

Generations of STEM:

Elizabeth Anionwu

Nurse & Professor

Elizabeth was born into an Irish/Nigerian family but raised by nuns in a Catholic children's home in England. After a difficult and abusive childhood, it was a nun caring for her eczema that inspired her to enter the nursing profession. By the age of sixteen she was working as a nursing assistant and later traveled to the US to study counseling for sickle-cell and thalassaemia, which are genetic blood disorders. Ms. Anionwu became the first nurse in the UK to specialize in these conditions. Working with Dr. Milica Brozovic, she helped open the first UK sickle-cell and thalassemia counseling center. This center served as a model for 30 other counseling centers that later opened across the UK.

Ms. Anionwu became an activist for awareness of these diseases and rose to become a Senior Lecturer and author on the subject. She later became the dean at the School of Adult Nursing Studies at the University of West London and created the Mary Seacole Centre for Nursing Practice. She retired in 2007, but is a Life Patron of the Mary Seacole Trust.



Image Source: elizabethanionwu.co.uk Information Sources: [Elizabeth Anionwu](#), [Black Heroes Foundation](#), [Wikipedia](#)