

Assembly Resource

Read through the resource below, which provides information about people that have statues in their memory and information on others that don't. Who do you think are the most deserving of having a statue and why? Can you think of anyone else throughout history who you believe deserves celebrating?



Sweden's statue of 38-year-old Danuta Danielsson

In 1985, 38-year-old housewife and mother, Danuta Danielsson, ran into a group of people making racist comments, she hit one of the group on the head with her handbag.

In 2015, handbags started appearing dangling from the arms of famous statues around the world. It was a protest against a refusal by Swedish officials to grant permission for the statue of Danuta. The protests worked and the statue was unveiled shortly after.

Thomas Clarkson (1760-1846) was a life-long campaigner against slavery from his late teens and does not have a statue in his name. It has been suggested that a statue of him could replace the recently pulled down former slave trader, Edward Colston, in Bristol as he derived much of his knowledge of the trade from research there. In 1823, Clarkson returned to Bristol to speak at the first meeting of the Bristol Auxiliary Anti-Slavery Society.



Mary Seacole (featured on this week's poster and pictured left) was a nurse who set up a hospital during the Crimean War. Her statue was unveiled in 2016.

Rosalind Franklin, a scientist working at King's College London, alongside fellow scientists James Watson, Frances Crick and Maurice Wilkins, sadly died in 1958, just before the other three scientists were able to complete their work that led to the discovery of the structure of DNA. The remaining three scientists claimed the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1962. Sadly, as Rosalind died a few years earlier, her work was never recognised. It has been suggested that a statue is erected in her name.