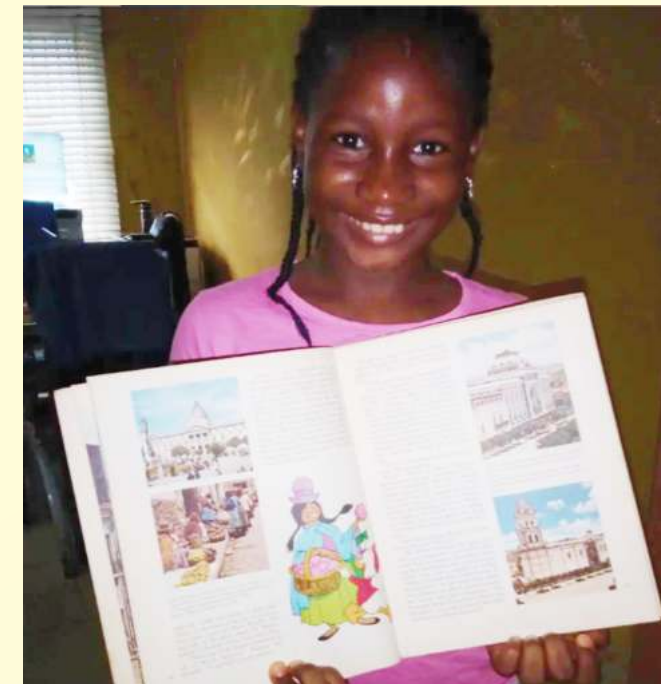


Through our programs, children experienced a transformative journey in positive racial identity development, selecting global and community projects that deepened their cultural roots. The 1-2-1 mentorship sessions and family bonding activities further enhanced their emotional well-being.

Notably, the 30-day Summer of Kindness Challenge, with diverse activities, bolstered their understanding of kindness to oneself, others, the environment, and Africa.

Aligned with our mission pillars, we emphasize building emotional intelligence, social empathy, and environmental awareness in children. The positive racial identity initiatives extend beyond borders, aiming to benefit British African children and youths, promoting pride in their heritage. As we contemplate the impact on education, mental health, and families, it's evident that our efforts contribute to holistic development.

The second year of our Earth Day competition expanded to Nigeria and Ghana, involving 50 schools, over 500 students, and recognizing 25 winners. This growth showcases the broadening impact of our initiatives, emphasizing the enduring importance of fostering kindness, positive racial identity, and environmental consciousness in the lives of young individuals and communities alike. Winners of the competition received enticing prizes, including cash awards, mentoring, a creative writing workshop sponsored by Tebeba Publishing, and a three-month art workshop sponsored by Orede Art Academy.



RAZIEL OLADIMEJI

I pledged my 10th birthday with Nutrition Support Initiative Abuja, Nigeria.



be an inspiration...

To feed and support the children in Vine Heritage Home Kiyi and Nana Berry home, New Karu in Abuja, Nigeria.



TESTIMONIALS

'Our relationship with Afrikindness began when my daughter entered an Art & Poster competition and we were impressed with their communication. Luckily, my daughter won and received valuable Art training from competent professionals who were great with children. Despite our busy schedules and diverse locations, Afrikindness has brought us together as a community and provided informative communications that add value to us all. I appreciate that they never pressured us to purchase or donate. I am grateful for their kindness, and my family and I are thankful for everything Afrikindness has done for us'**Ifeoma Udom, Managing Director, Cordros Trustees Limited**

"From this wonderful experience participating in the EMPOWER Children-led project, I have learnt to be courageous, confident, and helpful to those in need. I also appreciate all my friends and donors who supported my birthday pledge fundraising campaign for their generous contributions towards feeding the hungry. It has been the most rewarding and humbling birthday, especially seeing that over 750 children and adults benefited from it"**Temi Owolabi, Year 9 student**

"My mentor is quite inspiring and so far the mentorship session has met my expectations"**Child, Age 13**



mr.pencil_celebrity_ This is an artwork I made to create the awareness of the community to show what land water and air pollution can cause to the community and I use this artwork to Participate in the earth compilation @afrikindness and we won the SHS poster category let's help to keep the environment clean to protect the people of the community 🇬🇭 🇳🇬

Opybun . Follow

Opybun We have been on this journey with @afrikindness. It's been an Amazing one. Today, Esther read a book titled "The world of wonders" and the main focus is on South America. #summerofkindnesschallenge #summerofkindness2023 @afrikindness 1w

Thank you Afrikindness for this huge package 📚📚📚. I honestly wasn't expecting all of this Thanks for those parents who donated these books, I am looking forward to passing them on to another family when we are done using them.. Thanks and God bless ❤️❤️❤️



WHAT'S NEXT?

