

#NBWN BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPOTLIGHT

Celebrating Excellence During #BHM2020
and Beyond

TOLU OLANIYAN, SCHOLAR. CEO, TRUSTEE, SPEAKER

I am an experienced registered Learning Disability (LD) Nurse, a Florence Nightingale scholar and a nurse entrepreneur. Due to the diverse nature of my specialism and interests, I wear different professional hats depending on the context.

Nursing during the pandemic.....

When the pandemic started, I was working as a Senior Community LD Nurse.

It has been an unsettling period for all, most especially for those with disabilities. My team and I were able to provide our clients with much needed support and helped them make informed decisions to adhere to public health guidelines and



keep themselves safe in their homes.

Those with pre-existing health conditions were supported to develop personalised care plans to communicate their wishes if they or their loved ones become ill with the virus.

This provided some reassurance to them and their loved ones.

International impact.....

#Humanright #LeaveNoOneBehind #SDG3I started PretolaGHC in 2019 as a medium to bridge the awareness and treatment gaps of people with neurodiverse conditions.

My goal is to raise treatment standards of these conditions around the world through the provision of specialist training and expert advice to families, care providers, healthcare practitioners, and charitable organisations in the UK and globally.

I enjoy what I do and I'm determined to leverage my knowledge and experience to improve outcomes for people with neurodiverse conditions across the world.

I firmly believe that everyone living with a neurological condition anywhere in the world has a right to live a dignified and fulfilling life through access to quality care. I work tirelessly with my partners in the UK and beyond to equip healthcare practitioners with advanced skills required to deliver excellent care in their contexts. Since the pandemic started,

I have taken the lead in initiating research projects in several countries, one of which is targeted at mapping out gaps in nurses' knowledge on LD and Autism. We are also working on setting up the first LD nursing course in Sierra Leone.

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Why is Black History Month important and how has it changed #2020

With the difficult conversations taking place across the world this year, celebrating Black History is even more important.

It is important for young Black people to be able to trace their history over time and also be aware of amazing Black achievers that can become powerful role models for them. I believe Black History month creates a safe space for people (of all races) to reflect upon and celebrate the achievements of Black people across the world.

It is also an opportunity to renew our commitment to the goal of creating an equitable world for all.

And that's not all...

Tolu is a young mum of two, LD Nurse, CEO Pretola Global Health and Consulting, Florence Nightingale Scholar, researcher and the current Chair of Medical Assistance Sierra Leone (MASL)

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