
THE BLACK SCOTTISH AWARDS
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HONOURING BLACK EXCELLENCE, YEAR AFTER YEAR.
26TH SEPTEMBER 2026 | HILTON, GLASGOW
EVENT PROGRAMME

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A FOUNDER'S WELCOME

Welcome to The Black Scottish Awards 2026.

Tonight, we come together to celebrate the individuals, organisations and communities whose achievements continue to make Scotland a better place for everyone.

This year has reminded us what is possible when ambition meets determination. Across business, education, sport, the arts and community leadership, we have seen people step forward, break barriers and create opportunities for others. Many of those individuals are with us in this room tonight.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our judges, sponsors, partners and volunteers. Your support and commitment have made this evening possible and continue to strengthen the impact of these awards.

To our finalists and award winners, congratulations. Your achievements inspire us and remind us that success is built through hard work, perseverance, and belief. You should be incredibly proud of everything you have accomplished. One of the greatest joys of these awards is seeing what happens next.

Last year's Sportsperson of the Year, Bradley Francis, went on to represent Scotland at the Commonwealth Games this year. His journey reminds us that recognition is often not the end of a story, but the beginning of an even bigger one.

As we celebrate tonight, let us also look to the future. Let us continue to create opportunities, support one another and inspire the next generation of leaders, entrepreneurs, professionals, athletes and changemakers.

Thank you for joining us this evening. Enjoy the opportunity to connect, celebrate and be inspired by the remarkable people around you. Once again, welcome to The Black Scottish Awards, where we celebrate excellence, recognise achievement and help shape a brighter future for Scotland.

Enjoy the evening.

Dr Enoch Adeyemi
Founder
The Black Scottish Awards



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OUR MOST IMPORTANT INVESTMENT IS IN OUR PEOPLE

As a long-term investor, Walter Scott is a place where people build careers, not just a job. We are committed to creating an inclusive, welcoming workplace where everyone can thrive.

By valuing diverse perspectives and supporting organisations such as The Robertson Trust, Future Asset, the Juniper Trust and Black Professionals United Kingdom, we aim to attract and develop talented people from all backgrounds.

Our Summer 2027 internship programme is now open, to find out more and how to apply visit:

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THE BLACK SCOTTISH AWARDS

FINALISTS' SPOTLIGHT

YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR



ISAAC MUKARO

Isaac Mukaro is better known as a rapper who has gained recognition from major industry figures like Dave and Stormzy. Through authentic music that captures identity and lived experience, he inspires peers in the Black Scottish community. Mukaro serves as a powerful young role model, uplifting his community and shaping the future of Scotland's creative scene.



IFEOLUWA FABIYI

Ifeoluwa Fabiyi is a student leader, peer tutor and science ambassador committed to helping others succeed. From leading school initiatives to mentoring students, volunteering and excelling academically, he combines leadership, service and community involvement while inspiring young people to achieve their full potential.



ETHAN RODGER

Ethan Rodger has shown leadership by creating opportunities for young people to grow in confidence and celebrate diversity. He founded his school's first Culture Day, raising over £1,400 for UNICEF, and has supported youth through leadership programmes, fundraising, and sport, encouraging others to recognise their strengths and make a positive difference.



NAA ODUA NORTEY

Naa Odua Nortey has championed inclusion through youth leadership, creating welcoming spaces where culture, identity and community are celebrated. As Co-Chief Coordinator of ESOC, she has encouraged young people to use their voices, organised impactful cultural events, and inspired the next generation to lead with confidence, pride and purpose.



MARIAM MOSURO

Mariam Mosuro has made a positive impact through leadership, volunteering and supporting younger pupils. As Deputy Head Girl and a school volunteer, she has encouraged confidence, promoted inclusion and helped create a welcoming environment where young people feel supported, valued and motivated to achieve their potential.

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THE BLACK SCOTTISH AWARDS LEGACY



- To amplify the visibility of the winners and finalists, we will spotlight them across our social media platform to help them achieve even greater success.
- Speaker Series that features TBSA finalists and winners to share knowledge and amplify excellence across the community.
- Amplifying allyship by working with Scottish businesses to embed an allyship spirit into their culture.
- Continuously identify and amplify messages of groups supporting older people in our community who have paved the path for us to live the life we have today.
- Amplify the voices of groups working in anti-discrimination education in schools and colleges across the country.
- Amplify the voices of groups working to support Black-owned businesses across the country.



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LEADERSHIP SHOULD REFLECT THE WORLD IT SHAPES.

At Meekison, Mackinnon & McChee, we believe exceptional leadership begins with widening opportunity.

We connect organisations with leaders who bring the judgement, experience and passion needed to create meaningful change. Our approach to executive search is built on integrity, inclusion and a belief that the strongest organisations are shaped by people with different experiences, backgrounds and ideas.

We are proud to support The Black Scottish Awards and its celebration of Black excellence, achievement and leadership across Scotland. By championing representation and creating space for talented people to thrive, we can help build organisations and communities that are stronger for everyone.