Launch the Kids Academy and Empower Project with dedicated children coordinators in hubs to provide tailored support and guidance. Initiate Kindness Workshops in schools, leveraging the CASEL framework to promote social and emotional learning. Kickstart the Kids Intervention Program, offering essential mental and emotional support to children facing racial bullying or social exclusion. This includes SEL workshops designed to build resilience, facilitate reintegration into the community, and nurture positive self-confidence

AFRIKINDNESS FILMS

BRIDGING CULTURES THROUGH FILM: AFRIKINDNESS' IMPACTFUL JOURNEY IN 2023

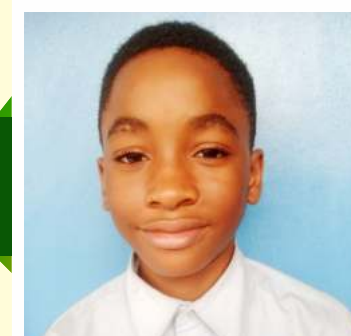
In 2023, Afrikindness Films¹⁰, in collaboration with Nwafo Media, achieved a milestone by producing the captivating short film, **'The Seven Journeys.'**

Crafted by a dedicated team, including educator and writer **Sophia Ovonlen**, six wonderful children in the UK, and our technical experts, **Emekaekwue, Chukwunonso Innocent** from Nwafo Media, and **Ibidapo Oladipupo**, alongside supportive parents, the film unfolds the history of the Benin Kingdom.

This impactful creation serves as a cultural beacon, fostering positive identity and enriching educational experiences for children by bringing history to life.

While **'The Seven Journeys'** has garnered positive attention on our YouTube channel, we acknowledge the challenge of achieving widespread publicity. Recognizing the importance of reaching a broader audience, our future endeavours will include targeted outreach to schools and intensified promotional and sponsorship efforts to ensure this cultural gem resonates far and wide.

The film's success propels us to forge collaborations with media firms and schools, aiming to continue inspiring young minds with the next series on the Benin Kingdom.



ALATISHE TAIWO
AGE 10, NIGERIA

"I am very happy to have won the 2023 Earth Day competition. It means a lot to me especially in boosting my confidence and affirming that I can do anything if I don't give up. I have never won any award; this is my first and it is from an international organisation. I am also happy because of the surprise on the faces of my friends and school mate. I appreciate the award. Earth Day is a good idea to help people know that the earth is very precious and we should not destroy it. We should do things that will make the Earth safe for all; both animals and human beings"



EBUN OWOLABI
AGE 11, UK

"The Summer of Kindness Challenge changed the way I looked at the world because Kindness is something that needs to happen and the kindness challenge helped me to do little acts of kindness to different people and make me feel great about myself. I am also happy that I featured in the short film with Auntie Sophia. The film is titled - The Seven Journeys. I learnt a lot about the Benin Kingdom and look forward to more series. I also featured in the Kindness Heroes Podcast and I really enjoyed it. I think Afrikindness is a great charity to get involved with activities and to learn more about Africa"



MICHAEL FRIMPONG
AGE 16, GHANA

"I am particularly overwhelmed as a young and upcoming visual artist given this great opportunity to win an award with Afrikindness. It is indeed heart-warming and a positive step in my career. I am very grateful to the organizers and hope to participate and win future competitions"



CHANTELLE CHAPPELL, UK

"I'm super thrilled to be part of 'The Seven Journeys' short film! Acting in plays and dramas is so much fun for me, and this experience was fantastic. I learned a lot about the Benin Kingdom, and I can't wait to share this knowledge in my history lessons"

