

# Guide

to African London





## FOREWORD

London is home to almost 80 per cent of Africans living and working in the UK.

You can find Ethiopian food, made-to-measure evening dresses, Tanzanian fabric, home furnishings – Gambian style, language tapes in Xhosa or Wolof or the best places to go for African film or live music from

Ghana, Nigeria, Congo or Mali.

It's all here and happening in London. Out of Africa and onto the London landscape, African culture can be found and felt throughout the city in a number of venues, at cultural festivals and through organisations that highlight promote or represents Africa in all its contemporary glory.

Our guide to African London taps into a world of arts, entertainment, leisure and history all coming out of the continent and taking place in the capital.

I hope that you will use this guide as your journey map to experience African London at its best

**Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London**

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BEN TV

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## DON'T MISS...KEY DIARY DATES

### 🎪 London African Music Festival

**18 – 20 May**

The annual African music festival bounces back into town and takes its regular space on the South Bank. However, having grown from strength to strength, events this year are also taking place in three other venues; the Coronet Theatre in Elephant & Castle, the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) and Cargo. Organised by the Joyful Noise Music Group, this year's line up includes Funmi Olawuli (Nigeria), Africando (Senegal), Natacha Atlas (Egypt) and Roy Ayers and the African Jazz Allstars amongst many others. Check out the Joyful Noise website for times and prices. [www.joyfulnoise.co.uk](http://www.joyfulnoise.co.uk)

### 🎪 Africa Day on Trafalgar Square

**Monday 28 May 12pm – 7pm**

The Mayor's first annual Africa Day celebration takes place on the last Bank Holiday in May. Celebrating the contribution of London's African communities to the capital, it will feature a range of activities including arts, music, dance, food and crafts. Confirmed artists include Miriam Makeba, African Jazz All Stars and Madina M'Diaye. This year's event forms part of the Mayor's programme of events marking the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade in Britain. Trafalgar Square, WC2. Charing Cross rail. [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)

### 🎪 Word from Africa

**2 – 10 June 2007**

Organised by Africa Beyond, this festival celebrates the diversity and power of African languages in literature, music and the visual arts. The opening launch takes place at the British Museum and will include musicians, poets, storytellers, readings and debates. All events are free but some are ticketed.

[www.bbc.co.uk/africabeyond](http://www.bbc.co.uk/africabeyond) or [www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)

### 🎪 African Village @ RISE: London United

**Sunday 15 July 12pm – 8pm**

Organised by the Mayor of London, RISE: London United is Europe's largest anti-racist festival, offering a blistering choice of live musical performances from all around the world. This free music festival returns to Finsbury Park from noon to 8.30pm this year with family activities, childrens' zone, DJ attractions and more. The African Village is dedicated to showcasing music from the African Diaspora, arts, crafts, workshops and cuisine.

Finsbury Park N4

Finsbury Park tube.

[www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)

## MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Permanent exhibitions of African art are few and far between in London. Your journey to find regular displays will lead you to the British Museum in Central London and the Horniman Museum in Forest Hill.

### British Museum

The British Museum has extensive collections from historic and contemporary societies of Africa, including Egypt after the ancient period. Sculpture includes the famous bronzes from the Kingdom of Benin and contemporary masquerade costumes by artist Sokari Douglas Camp. There is also a large collection of woven textiles and other fabrics. Graphic arts include Modern African prints, paintings and drawings that are collected by the Department of Ethnography, with a library of documentary material that can be seen by appointment.

Sainsbury Wing, The British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1B (020 7323 8000/8299) [www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)

### Horniman Museum

The permanent African Worlds exhibition at the Horniman illustrates the art, culture and traditions from across the African continent. The voices of elders, drummers, artists and curators provide some of the background to many of the objects, artefacts and displays from Benin to Zimbabwe, with some collections from other areas of the diaspora including Trinidad and Brazil.

Horniman Museum, 100 London Road, Forest Hill, SE23 (020 8699 1872) [www.horniman.ac.uk](http://www.horniman.ac.uk)

### Museum of London

The Museum of London has four permanent exhibitions – London before London, Roman London, Medieval London and Early Stuart London – although it also has the Reassessing What We Collect online resource featuring over 500 objects linked to 42 communities who have settled in London from prehistory to the present day. The African London section documents 65 objects from a nineteenth century figurine of an African slave, an 1860s etching of a Moroccan spice seller and seventeenth century bracelets for European trade with Africa.

[www.museumoflondon.org.uk/English/Collections/OnlineResources](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/English/Collections/OnlineResources)

### The October Gallery

Founded in October 1978, this gallery in Bloomsbury exhibits contemporary art from all cultures. Over the years there have been exhibitions by African artists El Anatsui (Ghana), Emmanuel Taiwo Jegede and Sokari Douglas Camp (Nigeria). There are close links between the October Gallery and the nearby School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), which works well for collaborative exhibition production.

October Gallery, 24 Old Gloucester Street, Bloomsbury, London WC1N 3AL (020 7242 7367) [www.octobergallery.co.uk](http://www.octobergallery.co.uk)

### Black Cultural Archives

BCA collects, documents, preserves and disperses the history and culture of black people (of African and Caribbean ancestry) living in Britain, through projects, events and fundraising. [www.bcaheritage.org.uk](http://www.bcaheritage.org.uk)

## EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

### The Atlantic Trade and Identity Season

**22 February 2007 – 10 January 2008**

A range of exhibitions, displays and events that explore the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

The British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1B (020 7323 8000/8299) [www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)

### Uncomfortable Truths – the shadow of slave trading on contemporary art & design

**20 March - 17 June 2007**

Uncomfortable Truths illustrates the impact the legacy of slavery has had on art and design in a series of new works displayed throughout the museum's public spaces. This exhibition commemorates the bicentenary of the Parliamentary abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. Featured artists are Michael Paul Britto and Fred Wilson (USA), Anissa-jane, Lubaina Himid, Keith Piper and Yinka Shonibare (UK), El Anatsui (Ghana), and Tapfuma Gutsa (Zimbabwe), Romuald Hazoumé and Julien Sinzogan (Benin).

Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 2RL (020 7942 2000). South Kensington tube. [www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)

### Portraits, People and Abolition

**March – 22 July 2007**

The National Portrait Gallery has developed a new section of its website showing portraits of key individuals involved in slavery and its abolition. The site also features events, Who's Who, a gallery Abolition trail and other resources.

National Portrait Gallery, 2 St Martin's Place, WC2H 0HE (020 7306 0055). Leicester Square tube/Charing Cross tube/rair [www.npg.org.uk](http://www.npg.org.uk)

Ian Walters' sculptor of Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa and leader of the African National Congress is situated outside Festival Hall, Southbank, Waterloo.

A new statute of Mandela by the same artist is to be placed in Parliament Square in 2007.



## Ghana Jubilee Season

### Until August 2007

To celebrate Ghana's 50th anniversary of independence, the Black Cultural Archives is running a programme of events for all age groups. Until August there will be a dynamic range of activities including youth and family events, exhibitions, lectures and an elders' oral history project. The season has been programmed in collaboration with a range of institutions and community groups in London, including the Royal Geographical Institute, the School of Oriental and African Studies and the British Museum. Phone for event dates and times. Black Cultural Archives, 1 Othello Close, SE1 4RE (020 7582 8516). Kennington tube. [www.bcaheritage.org.uk/ghanajubilee](http://www.bcaheritage.org.uk/ghanajubilee)

## CONFERENCES & LECTURES



### Eric E. Williams Memorial Lecture Series

Lecture II: The Transatlantic Slave Trade and London's Economy

#### Thursday 24 May 2pm – 5pm

Professor Joseph E. Inikori, author of the acclaimed 'Africans and the Industrialised Revolution in England: A Study in International Trade and Economic Development', describes the rapid expansion of finance, insurance and merchant activity in London during the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

City Hall, Queen's Walk, SE1 2AA. London Bridge tube/rail  
[www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)

### The African Century – Transforming the Continent of Opportunity

London Business School Africa Day Conference

#### Saturday 26 May 9am – 5pm

Organised by the Africa Club at London Business School, this is one of Europe's leading business conferences focusing on Africa. This year's conference will focus on promoting sustainable business opportunities in Africa. Confirmed speakers include Colin Coleman (managing director of Goldman Sachs International, South Africa) and Ambassador Valentine Rugwabiza (deputy director for Africa at the World Trade Organisation).

City Hall, The Queen's Walk, SE1 2AA. London Bridge tube/ rail  
For further information email [africa.club@london.edu](mailto:africa.club@london.edu) or visit [www.londonafricaclub.org](http://www.londonafricaclub.org)

### Eric E. Williams Memorial Lecture

Lecture III: Impacts of the Transatlantic Slave Trade on the African Economy

#### Thursday 19 July 6pm – 9pm

This lecture will explore the contemporary economic legacy of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, in particular the impact of the trade on West African communities, issues of poverty eradications and development. The event will be webcast. (6-9pm)

City Hall, Queen's Walk, SE1 2AA.

London Bridge tube/rail [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)

### Faith Symposium: In Gods Name? The Roles of the Church in the Transatlantic Slave Trade

#### Friday 3 August 9.30am – 4.30pm

This conference will examine the involvement of the church in perpetuating slavery and in the eventual campaign to end it. (9.30am-4.30pm)

City Hall, Queen's Walk, SE1 2AA. London Bridge tube/rail

### Black History Season

All year-round listings of events, workshops, news and features celebrating Black History Month.

[www.black-history-month.co.uk](http://www.black-history-month.co.uk)

### The Black Presence in Britain

The history section of this African/British History website provides information on sailors from Africa, the West Indies and India, African troops in WWI, as well as individuals like Paul Boateng, High Commissioner to South Africa, fashion designer Ozwald Boateng and John Blanke, the iconic black trumpeter who played at the courts of Henry VII and Henry VIII.

[www.blackpresence.co.uk](http://www.blackpresence.co.uk)

### The Image of Black

This website traces the images of Africans in European Art through an online picture gallery, features, critical thinking, useful links and event listings. [www.theimageofblack.co.uk](http://www.theimageofblack.co.uk)

## DANCE

No self-respecting guide can ignore the huge impact of African dance. London offers a series of classes and workshops. This section lists a range of arts organisations (or other venues) offering dance classes that promote contemporary and traditional African art forms through education programmes, training or live dance performances.

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

### African Contemporary Dance

These weekly evening classes take place from September-December and January-April. Run by Akosua Boakye the sessions teach African contemporary dance, which encourages participants to discover unique and creative ways of moving. The overall essence is to develop awareness and understanding of your body and how to move with energy, flow and confidence.

Siobhan Davies Studios, 85 St George's Road, London, SE1 6ER (020 7091 9650). Elephant and Castle tube/rail or Lambeth North tube [www.siobhandavies.com](http://www.siobhandavies.com) or [www.akomaasa.com](http://www.akomaasa.com)

### AFRO XPLO

African contemporary dance classes for all levels are offered in seasonal bursts at the Chisenhale Dance Space. Twelve-week dance programmes are offered, each exploring Pan African dance moves.

Chisenhale Dance Space, 64 - 84 Chisenhale Road, E3 5QZ (020 8981 6617). Mile End/Bethnal Green tube [www.chisenhaledancespace.co.uk](http://www.chisenhaledancespace.co.uk)

### Danceafreaka

Still pretty much a new dance craze, Danceafreaka takes place on a weekly bases at the Fitness First sports centres in Brixton (Fridays at 7pm) as well as Lewisham (Mondays at 8.15pm). It involves traditional dance techniques set to African drum music to improve fitness, heart and cardiovascular health, body tone, flexibility, and rhythm.

Fitness First, Blue Star House, 234-244 Stockwell Road, SW9 9SP (020 8123 1927) Brixton tube/rail [www.danceafreaka.com](http://www.danceafreaka.com)

### Drum Jam Community Circles

Classes in African dance (beginners) and African drumming take place every Tuesday from 7-9pm for all ages. The sessions are run by Drum Jam, a rhythmic events entertainment company that organises drumming sessions with children in schools and community groups throughout the country. They also offer drumming sessions to corporate companies and have worked with British Airways, Microsoft and Royal Mail.