PROUD TO SUPPORT THE BLACK SCOTTISH AWARDS 2026

THE BLACK SCOTTISH AWARDS

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PROFESSOR SIR GEOFF PALMER OUTSTANDING STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD



JESSICA LEANNE BOWEN

Jessica Leanne Bowen is an emerging journalist committed to telling meaningful stories and widening representation in the media. An Alan Clements Award recipient and BBC Scotland intern, she has overcome personal challenges while supporting fellow students, championing diversity and encouraging others from underrepresented backgrounds to pursue careers in journalism.



DAKARAYI SOPELLA ZVEKARE

Dakarayi Sopella Zvekare revived the University of St Andrews' Ubuntu Charity Fashion Show, rebuilding it into a sold-out event that celebrated African and Caribbean culture, created opportunities for Black students and raised funds for charity. Despite significant health, financial and personal challenges, she graduated with distinction-level results and secured the prestigious £20,000 R&A International Scholarship.



DANIEL OLANREWAJU

Daniel Olanrewaju is a student leader, mentor and Treasurer of the Edinburgh University Gospel Choir. Through mentoring, tutoring and career guidance, he has supported students in STEM and finance while helping create opportunities, strengthen student communities and inspire the next generation of young professionals



DEBORAH MATTAKA

Deborah Mattaka is a student leader, content creator and marketing professional at Glasgow Caledonian University. She revived the African Caribbean Society, champions student representation and belonging, and uses creativity, research and leadership to promote greater visibility for Black communities within Scotland's creative and higher education sectors.



OMONIGHO OJEAGA

Omonigho is a dynamic law student at the University of Aberdeen. As Creative Director for the Aberdeen University Charity Fashion Show, she led a team raising £8,000 for local charities. She actively amplifies underrepresented voices through Black Scottish campaigns, mentors peers, and fosters inclusive, collaborative student communities.

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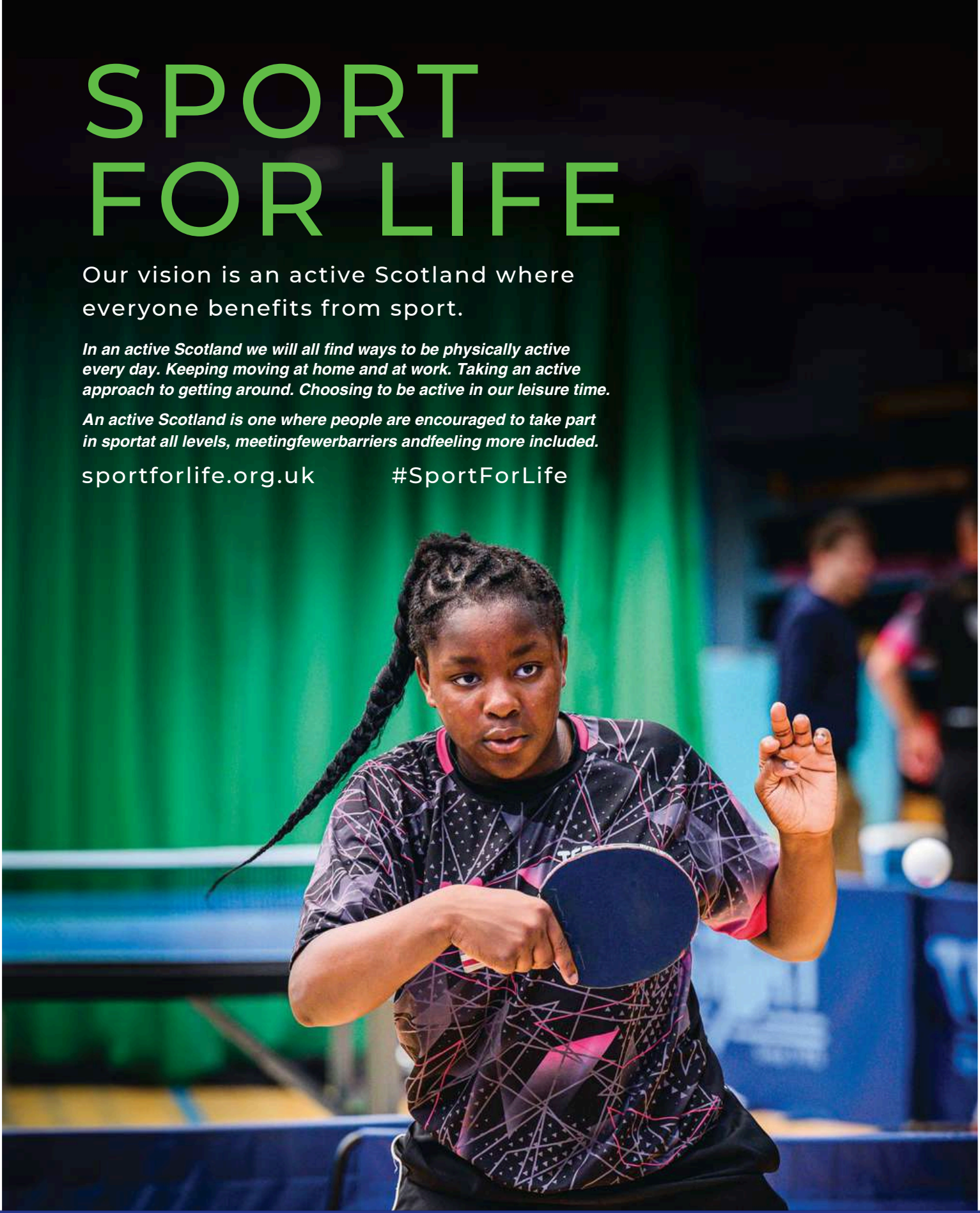
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sportscotland.org.uk

sportscotland
the national agency for sport

THE BLACK SCOTTISH AWARDS

FINALISTS' SPOTLIGHT

SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR



KAYA SLATER

Kaya Slater is a European U20 silver medallist, Diamond League athlete and Commonwealth Games representative. After overcoming a serious injury and personal challenges, she earned multiple international selections while mentoring younger athletes, using her experience to inspire resilience, confidence and excellence both on and off the track.