I am very grateful to God Almighty for giving me the idea, knowledge, and wisdom to come out with this writeup or piece through my wonderful Dad Catechist Godfred Darkoh, for whom in a diverse way guided me, my headteacher Mr. Jonathan Boye, and staff, the publishers and organizers of this wonderful programme and the noble panel of judges for making proud. This is my first time entering into this Earth Day competition, I wish my elder brother was still alive to witness this great achievement, and he would have won the same for he was very intelligent. May his soul rest in perfect peace, Holtsborne. My poem has been recognized as a powerful expression of the importance of environmental protection and the need to take action to preserve our planet. Winning this competition is a testament to my creativity, talent, and dedication to the cause of environmentalism and I owed it all to God and my loving Dad



GODFRED OWURA LORD DARKOH, AGE 10, GHANA



ZOE ALALADE.

"We are so grateful for this opportunity much more in this present world, we respect and adore those who are still interested in impacting children" Champions Learning Fields Nigeria is thankful for you.

¹⁰Afrikindness Film <https://www.youtube.com/@AfrikindnessTalesByMoonlight>

RESEARCH

EMPOWERING MINDS: UNVEILING INSIGHTS AND FOSTERING INCLUSION IN MENTAL HEALTH AND NEURODIVERSITY THROUGH RESEARCH INITIATIVES.

In the past year, our research endeavours have seen notable achievements, beginning with our participation in the EMRI conference. Afrikindness actively participated in the EMRI Conference, engaging with representatives from community groups, EMRI Group members, EMRI Hub Leads, CRN Yorkshire and Humber Research Champions, and the CRN Yorkshire and Humber Agile Research Team. The conference served as a platform to celebrate and showcase the remarkable work accomplished over the past year, emphasizing the importance of raising awareness and encouraging research participation in under-represented communities across the region. During the event, Afrikindness seized the opportunity to connect with strategic organizations, participating in the World Cafe and fostering collaborative efforts for greater impact in promoting diversity and inclusivity in research initiatives.



Dr. Vivian Okoye's [research on autism disparities](#) in black communities offers invaluable insights, enriching the discourse on addressing neurodiversity imbalances. Her work provides a nuanced understanding of the unique challenges faced by individuals, highlighting disparities and paving the way for targeted interventions and support tailored to the specific needs of black individuals within the autism spectrum.



The dissemination of informative blogs to the public has expanded our reach, and our research team's round table discussion on the intersection of racial identity and mental health for World Health Day has sparked engaging dialogues among researchers and mental health specialists.

The impact of these initiatives is evident in the enriched understanding of autism disparities, increased public awareness through disseminated blogs, and the elevated discourse surrounding the connection between racial identity and mental health.

Our ongoing discussions with key stakeholders in mental health and neurodiversity further exemplify our commitment to strengthening our work and expanding our impact, ensuring that our research contributes significantly to fostering inclusivity and understanding in these critical areas.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Implementing research recommendations to address the unique needs of neurodiverse families in the black community, fostering targeted interventions and support.
Strengthening strategic partnerships on research initiatives to enhance collaboration, broaden impact, and contribute to a more inclusive and informed understanding of racial identity crisis, mental health and neurodiversity.

FUNDING OUR MISSION

2023 posed significant challenges amid the cost-of-living crisis and escalating energy bills but marked a milestone as we obtained charitable status in July.

Lacking core funding to cover our operational costs, Afrikindness underwent a strategic reorientation, necessitating a substantial expansion of our activities. This required strategic partnerships that supported the implementation of enhanced processes to ensure the efficient management and delivery of selected initiatives.

We are grateful for the unwavering commitment of our volunteers, who generously contributed time and skills, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone supporting our mission, including fellow charities and expert speakers. Despite the hurdles, our impactful campaigns persisted.

As we look ahead to 2024, we anticipate funding opportunities and donations to extend our reach to vulnerable children and families, address cultural barriers in schools, and foster an inclusive environment where every child can thrive.



