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## Second volume of black and mixed race poetry out

By Kim Brett-Richards

SEXUAL attraction is the theme of a pioneering collection of poems by black and mixed race authors.

Nicole Moore, of Edmonton, edited and published the anthology of poems by 19 authors across the UK.

The English-Guyanese 53 year old became interested in creative writing 12 years ago.

After studying black women's writing and history, she decided she wanted to see more writing by black and mixed raced women published.

In 2005, Nicole secured funding from the Arts Council to publish a collection of poems called Brown Eyes.

She said: "At the book launch people said 'What are you going to do next?'"

"I didn't want to let it die. It was a sense of 'I don't want it to stop now, there are lots of things I want to say'."

Nicole set up a website, called Shangwe, a female Swahili name meaning celebration, to promote the development of black British creative writing.

After the first anthology Nicole decided that a second collection would need a theme.

She chose sexual attraction because it is different for everyone and she feels there is not enough positive coverage of black couples in the media.

She said: "We don't see enough love and romance in this country.

"The media for some reason do not let us see black couples, but we do see black and white couples.

"I want to see a fair representation of that sort of thing."

Nicole included a poem about her Rastafarian fiancé in the anthology. Called Jah Pure, it says:

Your cultural knowledge really moves me  
And I learn that real soulful men do exist.  
Men unafraid to love and be loved,  
I feel sure that you are the one.

The first anthology is now being considered for inclusion on school reading lists.

"I really enjoy the whole process of publishing," said Nicole, "although it's frustrating at times.

"It's a dream come true really, and that people may debate the poems, that's what I'm hoping for."

