



*"Racial injustice remains an issue in our society, but I hope that through my work, we can create lasting change."*

## DON JOHN

Consultant, producer, director, speaker, change-maker

Don John has been working in the field of Race & Diversity for over 40 years. Having spent 10 years in the Treasury in Whitehall, he then moved to Southampton to work for the City Council.

During his time there, Don worked with Black and Asian youth, explored aspects of the criminal justice system, as well as inspected racist attitudes in educational services. This led to him securing a position as the first Race and Diversity Officer for Southampton City Council. In this role, he developed city-wide policies on racial harassment and formed the Multi Agency Group on Racial Harassment (MARGH) which challenges issues specifically in the region.

In 2002, he founded the "Racism Just Ain't Sain'tly" campaign which developed a strategy alongside Southampton Football Club to combat racism on the terraces. In 2005 he founded Black History Month Southampton.

Don's work in this field has provided further opportunities to be involved in the founding of: "The Rainbow Project", a facility initially designed for homeless black people in inner city Southampton. This later became a major institution for homeless people in Southampton.

The James Wiltshire Trust: a pressure group designed to highlight the condition of Black people in the mental health system  
Cranbury Towers: the first purpose built accommodation for older people from Black and Asian communities.

In 2010 Don John and Stella Muirhead wrote and published "A Black History of Southampton from 16th century to 21st century" which charts the historical presence of black people in the city.

He has also been involved in film (mostly of race content), music production (most famously securing a record deal for a band of which Craig David's father was a part of) and has published many talks online.

## FIND OUT MORE

- TEDx Southampton: [Black History Matters](#)
- Join this FREE event on Oct 28th: [Black History Matters. In Conversation with Don John](#)

## WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

Four decades of driving change

Looking at the life and career of Don John, I was amazed at the array of different outlets he has used to get his message across. From music and the arts to homelessness, education, justice and social care.

Taking this approach has meant that his work has been far reaching when addressing the many differing disadvantages faced by those he has served. His work was recognised in 2019 when he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Arts by Southampton Solent University on July 8th.

His degree recognises his role in the development of Southampton City Council's Race and Diversity policies as well as his work in creating a number of social issue projects for Black and Asian communities in the city.

After receiving his honorary degree Don said: "Racial injustice remains an issue in our society, but I hope that through my work, we can create lasting change. I'm thrilled to be honoured with this honorary degree from Solent University – I hope to use this platform to continue to drive forward robust Race and Diversity policies across the region and bring an end to racial discrimination."

Don continues to consult on matters of race and diversity and is currently working closely with Hampshire Constabulary on a number of issues in regard to racial discrimination and racial injustice.