



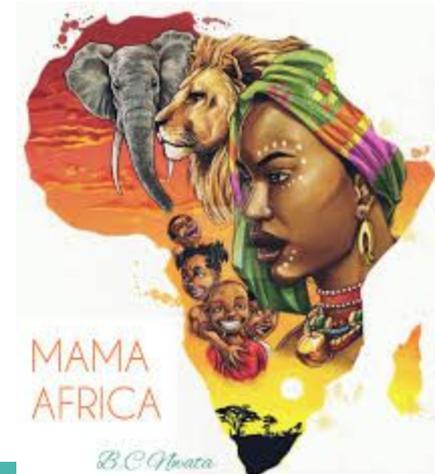
A Guide to Black Hair

By Anika, Anushri, Esther and Keziah



History of Black Hair by Esther

The story of the multifaceted Black hair is one of wealth, pride, slavery, tears, self-hatred, rebellion, and finally, self-love. Together, we'll go through its history all the way from Africa to the billion dollar business it is today and how to break the stigma surrounding natural hair.



History of Black Hair - (before European contact)

The history of black hair begins with the history of black people, from the West African Kingdoms to the East African Empires black hair showcased and expressed the culture of Africans with some of these hairstyles still reflected till today.



History of Black Hair - (Slave Trade and slavery)

After and during slave trade this spread to the Carribean and the Americas where hair was used to tell stories through the styles and patterns.

African-Americans even braided rice into their hair when planning to escape!

Braid patterned became symbols for freedom. Different styles and patterns were used as guide to plantations, resembling roads and paths to travel or avoid.



History of Black Hair - (After Slavery)

To meet the beauty standards of the west, Black women began relaxing hair (permanently straightening it) to avoid the discrimination they could face when out in public. Throughout history, black people have been pressured to subject themselves to Eurocentric beauty standards. Media portrayed white women with straight hair as the beauty ideal, which pressured other women to conform to Eurocentric beauty standards such as straightening hair and bleaching skin.



History of Black Hair (Civil Rights Era)

The civil rights era began changing black women's view on beauty standards from the Eurocentric aspect to self-love and expressing pride power and revolution due to the social changes at this time; black women's fashion changed from trying to dress as a white woman to wearing dashikis and having natural afros as signs of black power and self-love.



2021

Black Hair Today

Modern day, natural Afro-Caribbean hair is now a symbol of pride for women in the black community after years of facing discrimination only because the hair on our head is not straight but curly and coily. Till today Africans still do our cultural hairstyles and styles that have evolved over time such as box braids. Though we are still breaking the stigma surrounding natural hair, time has helped us embrace our natural hair.



About Black Hair - Keziah

Giuliana Rancic Publicly Apologizes for Offensive Zendaya Comment

The "Fashion Police" co-host apologized after criticizing her dreadlocks.

By ABC NEWS
25 February 2015, 15:35 • 3 min read



Giuliana Rancic Publicly Apologizes for Offensive Comment

The "Fashion Police" co-host apologized to actress Zendaya after criticizing her dreadlocks.
ABCNews.com



Black hair comes in a diverse range of styles and textures

For many, hairstyles one of the few things that links them back to their country of origin and, for some, it is one of the most important factors of their identity.

Many don't seem to understand that opportunities denied to black people due to the style or texture of their hair is deemed as a form of discrimination.

How can offence be caused? - Anushri

Unfortunately, some people have seen black hair as **unprofessional, unattractive** or even **unclean**! Although it may not be seen as a serious subject, this is an insult to those who have black hair. **Can you believe that at one UK school, a student was sent home** for having black afro hair, given the excuses that it was not part of the school uniform and was blocking others from seeing the whiteboard. As well as this being a **form of discrimination**, the damage words like this can do to one's self esteem is astronomical.



Experiences and Stories



“Your hair is so different! It reminds me of a poodle!” - This is an example of how someone can feel beautiful but can be made to feel different.

Ruby Williams came out of a three-year legal battle with her school in Hackney, where she had been repeatedly sent home because her natural afro hair was deemed to be against uniform policy.

“Can you imagine being told the way your hair grew out of your head was inappropriate for work?”

While afro hair technically falls under the definition of a “protected characteristic”, but without being explicitly named, it is all too easily discriminated against.

In 2017, Fulston Manor School in Kent came under fire for discriminating against a black girl who wore braids with its uniform policy, and Fulham Boys’ School in London told a boy to cut his dreadlocks off. As recently as December 2018, a Surrey academy threatened to exclude a pupil for her “bantu knots”.

There have been many instances in which children have been excluded from schools due to their hair, without anyone realised that these protective styles (such as braids and twists) are to keep the hair safe

Black Hair Discrimination

Many people, as you have seen in the previous slides, have been offended by people around them making fun of their hair, or making it seem 'different.' There are many stories of Black women who have had racial discrimination simply because of their hair colour. We can help to change this false belief of black afro hair being messy or unprofessional by treating it as a human feature of someone.



How can we avoid this?

We need to understand and embrace the whole concept of black hair discrimination. Questions like: 'What would people think?, Should I tie my hair up?' are common when it comes to people with black afro hair. Just by one person complimenting the other on their hair can make them feel more comfortable in expressing their style. Charities like the 'Halo collective' provide lots of useful information and support for those who have been discriminated, or are interested in helping to stop this.



The Halo Collective



The Halo Collective is an alliance of organisations and individuals, founded by young black organisers, who are helping to stop hair discrimination.

Their mission?: To end hair inequality for good.

The charity exists because hair discrimination remains as a source of racial injustice with serious consequences for black people in the UK. Despite hair being a protected racial characteristic under the law, there is a widely held belief that Black hairstyles are not suited for formal settings, are unhygienic, messy, disruptive, or unkempt.

Signing up for the Halo Code

Halo - Join The Fight

1
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ADOPT THE HALO CODE

The Halo Code has been established to help end hair discrimination in schools and workplaces with a simple dress code that gives freedom to Black hairstyles..

I'm a student, parent or teacher

School

I'm a professional

Workplace

2
~

FIX UP THE LAW

Although hair discrimination is against UK law, it still happens all the time. Ask the Government to fix up the law by explicitly naming Black hair in the Equality Act.

Sign Emma's Petition

Sign Zina's Petition

It only takes 2 minutes!

3
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SLAY THE STIGMA

We're over being stigmatised for our hair. Help us change the way Black hair is perceived through research, education, and positive representation..

Our History

Our Stories

The Halo Collective

“Our school champions the right of staff and students to embrace all Afro-hairstyles. We acknowledge that Afro-textured hair is an important part of our Black staff and students’ racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious identities, and requires specific styling for hair health and maintenance.

We welcome Afro-textured hair worn in all styles including, but not limited to, afros, locs, twists, braids, cornrows, fades, hair straightened through the application of heat or chemicals, weaves, wigs, headscarves, and wraps.

At this school, we recognise and celebrate our staff and students’ identities. We are a community built on an ethos of equality and respect where hair texture and style have no bearing on anyone's ability to succeed.”

We’ve presented this slideshow and the Halo Code to the AHS Leadership Team and they agree that we should adopt this and adapt our uniform policy.

**“If you’re going to
admire my hair, admire
it from a distance”**

Huge thanks to ...

Anika

Anushri

Esther

Keziah

For putting this together



Sources

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[How does black hair reflect black history?](#)

<https://www.history.com/news/black-hairstyles-visual-history-in-photos>

[Elle article - hair and microaggressions](#)

[Don't Touch My Hair by Emma Dabiri](#)