

LORD SIMON WOOLLEY



Lord Woolley CBE is an influential campaigner aiming to encourage diversity in politics. Growing up in an adoptive home, he was raised with a number of foster siblings on a council estate. Sharing his childhood home with others from a range of backgrounds allowed him a greater appreciation for multiculturalism and diversity.

Due to his vested interest in creating a more diverse political system, he founded Operation Black Vote in 1996 – an organisation established to ensure greater racial justice and equality throughout the UK. They campaigned to encourage ethnic minority communities to participate in politics and democracy and continue to work with communities in the UK to this day.

In 2019 Lord Simon Woolley was knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for his tireless services to race equality. Ten days after he received his knighthood he was appointed to the House of Lords as crossbencher, Lord Woolley of Woodford.

From January 2018 to July 2020 he chaired the Government Race Disparity Unit's advisory group and had his status raised to life peer after his knighthood, for his expertise in diversity and politics.

Operation
Black
Vote

campaigner

multiculturalism

NOMINATED BY: HEIDI FLANAGAN

"I heard Lord Woolley speak at a conference recently, about his work with Operation Black Vote. His confidence in the power of Black people to make a difference blew me away. I find him inspirational because of the impact that his work as a political activist with Operation Black Vote has achieved."