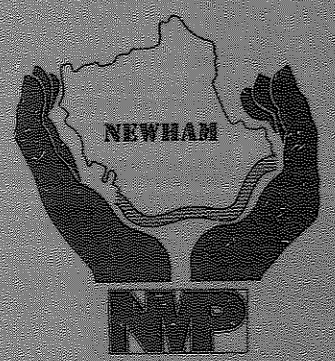


*NEWHAM MONITORING PROJECT*  
**STILL FIGHTING**

*ANNUAL REPORT 1988*



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Special thanks go to Barry for his invaluable contribution to the Project's work

# 1 FOREWORD

*Still Fighting* is the apt title of this year's Annual Report. For while 1988 has been, for us, a year of consolidation and struggle, it has also been a period in which we have had to weather periodic attempts, by our various critics, to hinder and marginalise our work.

The year began in a potentially explosive way with an attack by Newham Council on the very integrity of the '382 Centre'. NMP is one of three projects based at what has come to be known as the '382 Centre', the others being the Newham Immigration and Social Advice Service (NISAS) and Eastwards Trust which caters to the needs of Newham's Asian elderly. Together, our three projects provide a unique service to Newham's black communities. And as issues of racism, policing and immigration, racial harassment and the needs of the elderly are inextricably intertwined, we have come to work closely and collectively together.

Newham Council's attempt, therefore, to close down NISAS on the grounds of administrative irregularities was, we felt, also an indirect attack on the Project. However, despite attempts to impair the work of NISAS, we are glad to say that the service is still running. And, despite the usual repeated political attacks into the affairs of NMP (something we are used to), they have been staved off by a concerted community campaign to ensure our survival.

Another source of criticism against us has come from the newly-formed police community consultative group which the police have devoted a considerable amount of energy into setting up. A political appraisal of the work of this new group is provided in the chapter on Police Accountability (see p 28). There is no doubt in our minds that the purpose of this group is to diffuse dissenting voices and dissipate criticism of police malpractice. As we have already seen, its effect will be to steer attention away from issues of 'hard policing' — such as police violence and the use of territorial support groups for raids on black people's homes and social centres.

It is obvious from the contents of this report that NMP continues to maintain a critical view of the local authority. Contrary to much opinion in this borough, we do not 'shout' or 'make trouble' needlessly — if we criticise it is because there is a genuine need to do so and it is because we cannot turn a blind eye to institutionalised racism. If this is considered 'shouting' or 'making trouble' then so be it.

Despite the many attacks on the Project, we have managed to consolidate our gains by involving more people in the work of the Project. In particular, there have been substantial increases in the number of our emergency service volunteers and in groups and individuals affiliating to the Project.

Our thanks go out once again to all those individuals, whether they be emergency service volunteers, project volunteers, project workers or others, who have given to the Project of their limitless time and energy throughout 1988. The work of these people has been tremendous and an indispensable contribution to the Project and the community. We would also like to acknowledge the financial assistance of the London Borough of Newham.

We are only sad to report that one of our founding members, Herby Boudier, who has been chair of the Project for a number of years, has decided to step down from the Management Committee due to personal and other commitments. Herby has played a vital role in building up this Project, and has also played a significant role in various other campaigns and groups in the borough, and through this work he has become highly respected in Newham. It only remains to say that although we will miss him greatly we are confident he will remain committed to the Project, and with us in the struggle, in new and invigorating ways.

Newham Monitoring Project  
Management Committee

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## 2 INTRODUCTION

Throughout the 1970s racial harassment and violence were on the increase in Newham. In 1980 Akhtar Ali Baig was stabbed to death in broad daylight on High Street North, East Ham. The Project was formed in response to Akhtar Ali Baig's brutal killing and in an attempt to harness the protest of all concerned individuals to the intolerable level of racist violence across the borough and elsewhere in east London.

In the initial stages, the concern of the community was directed towards three specific problems which have formed the basis of our long-term work:

- There was no organised agency, or group, that people who had been racially attacked could turn to for help, advice and support.
- The response of the police to racist violence was totally inadequate. In the overwhelming majority of cases, victims complained bitterly about the police who instead of helping black people were openly hostile to those who dared report racist violence.
- The response of the local authority to racist violence left a lot to be desired.

### COMBATING RACISM

The project was initially set up with the specific brief of monitoring racism and racist attacks, and in particular to monitor the response of the police and the local authority to these attacks. The monitoring of cases did not simply entail making records of black people's experiences and filing them away to gather dust; more importantly, it involved giving help, advice and practical support to victims of racism and using information gathered in this way to pressure the local authority, police and other agencies to improve their response both at an individual and institutional level.

But, above all, the Newham Monitoring Project was a group created by black people, and white anti-racists, as a resource to actively combat racism. As the first monitoring group of its kind to be set up in London, it was unique and was a watershed in the fightback of black people against racism. Throughout the 1970s, wave after wave of racist activity had been met with persistent anti-racist struggle. In Newham alone, the '70s had witnessed the case of the Virk brothers (1971), the Ahmed case (1978) and many others that raised issues of racist attacks, police response, and self defence — issues which remain as pertinent today as they did then. The creation of the Newham Monitoring Project was a culmination of these struggles.

### Police racism grows

Soon it became obvious that the overwhelming majority of people coming to us for help were not only bitterly critical of the non-effective response of the police to racist activity, but were angry about increasing police racism, malpractice and abuses of their power. Because the work of the Newham Monitoring Project has always been based on the needs of the local black community, we eventually came to

take on cases of police harassment and to campaign actively against the growth of police racism. We also realised that if we were ever going to achieve any lasting changes we needed to identify issues raised by the cases we were handling and get people to act upon these issues themselves. Thus, the demands of the community meant that police racism was placed firmly on Newham Monitoring Project's agenda.

### Project takes on campaigning role

The Project consequently came to acquire an active campaigning role, highlighting the potential of

THE DAILY JANG LONDON Tuesday 29 March 1988

Asian youth are turning militant

## 67 Asians, Blacks are killed in racial attacks since 1970

Although racial attacks have continued to increase, with women at home under particular threat, whether in the notorious London borough of Newham, or in the southern district of Leeds, there is a mood of militancy amongst young Asians. 'They are no longer willing to put up with the racial harassment without a fight', reports Cosmopolitan in its April issue, published today.

In his news report 'The brutal truth about Racist Britain, Malcolm Macalister Hall describes how women feel about being beaten up for being black.

Speaking to Cosmopolitan magazine, Nish Kanwar, a worker at the Newham Monitoring Project (NMP), an advice and support group for victims of racial or police harassment, said: 'The entire attitude of young Asians has changed. My parents always said not to bother about any harassment we got at school because it would cause trouble. Well, we're not going to put up with that

kind of shit anymore. The level of militancy around here is extraordinary, and that's what gives you courage.'

In Leeds, the local Community Relations Council looked at the Bengali community in the south of the city. John Roberts, of the Council, said: 'We found an astonishingly high level of racist activity, and it was the Bengali women who appeared to be particularly vulnerable. The women were perhaps less confident in asserting themselves. Their fear of going out made them particularly isolated, which in turn can lead

to depression and can affect their health.'

The study indicated women were under additional stress because of fears for the safety of their children. Roberts said: 'Some individual cases are horrific, but I think the most horrific thing is the day-to-day abuse people have to put up with.'

Anita Kirpal, another NMP worker, agreed with the findings of the survey. 'Women nearly always took the worst of it. Our own statistics show that they're more often racially attacked than men. It can range from general abuse to petrol bombs. The women are prisoners in their own homes.'

The long term effects of racial abuse are not a mystery to 22 year old Anita. 'Sometimes you just don't feel confident enough to fight back, and then your whole integrity goes. Your dignity goes with it. But you find later that its only when you fight back that you can regain your self-respect and dignity. Basically at the NMP, we are campaigning for human rights. It's really very simple.'

Part of her responsibility at the NMP is running the project's women's group. 'It's only since I've been working here that I've realised you can fight back against racism, and you can have your self-respect, and hold your head up high. One thing about facing racism personally is that it makes you a lot tougher.'

The Newham 7 and Newham 8 trails have shown the public that Asians have been prepared to go to court to defend themselves. Nish said: 'The only thing that ever seems to work is to pick up arms and defend ourselves. That's when a public outcry is provoked and that's when the authorities are pushed into doing something about it.'

The Runnymede Trust has recently calculated that since 1970, 67 Asian and Afro-Caribbean people have been killed in racial attacks. A research officer at the Trust said: 'Part of the problem is the whole political climate is now one where racism is much more 'respectable'. There are attacks in the media and elsewhere on anyone who is seen to be involved in anti-racism, like the so called 'loony left' councils. There's a link too, between official government policy and racism. We've had racist immigration policies for a long time and these have been tightened since 1979. If people are told that black people are a problem and that we've got to control the numbers coming into Britain, then it's not a big step before they regard black people who are here as a problem too.'



Nish Kanwar and Anita Kirpal work for the Newham Monitoring Project, supporting victims of racial harassment

Extract from a 3-page feature on NMP in Cosmopolitan, which has a worldwide readership of over 2 million

community organisation to fundamentally alter institutional responses to racism. At the end of the day, we believe that racism can only be altered by community self-organisation and action. As a practical result of community action and campaigns, institutions and agencies have been forced to respond to racism and racist attacks in a serious, non-tokenistic way.

### NEWHAM MONITORING PROJECT

In June 1982, funding from the Greater London Council (GLC) enabled us to employ a full-time worker. Further funding in subsequent years has allowed us to build up our capital resources and expand our work by employing two more full-time workers. In 1985, with the help of Newham Council (and alongside two other black organisations, Eastwards Trust and NISAS), we secured premises at 382 Katherine Road ('382 Centre') which, for the first time, gave us an adequate and independent base from which to work.

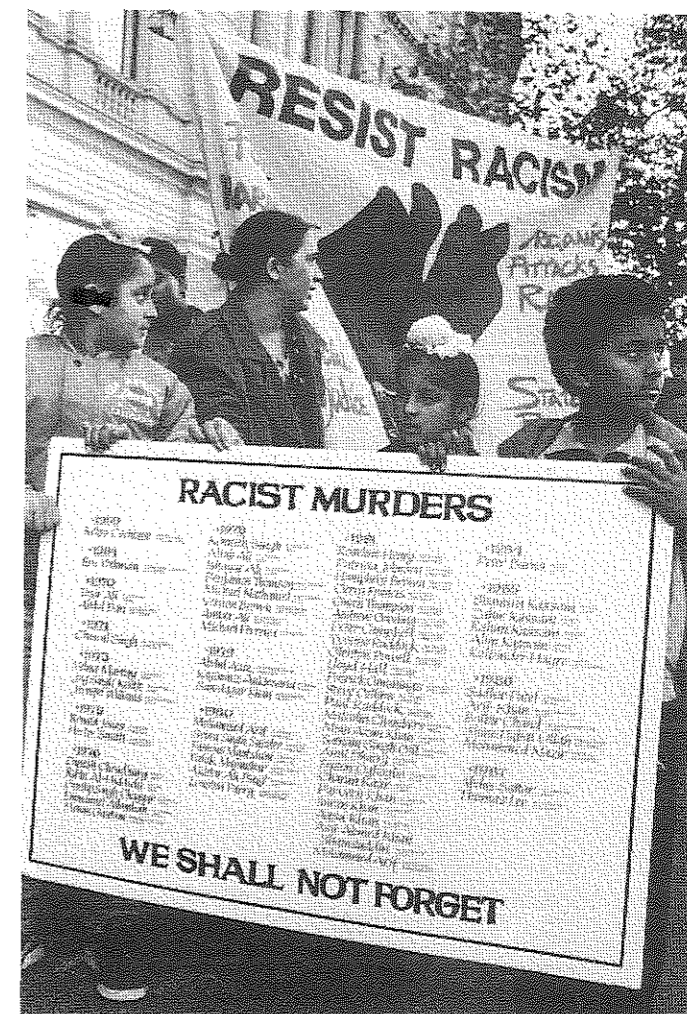
This further expansion of the Project has allowed for the development of the following resources:

- A 24-hour emergency service (set up in 1983) giving practical legal advice and support to the victims of racial harassment and anyone harassed by police on racial grounds. The Emergency Service is staffed by volunteers, and provides an excellent means of channelling community support to the victims of racial and police harassment.
- NMP takes up individual cases, both of racist harassment and police harassment on racial grounds. We collate information on a borough-wide basis about racism and racist attacks, and through our casework we monitor the response of local voluntary and statutory agencies to racism. We also monitor policing practices (in particular police response to racist attacks) and how they affect the black community.
- We attempt to mobilise support both for individual cases and for campaigns from as wide a cross-section of people as possible — local councillors, MPs, and various interested groups.
- We attempt to put pressure on local voluntary and statutory agencies to take a positive anti-racist stance.
- We liaise with other organisations in the field, map out joint anti-racist strategies, in order to develop an active and unified community response.
- We give talks and lectures as part of our ongoing outreach and educational work.
- The NMP is a resource centre to service anti-racists in Newham.

