

# Fifty Years of Struggle: Gus John at 70



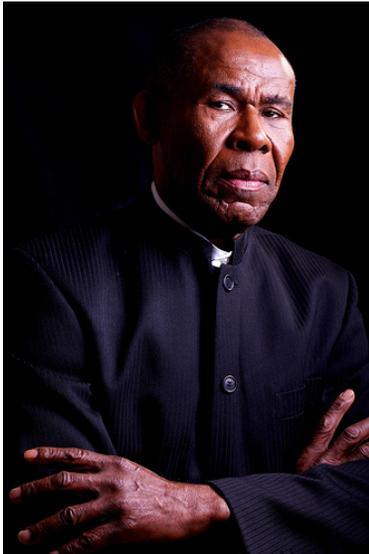
Gus John is director of Gus John Consultancy Limited, the former Director of Education and Leisure Services for the London Borough of Hackney, Chair of the Communities Empowerment Network and Interim Chair of its campaigning arm, Parents and Students Empowerment. He was born in Grenada, Eastern Caribbean in 1945 and has lived in the UK since August 1964 to study for the priesthood. But almost from the moment he arrived he became involved in what was to become his life's calling – education, youth work and the struggle for social justice and human rights for embattled communities as an activist and an academic

He is an associate professor of education and honorary fellow of the Institute of Education, University of London; he has worked internationally as an executive coach and a management and social investment consultant since the 1990s. He became the first African Director of *Education and Leisure Services* in Britain in 1989, and he has been a committed educationalist and learning facilitator since 1965.

His extensive experience includes: - advising the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, on 'Serious Youth Violence in the capital' – advising the former British Home Secretary, Jack Straw, on race and social inclusion; – providing consultancy to the former Attorney General, Lord Goldsmith, on deaths in custody of African-Caribbean and Irish men; – external evaluator for The Law Society on their performance in implementing equality and human rights legislation and growing a culture of equity across the solicitors' profession; – providing executive coaching to politicians, CEOs, the civil service and NGOs; – developing and delivering education and, 'future leaders' programs for young people, personal development training for teachers and students and for young offenders and lecturing in education policy; – advising on corporate social responsibility, investment programs, education, health and community development to enable foreign inward investors to invest in local people, deliver training and build capacity to reduce poverty, create wealth and grow new markets; – advising British, Caribbean and African governments on youth and criminal justice to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) relating to schooling, education and youth;

– conducting social audits, research and program evaluation of schools, colleges, universities, health authorities for central, regional and local government to assist them in promoting equity and human rights and in managing change; – conducting scoping studies and drawing up delivery plans for sustainable development projects in Africa and the Caribbean; – developing restorative justice models for use with young people involved in cyber bullying, gangs and cults for schools and communities in Britain and Africa.

His other activities include: – working with the African Union (African Diaspora Reunification Project) since 2006, including leading an education commission, attending the Inter-Ministerial Conference in Johannesburg in November 2007 and Pretoria in 2011 to report on issues arising from the work of the Commission. Involved since in advising member states in Africa and the Caribbean (Cameroon, Somaliland, Lagos State Government, Jamaica) in meeting the MDGs related to education and youth; – membership of the African Union’s Technical Committee of Experts on economic, political, social and cultural cooperation between African governments and civil society organizations in the African Diaspora; – being an acknowledged authority on equity and human rights, community development, employment creation and social affairs among the African Diaspora community in Britain and Europe; – providing consultancy to the Methodist Church on implementing Equality & Human Rights legislation and growing a culture of equity and inclusiveness across the church. Gus has also been a member of the following: – Council of the Institute of Race Relations (1970-1974); – British Council of Churches Community and Race Relations Unit (1973-80); – Macdonald Inquiry into the murder of Ahmed Iqbal Ullah at Burnage High School, Manchester, September 1986 and author of the Burnage Report: Murder in the Playground; – Churches Commission for Racial Justice (1996-2005); – Member of Channel 4’s ‘Street Weapons Commission’.



His birthday and lifetime are part of a March 2015 two-part program, marking his 50 years of campaigning for the rights and education entitlement of all children, for racial equality and social justice and against unlawful discrimination in all its manifestations.