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**WEST MIDLANDS ARTISTS AND ACTIVISTS TO LAUNCH MAJOR US AND UK CIVIL RIGHTS EXHIBITION IN BIRMINGHAM**

On **Friday 7th February at the Library of Birmingham,** saxophonist **Soweto Kinch,** gospel duet **Samantha Jones and Markell,** actor/director **Tonia Daley-Campbell** and social/community activist **Duncan Moore** will welcome **Journey to Justice**, the UK’s first major exhibition about the role of ‘ordinary’ women, men and children in the US civil rights movement and its impact on the UK.

The multimedia exhibition has been seen by 177,000 people in 14 places including Newcastle, Sheffield, Middlesbrough, Sunderland, Liverpool, London, Leicester, Bristol and Dorset. With music, art, poetry, films and oral history, it is **free to visit during library opening hours February 7th – April 27th.**

We are delighted to announce that educator and playwright **Don Kinch** will cut the exhibition ribbon at the launch. Speakers also include **Councillor John Cotton, Manjit Shellis** from Birmingham Education Partnership and **Mark Hutchinson** on behalf of Journey to Justice.

Tickets are free but booking is essential:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/journey-to-justice-birmingham-the-launch-tickets-89497424205>

Visitors said:

 *“Really powerful – this is a beautifully assembled exhibition”*

 *“The exhibition rekindled my desire to continue the fight for equality and justice for all. Sometimes life makes us complacent and ‘too busy’ to realize there are still many battles to be fought.”*

**LOCAL STORIES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

As relevant today as ever, the exhibition also tells less told stories of struggles for human rights in the West Midlands. Birmingham has an extraordinary history of immigration and solidarity in the face of injustice. The exhibition will highlight local stories: the **Sparkbrook Association**, a community-led campaign for decent housing and playgroups and workers' struggles for rights and decent conditions; the **Supreme Quilting and Burnsall strikes**, led by determined Asian women in Smethwick; the remarkable stories of trade union leader **Will Thorne** and Irish musician **Luke Kelly**, whose activism was shaped by their working lives here; and the visit of Malcolm X to Birmingham.

**US CIVIL RIGHTS WORKER FROM BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA IS COMING TO BIRMINGHAM IN APRIL**

**Janice Kelsey** was 14 when she joined the 1963 'Children's March' against racism in Birmingham, Alabama. She is flying specially to Birmingham to be the main speaker at **a celebration event on April 4th, the anniversary of Martin Luther King’s assassination.** Her story is one of many from the US civil rights movement told in the exhibition.

**Journey to Justice is grateful for the support of the Harry Payne Fund**

“It is an honour to be exhibited as a part of history and provided with an opportunity to share my story with children in Birmingham, UK. It was a journey shared by thousands of youth who marched for freedom during the spring of 1963. Today, the struggle continues. Young people need to be informed by seeing and hearing the realities of the past. Hopefully, they will be able to relate and learn from the past as a catalyst for change in a peaceful, non-violent manner today."

* Janice Kelsey

**Notes to editors**

**For launch details, information, quotes and images** about Journey to Justice’s national work contact: Carrie Supple, director, Tel. 07711199198 [carrie@journeytojustice.org.uk](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CCarrie%5CDownloads%5Ccarrie%40journeytojustice.org.uk) Exhibition line-up includes:

1. **Journey to Justice** is a national volunteer-led human rights education charity. An alliance of educators, artists, historians, young people, lawyers, human rights activists, media workers and faith representatives. Through education, music and the arts, JtoJ illustrates historical and contemporary human rights struggles from around the world.

Web: [www.journeytojustice.org.uk](http://www.journeytojustice.org.uk) Twitter: @JtoJustice

FB: www.facebook.com/journeytojustice.org.uk Instagram: journey\_to\_justice

**2. For more information about the exhibition see:**

<https://journeytojustice.org.uk/the-exhibition/>

Short (3.5 minutes) film: <https://vimeo.com/169562985>

and for details about JtoJ Birmingham: <https://journeytojustice.org.uk/birmingham>

3. **Dates: Exhibition run** 7th February - 27th April 2020 at the Library of Birmingham

See LOB website for opening hours: <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/libraries>

4. **Patrons** of Journey to Justice:

• Baroness Helena Kennedy QC

• Lord Herman Ouseley, former Chair of Commission of Racial Equality, founder of ‘Kick It Out’

• Sir Geoffrey Bindman, QC , human rights solicitor

• Leyla Hussein, co-founder of Daughters of Eve, anti-FGM campaigner

• Dr Paul Stephenson OBE, leader of the successful 1963 Bristol bus boycott

* Jean Stallings, anti-poverty and civil rights campaigner

5. **For information about Janice Kelsey from Birmingham, Alabama**:

<http://kidsinbirmingham1963.org/category/janice-wesley-kelsey/>

And her book *I Woke Up With My Mind on Freedom*

<https://www.booktopia.com.au/i-woke-up-with-my-mind-on-freedom-janice-kelsey/book/9781633600683.html>