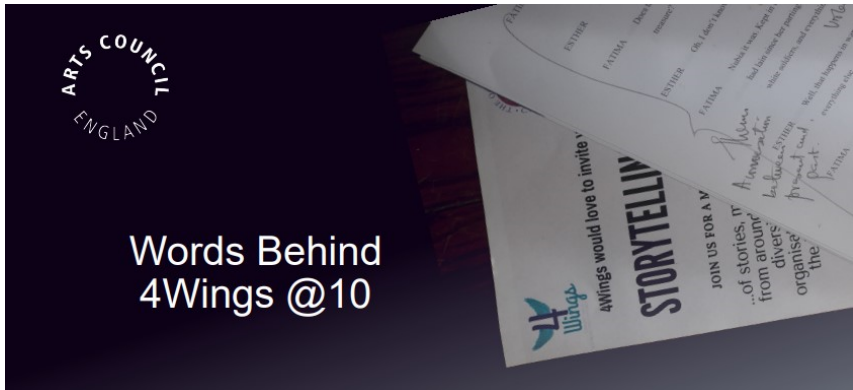


**4Wings**  
**In Association with**  
**St. George's Hall Events**  
**And**  
**Tayo Aluko & Friends**  
**Present**



**St. George's Hall, Liverpool**  
**Wednesday, 25 October, 2023**

## A Note From the Scribe

When, despite my expressing doubts about my suitability for the task (I am just a man), a group of women (mostly African too) determined that I write for them in celebration of 4Wings's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I assumed that collectively, they definitely have infinitely more wisdom than I do, so I accepted. The fee helped too..

It has been an honour and privilege to sit with such a disparate group of women over the last few months, and listen to them talk, and tell stories. I have learned a great deal, and have been inspired and humbled by the things I have heard. I am grateful to both staff and members of 4Wings for allowing me, welcoming me, into their midst, and for making me feel comfortable (eventually) among them. I would like to think that the smoothness with which the project went is partly due to my suppressing the natural male instinct of bringing machismo into the gathering. To me, not doing so is only good common sense when one finds oneself in a minority of one, called into the service of, and by, many.

Would it that our politicians adopted the same attitude, for there are so many thousands, nay, millions, screaming at the top of their voices, saying that what is being done by the tiny group of people (overwhelmingly men) in positions of power around the world is just plain wrong and evil. As has been shown time and again, however, these so-called world leaders just do not listen.

It is simplistic, though, to assume that if all those men were replaced by "the gentler sex," things would automatically be much better. There are enough powerful women parading the world stage at present (as have done in the past) proving themselves just about as evil as the worst of men, to disabuse us of that notion.

The denial of "others" of basic humanity, dignity and basic human rights not only causes suffering and conflict, it diminishes the soul and spirit of the oppressor or aggressor. This applies regardless of whether the oppression is based on gender, sexuality, race, religion or other characteristics. By beautiful contrast, one is totally enriched and energised when finding oneself among a group of women on the margins of society in a city like Liverpool, demonised and ignored equal measure by the majority, but still able to demonstrate and give the best that humanity has to offer.

I am sure that many a woman would have done a much better job than I have, but I remain grateful for the good fortune of the opportunity I have been given by 4Wings to receive and share some of their stories with you.

In peace,

Tayo Aluko

Liverpool, 25 October 2023