

# Celebrating Black History 2009

## OBV held a major conference in London where tributes were paid to past and present heroes

The achievements of historical and civil rights icons such as Dr Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela, and the election of US President Barack Obama, were all recognised at OBV's *Celebrating Black History Month* event.

David Lammy, Sadiq Khan, Dawn Bulter and Simon Hughes were among politicians and activists who spoke about their personal heroes - people who inspired and influenced them. Def Jam stand-up comedian Gina Yashere entertained.



Baroness Benjamin, Baroness Ece, Rt Hon Sadiq Khan MP, Gina Yashere

## A Laughing Matter?

Brummies Salma Yaqoob and Sahzia Mirza joined OBV at the *A Laughing Matter? And Obama's People* event at Birmingham's Museum and Art Gallery in August 2008.

The event topic was—the need for civic engagement and the need for young people to understand and appreciate politics and the need for them to be involved in civic society.



Above: audience  
Top right : Ashok Viswanathan, OBV Deputy Director  
Right: Speaker, Cllr Salma Yaqoob

## Breaking The Chains



Revd Jesse Jackson, Tim Campbell, Shadowing Scheme members

In 2008 The Bristol Councillor Shadowing Scheme celebrated its second phase graduation ceremony with a grand symbolic fireworks display. More than 600 Bristolians and scheme participants were treated to a rousing empowerment address by Rev Jesse Jackson as part of the graduation ceremony held at Bristol's historic British Empire & Commonwealth Museum.

Apprentice star and entrepreneur Tim Campbell urged the graduates and audience to “keep their eyes on their vision and not become distracted by society that seeks to put limits on potential”. The graduation played a dual role linking the ‘Breaking the Chains’ – 200 years since the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade in African people commemoration exhibition and the Equanomics UK tour. The scheme is winner of the 2006 Local Government Chronicle Awards .