Venue for Community Circle classes: St Paul's Church Hall, Behind St. Paul's, St Paul's Rd, Thornton Heath, CR7 8NB.

Drum Jam's London office: Finchley Rd, London, NW3 1AA (0870 199 3264). Finchley Road tube. [www.drumjam.co.uk](http://www.drumjam.co.uk)

### Ernest Brew - African Pot Promotions Ltd

Ernest Brew, is a former member of Ghana National Dance Theatre and Adzido Pan African Dance Ensemble. Through his company African Pot Promotions Ltd he offers classes in traditional dance from all over Africa. Beginners are welcome.

Chats Palace, 42-44 Brooksby's Walk, Chatsworth Road, Homerton, E9 (0208 806 0789/ 07960 667 469). Homerton rail station.

### Francis Angol - Contemporary African Dance

Contemporary and progressive African dance classes with the Movement Angol Company, which was set up by artistic director, choreographer, tutor and performer Francis Angol. Classes take place at both the Central School of Ballet and Islington Arts Factory.

Central School of Ballet: 10 Herbal Hill, Clerkenwell Road, EC1R 5EG (020 7837 6332). Farringdon/Holborn/Chancery Lane tube. Buses 19, 38, 45, 46.

Islington Arts Factory: 2 Parkhurst Road, London N7 (0207 607 0561). Holloway Road/Caledonian Road tube. Buses : 4, 17, 29, 91, 153, 253, 259, 271, 279, 359.

## ORGANISATIONS

### Alé Douvan

A project initiated by local people, Alé Douvan was set up to promote African and Caribbean dance, music, art and history. The underlying aim is to foster an appreciation of these art forms and to encourage racial and cultural integration within the community.

Kingsley Hall, Powis Road, Bromley-by-Bow, London, E3 3HJ (020 8980 3232). Bromley-by-Bow tube.

### Association of Dance from the African Diaspora (ADAD)



Allied to Dance UK ([www.danceuk.com](http://www.danceuk.com)), ADAD promotes, supports and develops a robust infrastructure for African diasporic dance in Britain through collaborations between projects and individuals, support for artists through forums and publications and also by offering educational programmes. ADAD, Urdang, Finsbury Town Hall, Roseberry Avenue, London EC1R 4QT (020 7713 0730) Angel Tube [www.adad.org.uk](http://www.adad.org.uk)

### Badejo Arts

School workshops, youth dance projects and training for dance professionals in contemporary African people's dance is all provided at Badejo Arts, which was founded in 1990 by Artistic Director Peter Badejo. The combination of education programmes and live performances focuses on a blend of traditional Nigerian dance with British contemporary movement.

Interchange Studios, Hampstead Town Hall Centre, 213 Haverstock Hill, NW3 4QP (0207 435 7030). Belsize Park/Chalk Farm tube. [www.badejoarts.co.uk](http://www.badejoarts.co.uk)

### **Frititi Traditional African Drumming and Dance Ltd**

Meaning 'ancient' in the Akan language of Ghana, Frititi is a performing arts company whose focus is on traditional African drumming and dance. Founded by Nii Tagoe in 1993 as a non-profit organisation, the company offers workshops, performances, youth programmes and also promotes new artists. Regular dance classes take place in south London.

Brixton Art Space, Ground Floor Studios, 130 Brixton Hill SW2 1RS (020 7923 0585/079 4411 6687). Brixton tube/rail. Buses 133, 45, 109, 59, 159, 250, 333, 118. [www.frititi.com](http://www.frititi.com)

### **Gbefaloi Cultural Group**

Gbefaloi (pronounced Befaloy) comes from the Ga dialect of Ghana and refers to 'travellers' who collected and shared knowledge of traditional drumming, dancing and story telling wherever they went. The meaning ultimately taps into the ethos of this company, which comprises of a diverse group of UK-based drummers and dancers from England, Ghana and Trinidad & Tobago. Workshops and residencies in traditional African and Caribbean dance, drumming and storytelling takes place in primary and secondary schools, libraries and museums and community organisations, while dance classes for all ages are run in specific London venues.

Gbefaloi Cultural Group, 11 Rothesay Court, Cumberland Place, Catford SE6 1NB (0208 488 1623)

[www.gbefaloidance.com](http://www.gbefaloidance.com)



### **Nzinga Dance**

Nzinga Dance is an African and Caribbean cultural performing arts ensemble comprising of members who have worked together for years. The company provides educational classes, courses in African and Caribbean dance and music and also performs throughout the country. Check out the website for details of venues where classes take place.

[www.nzingadance.co.uk](http://www.nzingadance.co.uk)

### **Semekor Performing Arts**

Led by Mohammed Dordoh, Semekor Performing Arts is striving to maintain the tradition of African dance forms through educational work and performance. The company provides traditional and contemporary African drumming, street dance, Afrobeat, High-Life, Hip-Life and storytelling.

Phone for details of classes and audition rounds for involvement with Semekor. (07803 710 121/07932 754 470)

[www.semekordance.com](http://www.semekordance.com)

## **THEATRE**

Treading the boards, African-style...

### **African Theatre Association**

An international non-profit society for scholars and practitioners of African performance and theatre. This Association runs an annual conference to explore African theatre processes and also produces a journal, the African Performance Review.

[www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/AfTA](http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/AfTA)

### **Tiata Fahodzi**

A national touring theatre company producing excellent work that explores the heritage of theatre inspired and sourced by those living within British African communities. London venues that have hosted Fahodzi's productions include Soho Theatre, Oval House and Theatre Royal, Stratford East.

[www.tiatafahodzi.com](http://www.tiatafahodzi.com)

### **Theatre for a Change**

Theatre for a Change is a UK registered charity with a board of Trustees drawn from the arts, media and development. It is also registered as a Non-Governmental Organisation in Ghana and has a Project Management Committee headed by the Director of The British Council, Ghana. Issues tackled through performances and interactive workshops are health and rights for young people.

[www.theatreforchange.com](http://www.theatreforchange.com)

### **Joe Guy**

**Wednesday 24 October – Thursday 25 November**

This play explores the African/Caribbean divide in modern Britain, seen through the eyes of a young Ghanaian celebrity. Produced in association with New Wolsey Theatre Ipswich and Soho Theatre.