OLUWADARASIMI JIKIEMI

Oluwadarasimi "Dara" Jikiemi is a 16-year-old professional central defender for Liverpool's U18 academy. The ball-playing Scottish-Nigerian prodigy developed at Celtic and captained Scotland's U15/U16 youth national teams. In August 2026, he signed with Liverpool on scholarship terms, ahead of turning professional in January 2027.



NINO SATHA

Nino Satha is a 16-year-old British basketball player who plays as a 6'0" point guard. Representing the Great Britain U16 national team at the FIBA EuroBasket 2026 Division B tournament, he averaged 11.7 points per game. He holds Scottish and Malawian heritage and plays domestically for the Caledonia Blues.



JUSTIN OBIORA EKEH

Justin Obiora Ekeh made an outstanding start in athletics, winning BUCS and Scottish university relay gold while earning national recognition in his first season. Balancing elite sport, academics, work and faith, he continues to inspire others through discipline, humility, resilience and the belief that it is never too late to begin.



ITEOLUWAKIISHI ADEKOLA

Iteoluwakiishi Adekola has represented Scotland at the European Youth Championships, Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships and international competitions across Europe. The only Scottish woman selected for the Great Britain Performance Olympic Pathway, she inspires young people through her dedication, resilience, and sportsmanship as she balances elite sport with school and overcomes financial challenges.

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THE BLACK SCOTTISH AWARDS

FINALISTS' SPOTLIGHT

BUSINESS OF EXCELLENCE OF THE YEAR

ADIGO CARE

Adigo Care delivers person-centred care while creating local jobs, supporting vulnerable adults and strengthening communities. Committed to staff development, wellbeing and high-quality service, the organisation has built a skilled workforce, strong governance and a trusted reputation, positioning it for sustainable growth and lasting impact across the care sector.

CHRISTY'S OPTICIANS

Christy's Opticians is Scotland's only Black-owned independent optician, providing high-quality eye care in Deeside. Since 2021, the practice has expanded its services, invested in advanced technology, supported NHS eye care, and improved access to treatment while delivering personalised care to local residents and visitors.

RAFIKI COFFEE

Rafiki Coffee showcases Africa's rich coffee heritage, sourcing premium beans from seven countries while investing in ethical trade, innovation and people. With strong business growth, above-market pay and professional development for its team, the company is creating opportunities across Scotland and the African coffee communities it partners with.

UWAGBOE'S KITCHEN & GRILL

Uwagboe's Kitchen & Grill has grown from a home kitchen into Edinburgh's first Nigerian restaurant, serving hundreds of customers each week. With two locations, 18 employees and partnerships across business and education, it brings people together through authentic Nigerian cuisine, creating jobs, celebrating culture and strengthening community connections.

ALL4F&B HOME SERVICES LTD

All4F&B Home Services Ltd has grown into a trusted property services company serving homes and businesses across Scotland. Offering cleaning, decorating and property maintenance, the business creates local jobs, supports healthier living environments and delivers reliable services that improve homes, neighbourhoods and customer experience.

DEVLIN MAMBO LLP

Devlin Mambo is an Edinburgh-based investment management consultancy combining governance, risk, compliance and transformation expertise with technology to help organisations simplify complexity, strengthen oversight, manage risk and deliver sustainable operational change.

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THE BLACK SCOTTISH AWARDS

MEET YOUR HOST

TOSIN OGUNLESI

Tosin is a seasoned global business analysis leader and change manager, with a strong passion for diversity and inclusion.

His professional career is underpinned by ensuring that change outcomes are data-driven, while also bringing a unique combination of analytical expertise and a deep focus on user experience design.

Dedicated to improving business processes, Tosin ensures that user-centric design principles are at the heart of every project. He consistently delivers innovative solutions that seamlessly connect business requirements with delightful user experiences, making technology both functional and easy to use.

When he's not championing diversity or leading business analysis projects, you'll find him relishing quality time with his family and close friends.

Connect with Tosin on LinkedIn using the following link:
https://www.linkedin.com/in/tosin-ogunlesi/



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THE BLACK SCOTTISH AWARDS

MEET YOUR HOST

TOMISIN IBIGBEMI

Tomisin is a Creative Marketer, Content Creator, and Founder of The Grace Unity CIC, with experience delivering social-first campaigns, influencer partnerships, and brand activations for leading brands including Sephora, IRN-BRU, Deliveroo, VEGA, and Meta.

