

**FROM AFRICA TO THE
ATLANTIC WORLD: MY
BLACK WOMAN STORY”**

**Dame Sybil Theodore Phoenix, A
biography of a Afro-Guyanese
immigrant woman.**

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SYBIL PHOENIX

- Early life
- Migration
- Hardship
- Motivation
- Foundation/ Organization created through Sybil Phoenix
- Accomplishment
- Present day



EARLY LIFE

- Sybil Phoenix was born in [Georgetown](#) in [British Guiana](#) (now Guyana) In June 21st, 1927.
- When she was nine years old her mother died, after which Sybil lived with her grandfather until his death when she was 12, and then with an aunt and uncle
- During her childhood she lived with an aunt and uncle who did not treat her well

MIGRATION

- Sybil moved to England in 1956 with her future husband, Joe
- Sybil was involved in the community by working at a youth club in Hammersmith.
- She also worked in a milliners and as a canteen cook (the first Black cook employed by Forte). During this period her first two children were born.



HARDSHIP

- Early years in England, Sybil Phoenix and her Husband experienced racism and hostility for the first time, both when looking for accommodation and at their local church.
- In 1973 Sybil suffered a personal tragedy when her daughter Marsha was killed in a road accident
- In 1977, she founded a youth center for teenagers. However, the center was burned down by members of the right-wing extremist group, National Front. It did not deter Ms. Phoenix from her objective- She stated 'My name is Phoenix and I will build a new center from the ashes of this club, so help me God'.
- Sybil Phoenix worked tirelessly on behalf of her community "

MOTIVATION

- Due to the ill treatment she endured during her childhood, she made it her driving force to help nurture hundreds of young people
- Out of the immense tragedy Sybil found the will to go on and through that she created the foundation of Marsha Memorial Trust, a home for young women in Lewisham.
- She established a workshop called ‘Respecting Human Dignity workshops’ to bring awareness to racism from which she had experience first hand.
- She felt that no human should be treated unfairly because of skin color

FOUNDATION/ORGANIZATIONS

- In 1971, she founded a youth club for black teenagers called Pagnell street youth and community center



CONT'D FOUNDATION/ORGANIZATIONS

- Founded the Masha Phoneix Memorial Trust-A home for homeless young women with the aim to teach them life skills to maintain their independence.
- Founder of Methodist Leadership Racism Awareness Workshop- Which brings awareness to racism.
- Founder of Guyana Connection-A project established to improve Children's Education by establishing international exchange visits for children in order to learn computer technology
- Director of Umojo Theatre Company-A charitable company aim to produce quality works of theatre predominantly for the black community
- Founding Member of Centre for Caribbean Studies- Group that sought funding and established a centre for Caribbean Studies in Lewisham
- Founder Member and Past chair of Lewisham Racial Equality Council-The Council was formed to promote the rights of each individual in the community to have racial equality and justice
- Member of Married Women's Association- An association that promotes the recognition of wife as legal and equal financial partners during marriage.

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- First Black women to be awarded a MBE 1973)
- Medal of Service winner Guyana(1987)
- National Black Women Achievement Award(1992)
- Fellow of Goldsmith College
- Woman of the Year Award
- Officer of OBE (2008) (Standing for Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire)

SYBIL PHOENIX



PRESENT DAY

The 94 yrs old is very much alive, resides in Brockley, London. She currently love to spent time in her Garden. Sybil Phoenix is a woman who helped transform thousands of lives, and who makes a lasting impact on all whom she meets.



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