### The aims of the Annual Report

In the following chapters we attempt to describe the work of the Monitoring Project and put on record the experience of black people in Newham. Even if our power to do anything about racist attacks and police malpractice is limited, the very least we can do is document black people's experience and ensure that it is not swept under the carpet.

We feel very strongly that the media, and the local newspaper in particular, have failed miserably to deal with black people's issues in an honest, decent and intelligent way. In fact, they seem to find any attempt by black people to organise against racism and fascism deeply threatening. It is thus in an attempt to correct the distortions of the local paper and to fill in a void created by the absence of any positive presentation of the struggles of black people that we present our 1988 Annual Report.



### 3 CASEWORK

NMP was established to provide practical support, help and advice to people who have suffered racist attacks or police harassment. Casework represents the basis of NMP's campaign and educational work and is determined by the needs and wishes of those attacked. This defines the approach we take, which is *to put pressure on relevant statutory agencies, including the police, to respond effectively and to ensure that where the perpetrators have been identified, action is taken against them.*

Our campaign and educational work is therefore based on the bitter experiences of the black community. This is a factor that our critics choose to ignore.

#### BREAKDOWN OF CASES

Cases reported to the Project	204
Racial harassment	107
Police harassment	65
Other	32

#### Racial harassment figures (area breakdown)

	Total	Women†	Men
Plaistow	15	9	6
Forest Gate	19	14	5
Manor Park	9	6	3
Canning Town	16	10	6
Stratford	24	17	7
East Ham	6	4	2
North Woolwich/ Beckton	10	8	2
Outside Newham*	8	3	5

#### Police harassment figures (area breakdown)

	Total	Women†	Men
Plaistow	12	1	11
Forest Gate	24	9	15
Manor Park	3	9	3
Canning Town	4	1	3
Stratford	10	2	8
East Ham	4	1	3
North Woolwich/ Beckton	2	0	2
Outside Newham*	6	0	6

Attacks reported to us come from a variety of sources. About 60% are reported directly to us, about 10% come through the Emergency Service (during non-office hours) and about 30% are referred to us by other community groups and statutory departments. As we have said before, our figures only represent the tip of an ever-growing problem.

The main source of referrals in 1988 has been through word-of-mouth, and through people who have visited the 382 Centre at some point. Others have come to us having seen our poster or picked up our rights card in a library, in a youth or community centre, in a council office or in a DHSS office. This informal network is crucial to our work.



Reasonable force??

#### Emergency Service

Our Emergency Service line, which operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, is now staffed by over 40 volunteers. Last year we updated our *Emergency Service Handbook* and held two training sessions for new Emergency Service volunteers. We average two calls a week during non-office hours, and foresee an increase in the use of the line as our telephone number is more widely publicised and distributed to households throughout Newham.

#### Black: a colour of resistance

We have not given our statistics an 'ethnic' breakdown because we do not look at our cases in terms of how they affect the African, Asian or Caribbean communities but more broadly, in the political sense, how they affect the whole black community. We face a common enemy and fight it together we must.

We acknowledge the statistics presented in the *Harris Survey on crime in Newham* which examined black people's views on policing in Newham and the extent of racist attacks on both Asian and African/Caribbean communities. However, we are not interested in the qualifying and quantifying of oppression along such

lines, for this we feel is divisive and harmful, and ultimately serves only our enemies.

This does not mean that we ignore cultural differences, or the variations that do exist in how we are exploited and marginalised. Rather, we reject the way the notion of ethnicity has been used to compromise our struggles by taking them out of the streets and into the town halls. We want no part of this.

The above issues have arisen out of our casework and owe more to first-hand experience, and contact with

those who are on the frontline of racist and police attacks, than to left-wing posturing.

We have tried to break down the figures in such a way that will help us plan our actions for the months ahead. The Project is now looking towards the completion of its first decade as a group serving the black community and we are continually reappraising the work that we do and the ways that we can improve it. We are prepared for the difficult times which lie ahead for the Project and, more importantly, for the black community.



Growing angry, growing strong

\* Outside Newham represents neighbouring Ilford, Waltham Forest and Romford.

† Our figures in terms of gender represent the victim and/or the person within a family with whom we have had the most frequent contact or who notified us of the incident.

## 4 RACIAL HARASSMENT

During 1988, 107 cases of racial harassment were reported to us. A breakdown reveals the following.

### Breakdown of racist attacks 1988 according to type

- 4 — arson
- 3 — fire-arm attack
- 12 — weapon attacks (including knives, bottles, sticks, stones)
- 30 — physical assault
- 24 — verbal abuse\*
- 22 — other†
- 12 — damage to property (including graffiti, excrement)

### Breakdown of attacks according to location

- 48 — in or on people's homes
- 10 — in or around schools
- 8 — around shops
- 19 — on the street
- 22 — other (workplace, etc)

Forty-four of these attacks took place on council-owned property.

Newham has had, for some years now, the highest-recorded level of racist violence in the country. Although figures for the rest of London for 1988 are not yet available from the police, it seems that in 1988 Newham will probably be, once again, at the top of this undesirable list. Over the past three years, one in eight racial attacks in London took place in Newham, and one in every two attacks that occur in 'Area 2 East London' takes place in Newham.

Below we document some of the most serious attacks which occurred and discuss the issues these cases raise, not only through the nature of the attack itself, but through the response of the local agencies, principally the local authority and the police.

This section is intended to demonstrate the courage and resilience of Newham's black community who, no matter what the odds, do not allow themselves to be victimised or criminalised but who fight back just as much against the stereotype of the passive victim as against the racists.

### ARSON ATTACKS

The most worrying feature of the cases reported to us continues to be the level of attacks that constitute a threat to life, including arson, and attacks where firearms, knives and other weapons are used.

Last year we dealt with four cases of arson attacks. A particularly sinister and dangerous attack took place in May in Knox Road, Forest Gate.

\* In the vast majority of cases involving direct harassment, verbal abuse was used.

† Many of these fall into one or more of the above.



*Beaten by a gang of white youths*

- 12-year-old Shenara was helping out in her parents' shop in Knox Road, Forest Gate, when a white man came into the shop wearing a crash helmet to hide his face and demanded money. Having grabbed a few pounds, he then pulled out a bottle and lit a piece of cloth coming out from it (the bottle was filled with petrol). The man proceeded to smash the bottle behind the counter and then ran off. The bottle landed less than a foot away from Shenara and set fire to some papers. As she screamed for help, her grandmother and mother managed to come in and smother the flames with a wet towel.

As far as we know, no arrests have been made in connection with this attack.

- The Sabir family live on the fourth floor of a council block in Manor Park and their home was attacked on 22 August. The attack was only the latest in a series of attacks which included damage to the car and the breaking of windows. At about 11pm, Mr and Mrs Sabir were watching television (their children were asleep) when Mr

Sabir thought he heard some water running outside the door. When he rushed to the door, he found the outer landing totally ablaze. Fortunately, neighbours managed to put the fire out. The family were incredibly lucky to escape with their lives. It was later discovered that the telephone wires to the Sabirs' flat had been cut, revealing the true nature of the purpose of the attack.

The Project, along with Newham Council and the police, managed to get the telephone working quickly. Our night duty volunteers were able to phone Mr Sabir every evening and volunteers saw him at night for the week in which he stayed at the flat, his family having moved to his parents'. They were transferred quite soon after. Again, as far as we know, no arrests have been made in this case.

Other similar arson attacks were reported to us last year which we monitored. It is perhaps only extreme good fortune that last year no one was murdered in these vicious attacks. We hope we are in the position to report the same next year.

The attempted arson on Mrs P, an elderly, partially-sighted black woman who lived alone in a ground floor flat in a high-rise block on Clarkson Road, Canning Town, was part of a series of attacks that Mrs P suffered. She lived on the ground floor which was for her own benefit as she required easy access to and from her home. However, this also made her easy prey for the youths in the area, which is notorious for its high level of petty crime.

- Mrs P, who uses a walking frame, heard something at her letter box one evening and went to investigate the noise as she was used to children knocking at her door and running away. By the time she managed to get to the passageway, she could smell smoke and saw her curtains smouldering. Fortunately, she managed to call for assistance and the physical damage was confined to the front door and the curtains. The housing department was supportive and quickly moved Mrs P to an area nearer her family. However, as far as we know, the perpetrators were never identified and to date no arrests have been made. Despite the fact that we have been pressing for action on strategies to discover perpetrators in such attacks, little progress seems to have been made.

### Carpenters Estate

Last October, NMP were informed of an arson attack in a tower block on a very large estate in Stratford. The family, who had petrol poured on their doorstep and subsequently lit, had also been subjected to a series of attacks on their car, as well as threatening and abusive phone calls. Fortunately, they were not injured in any way. Although the door was badly burnt, no damage was done to the house and the door was soon replaced by the council.

### Tenants fight back

Tenants on the Carpenters Estate were not satisfied with the inability of the council or police to ensure their safety and apprehend the culprits, so, together with tenants from Lund Point and Dennison Point,

they decided to call a tenants' meeting. NMP was invited to the meeting, which was attended by some 30, mainly black, tenants, some of whom spoke little or no English. The local housing officer, tenants' association and the police also attended.

The meeting lasted virtually two hours, with the tenants demanding more safety and a greater police presence at specific times on the estate. A number of specific attacks and types of harassment — especially the harassment of women and children on their way to school, or on their way back from work or the shops — were described. The police response, however, was that they did not have the resources to meet the tenants' request that they place even two uniformed police on the estate at regular times. Instead, they suggested Neighbourhood Watch schemes and 'Adopt a Friend' schemes as a solution to the crisis on the estate. Similarly, representatives from the council responded bureaucratically by promising that all locks or repairs arising out of racist attacks would be immediately fixed, that graffiti would be removed, and that as much would be done within the procedures and guidelines as possible.

Whilst this is all welcome, it does not address the central issue of why the people responsible for persistent harassment are not being identified by the council's housing officers or the police, and what action is being taken against them. Again we would submit that, in our experience, when we have been called on to particular estates with problems, by maintaining a presence and knocking on neighbours' doors we have within a very short space of time identified, or have clues, as to who are likely to be responsible for the harassment. Therefore there is no excuse for other agencies not being able to do the same thing. NMP did this successfully in Eric Close in Forest Gate, and also in Hathaway Crescent in Manor Park last year, as well as Simon's Walk in Stratford, where we were able to talk to young people involved, having identified who they were from asking neighbours and residents in the area. Although the vast majority refused to give evidence or information, some nevertheless did.

The meeting ended without any concrete proposals and the following week NMP had a meeting with the black tenants involved. A decision was taken at that meeting that the only way to ensure tenants' safety would be for them to take the initiative themselves, and we fully supported this position, given what amounted to a complete lack of interest by the police and the limited bureaucratic response of the council machinery. It was agreed that, along with the tenants' association, NMP and the local housing officer, the tenants would patrol the estate on a regular basis, namely between 5 and 7 o'clock on Tuesdays and Thursdays, distributing NMP literature to other black tenants with the aim of trying to identify the ringleaders of the gangs who were causing the problem and where they lived. This information would then be presented to the police and council. These patrols took place with a measure of success over a period of six weeks. We managed to make contact with over 25 families as a result and they have organised themselves to join the local tenants' association, which had also agreed to produce a leaflet outlining the attacks

taking place and the association's stance against them, and to distribute this leaflet to all members within the estate as requested by the newly-formed black tenants' group.

This kind of initiative which is forced on to many black individuals and groups is we feel a necessary measure which deserves our unqualified support in the absence of protection from the authorities.

## FIREARMS ATTACKS

Last year the Project dealt with three attacks involving the use of firearms.

