

TO: Assembly

FROM: Tom Pymer

RE: Mo Mowlam

DATE: 20 June 2019

Assembly notes:

- The University is currently constructing a new college
- The University is planning to name the new college after a major donor to the construction
- Durham University has many impressive alumni
- There are currently only two and a half colleges named after women (Josephine Butler, St Mary's and Hild Bede), only one named after an individual from an ethnic minority (St Mary's) and none from the LGBT+ community

Assembly believes:

- Colleges should be named after inspirational people with links to Durham University, not whoever makes the largest donation towards a college's construction
- Mo Mowlam was an inspirational woman, for the following reasons:
 - i) Her role in the Northern Ireland Peace Process and the Good Friday Agreement, admired across the political parties
 - ii) Her advocacy for cancer research and her own battles with brain cancer
 - iii) Her cheerfulness in the face of adversity
- On top of these reasons, she is one of Durham's most successful former alumni
- The next college should be named after a woman with strong links to Durham
- Whilst it might be questionable to name colleges after political figures, there is a precedent as Grey College is named after Charles Grey, Liberal Prime Minister, architect of the Great Reform Act and inventor of a very nice kind of tea
- Adding to the previous point, it is no more questionable than having eight colleges named after prominent Christian figures (Saints Aidan, Chad, Cuthbert, Hilde, Bede, John and Mary and Bishops Thomas Hatfield and William Van Mildert)

Assembly resolves:

- That the Students' Union shall formally suggest to the University that the new college be named "Mo Mowlam College"
- The Students' Union shall lobby the University to adopt this name and shall continue doing so until the new college's name is formalised

APPENDIX

Other potential names might include:

Giles Ji Ungpakorn - Thai professor of political science and dissident

Dame Elisabeth Hoodless - Executive Director of Community Service Volunteers

Rupert Whitaker - founder of the Tuke Institute; co-founder of the Terence Higgins Trust

Jill Black - Justice of the Supreme Court; former Lord Justice of Appeal and Privy Councillor

Caroline Swift - leading counsel to the Inquiry in the Shipman Inquiry and Justice of the High Court

Ruth First - anti-apartheid activist assassinated by the South African security services

Kerryann Ifill - President of the Senate of Barbados

Sir Milton Margai - first Prime Minister of Sierra Leone

Libby Lane - Bishop of Stockport, first woman consecrated as an Anglican bishop

The people on this list are considered to be those whom it is impossible to dispute made a tangible positive difference in the world.

