



DIANE ABBOTT: FIRST BLACK WOMAN MP

Photo and text from <https://www.dianeabbott.org.uk/about-diane> (2020).

"If you want people to participate and be interested, part of that is to have a political class that looks like the population as a whole."

**"I put being a mother ahead of being a politician"
Abbott**

Diane Abbott is the first black woman ever elected to the British Parliament. She has a distinguished career as a parliamentarian, broadcaster and commentator.

Born in London in 1953, Diane attended the Harrow County grammar school and Newnham College Cambridge where she obtained a Masters degree in history. She joined Government as a Home Office Civil Servant, and worked for the lobby group the National Council for Civil Liberties. Diane moved into journalism, working as a freelancer, and as a reporter for TV-AM and Thames Television, then, as a public relations consultant.

In 2008 Diane was awarded the Spectator / Threadneedle Speech of the Year Award and a Human Rights Award from Liberty.

Diane is founder of the London Schools and the Black Child initiative, which aims to raise educational achievement levels amongst Black children.

From the outset of her career, Diane has championed global justice, human rights, peace and security issues at home and abroad. She has been a vocal campaigner around race-relations, transparency and justice around policing, surveillance, Stop and Search, and detainment without trial. Diane chairs the British-Caribbean All-Party Parliamentary Group and that for Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia.

Diane is the first Black female Shadow Home Secretary.