21 Dean Street, London W1D 3NE (0870 429 6883). Tottenham Court Road tube

[www.sohotheatre.com](http://www.sohotheatre.com)

## MUSIC & NIGHTLIFE

### 🎵 Africa on Your Street

BBC3's AOYS site covers African music by country or artist, as well as gigs, events, features and recommended CDs. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio3/africaonyourstreet/links.shtml>

### 🎵 Afrolution

Sign up for a regular newsletter, reviews and information from this swiftly-growing African hip hop music label [www.afrolution.com](http://www.afrolution.com)

### 🎵 African Writers' Evening

A bi-monthly event featuring African writers at the Poetry Café in Covent Garden. Guest writers have included Brian Chikwava, Jack Mapanje and Helen Oyeyemi. Readings take place on the third Friday of the month in May, July, September & November.

[www.x-bout.com/awe](http://www.x-bout.com/awe)

Poetry Cafe, 22 Betterton Street, Covent Garden, WC2 9BX (020 7420 9887). Covent Garden tube

### 🎵 Eric Soul presents Afrogroov

#### Fortnightly on Wednesdays

This fortnightly event takes place upstairs at the Ritzy Cinema on Wednesdays. Presented by Eric Soul, the night features a fusion of DJs and live acts providing music from across the African continent, with Dakar, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone Uganda and Rio represented on the decks. The night starts at 8pm and is free.

The Ritzy Café, Coldharbour Lane, Brixton, SW2 (7733 2229).

Brixton tube/rail/buses

### 🎵 Out of Africa

#### Saturday 7 July & Saturday 24 November

Produced and promoted by Hatch Events, Out of Africa is high up on the clubbing and live gigging scene. Held annually in March, July and November at The Spitz club, the night has featured Ghanaian highlife, Zulu Warrior dancing, Nigerian talking drums, Kwaito, Gum-Boot dancing, Capoeira, Break dancing, Afrobeat and more.

The Spitz, 109 Commercial Street, E1 6BG (020 7247 9747).

Liverpool Street tube/rail

General info: [www.outofafrica-london.com](http://www.outofafrica-london.com) (07967 362 551)

## RESTAURANTS, CAFÉS & BARS



London is bursting with African cuisine and there is a growing restaurant sector that has been steadily drawing in a mixed clientele who are getting a taste of traditional Ethiopian, Eritrean, Nigerian, Moroccan, Ghanaian and Egyptian cuisine amongst a few others. There's no doubt that Africa offers a delectable table of international influences, with historical culinary links between Africa, the Caribbean, the Middle East and Europe, all of which are reflected in the diverse African menus that London has to offer.

### 🎵 Abyssinia (Ethiopian)

The former name of Ethiopia is well represented at this restaurant, which serves traditional East African dishes at very good prices. Options like spring greens cooked with ginger, spiced meats with bulgar wheat or enjera and hot stew are all popular here.

9 Cricklewood Broadway, NW2 3JX (020 8208 0110). Kilburn tube

### 🎵 Addis (Ethiopian)

A comfortable and well-designed restaurant. Addis serves Ethiopian food in the wonderful interior of sunset-hued walls with traditional eating from mesabs (hand woven dome-topped tables).

42 Caledonian Road, N1 9DT (020 7278 0697). King's Cross tube/rail

### 🎵 African Kitchen Gallery (West African)

A snug little enclave for African food in NW1. The menu actually combines West African and Caribbean cooking from an Iberian chef who throws some of his own influences into the choices here. Worth booking a table at lunchtimes as space can be tight.

102 Drummond Street, NW1 2HN (020 7383 0918). Euston Square tube/ Euston tube/rail.

### 🎵 Ali Baba (Egyptian)

One of only a few Egyptian restaurants in London, Ali Baba serves beautifully flavoured meals such as vine leaves stuffed with seasoned rice, chargrilled lamb and baked vegetable dishes with warm sultanas.

32 Ivor Place, NW1 6DA (020 7723 7474).

Baker Street tube/Marylebone tube/rail.

### **Asmara (Eritrean)**

Perhaps the best thing on Coldharbour Lane if you have a desire for African food. Alongside stews and multiple portions of enjera doughbread, there are also pasta dishes, which is a strange addition, but a reminder of the country's brief rule by Italy.  
386 Coldharbour Lane, SW9 8LF (020 7737 4144). Brixton tube/rail.

### **805 Bar Restaurant (Nigerian)**

An area favourite for well-heeled Nigerians looking for expertly-cooked South Nigerian cuisine. 805 Restaurant is a large space on the long stretch of the Old Kent Road. Service is from uniformed staff and dishes and music is a good combination of African and jazz.  
805-807 Old Kent Road, SE15 1NX (020 7639 0808).  
Elephant & Castle tube/rail. Buses 21, 53.

### **Gold Coast (Ghanaian)**

A Ghanaian bar and restaurant with a twist. The menu gives a nod to South African, North African, Nigerian, French, international as well as Ghanaian cuisine. A truly global ethos. Parties and events take place regularly.  
224 Portland Road, South Norwood, SE25 4QB (020 8676 1919).  
Norwood Junction rail.

### **Jollof Pot (Ghanaian)**

Jollof Pot (020 8254 5333) is not a restaurant (yet) but actually a thriving catering company that's a popular fixture at a series of London festivals (Out of Africa, London Architectural Biennale, Coin Street Festival, Thames Festival). The company also operates weekday outlets at Exmouth Market and Broadway Market and is a favourite for spicy stews, soups and creative side dishes, all essentially from the Akan region of Ghana. Check out their website for a sample menu.  
Exmouth Market, (Junction of Farringdon Road and Rosebery Avenue), EC1R. Farringdon tube/rail Broadway Market, (London Fields End), E8  
www.jollofpot.co.uk

### **Lalibela (Ethiopian)**

A split-level restaurant that's decked out with Ethiopian artefacts throughout. Upstairs window seating or low-level tables with cushions are popular. Downstairs by the bar there's more seating plus the added attraction of a mini art gallery with carvings, paintings and photographs by east African artists.  
137 Fortress Road, NW5 2HR (020 7284 0600).  
Tufnell Park/Kentish Tow tube/rail.