Passionate about community, storytelling and creating meaningful experiences, Tomisin enjoys bringing people together through both her professional work and The Grace Unity, where she plans and hosts events that foster connection, faith and creativity across Scotland.

Outside of work, Tomisin creates lifestyle, fashion and edit-based content. She enjoys exploring new experiences, travelling, and discovering creative ways to tell stories through digital content.

Connect with Tomisin on LinkedIn using the following link:
https://www.linkedin.com/in/oluwatomisini/



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We are grateful for the opportunity to have the founder of Black Professionals Scotland wear an outfit created by CY Outfits for this prestigious awards event, celebrating the achievements and contributions of outstanding Black professionals across Scotland.
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THE BLACK SCOTTISH AWARDS
2026 EVENT PROGRAMME

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Throughout the evening, guests are warmly invited to visit the M·A·C Artistry Lounge for a personalised beauty experience. Meet the M·A·C artists, enjoy a professional touch-up, discover selected products and take away expert tips and techniques tailored to you.

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THE BLACK SCOTTISH AWARDS

FINALISTS' SPOTLIGHT

PROFESSIONAL RISING STAR OF THE YEAR



NYASHA MUTEMBWA

Nyasha Mutembwa is a graduate civil engineer and STEM advocate recognised for championing inclusion and representation. A former Dundee University Students' Association President, she has overcome significant setbacks to build a career in engineering, mentoring future talent, speaking nationally, and encouraging more underrepresented young people to pursue STEM careers.



OLUWATOMISIN (TOM TOM) OSINUBI.

Oluwatomisin (Tom Tom) Osinubi is a public policy and social impact leader, and the first African female Student President at Glasgow Caledonian University. She has led national campaigns on housing and migrant justice, co-founded UNIFORCE, and continues to champion opportunities for underrepresented communities across Scotland.



EL (ELROY) ELVIE

EL (Elroy) Elvie is a communications professional creating opportunities through storytelling, creativity and inclusion. From co-chairing the UNLOCKED internship programme to leading major brand campaigns, he champions emerging talent, supports Black creatives and helps build a more representative communications industry across Scotland.



AYODEJI JEGEDE

Ayodeji Jegede is a Senior Product & Applications Manager and co-founder of fintech startup MoneyHive. With expertise in digital transformation and product leadership, he is using technology to solve real-world challenges while supporting innovation, entrepreneurship and financial inclusion for African diaspora communities.



ABU-BAK'R MUFUTAU-OSENI

Abu-Bak'r Mufutau-Oseni is a Graduate Software Engineer at NatWest Group and Engineering Working Party Lead, supporting over 110 colleagues. A University of Strathclyde graduate, he mentors aspiring engineers, creates educational technology content, and is committed to developing future talent through leadership, knowledge sharing and community impact.



CALEB ELOGHOSA EGHOBAMIEN

Caleb Eghobamien is a health and safety professional and Lead CDM Principal Designer committed to improving standards across the built environment. Alongside his technical leadership, he mentors aspiring professionals, champions diversity through EnergyzBlack and IOSH, and works to make careers in engineering and health and safety more accessible for underrepresented communities.

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AWARDS CEREMONY AGENDA (ABRIDGED)

Arrival and Drinks Reception	6:00 PM
Invitation To Sit	6:40 PM
Dinner Served	7:30 PM
Awards Ceremony	9:30 PM
Event Closes	11:00 PM
Entertainment & Networking	11:00 PM



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techscaler

Techscaler by CodeBase is Scotland's national startup support programme, delivered on behalf of the Scottish Government and built to help a diverse community of founders create successful startups.

From first idea to international growth, founders get world-class education, mentorship from experienced operators, routes to capital and customers, and a network of hubs across Scotland. Support is shaped around the stage you're at, so you're never working through the hard parts alone.

We believe talent is everywhere. Scotland's tech ecosystem is stronger when founders of every background have a real route in, and Techscaler exists to open that door.

We'll help you build & grow your tech startup *in Scotland*

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ADDLESHAW
GODDARD

THE BLACK SCOTTISH AWARDS

FINALISTS' SPOTLIGHT

DIVERSITY CHAMPION OF THE YEAR



ARNAULT KASA

Arnault Kasa is an educator and community leader advancing equality through education, mentoring, and sport. He has delivered anti-racist professional learning, contributed to national education initiatives, and founded the World Cup Glory 7's tournament, creating inclusive spaces that promote belonging, leadership, and stronger community connections across Scotland.



OMOWUNMI OLA-EDAGBAMI

Ọmọwùnmí Ọlá-Ẹdàgbàmí is the founder of Black Scottish Stories, a platform documenting and celebrating the lives and contributions of Black people across Scotland. Through storytelling, interviews, documentaries and workshops, she is preserving Black Scottish history, challenging stereotypes, and fostering understanding, belonging and connection across communities.



TOPE ANIFOWOSE

Tope Anifowose is a Product Manager at HMRC and an advocate for career access and inclusion. Through mentoring, volunteering and leadership with Black Professionals UK, he has supported Black professionals into Civil Service careers while helping students and young people build skills, confidence and employment opportunities.