□ Two weeks after the arson attack on Mrs P, an attack took place on two young black men in the same block a few floors up, who were babysitting for a white neighbour who lived opposite them. There were a few people present in the flat when two white men burst in and began to attack the black people in the flat, shouting racist abuse and attacking them with planks of wood. SG and BO ran out on to the balcony and the attackers ran downstairs. SG and BO returned to where they had been babysitting and then decided to go to a friend's house to get help and try to find the men who attacked them. As they went around the corner, they were sprayed with ammonia and met by a van full of men armed with crowbars and planks of wood. One was carrying a sawn-off shotgun. SG and BO fled for their lives and called the police.

They were threatened on three separate occasions on subsequent days and were warned to stay away from white women. The attackers knew their address and indeed some of them lived in the same block of flats. Both men were so frightened that one of them, BO, did not return to his home. SG, however, became a prisoner in his home, afraid to go anywhere until he contacted the housing office. The department made temporary housing provision for him and tried to encourage him to identify and testify against his attackers, as apparently they were part of a gang that had been causing severe problems generally. But, understandably, nobody wanted to testify against the group.

Soon after arrangements were made for SG's temporary accommodation, he too went 'underground'. The police remained on the periphery of what we identified as a major case and once again, as far as we know, no charges were made. This attack and the arson attack on Mrs P occurred within a short space of time in an area which historically has been dangerous for black people. The housing department reacted responsibly and swiftly on this occasion, particularly in the latter case where they tried to give support and encouraged the men to take action. However, such was the gravity of the threat and fear of reprisal, this was not possible. SG was willing to give evidence and help to prosecute the men who attacked him, but the police offered no protection. The council did, however, have a role to play in putting pressure on the police to ensure that they did not shirk their responsibilities. Unfortunately, as in

many cases, their role was only partially fulfilled.

## Airgun attacks

□ Last May, 13-year-old Gurmuck Bimbura was sweeping up glass from the gurdwara in Upton Lane. The glass he was sweeping up had been smashed by vandals, perhaps the same racist gang, the night before. As he swept the glass into a box on the pavement, a gang of teenagers pulled up in a Ford Sierra and one of them pulled out an air pistol and shot him in the arm. After the boy shot him he ran up to him and put the gun to his head and laughed. As he ran off, he shouted, 'Don't worry, it isn't a real bullet, paki.' Gurmuck's arm swelled up, the bruise resembling a tennis ball. NMP managed with Gurmuck to talk to local schoolchildren in the area to see if any of them could recognise the attackers from the description Gurmuck gave. We spent several days outside the gurdwara at regular times to see whether or not his attackers might return. The three boys and one girl have not yet, as far as we know, been arrested.

Another case we had reported to us involving the use of a gun was that of Mrs S.

□ Mrs S lives on the eighth floor of a towerblock in Plaistow. She had been persistently and systematically harassed, abused and intimidated by a group, some as young as 8 or 9 years old. Every time she would enter the lift to get to her flat, the gang would get in with her and call her a 'paki cunt' and spit at her child in the pram. They had also set a dog on Mrs S's children. This prompted the family to get their own dog for self-protection. The police had been called several times but if and when they did come, which was about 50% of the time, the children had disappeared by the time they arrived and they made little or no attempt to find the identity and whereabouts of these gang members. One evening, Mrs S had just finished feeding her 1-year-old when there was a loud smash in the bedroom. They rushed in and saw a bullet or pellet hole in their window. Fortunately, no one had been in the room at the time. The family were eventually rehoused.

This particular case demonstrates the lack of response which was required from both the council and police. Both agencies could have, with some effort, identified the youngsters and spoken to them and their parents. If this was not possible, then deterrent action should have been taken by the police (whose job it is) or by the council using Newham Security or private security.

## ATTACKS USING WEAPONS

This year we dealt with 12 cases involving attacks where weapons were used. Restaurants and take-aways tend to be targeted as a result of the violence of drunken and racist customers.

□ In August, Abdul Hassib, who had just been robbed, took refuge in an Indian restaurant in Stratford shopping centre when he saw two white

men staring at him. Although they were not the youths who had just attacked him, they started to insult him. The owner of the restaurant and two customers went out to chase them away but the two men picked up lumps of wood and the owner and customers were forced to retreat.

In court, the white men admitted to using abusive words and carrying offensive weapons, and were fined £250 each and ordered to pay costs of £100. Judge Sanders said that 'this incident is disgraceful and any occurrence with racial overtones is abhorrent'.

We commend the judge on his sentence and comments and will continue to work to see that all cases reported to the police are dealt with in this manner.

## ATTACKS ON SCHOOLCHILDREN

As in past years, we handled many cases of attacks on schoolchildren, either in school or on their way to and from school. The attack reported below is quite similar to one which we reported on last year, namely that of Ahmed Iqbal who, on his way back from games at school, was slashed across the face, requiring over 30 stitches. Unfortunately, this case involves the same school in Canning Town where, in virtually similar circumstances, groups of schoolchildren returning from a careers visit in early July were attacked. As they made their way to the school, the group of fourth-year students were suddenly confronted by a gang of 20, some of them carrying knuckle dusters. The gang charged at four black pupils who were at the front of the school party and one of them had his head hit against a wall. The teacher who was with them was also attacked as he tried to protect the pupils.

This attack and the one on Ahmed Iqbal last year raise a number of issues which need to be addressed by the education authority which relate to the rules governing pupils being escorted to and from outings, games, PE lessons, cross-country runs, etc. Specific guidelines are set as to the number of teachers or the pupil/teacher ratio on such visits, specific guidelines as to the length of distance pupils are expected to walk to games or to other parts of the school or other sites. We need to ensure that these guidelines are adhered to and, if they are, we need to determine how effective they are in practice in protecting schoolchildren from attacks and whether or not they need reviewing.

Three sisters who attend a school in Stratford and live in the Grange Road area in West Ham were being continually taunted by four white schoolgirls who went to Eastlea School and lived in Canning Town. The white girls used to sit in the entrance to the flats where the sisters lived and racially abuse them as they were going home. The sisters would respond and were not intimidated by these girls. One day one of the sisters, SD, was coming home by herself when she was attacked by the white girls, who pulled her hair and swung her round a lamp-post by her hair, and kicked, punched and spat at her. SD was severely beaten by these four 14-year-olds, who ran off gleefully.

SD had to go to her doctor and was unable to attend school for three weeks because of her injuries and the fear of being attacked again. SD and her sisters knew who attacked her and the police were informed, as was Eastlea School.

The attacks came to our attention through a teacher at Eastlea School. We escorted SD's sisters home from school for a few days to see whether they would be attacked again. SD's attackers were suspended from school for four days. The police, contrary to the wishes of the family and against our efforts, would not press charges against these girls. It is not mere conjecture to point out here that, had white girls been beaten up by black girls, charges would have been brought. The family initially sought to take out their own private prosecution, which we would have assisted with, but then decided that it would be better to bury the incident and get on with their lives.



## Mile End tube station

October saw yet more black people bemoaning the police response to a racist attack, this time at Mile End station.

A sixth former who lives in Forest Gate and goes to school in Bow had been subjected to racist chants, along with her friends, by a woman stall holder in the foyer of Mile End station, as they were going to and from school. This had been going on for a while before NM got fed up with it and decided to answer the woman back.

On approaching the woman to find out what exactly the problem was, the stall holder said that if NM wanted a fight she would be ready. She identified herself as Julie and said, 'You fucking black bitches think you own this country. Why don't you go back to where you fucking came from, you fucking paki.' NM and her friends were shocked by Julie's hatred and went home. NM informed her parents.

The next day NM was accompanied by her father, who approached Julie and enquired whether his daughter was causing her any problems as he would

be able to sort it out. No sooner had Mr M spoken than Julie called out several names and five white burly brutes appeared and surrounded Mr M. The police arrived within five minutes. Meanwhile, NM had been threatened with a hammer by Julie. When the police arrived and were informed of this, they did not see fit to search the stall but advised NM, her friends and her father to go and keep the peace. Mr M asked the police to provide protection for his daughter as she had been threatened. The officers said there was not much they could do.

The next evening at Mile End tube station on her way home from school, NM was surrounded by the same brutish thugs that had jostled her father and beaten up. None of her friends was able to assist her as those men who were not actually striking or kicking NM kept everyone away.

There was pandemonium in the station. Schoolchildren had been let out of school early and a large proportion of the children use Mile End station and, therefore, a lot of younger schoolchildren got caught up in the attack. When the police arrived from Bow Road police station, the girls were subjected to racist abuse from the very officers who were supposed to help: 'C'mon, you black bitches, get out of here' was what the police had to say.

Reinforcements from Mile End police station appeared and were a little more sympathetic. Julie and two of her other cronies were arrested and are presently awaiting trial.

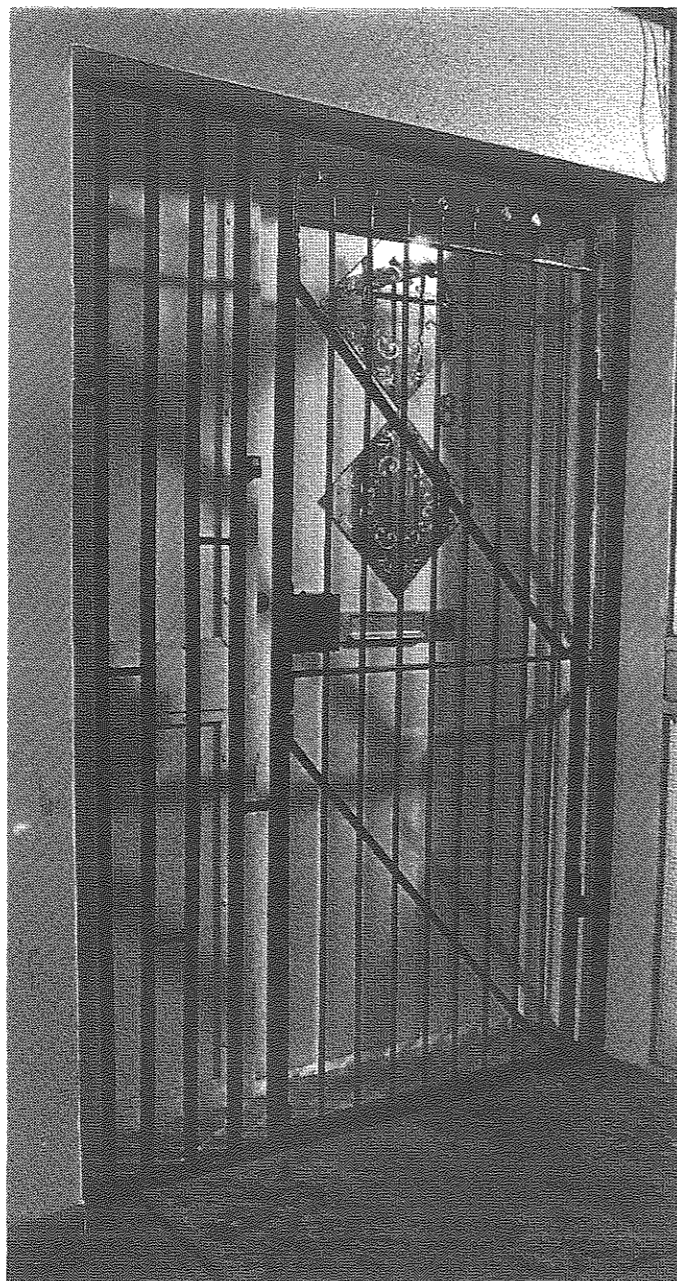
For a few days after this attack, black pupils and some of their teachers were followed on to the trains, some were taped by video cameras as the gang began to organise surveillance and further intimidate NM and her friends. NMP had organised photographers to photograph some of these activities. We witnessed the sinister level of organisation outside the station, with men hanging around outside and in a parked car around the corner using walkie-talkies. This lasted for two weeks and then bail conditions stipulated that they were to keep out of the vicinity of the underground station.

The incident raised many issues for the school in particular. What is the role of the school in fighting racism inside or outside the playground? What does the school do about racist attacks in and around school? What role do the police play in schools, especially when they exacerbate the situation instead of arresting the perpetrators? Where do the staff stand in terms of anti-racism? None of these questions can be answered immediately but the sixth formers, through their direct action, have begun to pose those questions and are forcing their teachers to consider the issues.