### **Mama Calabar (Nigerian)**

Mama Calabar has fairly recently moved from Hendon to Wembley. Well-known for good quality Nigerian food, the new restaurant is actually found within an office block, which is a bit disconcerting. However, once inside the building, the décor doesn't disappoint.  
Mama Calabar, 2-4 Empire Way, Wembley, HA9 0XA  
(020 8902 2277). Wembley Central/Wembley Park tube.

### **Merkato Restaurant (Ethiopian)**

A few years ago Merkato downsized from a large restaurant and cultural centre to this small and friendly café with a modern interior. A favoured spot for East African students and families, meals are well priced and staff are friendly.  
196 Caledonian Road, NI OSL (020 7713 8952). King's Cross tube/rail

### **Momo (North African)**

Momo is a club, a bar and a restaurant. The food served is a blend of authentic North African cuisine with a contemporary twist. The sumptuous Moorish setting draws in a very broad client base.  
25 Heddon Street, WIB 4BH (020 7434 4040). Piccadilly Circus tube

### **Mosob (Eritrean)**

A warm and friendly family-run restaurant with a broad clientele who stop by for takeaways or full-blown sit down meals.  
339 Harrow Road, W9 3RB (020 7266 2012). Westbourne Park tube.

### **Obalende Suya (Nigerian)**

A thriving restaurant in East London, Obalende Suya also has a popular takeaway on Peckham High Road. Nigerian food here includes jollof rice and suya grills with chicken, lamb and fish. The whole business has come a long way since it started life as a small mobile service in Elephant and Castle market back in 1987.  
523 Kingsland Road, E8 4AR (020 7275 0171). Dalston Kingsland rail.  
Buses 38, 67, 76, 149.

### **Ovation Restaurant (Nigerian)**

Ovation offers a contemporary take on African dining in this Bermondsey-based restaurant and bar, specialising in Nigerian dishes.  
166b Tower Bridge Road, SE1 3LS (020 7378 7989). London Bridge tube/rail

### **Senke (Ethiopian)**

Close to the Arsenal Stadium Senke offers a highly spiced palate of Ethiopian dishes. Hot stews, with chicken or meat are served with enjera and can be ordered individually or as part of larger platters with a range of selected African dishes.  
1b-1c Rock Street, N4 2DN (020 7359 7687). Finsbury Park tube/rail

### **Souk Medina (Moroccan)**

A sister-restaurant to the longer-established Souk, found around the corner. SM has a specifically modern feel with a long cocktail bar and a lounge, although there's still enough in the way of North African décor to give you the sense of being in a kasbah.  
1a Shorts Gardens, WC2H 9AT (020 7240 1796). Covent Garden tube

### 🌀 Zaytouna (Moroccan)

Stepping into this three-storey restaurant can feel like entering a world within a world. North African carpets, traditional tiling and artefacts have all been sourced by a Moroccan designer. Food includes tagines (stews) with spiced lamb, fish or sausage and all come with complimentary cous cous.

45 Frith Street, W1D 4DS (020 7494 9008). Tottenham Court Road tube.

## SHOPPING

From books and music to fashion and textiles, this selection of London shops takes you on an African journey across the capital.

## BOOKS

### 🌀 Arthur Probsthain Oriental and African Bookseller

You'll find books on African, Asian and Middle Eastern languages, art, architecture, archaeology, literature and religion at this long-established shop that sits opposite the British Museum.

41 Great Russell Street, WC1 (020 7636 1096). Russell Square, Tottenham Court Road tube.

### 🌀 Ayebia

Publishers and literary agents for African and Caribbean writing. The site offers a news archive as well as information on books and reviews of new works.

[www.ayebia.co.uk](http://www.ayebia.co.uk)

### 🌀 Grant and Cutler (books and films)

There's a section on World language at Grant and Cutler bookshop. This includes some African dialects such as Shona, Xhosa, Zulu, Amharic and Wolof. There are also selected African DVDs and videos.

55-57 Great Marlborough Street, W1 (020 7734 2012). Oxford Circus tube.

### 🌀 Headstart Books and Crafts (books and crafts)

Tottenham-based Headstart has a compact space filled with a range of books, crafts and artefacts with an African diasporic theme.

25 West Green Road, N15 (8802 2838). Seven Sisters tube.

### 🌀 Sable Litmag

An international publication for writers 'of colour'. Writing from Africa has a strong focus, while creative writing courses are organised by Sable as is the International Sable Lit festival, which takes place in Gambia in July this year.

[www.sablelitmag.org](http://www.sablelitmag.org)

### 🌀 Wasafiri

The 23-year-old literary magazine provides features writing from Africa, the Caribbean, South Asia and Black Britain.

(020 7556 6110) [www.wasafiri.org](http://www.wasafiri.org)

### 🌀 Yemanjá (books and crafts)

Books, jewellery, African crafts, sculptures and accessories are sold here. Phone for details of black history classes.

7 Stroud Green Road, N4 (7281 8668). Finsbury Park tube/rail.



## ARTS AND CRAFTS

### 🌀 Africa Beyond

The Africa Beyond website launched on 6 March 2007, the same day as Ghana's 50th year of independence. A hub for information, discussion and exploration of African arts, the organisation also partners with other arts organisation on African-themed cultural events.

[www.bbc.co.uk/africabeyond](http://www.bbc.co.uk/africabeyond)

### 🌀 Heritage Ceramics

Founded in 1984, Heritage Ceramics is a collective of highly trained and practising African artists and designers based in Middlesex. A fully equipped studio provides comprehensive in-house vocational training in all aspects of ceramics, pottery and sculpture (basic and advanced). Unit A5, Aladdin Business Centre, 426 Long Drive, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 8UH.

For further information telephone 020 8575 0500 email [info@heritageceramics.org](mailto:info@heritageceramics.org) or visit [www.heritageceramics.org](http://www.heritageceramics.org)

### 🌀 Tribal Gathering London (crafts and gifts)

A shop and gallery space, Tribal Gathering sells masks, sculptures, furniture, jewellery and paintings from Angola, Zambia, Somalia and other African countries.

