

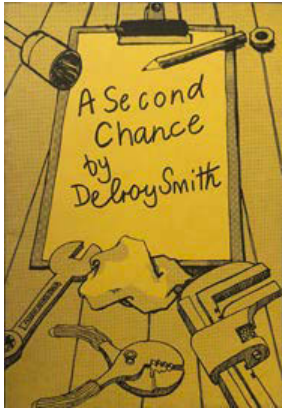
Race

During the years 1979-1994, groups of Black writers emerged, creating their own safe spaces to practise the written word. These writing groups worked to create an array of publications, despite social norms and mainstream publications working against them. While most of the groups were based in London, other English regions like Yorkshire and North West are seen.



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The writing groups that focused their written work on race-based societal issues are Young Women's Writing Group, Black Ink, Chapeltown Black Women Writers Group, and Black Anthology group. These groups addressed issues such as racism, inequality, and freedom. Most of the publications listed in this section are poetry books and anthologies.



A Second Chance

Delroy Smith, 1981

FWWCP/08 L 04

This short story is about overcoming obstacles to literacy, education, and labour. The topic of discussion is accessibility to education, especially for immigrants. Delroy left Jamaica, where he failed to get an education, when he was fourteen years old to come to England and rejoin his parents. This short testimony depicts the life of working-class immigrants.

Keywords: education | Jamaican student | labour | literacy | working-class

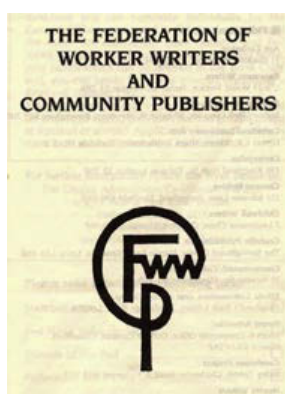
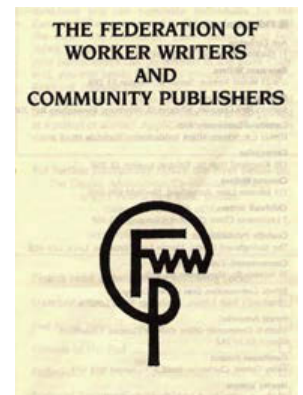
Black and Priceless

Black Ink, 1988

FWWCP/ RM 01

The book is an anthology written by Black writers. Much of the narrative in this publication deals with racism in one form or another, particularly how everyday lives are impacted, and how individuals are forced to justify their existence. The short poems and short plays share the themes of empowerment.

Keywords: activism | Black writers | empowerment | oppression | racism | society



Black and White On The Buses: the 1963 Colour Bar Dispute in Bristol

Madge Dresser, 1986

FWWCP/ RM 01

The book offers a historical overview of the 1963 Colour Bar Dispute in Bristol. As mentioned in the introduction, it was written with the intent to teach Black youth about the events their forebears experienced in their hometowns. Although this book was not written with intention to stir up controversy, or to promote boycotting, it exposes the racism and insensitivity of union and bus crews. In addition, this book may help individuals evolve their own policies against racism.

Keywords: Black history | boycotting | history | oppression



Black Eye Perceptions

Multiple authors, 1980

FWWCPC/08 L 02

In this anthology, young Black writers use their poetry to express their emotions of anger, hopelessness, and determination to overcome labelling. Writers describe the racism they face, feeling like strangers within the culture they were born into. Another common theme in this anthology is identity. Writers describe their journeys in seeking their identity and a sense of belonging, outside of European culture.

Keywords: Black writers | culture | identity | oppression | racism

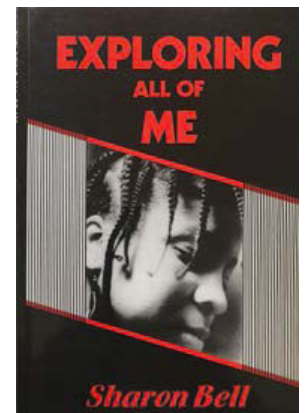
Exploring All of Me

Sharon Bell, 1987

FWWCPC/08 L 04

This anthology of poems is written by and for young women. Themes reflect the voice of Black writers coming to realise that their worth and ability are greater than what White culture would otherwise have them believe. Other topics include moving on from the past and living for the future, as well as optimism and remaining true to one's self. Included in the text are poems about tradition, kinship, and activism. This book ends with a powerful call to educate readers on histories of social and racial injustice.

