**Call for Caribbean Short Story Writers – Windrush Oral History Event**

**About the Project**

Spread the Word is pleased to announce the Lewisham, Borough of Literature Windrush Commissions – *Mouth Mek Fi Nyam*. This initiative is part of a four-part project celebrating Caribbean storytelling and heritage while supporting the campaign to make Lewisham the UK’s first Borough of Literature. The wider project includes a series of oral history, gardening, cooking, and poetry workshops with Caribbean elders, highlighting the deep connections between migration, food, and cultural preservation.

We are seeking two Caribbean short story writers to take part in an **oral history event** with **Caribbean elders** on **Windrush Day, June 22, 2025, at Catford Library, 2 – 4pm**. The event will focus on **themes of migration, food, gardening, and cultural preservation**, with elders sharing personal experiences of carrying and sustaining traditions across generations. Selected writers will use these shared stories as inspiration to create original short stories (1,500-2,500 words) that capture the richness of Caribbean heritage. The commissioned stories will be published in the *Mouth Mek Fi Nyam* anthology.

**Submission Period:** April 1 – April 25, 2025

**Shortlisted writers’ interviews:** April 28, 2025

**Notification of Selection:** April 30, 2025

**Outcome**: One short story 1500- 2500 words that will be published in the Mouth Mek Fi Nyam anthology.

**Fee:** £1,000 inclusive

**Event Date:** June 22, 2025, 2– 4 PM

**Who are the commissions for?**

Two short stories writers who are aged 18+, of Caribbean descent and are currently living in London, priority will be given to Lewisham writers.

### **Eligibility & Requirements:**

* Must be **aged 18+**
* Must be of **Caribbean heritage**
* Must be **based in London**
* Must have experience in **short story writing**
* Must be available to attend the **oral history sharing event on June 22, 2025** in person

### **How to Apply:**

Submissions **open April 1, 2025**, and **close April 25, 2025**. To apply, please send:

* A short bio (max 200 words)
* A sample of your short fiction (max 2,000 words)
* A brief statement (max 300 words) on why this project interests you
* A brief statement (max 300 words) on why this project interests you how your work aligns with the themes of migration, food, gardening, and cultural preservation
* A brief paragraph (max 300 words) on how you would engage with the oral history event to develop your short story

**[Click here to apply](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSce1_w7B8YSVzUAY0iDIY_H7k5mc_qmEc282rkY_TsZ2Qf5rw/viewform?usp=preview)**

If you would like to request any reasonable adjustments to the application process, please contact us via [hello@spreadtheword.org.uk](mailto:hello@spreadtheword.org.uk)

**Shortlisted writers’ online interviews on 28 April 2025.** Selected **candidates notified by April 30 2025**.

For full eligibility criteria, please see our [Terms-and-Conditions.](https://spreadtheword365.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/Ebdvki0ssGpJvddSSaa6eeQBQgNzEgFuzScETfiAnmsFBQ?email=Courtney%40spreadtheword.org.uk&e=JKS2f4)

This is a unique opportunity to engage with community history, honour the voices of Caribbean elders, and create literary work that continues the legacy of Windrush storytelling.

We look forward to reading your submission!