#### THE PROBLEM ON COUNCIL ESTATES

Many cases of racist graffiti being carved or drawn on houses and flats have been reported to us. Newham Council now have a team whose main job is to remove racist graffiti, if possible within 24 hours of its being reported to them. Although most graffiti is

put up much faster than it is removed, we can report that this removal scheme does work relatively well in practice.



*Self-defence or self-imprisonment?*

The smashing of windows, particularly on estates, has again been rife throughout 1988.

- Mr A, a widower with three young children who lives in Stratford, has had his windows broken on three occasions, once by a brick with a letter attached to it. Although he reported these attacks to the police, and was given crime reference numbers, the police later claimed that they could take no action.

We know from experience that, where this type of harassment occurs, it can be stopped simply by asking neighbours questions and identifying the perpetrators. Of the cases we have dealt with, in two out of three cases the harassment has stopped, even if only for a short time, when this approach has been taken.

There are many other ways in which families are intimidated. In one case reported to us a dead mouse was put through a letter box of a Beckton home where the occupants had been the target of persistent racist abuse. Other examples of damage to homes include excreta being either left or plastered on walls and doors.

- Excreta was pushed through the letter box of Mrs Prince, who lives in Forest Gate and is bring up two black foster children, on numerous occasions. Although Mrs Prince complained that offensive literature was regularly put through her letter box, and even had her front door lock superglued so that it would not open on one occasion, it was months before any action was taken.

Eventually, the harassment of the Prince family was dealt with effectively by the housing department, who evicted the Dallas-Hurley family who were responsible (this family were in fact insecure tenants). Those responsible for the harassment were later denied rehousing by the council on the grounds that they had made themselves intentionally homeless. The housing department's action has to be applauded. It should be extensively publicised as a warning to others.

One area of work that we feel the council could productively get involved with is the identification of the perpetrators of attacks. Very often we are told, regarding a particular case, that the perpetrators cannot be identified. While this might be true in some instances, for a great many others it is not. The community needs to be told what efforts have been made and who is responsible for making sure that council officers carry out their responsibilities.

- The M family were moved by the council to Forest Gate, having previously suffered from racial harassment in their last home. However, in Forest Gate, attacks persisted and their son, Farooq, was assaulted. The council officers only managed to establish the identity of a few of those responsible. Yet, on one occasion, an NMP worker accompanied Mrs M to her son's school. On the way she was able to identify to us one of the boys she thought to be responsible for abusing her son. When we spoke to the boy and his friends, they identified two others who had been involved.

Of concern also is the case of the Fergusons from East Ham.

- The Fergusons had lived in their council block without any complaint for six years until an elderly white man and his son moved in below them. Within weeks the two men began abusing the Fergusons, organising a petition against them. The Fergusons complained three times to their housing officer in East Ham about racist abuse and the fact that the old man had twice come upstairs and banged on the door so heavily that it severely damaged the hinges. The old man, on one occasion, shouted to Mrs Ferguson's sister, 'If you come out, I'll split you in half.' Following complaints by the two white men, the council began to take action against the Ferguson family for noise and nuisance. The Project immediately made very strong

representations to the council and to the Fergusons' councillors, winning the support of other community groups, including Newham Rights Centre. Under pressure, a notice of eviction against the Ferguson family was eventually withdrawn. Subsequently, complaints against the two white men for racial harassment were investigated and found to be correct. A letter was sent warning them not to persist with the harassment.

Fortunately, this case came to our attention and we managed to prevent a grave injustice being perpetrated. It is hard to say how many others have slipped through the net.

#### IN THE HOME

Racial harassment is often directed at the homes of black people. These attacks range from daily harassment such as graffiti being painted on doors and walls, stones being thrown through windows, excreta being pushed through letter boxes, to the most horrifying arson attacks which, thankfully, represent only a small proportion of cases involving damage to the home. Attacks on homes do not only involve damage to property; the psychological impact on families who suffer attack, and often live in a climate of fear and intimidation, cannot be underestimated.

In past annual reports we have documented in detail the approaches and responses of the council to racist violence. Last year, NMP was awarded a grant by the Runnymede Trust to examine, through a one-year Research Project, the effectiveness of the council's policy and procedures on racial harassment. This report is due shortly.

Although many racist attacks occur on council estates, we also report below on the increasing problem of attacks on private houses outside council provision, including attacks that occur in relatively prosperous and suburban areas. During 1988 we have become very concerned about these attacks and the most effective way that we, and other institutions, can respond to them.

#### Attacks in the private sector

Newham Council has now adopted a policy to tackle racial harassment in the private sector. This is based on procedures for tackling racial harassment on council estates. The two cases reported below reflect the now growing problem of harassment of people who do not live on council property and who have not been satisfied by the police response.

- The J family from Forest Gate have been harassed by their neighbour, an elderly woman, who says she objects to the smell of their cooking and their noise for a number of years. Last year, the elderly woman, who was leaning out of her upstairs window, sprayed a chemical into the face of one of Mrs J's guests. In May, she smashed a milk bottle over Mrs J's hand and, as a result, Mrs J, who is a nurse, had to take a couple of weeks off work. In December the elderly woman's daughter smashed a window in Mrs J's front door. When the police



arrived, the neighbours agreed that they had done the damage to the door and would pay for it. Despite the fact that Mrs J insisted on a criminal prosecution, the police left.

Following this, we approached various neighbours, who admitted to have heard a commotion and a barrage of racist abuse and threats. However, Mrs J got fed up with waiting for the police to prosecute and we arranged for private legal support for her to take action against her neighbour. But when her solicitor made a complaint about the failure of the police to make arrests, the response of the local beat officer was to come round and abuse Mrs J. Mrs J is now so frightened that she says she will never call the police again. And even though the council is meant to have a policy to tackle attacks in the private sector, no action has been forthcoming from this quarter either.

However, the private sector policy was used by East Ham housing department in another case that we have dealt with.

□ Mrs K, who lives opposite Queen's Market on Green Street, has had her car smashed on numerous occasions by the grandson of an elderly neighbour who is a council tenant, although Mrs K is not. On one occasion, Mrs K's 5-year-old son was kidnapped by two men who brought him back after several hours. When the CID was contacted they said they could do nothing to identify his kidnappers and, in any case, they felt that the boy had exaggerated the period of time he was held. They suggested that he might just have been playing.

Initially, the housing officers felt the case was not one of racial harassment, as the police had indicated to them that they felt it had originated in a dispute over parking. The housing officers said that as no training had been given on the new policy they felt somewhat at a loss as to how to approach the case. Following this, NMP worked with the team on formal and informal responses to the problem, based on supporting Mrs K. Once again we were forced into the role of detectives, trying to identify the people harassing the family. However, we did manage, with the aid of the housing officers, to put pressure on the police and a few weeks later two men were arrested in connection with the damage to the car.

Work on this case demonstrates that, even with exhaustive policies and procedures to tackle racist violence, council officers can still be at a loss as to how to tackle the problems of racial harassment. Although there is an onus on them to identify the perpetrators of racial harassment, this, in practice, seldom happens. For instance, from a similar case reported to us, it seems that some of the market traders on Green Street have been involved in at least two other racist attacks as well.

#### PATTERNS TO BE MONITORED

Certain trends and tendencies have emerged in 1988 and below we report on some of the issues that we believe will give us cause for concern in 1989.

#### Black women and racist attacks

According to our figures, black women bear the brunt of racist attacks in every area of Newham (see p 6). There are undoubtedly many reasons for this. Two general reasons are black women are more likely to be isolated at home through lack of employment, and a racist attacker is more likely to perceive a woman as vulnerable and, therefore, easier prey.

Our figures do not show the level of harassment committed by white women for they too are as ready to attack black women as are white men (see case of OO, p 23). This fact is often glossed over because of the stereotype of the white male racist thug. Our cases reinforce this, irrespective of class. NMP has the capacity to provide some support through our women's group, which was established two years ago.

#### Racism in suburbia

Racist attacks are not confined to poor or deprived areas but can take place in areas of relative affluence.

MM bought a house in Ilford and from the day he moved in his middle-class neighbours made his family's life hell. Every time he switched on his radio his neighbours would call the police and the neighbours even went so far as to cite him for noise pollution! Initially, the police's response was to come and investigate what the fuss was about and leave, but eventually they too became fed up with being called out for nothing. One officer said to MM, 'Sir, I don't think that your radio is the problem. They do not want *you* here.'

Initially, MM contacted the local Redbridge Community Relations Group. Workers came round to the MM's home and when they saw the transistor (which, incidentally, was the only one they had) they intimidated the family that it may be best for them to turn it down! The family were stunned. Here was an organisation that was supposed to 'facilitate better relationships between communities' and they could not see racism when it stared them in the face. Worse still, they were siding with the racists.

Things deteriorated as the neighbours stepped up their harassment. The police were called every time the MM's car was in the drive. The neighbours claimed that the car alarm kept going off — once as many as 100 times in an hour. The neighbours' behaviour became more and more peculiar; on one occasion Mr MM was even arrested on his doorstep as the neighbours had called the police and told them that MM's home was being burgled! As he entered his home, he was grabbed. He fought back, only to find that it was the police he was defending himself against. He was charged with assault.

When the assault charge came to court, MM was initially found guilty and ordered to pay a fine. Luckily he appealed successfully against the decision; the charges were thrown out and he was awarded costs and compensation.

In the meantime, however, the neighbours had drawn up a petition to get the family out, and the Ms were

forced to go and live with a family elsewhere. Now the M family have to make the hard decision as to whether to stay or sell up. Mr M came to us after he had been to the Redbridge CRC; he also got help from CAPA in Tower Hamlets. Despite the problems the M family have gone through, this case does illustrate what can be achieved if we stay and fight. Most of the success came through the family's determination not to be intimidated.

#### Tower Hamlets Road: a problem area

Tower Hamlets Road, Forest Gate, continues to be a problem area. In our last two reports we explained how the racist activities of a particular group of families forced five black families to move out of the road. More recently, we have had reports that workmen have been seen in the area carrying walkie-talkies with swastikas on them.

The racists are well-informed of the legal system and have used it to neutralise action against them by taking their own private prosecutions (unsuccessfully). However, the courts did bind over the main family responsible for the harassment, following an action against them. But the harassment did not end there as friends of the family continue to harass black people in the area. There has still been no effective action by the police and council to stop this.

In Tower Hamlets Road we focused primarily on the case of Mrs K, who had lived for a couple of years close to the pub where the perpetrators congregate. She and her husband had been subjected to verbal racist taunts; and male youths had exposed their genitals in front of Mrs K's window.

After Mrs K was the victim of a sexual assault, the family decided to sell up and move. We believe that it was one of the gang that regularly harasses the family. The police are conducting investigations. We are pressing for charges to be brought in this case.

#### Attacks carried out by young children

Many cases are reported to us each year of racist attacks which are committed by very young children. 1988 saw a worrying increase in the number of these attacks.

□ Mrs Singh lives in Beckton. Her 4-year-old child regularly played in a local playground but was tormented by white children. Eventually, the white children began to push and shove the boy and a few weeks later this turned to quite serious assaults — hitting, punching and kicking. After a particularly vicious attack, Mrs Singh, having already complained to one of the boy's mother but to no avail, went out to tell the boys off, clipping the boy around the ear. At this point, the boy's mother called the police, who came and advised her to take Mrs Singh to court, which she did.

With a solicitor arranged by NMP, Mrs Singh was able to get legal aid and defend herself. Eventually, after two hearings and adjournments, she decided to plead guilty, partly because she had a seriously disabled husband who needed her constant support. Mrs Singh

was awarded a bindover. Costs, however, were not awarded by the magistrates to Mrs Singh's neighbour. This was as a result of Mrs Singh's solicitor having successfully argued that there had been ample cause for Mrs Singh's reaction, given the level of racial harassment she and her family had had to endure. Mrs Singh, had she continued with the court case, might very well have been found not guilty.

Such a case demonstrates how far racists, motivated as they are by prejudice and familiar with the courts and the system, are prepared to go. It also demonstrates, we feel, the biased approach of the police who, acting on a white woman's complaint, went around to question Mrs Singh and take a statement from her, and were prepared to attend court, if required. How sure could we be that, had the situation been reversed, the police's approach would have been the same?