STRATEGIC AIMS

FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS (2023 – 2028)

OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, AFRIKINDNESS AIMS TO:

EXPAND REACH AND IMPACT: Broaden our reach to support more vulnerable children and families, ensuring that our initiatives have a positive and lasting impact on their lives.

ENHANCE EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES: Develop and implement educational programs that break down cultural barriers in schools, promoting inclusivity and fostering positive racial identity development among children and young people.

DIVERSIFY FUNDING STREAMS: Actively seek and secure diverse funding opportunities to sustain and enhance our programs, enabling us to implement new initiatives and respond effectively to emerging challenges.

EMPOWER PARENTS AND TEACHERS: Continue to provide comprehensive support to parents and educators through workshops, resources, and webinars, focusing on equipping them with tools to navigate modern parenting challenges and promote cultural competence.

ADVANCE RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY: Continue conducting research on key issues impacting children, families, and communities, and leverage advocacy efforts to influence policies that support positive racial identity development, mental health, and inclusivity.

STRENGTHEN COLLABORATIONS: Forge strategic partnerships with organizations, experts, and communities to amplify our influence, share resources, and collectively address issues related to racial identity, mental health, and cultural inclusivity. Optimize Technology and Innovation: Embrace technological advancements and innovative approaches to enhance the delivery and accessibility of our programs, ensuring they remain relevant and impactful in an ever-evolving landscape.

CULTIVATE A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY: Foster a strong sense of community among our volunteers, supporters, and partners, creating a collaborative environment that encourages shared learning, exchange of ideas, and collective efforts toward our mission.

WITH SPECIAL THANKS

To Our Esteemed Expert Speakers: You have lent your voices to champion our mission, providing invaluable guidance to empower parents and teachers. Your steadfast support has brought a wealth of knowledge and insights, enhancing our ability to equip parents and teachers with the tools and understanding needed to foster a more inclusive and supportive environment for children and young people.

Ann Marie Christian	International Safeguarding Consultant
Janice Richardson	Initiator, Safer Internet Day. Advisor on European, African and international projects on education, vocational training, AI and digital citizenship.
Alex Holmes	Deputy CEO, The Diana Awards Founder, Anti-Bullying Ambassadors
Sardarni Navveen Kaur, MBE	CEO Sahara Sisterhood, Educator
Fadzai Beatrice Mashingaidze	Safeguarding Children Lead Nurse NHS
Ekanem Robertson	Child Protection Community, Engagement Lead, AFRUCA Safeguarding Children
Dr. Niki Cooper, Ph.D.	Clinical Director, Place2Be
Dr. Ollie Folayan, MBE	Cofounder AFBE-UK; DEI Expert
Belen Suarez	Peer Support and Development Worker at Leeds Mind
Natasha Simpson	Place2Be Family Practitioner
Dr. Elizabeth Milovidov	Founder, DigitaLem (Digital Parenting Coach)
Sarah Hayes	Head of Primary /Centre Manager Lextra
Dipo Adeniyi	11 Plus Tutor
Sian Blount	Associate Director for Policy and Strategic Relationships for General Qualifications at Ofqual.
Shrouk El-Attar	BBC Most Influential Women in the World
Julie Kalungi	COO Kalungi Group

Hadiza Isma El-Rufai	First Lady Kaduna State Nigeria
Professor Olayinka Omigbodun	First Nigerian Female Professor of Psychiatry Provost
Chinyere Nduu Okoro	Mental Health Facilitator, SMART Resurgence
Kwabena Kusi Mensah	Senior Specialist Psychiatrist, CAMH PHD University of Cambridge, Department of Psychiatry
Ebuka Obika Ede	Founder & CEO, Save the Boys Initiative
Omobolanle Idowu	Mental Health Counsellor
Oyinkansola Akinwande	Mental Health Advocate
Abraham Adetula	Senior Mental Health Worker
Dr Modupe Oba- Adenuga	Lecturer Tai Solarin College of Education
RonkePosh Adeniyi	Director, Le Poshe School
Isabella Mascarenhas	DEI Expert, Anti-Racism Advocate
Tevin Kittoe	Account Manager, Bloomberg LP
Dr Wan Rosalili Wan Rosli	Law Lecturer, University of Bradford
Edward Obi	Director, Peridot Recruit Limited & HR Hub Plus
Dr. Said Mijinyawa	Chairman Board of Trustees, NAPPS Nigeria
Sarah Osei	Regional Lead West Africa, Instill Education Ghana
Mrs Adenrele Dimla	Secretary NAPPS Children's Day Committee
Chief Yomi Otubela	National President NAPPS Nigeria
Ellen Day	Associate Assistant Head Teacher
Dr Bukola Awoyemi	Clinical Specialty Registrar NHS Trust
Rotimi Oludavids	Executive Director DNI holdings
Dr Rahaman Adetunji Lateef	Chairman, National Children's Day Committee
Councillor Abigail Marshall Katung	Elected Member for Little London and Woodhouse Ward Of Leeds City Council

