

PHYLL OPOKU -GYIMAH



Born: November 1974, London, UK

Organisations: Kaleidoscope Trust; UK Black Pride

Phyll Opoku-Gyimah was born in London to Ghanaian parents, and has been interested in activism and social issues from a young age.

Widely known as Lady Phyll, she is considered one of Britain's most prominent lesbian activists.

Opoku-Gyimah is the co-founder, trustee and executive director of UK Black Pride, which promotes "unity and co-operation among all Black people of African, Asian, Caribbean, Middle Eastern and Latin American descent, as well as their friends and families, who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender".

"One, we are being black every single day. Two, we are dealing with our queerness - whether we are lesbian, gay, bisexual, non-binary, trans, or gender non-conforming. We are dealing with so much." ([Hackney Gazette](#), June 2019)

Opoku-Gyimah was a trustee of Stonewall - Europe's biggest LGBTQ+ charity - for three years, before Stonewall partnered with UK Black Pride.

She famously refused an MBE in 2016, due to the large number of LGBTQ+ people being persecuted, imprisoned and executed because of laws put in place by British Imperialists.

In 2019, she was appointed the executive director of Kaleidoscope Trust, a human rights organisation, and in the same year, she was a Grand Marshall of the New York Pride parade on the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

In January 2022, she was awarded an honorary doctorate from London South Bank University for her incredible leadership in the fight for equality.

"Black women have impacted and are impacting the very things you learned about within these walls. We will continue to impact what you know and think of the world and how you experience it." ([PinkNews](#), January 2022)

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Phyll Opoku-Gyimah at the Global Gay Rights event at the Southbank Centre in London on 9 March 2014 (photographer: Sarah Jaynes)
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