ONYINYE IGBOKWE

Onyinye Igbokwe is a startup ecosystem leader and founder of Knowvate Hub, supporting over 500 underrepresented founders across Scotland. Through leadership roles with Black Professionals UK and Techscaler, she has expanded access to employment, funding, mentorship and entrepreneurial opportunities while championing a more inclusive innovation ecosystem.



IKECHUKWU ONYEGIRI

Ikechukwu Onyegiri is a Principal Engineer and AFBE-UK leader dedicated to widening opportunities for Black professionals in engineering. Through mentoring, employability programmes, industry partnerships and inclusion initiatives, he has helped expand access to careers, strengthen workplace practices and support the next generation of engineering talent.

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THE BLACK SCOTTISH AWARDS

FINALISTS' SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNITY ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR

FLOSVERSE TECHSPHERE

Flosverse Techsphere CIC uses immersive technology to open doors to digital skills, STEM and creativity. Since 2023, it has reached 700+ people through VR, coding and community programmes, helping children, young people and adults build confidence, explore new opportunities and shape a more inclusive digital future across Scotland.

GAMBIAN AND FRIENDS IN SCOTLAND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (GAMSCA)

The Gambian and Friends in Scotland Community Association (GAMSCA) has supported more than 5,000 families, children and young people across Glasgow since 2010. Through community programmes, cultural celebrations, health and wellbeing initiatives, and partnerships with over 100 organisations, GAMSCA promotes inclusion, strengthens community resilience, and improves opportunities for Black and ethnically diverse communities.

RARE-BREED MEN TRIBE

Rare-Breed Men Tribe is a Scottish charity supporting Black communities through programmes that strengthen wellbeing, family life and community connections. Since 2022, it has reached over 1,500 people across Scotland, delivering practical support, building partnerships and creating spaces where individuals, families and communities can grow together.

SHARPEN HER: THE AFRICA WOMEN'S ÑETWORK

Sharpen Her: The African Women's Network supports African women with lived experience of migration through peer mentoring, wellbeing, skills development and practical guidance. From 16 members in 2019 to 260 today, it has become a trusted hub, helping women build confidence, access opportunities and thrive through community, collaboration and lived experience.

TOUCH OF LOVE OUTREACH

Touch of Love Outreach is a Black-led charity supporting families across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire through food support, youth programmes, early years services and community outreach. Since 2020, it has shared 100,000 food parcels, reached thousands of people, and built trusted relationships that strengthen families, dignity and belonging.

DENS ROAD COMMUNITY CHURCH

Dens Road Community Church supports vulnerable families across Dundee through food distribution, hardship funding, Christmas gifts for children, free bike referrals, and student welcome packs. Working with Black, ethnic, faith and community organisations, the church provides practical support, promotes inclusion, and helps strengthen community wellbeing during the cost-of-living crisis.

NORINEMINDEYES CULTURE CONNECT INCORORPORATED

Norinemindeyes Culture Connect Incorporated supports Black and ethnically diverse communities through Scotland's first Afro food bank, creative arts, wellbeing programmes and cultural initiatives. Since 2025, the organisation has provided over 12,500 meals, delivered 156 workshops, and created opportunities for artists, families and community members to connect and thrive.

AFROSCOTS UNITED FC

Afroscots United FC has grown into a trusted community organisation using sport to bring people together across Glasgow. Through football, cycling, food support, and wellbeing programmes, it creates inclusive opportunities, promotes healthier lifestyles, reduces isolation, and strengthens community connections through partnerships, dedicated volunteers, and accessible activities for people of all backgrounds.

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Black Professionals Uk

Black Professionals United Kingdom started its journey in 2016 as Edinburgh Black Professionals. It was founded by Enoch Adeyemi who recognised the need for a holistic support structure for Black students and professionals to enable them to achieve their full career potential. Since its inception, the organisation has grown to over 6,000 members and supports more than 30 corporate partners. Our key objectives include continuously removing barriers between Black talent and the business community, contributing to shaping government policies towards a fairer outcome for all and working alongside other game-changing organisations to have a unified voice on key issues affecting the Black community.

Visit our website at http://blackprofessionals.uk to register as a member or explore a partnership.

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Black Professionals United Kingdom



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THE BLACK SCOTTISH AWARDS

FINALISTS' SPOTLIGHT

ALLY OF THE YEAR



ALIX MEEKISON

Alix Meekison has spent decades championing equality and representation. Through Meekison, MacKinnon & McGhee, she promotes fair recruitment, supports underrepresented candidates and creates space for diverse voices. She also founded the SAADI Group and uses her platform to encourage more inclusive workplaces across Scotland.



LORRAINE CHAMBERS

Lorraine Chambers has strengthened Heriot-Watt University's support for Black heritage students by developing partnerships with BPUK and AFBE UK, delivering mentoring, internships, networking and employability programmes. Her work has empowered students to build confidence, overcome imposter syndrome, secure graduate opportunities and access tailored career support through strong employer and university collaborations.



MARK MCLANE

Mark McLane is a diversity, equity and inclusion leader who has driven greater representation and accountability across the UK financial services sector. Through leadership at M&G, governance roles, mentoring and partnerships with Black Professionals UK, he has expanded opportunities for Black professionals and championed lasting workplace change.



