

# The Honorary Graduand: Simon Nelson

**The Orator: Professor Marc Griffiths**

**Simon Nelson is to be awarded the Honorary Master of Education.**

Simon is the founder and owner of Same Difference an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Training and Workplace Mediation service. He set up as a sole agent after spending 25 years working in the field of EDI.

Born in High Wycombe Bucks Simon was one of five children of West Indian heritage – the Windrush Generation. Being ever curious led him to become studious and he left secondary school with 5 Olevels and an A level.

After a visit to Canada to see his brother and being between work Simon applied to British Airways as cabin crew, which led to a glorious 10 years, serving, and then training the next generation of cabin crew. It really was a pivotal moment in his life. For the first time he really was able to find out more about his heritage, taking advantage of cheap flights.

One of the proudest moments of his life was making announcements onboard a British Airways flight with both his parents onboard taking them 'back home'. The experience, the visit, the conversations all contributed to him finding himself in the Caribbean. He understood and could fully appreciate the sacrifice his parents had made all those years back.

After years of working in the private and voluntary sectors Simon made the move to Bristol and soon became immersed in the culture of his new home city.

As a black gay man he noticed the disconnect between communities and help establish a steering group that supported a new gay pride. This has grown year on year, to now being one of the most successful Prides in the world. He has also been on the board of St Pauls Carnival where he currently resides with his partner Richard and their much-loved dog Otto.