Keywords: activism | Black writers | kinship | racism | women's writing



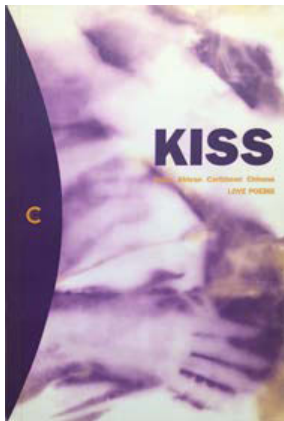
Feel My Words

Gwendolyn Goodman, 1987

FWWCPC/08 L 03

This is a short book of poetry. Goodman describes her experience of double oppression, a double fight as she describes it, of being Black and being a woman. She uses her poems as a way to tell the story of the suffering and plight that Black women face. She illustrates her life through the poems that have recurring themes of gender and oppression.

Keywords: Black women | double oppression | gender | plight | poetry | racism | suffering



Kiss

Multiple authors, 1994

FWWCPC/01 NW 07

This book of poetry was written by Asian, African, Caribbean, and Chinese writers. Made up of 88 poems, each writer delves into the topics of love, heartbreak, and safe sex. With the diversity of cultural backgrounds, life experiences at school and work, the reader gets great insight into their lives. With all the external prejudices, bigotry, and injustices these women face, they still write about the recurring themes of culture, love, and strength.

Keywords: African | Asian | bigotry | Caribbean | Chinese | prejudice | women

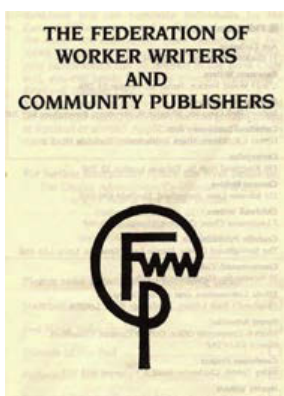
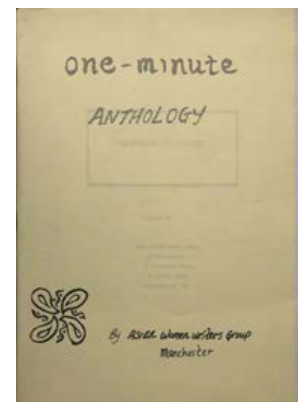
One-minute Anthology

Asian Women Writers Group, 1991

FWWCPC/01 NW 06

This unique anthology of poetry and short stories offers insight into the lives of Asian women. One of the topics in the poetry is about the democratic protest in Tiananmen Square in China in 1989 that ended in the massacre of hundreds of civilians. Another dives into Indian culture and motherhood. Poets share a theme of compromising their long-cherished identity and native culture in exchange for finding a home in Britain.

Keywords: Asian studies | motherhood | poetry | short story



When Our Ship Comes In: Black women talk

Chapeltown Black Women Writers Group, 1992

FWWCPC/03 Y 12

This book contains short stories and poems. It consists of multiple narrations, with topics of migration, oppression, and obstacles in the workforce and domestic life that older Black Caribbean women faced in England. Each author writes with the purpose and hope that their grandchildren and future generations will read and learn from their accounts. This book serves to demonstrate that Black voices matter, and the Black history needs to be preserved.

Keywords: Black women | Caribbean | domestic life | migration | poetry | racism | short story | working-class

Further Reading in the FWWCP Collection:

As Good As We Make It

Multiple authors. Centerprise Young Writers, London, 1982.

FWWCP/08 L 03

Digital Collection: <http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6835>

Black Ink Publications No. 1

Multiple authors. Black Ink Collective, London, 1982.

FWWCP/ RM 01

Digital Collection: <http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6993>

Going Where the Work Is

Gordon, Isaac. Hackney Reading Centre, Centerprise, London, 1979

FWWCP/08 L 03

Digital Collection: <http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6820>

Scribe Sistren

Beji. Centerprise, London, 1987.

FWWCP/08 L 03

Somali Stories

Multiple authors. Somali Stories Creative Writing Group, Centerprise, London, 1982.

FWWCP/08 L 03

Digital Collection: <http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6832>