1 Westbourne Grove Mews, W11 (020 7221 6650). Notting Hill Gate tube/Westbourne Park tube.

### **Guruve**

An online gallery and ethical business promoting contemporary African art. The site features information on artists from sub-Saharan Africa working in a range of media. Guruve's offline activities include UK exhibitions and a regular stall at Spitalfields Traders' Market, Brushfield Street, London E1 (Liverpool Street tube/rail/bus) Tuesday to Friday 11am – 3pm by request.  
[www.guruve.com](http://www.guruve.com)

### **Kambani**

This not-for-profit arts organisation was set up with the aim of supporting under-represented African artists and engaging children in cultural awareness initiatives through programmes of creative writing and other artistic expression.  
[www.kambani.com](http://www.kambani.com)

### **Black Women in the Arts**

BWA supports and promotes the artistic works of women from the African and African-Caribbean communities in the UK through programming events aimed at semi-established and new artists working across the visual and performing arts as well as other areas of the creative industries.  
[www.blackwomenart.org.uk](http://www.blackwomenart.org.uk)

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## **FASHION & TEXTILES**

### **The African Waistcoat Company (tailored fashion)**

Specialists in waistcoats made from hand woven cloth. You can choose your fabric from classic patterns or the latest designs created by Yoruba traditional weavers.  
33 Islington Green, Camden Passage, N1 8DU (020 77049698).  
Angel tube.

### **Pempamsie (fashion and crafts)**

Pempamsie Contemporary African clothing, jewellery, books, art and home furnishings are all found at this boutique store in Brixton Hill.  
102 Brixton Hill, SW2 (020 8671 0800). Brixton tube/rail.  
Buses 109, 133, 159

### **Nubian Natural (health and body)**

The range of health, body and beauty products at Nubian Natural are based on traditional African ingredients. There are natural shea butter hair care products, lotions, creams, body scrubs and soaps as well as gifts, books, candles, jewellery and cards.  
3 Vining Street, SW9 (020 7733 8277). Brixton tube/rail.

### **African Connection (cloth and accessories)**

African fabrics can be bought from this small venue in Brixton, which also sells West African gold and other accessories.  
6 Tunstall Road, SW9 (7501 9445). Brixton tube/rail.  
Joss Graham Oriental Textiles (clothes and textiles)  
Antique and contemporary clothes are sold here, as are objects and handmade textiles from Africa. Fabric comes in complete pieces, with orders imported from West Africa.  
10 Eccleston Street, SW1 (020 7730 4370). Victoria tube/rail.

### **Nasseri Fabrics (textiles)**

A small shop with a huge range of African textiles – mainly from Holland. Nasseri has a sister branch in East London.  
38 Atlantic Road, SW9 (020 7274 5627). Brixton tube/rail.  
41 Wentworth Street, E1 7TD (020 7375 2706)

### **Rontex Fabrics (textiles)**

West African textiles are found at Rontex who also export to other countries. 11-15 Cricklewood Broadway, NW2 (020 8208 1236).  
Kilburn tube.

## MARKETS

Other good areas for African food and also African textiles are some of London's markets – or the areas surrounding them...

### **Brixton Market**

Brixton's lively indoor and outdoor markets are the site of Europe's largest selection of African and Caribbean foods. The market has been a local landmark for decades. It opens six days a week providing everything from tropical fruit, vegetables, herbs and spices to cloth, books and jewellery.

Electric Avenue, Pope's Road, Brixton Station Road, Atlantic Road, SW9 (020 7926 2530), Brixton tube/rail

### **Dalston Market**

Amongst the stalls at Dalston's market on Ridley Road, there are those selling African music, textiles, and food including yams, plantain, peppers and spices.

Ridley Road, E8. Dalston Kingsland rail/30, 38, 56, 67, 76, 149, 236, 242, 243, 277 bus.

### **Petticoat Lane**

A huge historical market complex that's over 400 years old. Petticoat Lane sells everything from household goods to leather jackets. A few of the shops along the Middlesex Street end also sell African fabrics, which are popular with much of East London's West African community. Check out Eko Fabrics (71 Middlesex Street), Premier Textiles (77 Middlesex Street), Vogue Embroideries (81 Middlesex Street), Hello Dolly (89 Middlesex Street), Middlesex Textiles (93 Middlesex Street) and Good Luck Textiles (97 Middlesex Street).

### **Shepherd's Bush Market**

This market sits between Uxbridge Road and Goldhawk Road and has a range of stalls selling African music, food and textiles.

Uxbridge Rd and Goldhawk Rd, W12. Shepherd's Bush/Goldhawk Road tube.

## LANGUAGES

### **Uwand Igbo**

Uwand igbo is a website dedicated to the promotion of Igbo language, literature and culture.

The beauty of Uwand igbo is the lively and informative online discussions at our forum. Whether you are a beginner in Igbo or a seasoned linguist who has "been there done that", we urge you to stick around. There is something here for everyone.

<http://uwandiigbo.com/wb/>

### **Swahili**

The Swahili is the name given to the coastal people who historically could be found as far North as Mogadishu (Somalia) and as far south as the Rovuma River (Mozambique). They share a common language, widely spoken by non-Swahilis, called Ki-Swahili, and enjoy a city-based fusion of African and Arab culture.

[www.swahilionline.com](http://www.swahilionline.com)

## FILM, TELEVISION & RADIO

### FILM

#### **Afro Hollywood Awards**

Afro Hollywood is an annual award ceremony to honour individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the development of African films and help to promote greater understanding of African cultural values within the multi-cultural European society and particularly in Britain. Details of these awards are featured in African press and media.

#### **Screen Nation Film & Television Awards**

The Screen Nation Film and TV awards are the only annual international celebration of achievement within black world cinema and TV in the UK. After only a few years these awards have achieved high regard and status and have confirmed itself as an industry recognised event.

[www.screennation.co.uk](http://www.screennation.co.uk)

### TELEVISION

#### **BEN TV**

The Bright Entertainment Network (BEN TV) has a regular audience of over one million viewers and transmits on BSKYB channel 184. Programmes have both an African and a Caribbean focus.

(020 8808 8800) [www.bentelevision.com](http://www.bentelevision.com)



#### **Blaz TV**

Zimbabwe's only online TV network presented by the tongue in cheek Brett de Souza and Happiness Mabrugwa. It highlights the news, views and music of rising Zim artists and has created an online community in London, the rest of Europe and many African countries.

