



Professor Laura Serrant OBE

Head of Nursing on 2020 Powerlist

Professor Laura Serrant OBE has been named in the annual 'Powerlist' which compiles the UK's most influential people of African or African Caribbean heritage in fields including the arts, sport, business and science.

Her specialised work in sexual and reproductive health has involved working with sex workers, those dependent on alcohol and drugs and tackling social attitudes to HIV and AIDS.

Her 35-year career has seen her become the head of nursing at Manchester Metropolitan University and join the likes of the Duchess of Sussex, Megan Markle, Idris Elba and runner Mo Farah on the annual list.

Laura, who is 55 and lived in Nottingham until 2011 before moving to Wolverhampton, was the first person in her family to go to university and qualified as a nurse in the early 1980s.

Laura said: "I'm both surprised and deeply honoured. The Powerlist is so important in recognising the contribution black people make across the many professions I'm privileged to be recognised alongside, and how far we've come as a society in championing the diversity of our nation.

"That the awards take place during Black History Month is particularly poignant. In the 21st century, we live in what I would call a kaleidoscope nation.

"Events and recognitions like these give us an opportunity to reflect on the benefits our diversity has on our communities, and the contributions made not just historically, but every day."

Laura's believes her career has been defined by her "determined" and "impassioned" voice for equality, chairing the Chief Nursing Office for England's

black and ethnic minority (BAME) strategic advisory group and advising on BAME issues for the government.

She studied for her PhD at Nottingham University and worked as a gynecologist nurse at the QMC during the early 1990s before beginning her teaching career at the Arnold and Carlton College.

Her work in national and international health policy development, with particular specialist input on racial inequalities and cultural safety, led to her being awarded with an OBE in the Queen's 2018 Birthday Honours list for services to health policy.

She said the Powerlist is important because it "demonstrates the range and scope of the contributions of BAME people to the UK across a whole spectrum of categories."

She added: "It is also important for young BAME people to see success within their own backgrounds as well."

Laura - who was the UK's only black head of nursing - is from a working-class background and was the first person in her family to go to university, initially studying for a bachelor of arts degree.

She is currently a visiting professor for research, education and professional development at universities across the world, including in Brazil, China, Canada and Australia.

Laura's son, Rob Green - a 29-year-old singer-songwriter from Nottingham - added: "My mum has been a big champion for healthcare equality and opportunity for all people, but also the importance of being truthful to our moral code and to lead by example.

"She has managed to not only champion these values in her work but also to pioneer within her field. Over the last year I have watched her step into a new role at Manchester University and BBC panels, travel the world to lead important discussion around the future of nursing, and receive an OBE.

To hear she has graced the 'Powerlist' for the second year running is incredible and it is wonderful to know she is recognised nationally for these qualities that I think make her so inspiring."

Her specialist areas of research include health disparities, diversity leadership, sexual health and transcultural issues in health and wellbeing.

Every year, the Powerlist publication, in partnership with J.P. Morgan and sponsored by Linklaters LLP, recognises and celebrates 100 of Britain's most influential black

https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/nottingham-news/nursing-professor-nottingham-named-among-3483580?fbclid=IwAR3X8jzOOrkS837u8TUsMsYJROqIXP7i8bSYpgt9YkyDh7GYL5bxwoCK_q0