WITH SPECIAL THANKS

TO OUR VALUED PARTNERS: Your collaboration and expertise have been instrumental in expanding our reach and influence. Together, we have created meaningful change, and we look forward to continuing this journey of impact in the coming year.



TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS: Your commitment to our mission has been nothing short of inspirational. Your time, skills, and energy have fuelled our accomplishments, and we are deeply thankful for the positive impact you have made.



BUNMI OWOLABI
CEO

My greatest joy lies in the bonds of friendship. I am thankful to collaborate with an extraordinary group of colleagues who, through unwavering dedication, have transformed into a trusted circle, wholeheartedly believing in and contributing their time, skills, and efforts to our shared vision.



DR. PEDI OBANI
PARENT TEAM LEAD

Being the Afrikindness Parent Team Lead has been a transformational experience. Supporting parents on a range of issues gives me a deeper sense of purpose. I am also learning to be a more intentional parent and guardian. Looking forward to expanding on these gains in 2024!



MALEEHA ATHER
EDUCATION TEAM LEAD

My time with Afrikindness as an Education and Curriculum Specialist has been truly delightful. Collaborating with dedicated volunteers from various teams, witnessing the selfless dedication to the organization's goals has been inspiring. The infectious commitment to their mission has led me to embrace the role of Education Lead with great enthusiasm.



DR. GRACE OKORO
RESEARCH TEAM LEAD

My highlight for the year as the Research Team Lead is the reinforcement gained from the Africa Awareness Week webinar on the inevitability of close collaboration with the parent team to produce a body of evidence to support the mission of Afrikindness.

WITH SPECIAL

THANKS

TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS: Your commitment to our mission has been nothing short of inspirational. Your time, skills, and energy have fuelled our accomplishments, and we are deeply thankful for the positive impact you have made.

WITH SPECIAL

THANKS



DR. EDDY WIFA
TRUSTEE

This year was particularly exciting particularly due to the level of research engagement and collaboration. In subtle but effective ways, our research on very important but largely neglected issues was quite encouraging. Looking forward I am confident in our collaboration and partnerships..



CHUKWUNONSO EMEKAEKWUE
C.E.O NWAFO MEDIA LIMITED

It was purely the joy seen in the faces of the kids' actors, who saw the project as a duty to contribute to the growth of mother Africa.



DR. MARIYA OMONIYI
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Being part of Afrikindness's research team, a standout experience was attending the EMRI for All conference in March 2023. Showcasing our activities and raising awareness about promoting kindness in children and fostering positive racial identity was an incredible opportunity. Sharing our work in the world research cafe was amazing, and this journey has significantly reinforced my commitment to advancing kindness.



IBIDAPO OLADIPUPO

My best part of the filming was the fact that the kids could act professionally, they have never acted before but they did excellently well. Also, the post production aspect was a great time for me because I could express myself on my edit timeline. The narrator was absolutely spot on.

TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS: Your commitment to our mission has been nothing short of inspirational. Your time, skills, and energy have fuelled our accomplishments, and we are deeply thankful for the positive impact you have made.

WITH SPECIAL

THANKS



GEORGINA EASTAUGH
EDUCATION & CURRICULUM SPECIALIST

My highlights of 2023 were seeing Afrikindness grow as an organisation and welcoming new members to the education team. I also loved judging the Earth Day art competition and getting to see the incredible contributions from all the young people that took part!



