



# Reach Society



## Building Connections

**Patrons:** Lord H. Ouseley, Ms Marva Rollins OBE, Prof. Sir G. Palmer, Prof. T. Williams & John Budu-Aggrey

### 2022 Careers Conference Report

After a two year hiatus, on Tuesday, 5th April, Reach Society once again showcased talent in the Black community at its 10<sup>th</sup> Careers Conference. On the day before the Society rolled out the virtual Perfect 10 Workshops. The combined registrations for the 2 days was 870 young people aged 13 to 24, and some parents. The turnout was a reflection of the steady recovery after two years of virus disruption.

The event peaked with the very popular “Yes We Can” (or YWC) interlude in which a diverse Panel of six highly successful people addressed what is meant when Britain is described as a qualification society; then took questions from the young people.

This year the YWC interlude featured Dr Nelda Frater GP, Frater Clinic, Harley Street; Dr Lata Gautam, Associate Professor, Anglia Ruskin University; June Guinness OBE FCSFS, Forensic Scientist, Home Office; Paul Johnson, Founder, Gifted Black Network; Marva Rollins OBE Former Executive Headteacher & Patron of Reach Society; and Neal Strickland, RAF Retired & Mentor.

Roughly a dozen lucky young people who asked questions of these Panellists were rewarded with copies of the Society’s latest booklet – Our Guide for Celebrating Cultural Esteem – donated by Reach Society Publishing.

This year the Careers Conference attracted a total of 30 exhibitors all of whom were eager to be involved in a face to face engagement of young people. Slightly more than one in four were new exhibitors namely Anglia Ruskin University, Bedfordshire Police, Black Pharma, Lloyd’s of London, Loop Not Luck, Lyndon Wissart (author); Simon Hudson (an author) and Black History Books UK.

We are enormously grateful for the ongoing support of many firms and groups namely: Alpha BSE Training, Amos Bursary, British Army; British Telecom; Deloitte; Durham University; Enfield Caribbean Association; HarperCollins Publishers; Imperial College London; King’s College London; London’s Black Educators Network; Metropolitan Police; RAFFA, Royal Air Force; and the Royal Navy.

This year the STEMM (science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine) team once again attracted a steady flow of young people to their stand, all of whom were eager to make use of the unlimited access to these experts.

The virtual Perfect 10 Workshops were very popular; and they featured messages from Durham University, Oxford University, Imperial College and included experts from Lloyd’s plus a team young men and women from Amos Bursary.

**Dr Dwain A Neil OBE, Reach Society, Chairman (April 2022)**

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