



## **8:46 (GEORGE FLOYD)**

### **A Time for Transformation at Home and Abroad**

#### **Panelist Biographies**

##### **Abena Oppong-Asare** **Member of Parliament for Erith & Thamesmead (United Kingdom)**

Abena Oppong-Asare was elected to the United Kingdom Parliament in December 2019 where she now serves as Parliamentary Private Secretary to Anneliese Dodds MP, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer.

As part of the shadow treasury team, Oppong-Asare has been assisting in developing Labour's economic policies and holding the Government to account over financial inequalities in the face of coronavirus. Oppong-Asare is also a member of the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee and has been examining the impact of coronavirus on the homeless and private renters. Oppong-Asare also serves on the United Kingdom Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

As Chair of the Labour Women's Network, Oppong-Asare has been active in improving female representation in leadership positions and has been vocal about the inequalities facing women today and, throughout history. She is one of the first two black women of Ghanaian descent to be elected to the U.K. Parliament.

##### **Adam Hollier** **State Senator (Michigan)**

Sen. Adam Hollier was born and raised in the North End of Detroit where generations of his family have lived since the 1940s.

As the son of a former social worker and a former Detroit Fire Department captain, service to people and the community were ingrained in Hollier from a young age.

He served as a volunteer firefighter before enlisting in the U.S. Army and graduating with distinction from officer candidate school, where he earned the commission of 2nd Lieutenant. He currently serves in the 412th Civil Affairs BN(A) as the Public Works Officer USAR.

Prior to joining the Senate, Hollier served as director of government affairs for the Michigan Fitness Foundation. His work experience also included roles as a staffer in the state legislature and with local officials in the city of Detroit, where his efforts were instrumental in developing policies that protected seniors and facilitated the installation of 64,000 new lights to make neighborhoods safe.

He was named to Michigan Chronicle's 40 under 40 in 2013 and Crain's 20 in their 20s in 2015.

Sen. Hollier is a proud graduate of Detroit Public Schools. He earned a bachelor's in industrial and labor relations from Cornell University and master's in urban planning from the University of Michigan. He lives in Detroit's North End with his wife, Krystle, and young daughter.

**Mitchell Esajas**  
**Co-Founder, New Urban Collective (The Netherlands)**

Mitchell Esajas is co-founder of New Urban Collective, a network for students and young professionals from diverse backgrounds with a focus on the Surinamese, Caribbean and African diaspora. Esajas studied Business Studies and Anthropology at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. In 2016 he co-founded the Black Archives in Amsterdam, a cultural center based on a unique collection of books, documents and artefacts documenting the histories of Surinamese and Black people in the Dutch context. The Black Archives develops exhibitions and public programs based on the collections and urgent societal issues.

**Karen Taylor**  
**Chair, European Network Against Racism (ENAR)**

Karen Taylor is the Chair of ENAR (European Network against racism). ENAR is the only pan-European network combining racial equality advocacy with building a strong network of anti-racist organizations across Europe.

At EOTO (Each One Teach One e.V.) a Black led community organization for empowerment of People of African Descent in Germany Karen is the director of policy and advocacy at EOTO. Karen is equally working as a policy advisor at the German Bundestag where she concentrates on anti-discrimination policies in Germany as well as on human rights issues in West Africa.

Throughout Karen's professional carrier and voluntary work, it has always been her goal to fight racial discrimination and to provide equal access to political decision-making processes for the most marginalized groups in Germany.

As former Chair of the committee for migration and diversity of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) Berlin Karen promoted the concept of intersectionality and inclusion within the party and the government of Berlin. She was the first Black woman to hold this position.

Karen is an Alumnae of the Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network (TILN) organized by the German Marshall Found (GMF).