JACQUI PATON

Jacqui Paton is a dedicated ally and mentor who champions Black talent and creates meaningful opportunities. Through her sponsorship and leadership at NatWest Group, she helped establish a lasting partnership with Black Professionals UK, supporting greater representation, development and inclusion in the workplace.



SCOTT GUNDERSON

Scott Gunderson has used his leadership at Lloyds Banking Group to create opportunities for Black professionals through recruitment, mentoring, networking and career development. Working with EmbRACE and Black Professionals UK, he has helped build confidence, strengthen professional networks and improve access to careers in financial services.



SIMONE MORRIS

Simone Morris is a Talent Acquisition leader who has championed greater access and opportunity for Black professionals through BlackRock's partnership with Black Professionals UK and other Black-led organisations. By advocating for inclusive hiring, strengthening diverse talent pipelines, and creating networking and career development opportunities, she has helped remove barriers and advance lasting representation.

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ALL-STAR INDOOR
CHAMPIONSHIP
2026



SATURDAY
3 OCTOBER
2026

GLASGOW
INTERNATIONAL
ARENA

10:00 AM

180
YOUNG ATHLETES
U12-U20

FAMILY FUN &
ACTIVITIES

A CELEBRATION OF SPEED.

SprintFastest is a youth athletics platform created to bring Scotland's fastest young athletes together to compete, develop and showcase their talent, giving them the opportunity to build confidence through competition, aspire to represent Scotland on bigger stages and inspire others to get involved in sport.

Beyond the racing, SprintFastest is a day for friends, families, clubs, coaches and supporters to come together, cheer on Scotland's young athletes and experience the energy of the sport. Taking place twice a year, SprintFastest is building a platform where young talent can be seen, supported and inspired to keep pursuing athletics.

Join us on 3 October at Glasgow International Arena and be part of the experience.

Interested in sponsoring or partnering with SprintFastest? Get in touch with our team to find out how you can be part of what we're building.

JOIN US ON 3 OCTOBER >

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OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE BLACK COMMUNITY



DR. EUNICE OLUMIDE MBE

Dr. Eunice Olumide MBE is Scotland's first Black supermodel, an award-winning broadcaster, entrepreneur, curator and philanthropist.

Her work has advanced representation, education and cultural inclusion across the UK, influencing policy, supporting the Windrush generation, championing Black creatives, and creating opportunities through the arts, media and community leadership



ANGIE MWAFULIRWA

Angie Mwafulirwa is the founder of Sharpen Her, supporting African and other ethnic minority women through integration, mentoring and advocacy.

An author, researcher and domestic abuse advocate, she also leads Young and Sharp, guiding young people across the UK, Malawi and Zambia while championing refugees, asylum seekers and survivors of gender-based violence.

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THE BLACK SCOTTISH AWARDS

MEET THE JUDGES



Timiebi Oyinpere
Professor Sir Geoff Outstanding Student of the Year Winner, TBSA 2025



Kate McCheyne
Head of Communications, SportScotland



Ian Houston
Author, Hon. Professor & Lecturer University of the West of Scotland



Dr. Susie Mitchell
Programme Director, Glasgow City of Science and Innovation



Kieron Achara
Executive Director, British Basketball Federation

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THE BLACK SCOTTISH AWARDS

FINALISTS' SPOTLIGHT
CREATIVE OF THE YEAR



DARLINGTON TOCHUKWU RAYMOND

Darlington Tochukwu Raymond is a visual artist whose work has been exhibited in Scotland and London. An award-winning artist, he uses his creativity to inspire others through community engagement, mentoring and workshops, encouraging emerging artists to develop their talents and pursue opportunities with confidence.



CAROLE K MILLAR

Carole K. Millar is an award-winning costume designer whose work spans film and television. In 2026, she designed costumes for the Commonwealth Games opening ceremony and earned Emmy recognition. She is also a passionate mentor, encouraging young people from all backgrounds to pursue careers in the creative industries.



ETIENNE KUBWABO

Etienne Kubwabo is an award-winning filmmaker and writer whose work includes documentaries, feature films and over 200 music videos. He created Scotland's first Black superhero, DJ E.T. (Beats of War), and has been featured by BBC and STV. In 2017, he was commissioned by BEMIS Scotland and the Scottish Government.



MOHAMMED SALIHU

Mohammed Salihu is a poet, spoken word artist and filmmaker whose work explores identity, migration, grief and belonging. Author of Voices from the Soil: Wounds and Wisdom, he has performed across Scotland and the UK and developed a Screen Scotland-supported short film celebrating storytelling and lived experience.



CHIMEREOGO NWOKE-CHIMA

Chimereogo Nwoke-Chima is a filmmaker, videographer, and creative producer using storytelling to connect communities and amplify local voices. Through Voices of Torry, original digital productions, and mentoring emerging creatives, he has built a strong reputation while creating opportunities for others and championing Aberdeen's growing creative scene.