[www.blaz.co.uk](http://www.blaz.co.uk)

### **OBE TV**

Launched in 2003, OBE TV is a 24-hour satellite channel that's free to view on SKY DIGITAL Channel 159. Created for people of African descent in the UK and around the world, submitted programmes cover entertainment and education, with documentaries and review programmes featuring stories from across the African diaspora. (0870 240 4474). [www.obetv.co.uk](http://www.obetv.co.uk)

### **PASSION TV**

African Movie Channel

African Movie Channel is the first and only digital TV channel of its kind outside Africa, dedicated solely to top quality African movies from Nollywood (the very popular Nigerian film industry, and the third largest film industry in the world behind Hollywood and Bollywood), and other major African film production houses. [www.africanmoviechannel.com](http://www.africanmoviechannel.com)

## RADIO

### **AfroSoundsFM**

Run by the Afro Media Association, AfroSoundsFM is a worldwide network of Zimbabwean and other African broadcasters. Programmes include shows interviews, musicals, sports and more. [www.afrosoundsfm.com](http://www.afrosoundsfm.com)

### **BBC Network Africa**

Part of the BBC World Service, Network Africa is a magazine programme covering news, music, sport and lifestyle. Presenters include David Amanor, Hassan Arouni, Alex Jakana and Bola Mosuro. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/networkafrica>

### **Colourful Radio**

'Talk radio with soul' is the tagline for Colourful Radio, whose format includes news, current affairs, documentary, phone-ins, panel discussions and music 24-hours a day. The focus is on 'black' London with specific shows featuring issues from or about Africa. Live programming from 9am to 9pm can be heard online or on Sky Channel 0194 in the UK and Eurobird satellite across Europe. [www.colourfulradio.com](http://www.colourfulradio.com)

### **Destination Africa**

BBC 1Xtra's DJ Edu presents this show, which is a mix of spicy underground sounds out of Africa from hip hop and RnB to dancehall and garage. [www.bbc.co.uk/1xtra/djedu](http://www.bbc.co.uk/1xtra/djedu)

### **Nostalgie Ya Mboka**

London's only Congolese radio show. Run on a voluntary basis, it's also the only one to regularly feature old sounds from the Congo. You can listen on Resonance Radio (104.4FM) or via [www.resonancefm.com](http://www.resonancefm.com) [www.nostalgjeyamboka.net](http://www.nostalgjeyamboka.net)

### **Voice of Africa Radio**

The London-based African community radio station based can be heard on Sky Digital 0192. It has news, events and a website with photo galleries and online forums. [www.voiceofafricaradio.com](http://www.voiceofafricaradio.com)

### **Radio Sahar**

Is a broad range radio service aimed at the UK Somalian community, playing music and providing information and discussions on issues such as health, immigration and education. It will be transmitted 24 hours a day, seven days a week. 15 Waldergrave Drive, London , SE19 2AL (07719 315 946)

### **GFM Radio**

GFM radio.com is an internet radio providing African and Caribbean music and programs in various languages presented live over the web 24 hours a day 365 days a year. Hilton Grove Business Centre, Hatherly Mews, London, E17 4QP (020 8520 1355) [www.gfmradio.com](http://www.gfmradio.com) Broadcasts in English, French Swahili, Patwa, Ndebele, Zulu, Yoruba, Igbo, Twi, Ga.

## MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS & WEBSITES

Written words by, for or about African writers...

### **Africa BBC News**

This site provides World and UK news, features, business stories and entertainment from all over Africa. [www.news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/Africa](http://www.news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/Africa)

### **Africa Photos**

An online stock library of images of Africa for newspapers, magazines, and other organisations. Photos are listed by subject or place, and the site also has a series of documentary photo essays with work from both African and foreign photographers whose work has been published worldwide. [www.africaphotos.com](http://www.africaphotos.com)

### **Africa Today**

Political stories, sport and commentary from Africa. (020 8838 5900) [www.africatoday.eh7.co.uk/cgi-bin/public.cgi](http://www.africatoday.eh7.co.uk/cgi-bin/public.cgi)

### African Voice

Weekly newspaper distributed across London  
[www.africanvoice.co.uk](http://www.africanvoice.co.uk)



### Artspeakafrika

Independent curator and critic Bisi Silva's blog features contemporary visual art and culture from Africa, with a strong focus on life in Lagos and Nigeria. [www.artspeakafrika.blogspot.com](http://www.artspeakafrika.blogspot.com)

### Blacknet

A comprehensive portal for news, articles, information and campaigns by and about the African, Caribbean or 'black' communities in London, UK and abroad. Articles are submitted by users who can discover and share content that's close to the heart. The site features profiles of many countries within Africa.  
[www.blacknet.co.uk](http://www.blacknet.co.uk)

### Click Afrique

An online magazine with stories on African life, its people, culture, business and sport.  
[www.clickafrique.com](http://www.clickafrique.com)

### Colourful Network

The umbrella organisation for the Black Britain online magazine, Black Enterprise publisher of business news, Colourful talk radio, Colourful TV, Live 247 PR and newswire service – all of which are aimed at the African and Caribbean communities in the UK and abroad.  
[www.colourfulnetwork.net](http://www.colourfulnetwork.net)



### Eastern Art Report

An online magazine that features reports on developments in African art and art history in the context of the international contemporary art scene and western attitudes to non-western art.  
[www.eapgroup.com/africanart0.htm](http://www.eapgroup.com/africanart0.htm)

### New African Magazine

Owned by IC Publications, New African Magazine and also African Business cover government, business, social and cultural development in emerging markets in Africa.  
[www.africasia.com/newafrican](http://www.africasia.com/newafrican)

### Reuters Africa

The global information company, Reuters, has an Africa portal covering financial and breaking news as well as features about Africa for a consumer-targeted audience. There's also a continent-wide network of bloggers. <http://africa.reuters.com>