ALICE CRAWFORD
EDUCATION & CURRICULUM SPECIALIST

Highlights include working alongside truly remarkable people that fill me with awe, inspiration and encourage me to be a better person. The team of volunteers and trustees are like all the best parts of humanity pulled together and it feels like an honour to work alongside them for our common goals and values. Other highlights included training so many teachers at once on inclusion, and feeling the energy and enthusiasm from them about trying some ideas, it felt very hopeful and positive.



KOLA MAKINDE
EDUCATION & CURRICULUM SPECIALIST

In 2023, my journey with Afrikindness has been influenced by my role in the education team, where I passionately planned impactful activities and curated resources for Africa Awareness Month, promoting diversity and fostering cultural understanding. Being part of this vibrant community of dedicated professionals with a shared goal of making a positive impact on a global scale is a great privilege.



JERRY EBINUM
IT MANAGEMENT

Blending technology with creativity at Afrikindness has been a joy. A standout moment for me was the Africa Awareness Week project, witnessing our diverse team unite to curate and share inspiring content; a reminder of our collective strength. Together, we are creating a space for young adults to thrive, fuelled by a shared passion for fostering kindness through our unique stories.

TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS: Your commitment to our mission has been nothing short of inspirational. Your time, skills, and energy have fuelled our accomplishments, and we are deeply thankful for the positive impact you have made.

WITH SPECIAL

THANKS



BETHANY HARRIS
EDUCATION & CURRICULUM SPECIALIST

Creating and editing a video for cultural awareness week was my absolute highlight! I gained confidence whilst sharing my passion.



ISABEL AFONSO
EDUCATION & CURRICULUM SPECIALIST

My year as a volunteer Education Specialist was truly enriching. Collaborating to build high-quality educational content for Cultural Week and Black History Month in such a supportive environment was a fantastic experience. I highly recommend this project to anyone looking to contribute to a meaningful and fulfilling initiative.



DR. VIVIAN OKOYE
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE & PARENT COACH

My high point last year was the Neurodiversity week program. I was particularly thrilled and at the same time surprised to see the reaction on our video series. To see the gap in knowledge and the need for more conversation and education on the topic of neurodiversity in the African community. Some of the conversation from that video was the confirmation and inspiration I needed to push through with my chosen research on disparities in autism diagnosis within the African community.



SARA INAM
EDUCATION & CURRICULUM SPECIALIST

Afrikindness provided me with a unique opportunity to work on impactful projects, collaborate with an amazing team and contribute towards improving diversity in schools across the UK. I am grateful to be working with people sharing strong ethos and values, and am looking forward to making even more significant contributions this year.

TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS: Your commitment to our mission has been nothing short of inspirational. Your time, skills, and energy have fuelled our accomplishments, and we are deeply thankful for the positive impact you have made.



SOPHIA OVONLEN
EDUCATION TEAM LEAD

My highlight was the Earth Day competition. I was impressed with the commitment of the participants and the judges. I still get positive comments from teachers whose pupils participated. They are looking forward to Earth Day 2024!



ABIES SONIA
PARENT COACH

My highlight in Afrikindness has been the parent panel discussion and the African story production in YouTube. It is great to summarise the webinars with other panellists. The story production helped to throw more light on the African history and teach our children and hopefully encourage more families to share their heritage stories with their families.



RASHIKKHA RA LYER
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

2023 was quite unconventional for me with some very unique challenges! 2023 taught me resilience and helped me discover parts of myself that I didn't know existed! Indeed a very valuable experience! Some friendships grew stronger, my involvement with charities in the UK expanded, I received some recognitions which was humbling! Very pleased to have become a part of Afrikindness, glad to have been able to contribute two articles, participate in the round table and so excited to be a part of this wonderful team of expert researchers!

WITH SPECIAL

THANKS



Afrikindness is the nurturing soil where the seeds of character, identity, and kindness are carefully planted and tended, fostering the growth of resilient, compassionate individuals who stand tall like flourishing trees in the forest of life.



AfriKindness

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1203713

www.afrikinfness.org

www.afrikinfnessweek.co.uk

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