#### UPDATE ON CASES

Below we print an update on cases that we documented in last year's report.

#### Compensation for Trevor

Last year we reported on a brutal attack on Trevor Ferguson, who had a bottle smashed across his face, resulting in the loss of an eye, following a teargas attack on a party he was attending. No arrest was ever made. Subsequently, Trevor has been awarded the sum of £15,000 compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. Of course, there is no way that any financial award can fully compensate for the loss of a limb or life, but Trevor's case shows what can be achieved through consistent campaigning and pressure on the authorities.

#### The Hyat family: forced to leave

Last year we reported on the attacks suffered by E Hyat and on damage to his shop in Barking Road. These included two incidents of arson, his windows being smashed on three separate occasions, and two assaults on his staff. The police offered no effective support and then, last year, they threatened to suspend Mr Hyat's late opening hours licence. There had been a lot of publicity around this case, with reports in the black media as well as national press coverage. All to no avail, as Mr Hyat was finally hounded out of the shop, which he sold. Mr Hyat and his family left the country in October. A lot of effort went into supporting this family but, in the final analysis, they were failed by a system of policing which does not serve them.

#### Self-defence

At the time of the last report, we were awaiting the trial of Mr GW of Forest Gate, who had been charged with assault after defending himself from an attack by two white men during which he suffered multiple injuries. As a result of our work with the solicitor and barrister we had recommended to Mr GW, the issue of self-defence against racist attacks was addressed. As a result, GW, although found guilty, received only a token sentence in recognition of the fact that he had acted in self-defence. If this had not been taken into account, he could have faced imprisonment.

# 5 POLICE RESPONSES TO RACIST ATTACKS

The number of 'racial incidents' reported to the police in Newham dropped by 100 last year to 280. Once again this represented the highest recorded level of racist attacks in the country. The police statistics themselves deserve some attention. The police claim that their high figures for 1987 demonstrated the success of their racial harassment campaign. The figures have gone down in 1988, they say, because certain groups in the borough were undermining them.

## POLICE BLAME NMP FOR FAILURE

At this point it is probably a good idea to examine in detail the case that the police used to attack the Project!

On 27 April, 13-year-old Salim Patel was attacked on Katherine Road. Salim was walking home from the mosque with a friend when he saw a group of six men walking towards him, two of whom broke away and ran towards a car, while the rest set upon Salim. Salim's friend managed to get away. According to an eye-witness account: 'They then turned on the remaining youth, hit him in the face, knocked him down and kicked him extremely hard in the area of the chest or stomach. The youth was knocked into the road by the force of the kick.'

The witness, who managed to take down the number of the car, advised Salim and his father to come to us for help, and we advised him to report the attack to Forest Gate police. When we spoke to Salim's sister on 17 May, she told us the police had not contacted them yet.

In the meantime, the man who had witnessed the attack, who was a solicitor, brought us a copy of his notes and a diagram detailing what he had seen. He had not been contacted by the police either, and we therefore sent the police a copy of his statement.

A few weeks later Salim saw the attackers in a different car and took down the number plate which we passed on to the police. Then, on 9 July, we wrote to the divisional superintendent asking what progress had been made on the case. It is at this point that the police saw fit to launch an attack against the Project. The local chief inspector, Terry Walter, made a statement in the *Newham Recorder* accusing NMP of being 'self appointed', of 'having an adverse effect on race relations' and of 'damaging the name of the police with the Asian community'. He insisted that as a result 'less members of the Asian community will come forward to report crimes' and that 'we damage the performance police give to the Asian community'. In response we picketed West Ham police station.

The basis upon which the chief inspector made his attack rested on his belief that the Project took a statement from a witness when, in fact, the witness (a lawyer) brought the information to us.

The fact that a senior police officer can accuse us of undermining the police merely because we were doing what the police should have done all along, and what every solicitor, law centre and advice centre in the country does (ie gather information), is, of course, ludicrous. Nevertheless, this line of attack is one which the police have pursued against us ever since.

Shortly after this, Terry Walter, who was promoted, was moved out of the branch and out of the borough. As mentioned, however, his comments led to the start of a police campaign to vilify, marginalise and discredit the Project. And with its consultative machinery it was better placed to do so than before.



The picket of West Ham police station

NMP placed the issue of racist violence in Newham on to the political agenda nine years ago and now it seems many agencies are growing complacent about the issue and the extent of the problem. It is now, therefore, possible for the police to attack us repeatedly and accuse us of undermining them.

## WAYS OF DEALING WITH RACIST ATTACKS

### Police statistics

As we mentioned previously, police figures of racist attacks declined in 1988. This may be partially explained by the fact that cases are not being recorded over the phone, as they previously were, and are instead recorded at the police station. We also know of many instances where officers have not recorded cases as 'racial'. For example, take the case of Mrs K (see p 14). Here, the CID officer, when asked if he had recorded the case as a racial incident, responded: 'There is nothing to indicate the harassment is racial except for the fact that the men involved are all white.'

Wherever reported cases increase, the police use this to demonstrate not that there has been an increase in racist attacks but that one of their campaigns has been a great success. On the other hand, when their

figures go down, this somehow reflects police success in tackling the problem, which is, therefore, decreasing. In fact, police statistics are manipulated and managed every which way. The performance the police should be measured by is their response to cases reported to them. The indicators they use vary from year to year: for example, from using 'clear up' rates to now using 'detection' rates. A 'clear-up' is a case which the police have often merely passed on to local agencies such as the local authority, Citizens Advice Bureaux or even the victim support scheme. The response of the VSS is often to send the victim a pro-forma letter telling them they can report the matter to the police!

### Arrests

Perhaps the most significant statistical measure of police performance is the number of arrests and convictions which they secure. (Last year, in Newham, the number of arrests fell by 50%; they also fell the year before.) In fact, Newham, despite having the highest reported level of racial harassment in London, has one of the poorest arrest rates, considerably lower than neighbouring Tower Hamlets which is the only other borough with a problem of comparable size.

## NEW POLICE INITIATIVES

In a few cases last year, which we know of, emergency buzzers were placed in people's homes — this was actually in response to popular demand. There are plans now to develop and extend this with the council on a much wider scale. We also discovered that the NORIS (Newham Organised Racial Incidents Squad) was deployed on a number of occasions where families or individuals were facing sustained and repeated attacks on their homes. However, we have not been told how effective this unit has been, if at all, or if any arrests have been made and prosecutions secured.

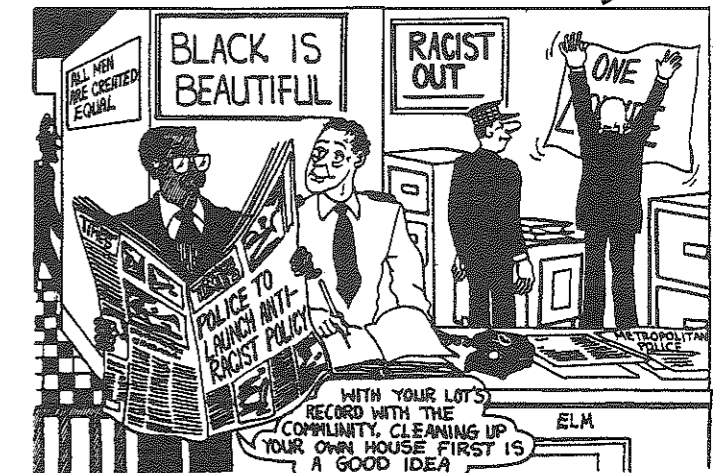
### Racial harassment publicity campaign

The police's racial harassment publicity campaign has been their central project/initiative. Covering 19 boroughs, including Newham, and at a cost of nearly half a million pounds, a mass of glossily published, multi-translated literature will be circulated, the emphasis of which will be to encourage the greater reporting of racist attacks.

We feel this is tackling the wrong end of the problem and therefore have a number of major reservations about this campaign, as explained in the policing chapter. In the first place, we have had to fight to get the police to recognise the service we provide and include our 24-hour emergency number on their leaflet, which will go to every home in Newham. Our reservations about the campaign are that it is not based on action, or on any changes in operational policy aimed at actually improving the police response to racist violence (ie through investigation, taking of statements, recognising the racist motive in a crime, and a better attitude to the victims of attack whom the police are often hostile to).

These campaigns are aimed at promoting the public

image of the police. Repeated surveys, including one commissioned by the police themselves, found that nearly 50% of the community think they are a waste of time and money. Quite naturally, the police's public image will not change in our eyes if their behaviour, their actions, and their ineffective response to racist attacks remain the same. Indeed, how are we to take such campaigns seriously when faced with the attitude of the Community Liaison Officer for Newham South, Supt John Ball, who stated in public (at the PCCG in January 1989) that the 'vast majority of racial harassment cases are of a trivial nature'? Perhaps more fundamental is the fact that such campaigns cannot be divorced from the reality of police racism and police brutality, and that therefore people will not take campaigns like this seriously unless, and until, the police begin to put their own house in order, and start addressing the issue of racism within their own ranks.



The campaign is also based on certain criteria which we feel are wrong. The Met describe racial harassment as a crime suffered by white and black people. This definition — indeed the Met's own definition of a racial incident — therefore excludes any notion of racism and the fact that racial harassment for us means racist harassment.

More disturbingly, the literature accompanying the action guides — which are filled with advice on personal safety and avoidance measures (for example, not going out after dark) rather than concentrating on what the police can do — actually promote the notion that black people somehow do not cooperate with the police. This implicitly suggests that we are not familiar with, or conditioned to understand, the structures of British society. In our chapter on anti-community policing (see p 27), we discuss other police initiatives in Newham and how they fit into the police's strategy of penetrating the community and eradicating any dissenting voices.

It comes as no surprise that the police feel it is time to launch an offensive against NMP for being critical of its racism, brutality and still ineffective response to racist attacks. Threats of a dossier being released are to be expected in a political climate which has become more authoritarian and intolerant than we imagined when our first report on racial harassment in Newham was produced nine years ago.

## 6 DEFEND THE PLAISTOW 4 CAMPAIGN

On 27 January 1989 four black men — Ron Springer, Clive Springer, Stephen Vernage and Reynold Mathurin — were acquitted at West Ham Magistrates' Court of various charges of assault and obstruction brought against them after the police raided a christening party in Plaistow, Newham, in June 1988. The acquittal of the four men — popularly known as the Plaistow 4 — came after six months of campaigning work by community groups and individuals across east London who came together in July 1988 to organise a campaign to defend these four young men. The campaign fought to raise public support for the Plaistow 4, to ensure that they were acquitted and to mobilise against the continued virus of racist policing in Newham. Below we report on the facts of the case and highlight some of the many issues that the campaign threw up.

### POLICE RAID ON CHRISTENING PARTY

The case of the Plaistow 4, like so many others, shows that black people, who are often picked up by the police on trumped-up charges when they walk the streets, are not even free from police violence in the privacy of their homes.

On 5 June 1988, following a christening, about 20 people, including several children under 5 years old, went to a flat in Plaistow to celebrate. At 4.15pm the police called at the flat, saying that as it was a Sunday afternoon the music should be turned down, which it was. The police returned to the flat at 11.15pm. Although the party was about to finish, the police insisted that it should end immediately. Despite the fact that some of the guests were due to stay overnight, all those present at the party, including small children and a heavily pregnant woman, were made to leave the flat (which was on the 13th floor) via the stairs.



By now over 25 police officers had arrived. While some surrounded the building and others waited on the 13th floor landing, a group of officers, many of whom had covered their identity numbers, forced their way into the flat. When Ron Springer tried to explain that as it was his girlfriend's flat he would be staying the night, he was grabbed by the throat in a stranglehold and told that he was 'nicked'. When Clive, Stephen and Reynold objected, they were also arrested. All four men were dragged to the lift,

racially abused and physically assaulted, with Ron Springer's head being cut as it was rammed through heavy swing doors. They were then handcuffed and forced to lie on the floor and were subjected to more racist abuse and violence. As he was getting out of the van at West Ham police station, a police officer slammed Reynold Mathurin's head into the door frame of the van, causing his head to bleed heavily.

