

“Keeping the name of Colston Hall would help youths to understand that slavery existed, and that Colston was one of the people who got rich from it”.

Ras B

“We need to see what African heritage people think of themselves – young and old – and what it might be possible to conceive of ourselves in the future, and to get out of the psychological shackles that still exist today”.

Rob Mitchell

“Before colonialism Africa was a successful continent - I didn't know that Africa had cathedrals, had kings and queens and princesses – we need to be teaching our children that”.

Helen Wilson

“We learn and teach our young people the traditional dances and music, otherwise it will soon be lost”.

Gerritson Amoah, Ex-Aid Youth Group, Ghana

“There is a remembrance for the Jewish holocaust and for the people who died in the war, so we need one for our ancestors.”

Charlie Williams

“There are some positive black role models, like Oprah Winfrey, but there needs to be more that young black people can relate to”

Stuart Smith

**“Why haven't we got a Black Prime Minister?...
Why are Black children failing in schools –
what's that about?
Why is it such a struggle all the time?
We are not emancipated at all”.**

Helen Wilson

“We owe our brothers and sisters an apology – we were complicit – we need to embrace that....”

Professor Joe Nkrumah, Ghana, Feb 2007

“Tell the Black youths to tell their parents to change their name – that is, if they have a European name”.

Ras B

Colston Hall is named after a man who is seen as a White Hero. We should change the name of the building to commemorate the abolition of slavery....”

Patrice Edwards

“The Afrikan slavery system still allowed enslaved people to be incorporated into your tribe..... These people did not know what conditions they were selling their people into with European traders.”

Dr Samuel Ntonso, Ghana, Feb 2007

“There are positive Black role models today, but they are not publicised and are scattered all over the place.

Leo Goodridge

“Black people are emancipated physically but not mentally. We are made to be comfortable with the life we live, made to be unconcerned with searching for who we are, who we were and who we are supposed to be.”

Patrice Edwards

“Teachers only deliver what they have been taught – they talk about the experiences of slaves – but they need to put all of history in context. They should show slavery as a part of the wider history.”

Ras B

“None of us, Black or White, know enough about our history”

Rob Mitchell

“We need a remembrance day for those who died through slavery – they were our ancestors”.

Stuart Smith

“There was a lot of resistance - slaves were fighting back, especially in Haiti ... That’s the kind of history I need to hear – that’s empowering....”.

Helen Wilson

“We have been traumatised by slavery and colonisation to the extent that we are not confident in who we are, so we like to borrow and copy from outsiders – Heaven is not in London or New York.”

Professor Kodzo, Ghana, Feb 2007

“There’s no consideration of where these huge Georgian houses, which are held up as great architecture and the rich cultural heritage of the city, come from. That typifies the general attitude.”

Rob Mitchell

“I’m hoping that after 2007 we continue to debate. Everyone wants to work with a black artist at the moment, but what happens in 2008?”

Helen Wilson

“The name of the Colston Hall should be changed because it doesn’t show Bristol’s diversity. It doesn’t reflect Bristol today.”

DJ Infinity