

SPOTLIGHT ON: BLACK HISTORY MONTH

#ActionNotWords



*For #BlackHistoryMonth2022,
Christianah Omobosola Babajide,
Chambers Marketing Executive,
speaks about what Black History
Month means to her.*





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Q

What inspired you to venture into legal marketing in Chambers?



A

Despite studying law and previously working as a paralegal, I quickly realised that legal work was not for me. I just didn't get a 'buzz' from drafting documents or preparing court bundles. I found working as a paralegal to be a challenging job which taught me many skills such as the importance of having meticulous attention to detail, using my initiative, and improving my writing skills; but unfortunately, there was still no 'buzz' for me. From a young age, I've always had a love for writing and being creative – during university, blogging for publications like Legal Cheek and LawCareers.Net kept me afloat from the pressures of law school. I discovered that my strengths are in legal blogging, social media and brand campaigns. Earlier this year, I also began working in marketing at 7BR Chambers, and so far, I have enjoyed an exciting and extensive role which feeds my creativity and plays to my strengths. I have finally found a role that suits me, and I am happy to say that I have found that 'buzz' that I was looking for.





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Q

As a Black woman, what are your challenges?



A

Feeling misunderstood in a professional setting can be a challenging obstacle to overcome. Being ambitious as a Black woman often comes at a cost because as your career elevates, you find yourself in more spaces with people who don't look or sound like you. For me, this can foster a feeling of loneliness because I work best when I have a support system or feel I can connect with someone from a similar background or someone who has similar interests to me.

It is often seemingly small things such as changing your hairstyle regularly. This is common for Black women but sometimes confuses others from different backgrounds. It is easy to find yourself searching for a sister who won't be surprised to see you with an afro on Monday and box braids on a Friday. It's exhausting having to explain things like this on a daily basis, and it often reminds you of just how different you are. That being said, there's power in difference, and I'm grateful to be surrounded by colleagues who are curious.



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Q

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A

The other challenge is being misunderstood – most people don't understand that people of colour often don't have a choice when it comes to being ambitious and hardworking, because there's no other alternative. From a young age, they are somewhat conditioned to work twice as hard to achieve their goals. The price of ambition is high and most people of colour can relate to being force-fed ambition until yours and your parents dream becomes entwined as one.



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What does Black History Month mean to you?



Black History Month is my favourite time of the year because it's a period where my social media timelines are flooded by inspirational Black people and their individual successes (which can often be overlooked or unrecognised) are celebrated. It's also a bittersweet period for me because Black people being celebrated should be the norm.



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Q

If you could speak to your younger self today, what would you say?



A

I'd tell her to be courageous and to follow her gut instinct because intuition doesn't lie. I'd reassure her that she won't be embarrassed, rejected or punished for standing up for herself and what she believes in.