### Organising the campaign

A campaign was soon set up to Defend the Plaistow 4 from police criminalisation. Between July 1988 and January 1989, over 2,000 people signed petitions demanding that the charges against the Plaistow 4 be dropped. Over 100 letters of support from all over England and from six other European countries were received. The Civil and Public Servants Association (CPSA) — Ron Springer's union — officially endorsed the campaign, and the local branch in Hackney, where Ron works, was instrumental to the campaign. Tube stations and central shopping areas in Newham were regularly leafleted. Local youth clubs were lobbied for support, and local schools, shops and community centres put up defence campaign posters. And, in spite of the mainstream media's claim that the case was 'sub judice' and therefore could not be reported, sympathetic articles about the Plaistow 4 appeared in *City Limits*, *Asian Times* and *Caribbean Times*.

On 24 November over 100 people attended a public meeting in support of the Plaistow 4, which was addressed by Courtney Griffiths (Barrister-at-Law), Ron Springer (one of the Plaistow 4), Annette Monerville (Trevor Monerville Campaign) and Unmesh Desai (NMP), with contributions from the Tottenham 3 Are Innocent Campaign and the Dora Oppong Must Stay Campaign. We were pleased by the commitment pledged at the public meeting and used this as a springboard for further mobilisation.

Following this, on 6 December, we lobbied a full council meeting of Newham Council, and on 13 December we picketed a Police Community Consultative Group meeting, demanding that the PCCG respond to the anger and concern of the local community to the police action against the Plaistow 4 and racist policing generally. In spite of the fact that the police refused to respond to our demands on the grounds that the case of the Plaistow 4 was sub judice, the PCCG agreed that they would raise the matter with the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Home Office.

Representatives of the Plaistow 4 campaign spoke at many rallies, marches and public meetings to publicise the injustice suffered by the Plaistow 4. On 1 August we spoke at the Racial Action Monitoring Project (RAMP) in Leicester, on 13 November at the Anti-Fascist Action (AFA) Remembrance Sunday rally on the Embankment, on 18 November at Greenwich Action Committee Against Racist Attacks (GACARA) public meeting in Greenwich, on 5 December at a Hackney Community Defence Association (HCDA)

public meeting in Hackney, on 11 December at a picket for the Tottenham 3 outside Wormwood Scrubs prison, and on 8 January at a commemoration march in Hackney for all those who have died, or been badly injured, while in custody of Hackney police.

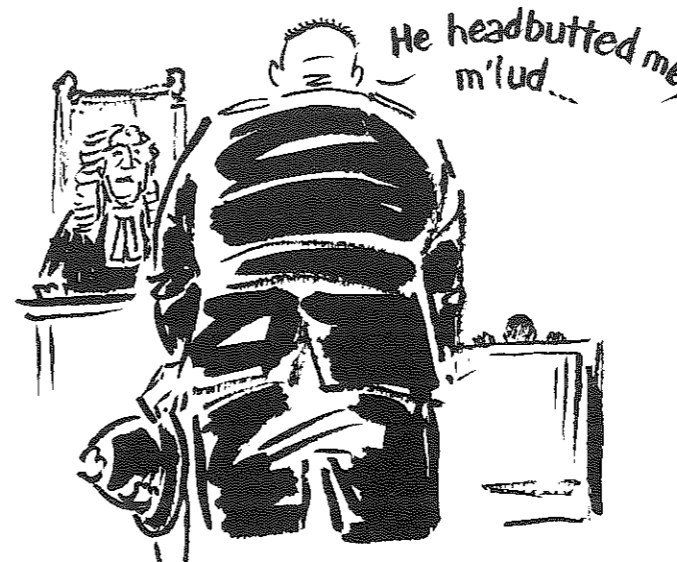
### The trial

On 27 January 1989 West Ham magistrates dismissed the eight charges of assault and obstruction against the Plaistow 4, having heard contradictory prosecution evidence from 11 police officers. The court had been picketed by over 50 people and the public gallery was packed with local black people throughout the three-day hearing.

The following examples demonstrate the contradictory nature of the police testimony:

- Officers claimed they arrived with no intention of making any arrests. Yet two empty police vans were on the scene which officers, under cross-examination, admitted were normally only used when arrests are anticipated.
- Officers claimed that only 12 officers were involved in the raiding party. Yet DC Lyons (CID) admitted that an additional 12 officers had arrived with him.
- Officers claimed they negotiated with partygoers for 20 minutes before entering the flat. Yet PC Smith, who could not fit into the lift and had to climb up the stairs in 'considerably less than 20 minutes', arrived on the 13th floor to see the arrests under way. DC Lyons, who arrived minutes after the initial group of officers, also saw the arrests under way.
- Inspector McNicky and Sergeant Kemp admitted that the music was turned off as soon as they knocked on the door. Yet PC Edwards claimed that the music was 'deafening'. When asked by the defence why his statement and his notebook said that the music was turned off, he responded that he 'must have made a mistake'.

• When questioned as to why they suspected a breach of the peace was taking place, police officers gave a variety of reasons, ranging from shouting and fighting to hearing a loud crash of glasses breaking, or even cabinets crashing.



Officers alleged that Ron Springer and Reynold Mathurin sustained their head injuries when they escaped from the grip of the police. According to them, they escaped for just long enough to bang their own heads against doors before they were again restrained.

After hearing the prosecution evidence, the magistrates concluded that the police entry of the flat was premature and unjustifiable. There was no reason to believe that a breach of the peace was taking place; as the inspector himself admitted, the music had already been turned off when the police arrived. All the charges of assault and obstruction against the four youths were subsequently thrown out.

## VICTORY FOR THE PLAISTOW FOUR!



## RACIST POLICE CHARGES AGAINST FOUR YOUNG BLACK MEN THROWN OUT OF COURT!

### VICTORY FOR THE PLAISTOW 4

The campaign is celebrating the acquittal of the Plaistow 4 as a symbolic victory for black people organising and fighting against racist policies. The importance of grassroots community action has once again been demonstrated by this success. This result should encourage others who have been victimised and brutalised by the police to come forward and report police violence.

It is rumoured that had the case of the Plaistow 4 been lost, the police would have tried to discredit and marginalise the Project by releasing a so-called dossier on us which they claim to hold.

We are now asking Tony Banks MP to raise the issue of the Plaistow 4 in the House of Commons. We are also demanding that the Home Secretary suspend the officers involved and launch an urgent investigation into how the entire operation came about. Such raids seem to be becoming all too typical of the policing of the black community in east London and elsewhere.

# 7 POLICE HARASSMENT

Parts of the London Borough of Newham have been designated by the police as 'politically sensitive areas'. To understand why this is so, and what it means in policing terms, we have to go back to the 1981 and 1985 uprisings, after which the police shifted away from policing designed to detect and prevent crime towards 'public order policing'.

Following the uprisings, new legislation was brought in. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act and the Public Order Act gave the police massive new powers to stop and search, set up roadblocks, detain people without charge, prohibit demonstrations, etc. And in addition to these powers, new locally-based riot squads were formed, the purpose of which was (ostensibly) to carry out targeting exercises against criminals. The net result has been a qualitative leap in the levels of oppressive policing — a policing designed not to serve the black community but to 'contain' them, politically and ideologically, and to psychologically isolate and physically intimidate, particularly, young black people.

This heavy-handed policing has, there is no doubt, begun to affect the quality of life for black people in Newham. And it is for this reason that this year's Annual Report's chapter on police harassment looks, firstly, at the effects of police practices such as targeting and, secondly, at how this shift in police strategy affects our Casework.

## TARGETING AND MASS RAIDS

A major operational campaign was launched by the Newham police last year, involving the Territorial Support Group (TSG) based at Bow. Given the fact that nearly 100 officers were used on some raids and given the degree of coordination required, these raids must have taken months of preparation and could only have been carried out if they were cleared at the highest level.

Several major raids took place in Newham within eight weeks involving, according to reports in the

local press, up to 95 officers. In fact, there are only 567 police officers based in Newham! This huge deployment of resources, and the very few convictions secured as a result of the raids, begs the question — how do the police justify mounting such massive raids? And, if police resources are allocated against the black community in this way, how seriously can we take campaigns aimed at improving the police's image (for example, their racial harassment campaign) which are based on glossy literature, not on action and operational change.

### Raids on black meeting places

Last year we reported on seven major raids that took place on black clubs in Newham. This year, the Project is aware of six such raids, including an immigration 'fishing' raid on a clothes factory in Katherine Road (see p 31).

In January and February alone, there were four major multiple raids, one of them involving over 95 police officers. The first operation, codenamed 'Sampson 2', was a raid on the 'Odds and Sods' shop in Katherine Road. This was followed a week later by two simultaneous raids; one, which was codenamed 'Courage' (sic), took place in Barking Road, Plaistow, and the other was directed towards individual houses in Plaistow. A fortnight later, a further raid, codenamed 'Norman', was directed at the 'William of Orange' club and involved over 95 police officers.

### 'Sampson 2' leads to harassment of family

Following the raid on 'Odds and Sods', 14 officers from the Territorial Support Group smashed their way into a nearby house. Patsy Imbert, her sisters Wendy and Marilyn, and their brother Colin say that they were abused and assaulted by police who charged them, along with their friend Donna Blackman, with 'obstruction' and using 'profane language'.

Later, the charges were dropped against Colin and Patsy. But the two sisters, Wendy and Marilyn, had to face a Crown Court jury at Snaresbrook in January

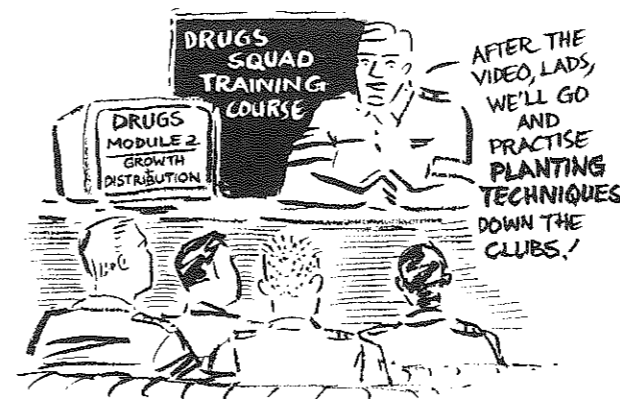
1989. Marilyn was, however, acquitted due to the fact that her arresting officer, PC Goodyear, was serving a suspension as a result of the 'Wapping Trials'. 'Herbal substances' which had been seized during the raid were revealed, after laboratory tests, to be mint tea! Eventually, all those arrested were found not guilty, including 5' 2" Donna Blackman who was alleged to have assaulted a police officer.

In an unbelievable twist to the story, however, as they left the court Donna Blackman was arrested yet again by officers from East Ham police station who now claim that they 'mistakenly' identified her to be 'someone else'. Donna Blackman had to spend a further 4½ hours in police cells before being released. Donna and her friends are now compiling a writ which details complaints against East Ham officers.

The fact that 95 officers, almost one-fifth of Newham's entire police force, were used in such a raid, resulting in only one minor charge being brought, is a damaging indication of policing priorities in Newham.

### 'Operation Courage'

The Plaistow raid, code-named 'Courage', was directed at a small private club due to receive its licence the following week. The owner, Keith Lindsay, told us that before the raid a number of people in the area were stopped and searched in an attempt to intimidate them and prevent them coming to the area. The Project is assisting him to make formal complaints at the highest level. Only five people were arrested in the raid. Three of those charged with illegal possession of drugs claim that the drugs were planted on them by the police. Over a period of several weeks, those arrested were repeatedly asked to return to Plaistow police station to await the outcome of forensic tests. At each visit, the police put pressure on them to admit that they had been in possession of drugs. Eventually, one of them did, but only in order to avoid further harassment. However, when the case came before the court, it was thrown out by the magistrates.



Cont from Pg 1

The victim told *Caribbean Times* that her relative's house was left "in a terrible state".

"The radiator in the front passage had been torn off, the bedrooms and living room were ransacked and there were clothes, jewellery and personal belongings strewn all over the house. It was terrifying."

There were no drugs or allegedly stolen property removed from the house. A spokesperson from the Newham Monitoring Project called the raid "a terrorist attack against the community which makes a mockery of the police's avowed intention to forge better relations between themselves and the locals."

In complete contrast a 'softly softly' police operation in east London during the same evening saw two men arrested at a Cannin Town address where a "substantial quantity" of suspected Class 'A' drugs was removed for analysis.

the police were "concerned with the effects such raids have on the community".

"We always seek to isolate the felons from ordinary law-abiding citizens".