### South African Times

SA Times encourages debate around issues affecting South Africa and its citizens across the



globe. It is a free publication and can be picked up every Wednesday from street dispensers in central London, as well as at various retail outlets, bars, restaurants, companies and at meetings of clubs, societies and churches across the UK. It is also available to subscribers by first class mail anywhere in the world. 5 Alt Grove, Wimbledon, London, SW19 4DZ, (0845 270 7885)  
[www.southafricatimes.co.uk](http://www.southafricatimes.co.uk)

### What's on Ghana

Part of the What's On Ghana website, you can log onto the blog for the latest in events information and news.  
([whatsonghana.blogspot.com](http://whatsonghana.blogspot.com)) via [www.whatsonghana.com](http://www.whatsonghana.com)



### Somali Eye Magazine

A bi-lingual free magazine, written for London and British Somali communities.  
(020 8980 9771) [www.somalivoice.org](http://www.somalivoice.org)

### Aspire Magazine

A high quality magazine combining the glamour of fashion, beauty and entertainment with an array of intelligent, informative and thought-provoking editorials.  
PO Box 2065, Emmer Green, Reading, RG4 8UE  
[www.aspiremagazine.net/new/](http://www.aspiremagazine.net/new/)

## ORGANISATIONS

Information, advice, youth activities and government campaigning are some of the focus points of the non-profit organisations listed here.

### African Writers Abroad

AWA is a membership organisation that supports writers of African descent who live outside the continent.  
[www.africanwritersabroad.org.uk](http://www.africanwritersabroad.org.uk)

### Cameroon Forum

Launched in 2007, the Cameroon Forum creates a platform that supports and encourages Cameroonians living in the UK to harness their skills and expertise for the mutual social, economic and cultural advancement of the Cameroonian community in the UK and in Cameroon.  
For further information email [info@cameroon-forum.co.uk](mailto:info@cameroon-forum.co.uk) or visit [www.cameroon-forum.co.uk](http://www.cameroon-forum.co.uk)

### Kenya Club

Established in 2003, the Kenya Club is an independent network of Kenyan professionals and entrepreneurs. Through regular networking meetings and events, the Club aims to harness the collective skills of Kenyans for the economic development and prosperity of Kenya.  
For further information visit [www.kenyaclub.org](http://www.kenyaclub.org) or [www.networking4professionals.com](http://www.networking4professionals.com)

### **French-Speaking African General Council**

Founded in 2001, this organisation provides high quality advice services to meet the needs of French speaking African refugees and asylum seekers living in the UK.

For further information visit [www.fsa-gc.org.uk](http://www.fsa-gc.org.uk)  
email [fsa\\_general\\_council@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fsa_general_council@yahoo.co.uk) or phone 020 8320 2211

### **Africa Club at London Business School**

The Africa Club is a student-run organisation which brings together London Business School students, alumni, and professionals from around the world, all of who share an interest in Africa.

[www.londonafricaclub.org](http://www.londonafricaclub.org)

### **African Image Alliance**

An arts organisation whose main mission is to work towards a more positive portrayal of Africa, Africans and African culture in the Diaspora.

[www.africanimagealliance.org](http://www.africanimagealliance.org)

### **Cape Verde in London**

Cape Verde in London was set up in January 2006 to provide a 'meeting place' for Cape Verdeans living in London and the rest of the UK.

Via the web there is news of events and general topics.

[www.capeverdeinlondon.co.uk](http://www.capeverdeinlondon.co.uk)

### **East African Society**

This London-based charity was set up in 2003 to meet the changing needs of the East African community in Britain.

[www.easociety.org](http://www.easociety.org)

### **Ghana Union London**

Umbrella organisation for 95 affiliated Ghanaian groups in the UK. It provides support, advice and guidance Ghanaians living and working in London. For further information visit [www.ghanaunion.demon.co.uk](http://www.ghanaunion.demon.co.uk) or phone 020 7263 3224

### **Royal African Society**

Based at the School of Oriental and African Studies, RAS is over 100 years old. The organisation promotes Africa's cause in Britain through its journal and also by organising meetings, discussions and other activities. [www.royalafricansociety.org](http://www.royalafricansociety.org)

### **The African Families Foundation (TAFF)**

Founded in 1998 TAFF is the umbrella body for a pan-African network of community-based organisations in the UK. TAFF and network members recognise the family unit, whatever its composition, as the foundation for effective and positive personal and community development. For further information visit [www.taffuk.net](http://www.taffuk.net) email [afriam@aol.com](mailto:afriam@aol.com) or phone 020 7358 7000

## **WOMEN'S GROUPS**

This section lists some helpful contacts for organisations that have been set up to support African women in London, whether it's education, training or a sense of community needed for those who are new to the country.

### **African Refugee Women's Access to Education and Training Project**

38 King Street, WC2E 8JR (020 7836 5075)

### **African Women's Welfare Association**

St Margaret House, 15a Oldford Road, E2 9PL (020 8429 5202)

### **African Women's Welfare Group**

594 Tottenham High Road, N17 9TA (020 8885 5822)

### **Akina Mama Wa Afrika**

London Women's Centre, 334-336 Goswell Road, EC1V 7LQ  
(020 7713 5166)

### **Al-Hasaniya - Moroccan Women's Centre**

Bays 4 & 5 Trellick Tower, Golborne Road, W10 5PL (020 8969 2292)

### **Central African Women Support Group**

Unit 104, Spitfire Studios, 63-71 Collier Street, N1 9BE  
(020 7833 8127)

### **East African Women's Community Organisation**

248 Southcroft Road, SW17 9TW (020 8677 2726)

### **Horn of Africa Somali Women's Organisation (HASWO)**

241 Brentford High Street, Brent, Middlesex TW8 0NE  
(020 8580 1091)

### **Lewisham Somali Women's Action**

Lewisham Refugee Network,  
Parker House, 144 Evelyn Street, SE8 5DD

### **Sierra Leonean Women's Forum-UK**

6th Floor, The Tower, 125 High Street, Colliers Wood, SW19 2RS  
(020 8543 9436)

### **Somali Bravanese Women's Organisation**

1c Millicent Road, Leyton, E10 7LG (020 8556 9138)

### **Somali Women's Refugee Centre**

West Acton Community Centre, Churchill Gardens, W3 (020 8752 1787)

### **Sudan Women's Association**

Abbey Community Centre, 222c Belsize Road, NW6 4PJ  
(020 7372 0944)

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