

The Rt Hon Jeremy Wright, MP  
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport  
02.11.2018

Dear Secretary of State

I am writing to you as chair of the Social History Society, one of Britain's largest learned historical societies, to urge you to **secure the survival of the Black Cultural Archives** given current threats to the institution's funding. The BCA is the only national heritage centre devoted to preserving the histories of African and Caribbean people in Britain. It forms a key asset in our national research and teaching infrastructure and, as such, the future of its collections and the vital collaborations they sustain should be a major concern to you as well as to UKRI, the AHRC and the National Archive's 'Records at Risk' group.

The SHS has endorsed the recent damning report by the Royal Historical Society, *Race, Ethnicity and Inequality in UK History*, which highlights the acute under-representation of black and minority ethnic groups within the historical profession and of black and minority experience within the historical curriculum. The BCA is playing a vital part in helping to address both challenges and it is essential that its work is nurtured and encouraged.

The SHS executive committee also endorses the recent letter sent to you by Chuka Umunna MP and signed by many cross-party MPs asking that you 'commit to short term funding to sustain the BCA and work with the organisation on a sustainable funding plan for the future, including the establishment of an endowment'.

Yours sincerely,



**Prof Pamela Cox**  
**Chair, Social History Society**

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