However, eye-witnesses testify to the deployment of dozens of police officers equipped with riot shields and firearms who, seemingly, waged a campaign of terror against residents of private addresses in addition to the two which were raided.

Chief Inspector Walters admitted that 18 home addresses of those arrested in the original raids were also searched, resulting in five arrests. However, one east London resident told *Caribbean Times* that she was one of SEVEN arrested during a search on her relative's home.

The girl, who has no previous criminal record, claims that police failed to produce a warrant when asked, and that several male officers set about her, kicking and punching her.

She was later released on conditional bail, charged with assault, obstruction and using abusive language.

Cont on Pg 5

## The heavy hand of the law

East London police were last week accused of heavy-handedness following activities that accompanied a major drugs operation.

'Operation Samson' involved some 70/80 officers from East and West Ham and members of the Territorial Support Group (TSG) who embarked on a pair of co-ordinated raids on a pool hall in Katherine Road and an address in Bushey Road, both in east London.

A spokesperson for Scotland Yard told *Caribbean Times* that 'Operation Samson' had led to 39 arrests. Seven people have been charged with offences concerning the

unlawful supply of cannabis, possession of offensive weapons and also the handling of alleged stolen property.

Eighteen others were released without being charged whilst the remainder were released after receiving adult cautions.

Chief Inspector Terry Walters, of West Ham Police Station, who headed the operation saw it as a great success. He told *Caribbean Times* that the arrests confirmed widely-held belief in the correlation between drugs, burglary and theft.

### FIREARMS

Chief Inspector Walters, the former community liaison officer for Hackney, added that

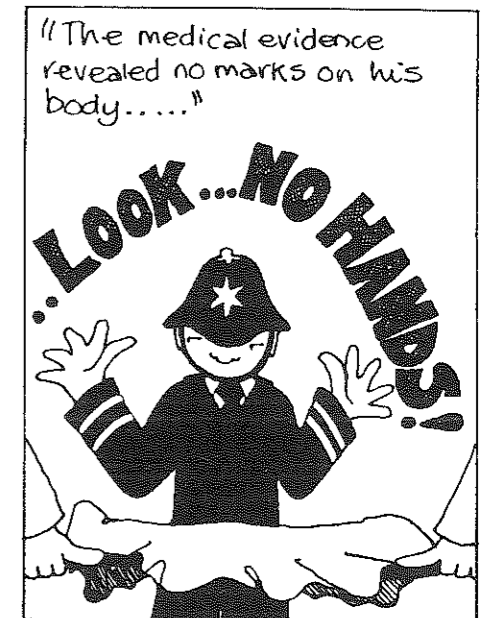
## CASEWORK

A total of 65 cases of police harassment were reported to the Project during 1988. A simple breakdown reveals:

48 charged and released — 74%  
17 released without charge — 26%

Further examination shows the different forms of police harassment in the borough:

Verbal abuse — 22  
Assault/physical abuse — 16  
Home raids — 7  
Traffic — 9  
Stop and search — 5  
Other forms\* — 6



Many of the cases that we have dealt with during 1988 are a direct result of the operational police practices already described. Although the notorious 'sus' laws were removed from the statute book as a direct result of concerted black community pressure, the practices of 'sus' are still legitimated via sections of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act and increased use of the Road Traffic Offences Act. Proposals for compulsory identity cards also give cause for concern.

Black people continue to be harassed on the streets. But, as the case of the Plaistow 4 so vividly illustrates (see p 18), harassment is not confined to the streets but all too often the police invade the privacy and sanctuary of the home.

In last year's Annual Report we documented the case of TS. In a bizarre incident, 12 police officers — who say they were searching for a stolen bike — raided T's home, accompanied by a low-flying helicopter. As a result of the raid, T (who was savaged by a police dog) and his family have moved out of Forest Gate. As far as we are aware, at least three other black

\* The majority of those who complained to us had experienced more than one kind of harassment during 1988; the Project assisted with 22 complaints against the police.

The raids we have documented here involve very large numbers of police and special units such as the Territorial Support Group. Although we shall continue to monitor the cases as those few people arrested go through the courts, what concerns us is that such raids are being carried out without even a whimper of protest from other agencies in the borough or by the local authority itself.

families have moved out of Forest Gate after suffering systematic harassment by the police. From the cases of police harassment that have been reported to us, it seems that many sections of the black community have come to expect provocation, abuse and harassment from the police. We are aware that the majority of these cases are not reported because: (a) they are taken for granted; (b) individuals fear reprisal and further harassment from the police; and (c) there is a general feeling of helplessness, ie 'what good will it do' and 'what can anyone do about it'.

Although we recognise the power of such feelings, we would continue to stress that all such incidents be reported to NMP.

Cases like that of the Plaistow 4 show that, with persistent effort and campaigning, there is always cause for hope that justice will be done. NMP can help by providing immediate legal advice/support, by liaising with the authorities, and rallying political and community support.

Below we have outlined examples of cases of police harassment we have handled and tried to demonstrate how we can support those who want to fight back!

#### Street harassment

□ C McF lives in Forest Gate. When he turned 17, he was stopped by Forest Gate police three times in a matter of weeks for no apparent reason. After NMP arranged a solicitor for him, who wrote to the police, the harassment discontinued.

□ PA from Plaistow was stopped on four separate occasions by police and asked for 'information'. On the first occasion they dragged him into a transit van and asked him if he 'knew anything'. When he replied, 'About what!', they told him, 'we'll teach you, you black bastard'. They then let him go. PA is too scared of reprisals to make a formal complaint.

#### Police racism

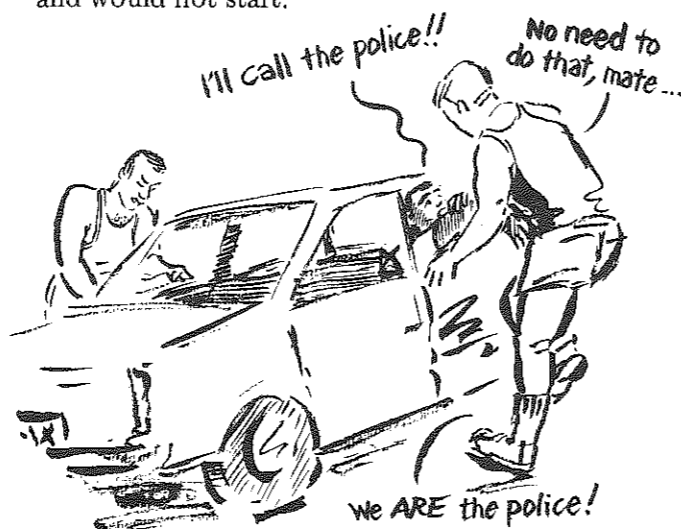
Several cases have come to our attention that illustrate the racism prevalent within the police force. If racism characterises the police's dealings with black people, it is small wonder that we have so little faith in them.

#### □ Abdul Kadir

On 4 May, having dropped his daughter at school, Abdul was waiting at the traffic lights on Romford Road/Faraday Road when what he took to be a jogger crossed his path, stopped and hit his car, called him a 'fucking paki'. When Abdul shouted out, the man approached Abdul's car, punched him in the face, grabbed the car keys and walked away. In a shocked and dazed state, Abdul, in order to retrieve his keys (which were subsequently thrown on the ground) ran after the man. As he bent down to pick up the keys, the jogger's partner (whom Abdul was unaware of) ran up from behind and kicked him so hard in the stomach that he was knocked across the pavement. This man then sat on his head whilst the other kicked him. When the

large crowd that had gathered shouted at the men to stop or they would call the police, one of the strange men shouted back 'no need to call the police — we are the police'. He then produced an identity card and ordered them to disperse.

Abdul's nightmare did not end there. He was then taken to West Ham police station and charged with assault and actual bodily harm (which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years). On release, the police refused to give him his car keys back (claiming that they would be held as evidence that he was in possession of an offensive weapon!). Even his solicitor was unable to get his car keys back from the investigating officer (who turned out to be the jogger who had sworn at him and punched him in the face). Eventually, Abdul got a spare set of keys and returned to his car — which they had pushed away. It had been tampered with and would not start.



NMP was able to support Abdul by helping him find witnesses and liaising with his solicitors. We accompanied him on several occasions to the place where he was beaten and questioned residents, shopkeepers and office workers in the area in order to find witnesses. In June, an advertisement for witnesses to come forward was put into the local paper.

As a result, when the case was heard early in January, Abdul was found not guilty of causing ABH. Unfortunately the jury, against the judge's direction, found him guilty of assault for which he received a small fine. By this time Abdul had had enough and did not want to carry the matter further to appeal. However, the case does illustrate how NMP can practically assist people who report instances of police brutality to us.

Those who do not speak English, or who are elderly or vulnerable in any way, suffer particularly from police racism.

□ Mr J — a senior old age pensioner from Canning Town — was stopped in his car by police. The police were abusive when questioning him but eventually they let him go. A few weeks later, Mr J was stunned to receive a court summons for 'failing to produce' his driving documents. He had never been asked to do so. The case was thrown out of court.

We helped Mr J make complaints, asking for the suspension of the officers involved and a full inquiry.

□ Mr Hussain from Stratford does not speak very much English. When he was stopped and asked by police to provide a breath test, he did so and was allowed to go. Yet a few weeks later he was charged with failing to produce his documents. Like Mr J he had never been asked to do so. Mr Hussain was going to plead guilty but then he came and spoke to us. In October, magistrates at Newham East (Stratford) dismissed the charge against him.

We also dealt with three other cases relating to black people with little spoken English who had been charged with failing to produce breath samples. These charges were brought despite the fact that in all three cases the people had printouts of the results of their tests!

The above cases demonstrate, we feel, the way the police will abuse their power deliberately in the hope that they will secure a guilty plea, perhaps in advance, from people not sure of their rights or who are simply too scared to challenge the injustice.

The case of PP provides yet a further example of this form of racist policing of black people.

Mr P was stopped by the police whilst driving on the Newham Way for not wearing a seat belt. Other, white, motorists were likewise being stopped and if they did not have their seat belt on were told not to do so again, but the police took the opportunity to be very rude to Mr P.

When Mr P complained about the difference in the treatment of the white drivers and himself, he was dragged out of the car and told by the PC, 'You black bastards think you own the country and can tell us what to do — we'll teach you some respect.' Mr P, who was concerned about his daughter who was alone at home, remained calm and reluctantly agreed to go with the police to the station. They kept him there for two hours. They then took him, handcuffed, back home, where he was allowed to pick up his daughter, only to return to the station where he was charged with disorderly conduct under the Public Order Act.

The Project took up Mr P's case. We wrote to complain to the police and raised the matter with his local councillors (and a few community groups) who responded by taking the issue up with the police.

The charge against Mr P was dropped before it came to court! We feel this was as a result of the issue being raised and fought.

#### Police harassment of black women

No section of the black community is free from police harassment. Last year we reported on the horrific case of 17-year-old Samantha Reynolds who was stripped, punched and kicked severely in the stomach. Many black women — especially when their homes are raided by the police — suffer deeply from police racism. And to this is added an aspect of sexual humiliation. The same criminal stereotypes that are applied to young black men have applied to young

black women who are criminalised and stereotyped, as in the case below.

Maud Carter had an appointment at her accountants. After she had left, the office staff noticed that a bag had been stolen. When they phoned the police, they reported that Maud had been the thief. The police proceeded to arrest Maud and at the police station made comments like 'you need a clothes peg to straighten your nose'. Eventually, when they found the person who had stolen the bag, the charges against her were dropped. The Project is now assisting her with an action against the police.

On 8 December, 14-year-old OO stepped out of her home in Stratford to go to the local shop with a friend. On the way back they witnessed a violent domestic dispute between a young white couple. The couple, realising that they had been seen, said, 'What do you think this is, a fucking peepshow?' OO and her friend tried to avoid the couple; however, the only way home was past them. Obviously annoyed by the presence of the youngsters, the white woman turned on OO and began to punch her. OO did not retaliate for fear of reprisals but struggled to get home, with the white woman still holding and pounding her, and screaming racist abuse. On reaching her front door, OO's mother was shocked to see someone beating her child.

