

## Your Memories are Short and You Haven't Been Listening

Belly Mujina  
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When faced with these monumental times many of you ask the victims "what can we do?" I have suggestions.

1. Educate your own damn selves. No oppressed person owes you the emotional onus of explaining the history of their exploitation and trauma: you are demanding their free labour. It is literally at your fingertips: Google it, Bing it, Duck Duck Go it. Take the responsibility to educate yourself.
2. Investigate yourself and your institution. Every context is different and the hard work of determining your own racist complicity is complex and your duty. It has to be difficult. If it's not tough, if it doesn't make you uncomfortable, you're not doing it right. Do the work.
3. Know that as soon as you inform yourself and decide to actively support basic human rights for all you become a part of the solution, no matter your past actions.
4. Claiming allyship to #BlackLivesMatter? Statements are like bread, lovely when fresh but stale within a day. MOU's are far more meaningful. What binding social contracts will you and your policy-makers adhere to now, to keep you accountable in the future? This is by far the most important, otherwise your actions are just another round of bandwagoning, performative and empty gestures whilst people that look like me and my family continue to be murdered, sidelined and fail to flourish.

Do Better.

As written by Nerys Rudder, UK collections manager and conservator.

Further Reading:

Museum Detox Network Twitter thread on how not to be a performative ally  
Being Black in the arts and heritage sector: Ashleigh Brown  
Michelle Silverthorn @inwithmichelle  
[Blacklivesmatteruk.com/](https://blacklivesmatteruk.com/)