DR. EUNICE OLUMIDE MBE

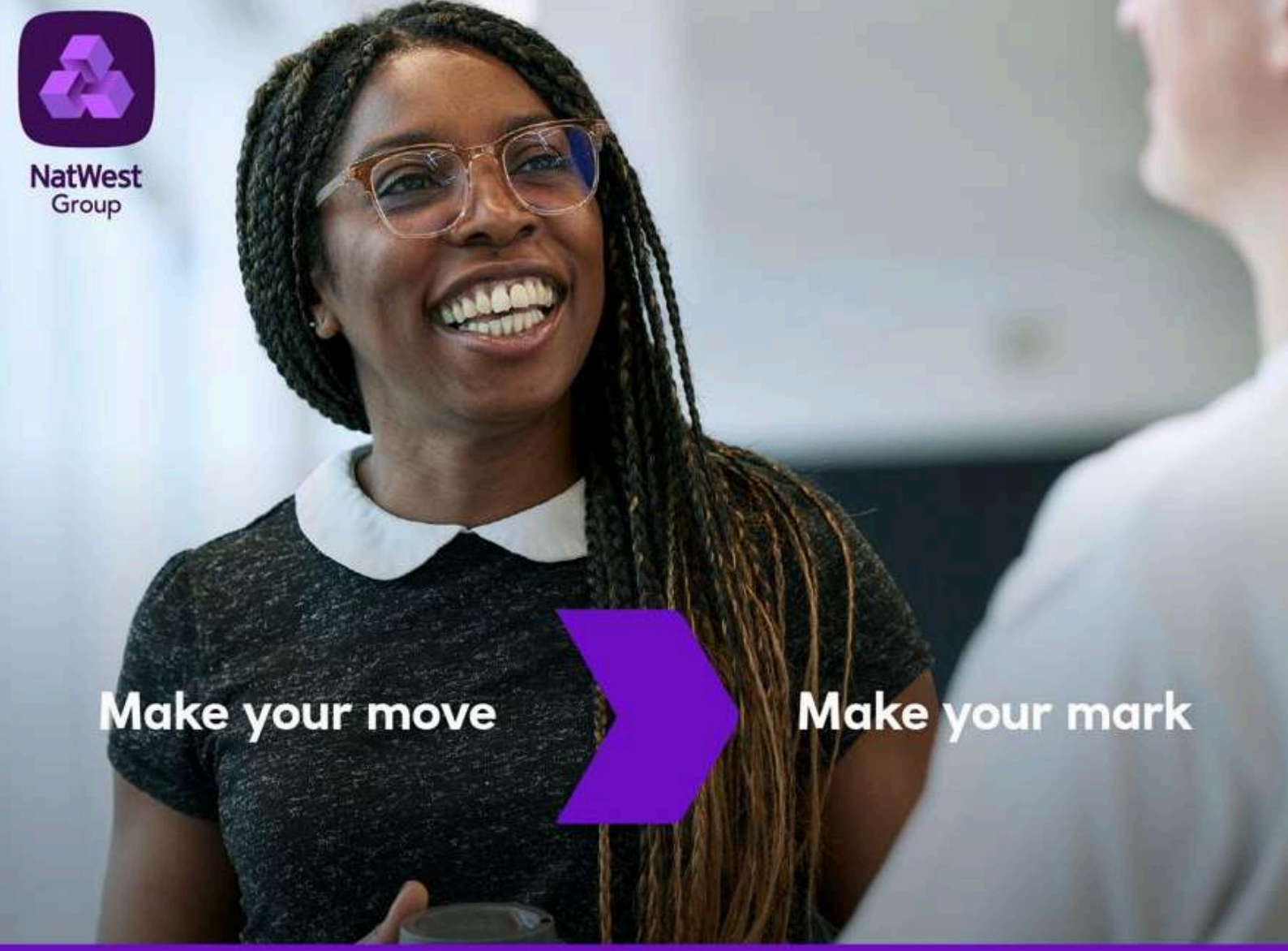
Dr. Eunice Olumide MBE is Scotland's first Black supermodel, an award-winning broadcaster, entrepreneur, curator and philanthropist. Her work has advanced representation, education and cultural inclusion across the UK, influencing policy, supporting the Windrush generation, championing Black creatives, and creating opportunities through the arts, media and community leadership.



VINCE ZAKARI

Vince Zakari is an independent Afrobeat artist and technology professional building an international music career from Scotland. His music has been featured by BBC Introducing Scotland, and he continues to use creativity, resilience, and cultural pride to inspire others while representing Scotland and his Nigerian heritage on the global stage.

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THE BLACK SCOTTISH AWARDS

FINALISTS' SPOTLIGHT

PROFESSIONAL SENIOR LEADER OF THE YEAR



CHI KAVINDELE

Chi Kavindele is Head of Participation and Communities at the Scottish Parliament, leading work that helps underrepresented communities shape public decision-making. His career spans national leadership, community development, and the charity sector, with a focus on inclusion, partnership, and creating opportunities for people whose voices are too often overlooked.



STELLA MARIS

Stella Maris is Rector of the University of St Andrews and President of the University Court, championing student representation, accountability and inclusion. A resilient leader, she has defended democratic governance, free expression and student welfare while working to make institutions more accessible, transparent and responsive to the communities they serve.



DR SOFIAT OLAOSEBIKAN

Dr Sofiat Olaosebikan is a lecturer at the University of Glasgow and founder of Computer Science Academy Africa. An award-winning educator and researcher, she has trained 700+ young people across 13 African countries, advancing computing education, research and leadership while creating pathways for the next generation of tech talent.



AIMA AWENLIMOBOR

Aima Awenlimobor is Vice President at Barclays and Regional Chair of the Black Professionals Resource Group Scotland. With over 18 years in financial services, she champions inclusion, leadership and opportunity, growing BPRG Scotland into a thriving network while creating mentoring, community and early-career initiatives that open doors for others.



BRIAN THABANG NDLOVU

Brian Thabang Ndlovu is a transformation leader with 20 years in financial services, delivering large-scale change across global institutions. Alongside his role at BlackRock, he mentors emerging professionals, champions innovation and inclusion, and leads Ubuntu Logistics, reflecting his commitment to leadership, entrepreneurship and creating opportunities for others.



JOSEPHINE ADEKOLA

Dr. Josephine Adekola is an Associate Professor at the University of Glasgow whose research shapes public health policy, inclusion and health equity. She co-founded FANARC (Female Academic Network for Africa Research and International Collaboration), an international network that connects women researchers across Africa and beyond, co-leads global health research, and leads nationally recognised projects that amplify marginalised voices, influence policy, and strengthen collaboration between academia, communities and government.



DR YEKEMI OTARU

Dr. Yekemi Otaru is CEO of Somebody Cares Scotland, leading programmes that tackle poverty, create opportunities and strengthen communities. An engineer turned charity leader, author and executive coach, she champions evidence-led impact, fair pay and opportunities for young people while serving in senior leadership and board roles across Scotland.

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Clean Water Unlocks Potential

Every achievement starts with opportunity.



WaterAid/ Tom Saater

> **When I am on my period, I feel like not coming to school because I can't bathe in toilets and change my pads. I don't feel comfortable.**
> **Happiness, 13, Lagos, Nigeria**

Clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene are essential for healthy, thriving communities.

Water is something we all need to live, learn and earn. But for many people, a lack of clean water can make everyday life harder.

In Ikorodu North, Lagos, Nigeria, pupils told WaterAid how better water and sanitation at school could help them feel safe, comfortable and able to learn. When these essentials are close to home, children can stay in school, women can pursue their ambitions, businesses can grow, and communities can flourish.

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Celebrating Black excellence in Scotland.

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THE BLACK SCOTTISH AWARDS

FINALISTS' SPOTLIGHT

GLOBAL CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



DR. JUSTINA OBAOYE-AJALA

Dr. Justina Obaoye-Ajala is an international human rights lawyer, United Nations Senior Fellow and advocate for justice, inclusion and diaspora empowerment. She made history as the first African legal practitioner to represent clients in Chinese courts and has influenced policy, strengthened communities and mentored thousands across Africa, Asia and Scotland.



ELIZABETH-MYA CHEMONGES-MURZYNOWSKA

Elizabeth-Mya Chemonges-Murzynowska founded ACAMHA, creating a platform that challenges racism and celebrates diverse communities. Her grassroots leadership has earned international recognition, including representation at the UN Commission on the Status of Women, while her advocacy advances racial, gender and global justice.



INONGE SILUKA

Inonge Siluka founded Restored Hope Zambia after survivors shared experiences of church abuse. Through research, safeguarding training and partnerships across Scotland and Zambia, she has strengthened survivor support, informed national conversations on mental health, and equipped churches, communities and professionals to better recognise, prevent and respond to abuse.



PROFESSOR INNOCENT E CHILUWA

Professor Innocent Chiluwa is a globally recognised scholar and communication expert whose research, teaching and leadership advance social transformation. His work in discourse, media and intercultural communication promotes peace, equity and inclusion, while his international collaborations have influenced global research and policy.



ANGIE MWAFULIRWA

Angie Mwafulirwa is the founder of Sharpen Her, supporting African and other ethnic minority women through integration, mentoring and advocacy. An author, researcher and domestic abuse advocate, she also leads Young and Sharp, guiding young people across the UK, Malawi and Zambia while championing refugees, asylum seekers and survivors of gender-based violence.



EDWARD ENEJOH

Edward Enejoh is a project manager, technology educator and mentor helping professionals worldwide build careers in tech. Through his Tech-Needs-You campaign, mentoring and global partnerships, he has expanded access to digital opportunities, earned industry recognition, and continues creating pathways for underrepresented talent to grow, lead and succeed.



DR. SOFIAT OLAOSEBIKAN

Dr Sofiat Olaosebikan is a lecturer at the University of Glasgow and founder of Computer Science Academy Africa. An award-winning educator and researcher, she has trained 700+ young people across 13 African countries, advancing computing education, research and leadership while creating pathways for the next generation of tech talent.

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THE BLACK SCOTTISH AWARDS

DINNER MENU

STARTER

Cured Salmon · Chermoula · Citrus

Citrus-cured Scottish salmon · green chermoula · compressed cucumber · pickled fennel · orange dressing

MAIN

Zanzibar Chicken & Jollof Rice

Zanzibar-spiced Chicken | Party Jollof | Scottish Kale | Piperade

DESSERT

Triple Chocolate Brownie with Rich Chocolate Sauce & Vanilla Ice Cream

All produce is prepared in an area where allergens are present. For those with allergies, intolerances, and special dietary requirements who may wish to know about the ingredients used, please ask your server.

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THE BLACK SCOTTISH AWARDS

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See you again in 2027!!!

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