A neighbour called the police and when they arrived the white woman said, 'I did not know that niggers squealed,' and gave her another blow in full view of the approaching officers. Rather than arrest the attacker, the police immediately went for OO, slamming her against the police car, twisting and pressing her face on the bonnet. OO's mother identified herself and begged the officers to leave her daughter alone. Her pleas were ignored and, as she tried to stop the officers from assaulting her daughter further, she was struck in the chest. Her other children came out to see what the commotion was about and Mrs O's 8-year-old son was also struck by an officer. Such was the force of the blow that he fell on to his 3-year-old brother, who then banged his head on the wall. Meanwhile, the white couple walked away.

OO was forced into a police car where she was subjected to racist abuse from the officer and further violence. Her mother was taken to the station in a separate vehicle. On arrival at West Ham police station, Mrs O saw her daughter being frog-marched to an interrogation room. Mrs O had repeatedly tried to explain to the officers that her daughter was only 14. At no time was she allowed to be present when her daughter was with the officers. In the interrogation room, the officer proceeded to search OO and said, 'Where's the drugs then, you black bitch?' as they attempted to take her clothes off.

Finally, she was allowed to be with her mother, and the police charged Mrs O with obstruction. However, before they were released, the police said that they wanted Mrs O's passport to check that she was not an illegal immigrant.

The Project lobbied the PCCG with OO and her mother and visited their MP, Tony Banks, who has

(continued on p 26)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 1988

## JANUARY

- 1 Police raid black community centre in High Wycombe after black and white youths clash in the streets
- 8 Second annual torchlight procession through Hackney led by Trevor Monerville Campaign
- 11 NMP public meeting, 'Consultation or Collusion?', about proposed establishment of a Police Community Consultative Group in Newham
- 18 Black churches see Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, to protest against the new Immigration Act
- 20 An Amnesty International report criticises Britain for its policies towards refugees
- 22 Inquest into murder of Tunay Hassan in Dalston police station in June 1987 finds 'lack of care' aggravated death
- 26 Two police officers resign following allegations of terrorising recruits with shotguns and pickaxe handles
- 27 Inquest into how black schoolboy hanged himself after racist taunts at Merthyr Tydfil school

## FEBRUARY

- 1 Inquest into the murder of Clinton McCurbin stopped after objection to all-white jury
- 12 Six Tamils deported after appeal to the Law Lords — a further 500 face a similar prospect
- 15 Salma Begum is allowed to remain in Britain after taking sanctuary in a Manchester church
- 18 Amnesty International say treatment of detainees on Broadwater Farm violated European Convention on Human Rights
- 19 James Anderton challenged on guidelines for use of 'riot squad' following raid of 150 on 21st birthday party
- 22 Home Office proposes electronic tagging for offenders
- 25 Computer programme discriminated against black applicants in St George's Medical School
- 25 Universities and polytechnics are told by Kenneth Baker to monitor number of black applicants

## MARCH

- 1 Runnymede Trust report states that black workers are no better off than they were 20 years ago
- 7 Asian lawyers' society announces it will provide free private prosecutions for victims of racist harassment
- 7 Association of London Authorities (ALA) report demonstrates that black people will be hit the hardest by the poll tax
- 9 Department of the Environment report shows unemployment is twice as high among black people as among white people
- 25 Report finds less than 2% of magistrates, solicitors and barristers are black
- 28 Leeds Council bans convicted football racists from using civic amenities
- 29 CRE report on racist attacks in schools and the poor response of education authorities

## APRIL

- 1 Police complaints authority clears two police officers involved with the arrest of Clinton McCurbin
- 2 Black schoolboy held in prison for four weeks for stealing 56 pence
- 8 NACRO report reveals black juveniles disproportionately receive severe sentences
- 8 Bomb planted in Wolverhampton — thought to be the work of neo-Nazis

- 14 Twenty people arrested following mass police raid on 'yardies' in Clapton
- 15 Black footballer fined £1,200 for responding to racist taunts about his family by another player
- 20 Twentieth anniversary of Enoch Powell's 'rivers of blood' speech
- 23 European day of Anti-Fascist Action — rallies in London and all European capitals
- 25 Leeds police escort NF march of 100 members despite Home Office ban
- 27 Court of Appeal rules that Tower Hamlets Council's eviction of Bengali families was illegal
- 27 Police inspector arrested after £1,500 of cannabis found hidden in Netley police training school
- 28 Newham teacher writes racist letter to *Newham Recorder* — sparks mass protest which ultimately leads to his resignation
- 28 Professor John Eggleston to be invited to do Race Awareness Training in Burnage School

## MAY

- 4 Nineteen Turkish asylum-seekers are deported
- 5 Two Lancashire police officers sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering Owen Roberts in Morecambe police station in June 1987
- 8 Sixty-one students are arrested in London immigration raids
- 8 NF hold ceremony in commemoration of Albert Mariner in West Ham cemetery — met with stout resistance by local people
- 11 Trial begins of two police officers charged with perjury following their arrest of student during demonstration against Leon Brittan's visit to Manchester University in March 1985
- 18 Police 'operation sweeper' in Birmingham using 'Wag Van' to arrest truant children
- 21 Police raid the Mangrove, Notting Hill, and arrest 21 people
- 26 Anti-racist teaching in Brent is vindicated by government enquiries
- 27 Brent Council cleared of 'planting race spies' in schools

## JUNE

- 5 Raid on christening party — start of the Defend the Plaistow 4 Campaign
- 7 Tower Hamlets Council declares Bengali families intentionally homeless and evicts them
- 9 Collapse of trials against local football hooligans in West Ham
- 10 Nine English skinheads jailed for three months in France for attacking Algerians
- 13 NACRO report shows that black people are twice as likely to be given custodial sentences as white people
- 16 Launch of Singh Family Defence Campaign in Leicester
- 16 Manchester City Council refuses request of Kenneth Baker to publish Burnage Report
- 17 Jamaica House in Toxteth is closed by magistrates and the police — mass protests by local black communities
- 17 Viraj Mendis loses appeal against deportation in Court of Appeal

- 18 Anti-fascist counter-demonstration in Chesterfield
- 19 Stratford School Students Action Committee (SSSAC) lobby Newham Council
- 21 Start of the Mangrove 21 trials
- 21 Launch of the 'Defend Rajah' campaign in Greenwich by GACARA
- 21 Tory councillor in Birmingham who called a council worker a 'black bastard' is promoted
- 23 Staffordshire police found guilty under section 29 of Race Relations Act of issuing leaflets urging neighbourhood watch members to report 'any sightings of coloureds'.
- 27 Black families are four times as likely to be made homeless, says local authority report
- 28 Sir John Farr MP (Leicester) tells constituent: 'Go back to your own country.'
- 28 Filipino, African and Chinese-based anti-deportation campaigns unite to launch appeal for fund-raising
- 30 Anthony Carroll, murderer of Abdus Sattar in Hampstead, May 1987, gets life imprisonment

## JULY

- 7 London demonstration against the visit of Unita leader Jonas Savimbi
- 8 Police award family of Blair Peach £75,000 — accepted by Roy Peach in New Zealand
- 9 Picket of West Ham police station re attack on NMP following racist attack on Salim Patel
- 13 White Dewsbury parents win court battle to opt out from school
- 14 CRE finds estate agents guilty of racism
- 19 Ministry of Defence rejects 'race' monitoring of forces
- 23 Launch of Hackney Community Defence Association (HCDA)
- 26 Home Office accepts DIV A blood tests for prospective immigrants

## AUGUST

- 1 1988 Immigration Act comes into force
- 4 Timothy Renton, Home Office minister, bans MP's automatic right to delay expulsions
- 9 Picket of Snaresbrook Crown Court for Trevor Monerville
- 28/29 Complaints against the largest police operation in Europe involving 9,900 officers at Notting Hill Carnival

## SEPTEMBER

- 2 Escalation of racist attacks in Dewsbury
- 7 Department of the Environment issues 'Good Practice Guide' for local authorities in tackling racial harassment
- 9 Trevor Monerville arrested again and charged with assault
- 12 Man faces deportation to Zimbabwe for breaking a window
- 16 Errol Barton found 'not guilty' of assaulting the police — Roald Dahl gives evidence for him
- 17 Anti-fascists demonstrate against William of Orange tercentenary celebration in Exeter
- 18 Chinese Against Racist Attacks group conference in Camden
- 19 Tottenham 3 Are Innocent Campaign rally in West London
- 21 Douglas Hurd calls for 'lazy police' to be sacked

- 22 Publication of Wolf Olins' report on Metropolitan Police Corporate Image
- 22 Police Superintendents' Association calls for armed teams on 24-hour patrols in certain parts of the country
- 29 Agnes Kory awarded £29,000 for racial discrimination from English National Opera

## OCTOBER

- 1 March in Leicester organised by Racial Attacks Monitoring Project (RAMP)
- 3 Home Office representative flies to West Africa to warn women not to smuggle drugs
- 6 Lord Gifford QC chosen to lead team of inquiry into policing in Liverpool
- 12 Territorial Support Group attack Seventh Day Adventists in Tottenham — Bernie Grant MP who witnessed the attack protests in the House of Commons

## NOVEMBER

- 1 Jury verdict of death by misadventure on Clinton McCurbin
- 6 Tenth anniversary meeting of Greenwich Action Committee Against Racist Attacks (GACARA)
- 13 Anti-Fascist Action counter-demonstration against National Front participation on Remembrance Day — 27 anti-fascists arrested by police following a fascist attack on the picket
- 16 Dora Oppong Must Stay Campaign rally in Newham
- 18 Inquiry on the events at Broadwater Farm led by Lord Gifford QC condemns convictions
- 24 Marion Gaima Must Stay Day of Action
- 24 Defend the Plaistow 4 Campaign rally in Newham
- 27 NMP conference on Racism and Racist Violence in Schools

## DECEMBER

- 2 A five-year, half a million pounds study by the Economic and Social Research Council finds that among teenagers, the only political party whose policies are well known is the National Front, and support for the NF doubled to 15% between 1979 and 1983
- 5 Guardian Angels announce plans to begin training 50 recruits
- 8 Eight senior anti-racist teachers to be removed from Highbury Quadrant School
- 11 Picket outside Wormwood Scrubs prison for the Tottenham 3
- 11 Enoch Powell calls for repatriation of second and third generation 'immigrants'
- 12 Roy Hattersley MP pledges Labour will increase size of police force
- 12 Director of Public Prosecutions decides to prosecute 24 police officers following investigations into the policing of the Wapping disputes
- 15 Winston Silcott, Mark Braithwaite and Engin Raghip denied right to appeal against life sentence convictions for the death of PC Blakelock on Broadwater Farm in 1985
- 15 Lord Chancellor announces plans to monitor sentences of black defendants
- 16 Douglas Hurd MP announces review into public order policing to include new methods of crowd dispersal such as the use of plastic bullets and CS gas
- 18 Govan (Scotland) police head group to coordinate 'action' against racist attacks

(continued from p 23)

lent his support, adding his voice to those demanding that the charges are dropped.

Only as a result of community pressure did the police arrest and charge the white women who attacked OO. But the fact remains that a 14-year-old was brutalised by the police who had been called to protect her from a racist attack. Although OO has not been charged, she has been offered a caution which she rightly refused.

Another grave injustice will be committed unless OO and her mother are acquitted and those police officers responsible for the suffering of the whole family are disciplined.

#### Other cases

Our past reports have analysed how harassment by the police does not end at the police station. The process whereby police injustice is extended into the courts, and the judicial system takes over, can be equally, if not more, frightening.

But Samuel Ricketts' case demonstrates how, with effective legal and political support, the racism of the courts can be effectively challenged. Samuel was arrested and remanded in custody on a charge of murder. The sole basis for this charge was the evidence of convicted persons held by police who claimed to have heard Samuel admit to the murder. Samuel was being held in custody because the police opposed bail on the grounds that he would leave the

country and travel to Jamaica!

NMP advised Samuel to change solicitors and, after he had done this, the judge allowed him out on bail. But this was after nine months of unnecessarily being held in custody.

Another way in which NMP has assisted the victims of police harassment is by helping them obtain legal aid. For instance, during 1987 Rajendra Patel was beaten up by over a dozen police outside the Manor Pub (see 1987 Annual Report). He was charged with causing actual bodily harm but the charge was dropped when no evidence could be offered by the prosecution.

Rajendra has since successfully applied for and received legal aid to sue the police. This process takes, on average, five or six years to go through the courts.

Last year, we also reported on the case of Femi Olesahindhe who was arrested when he spoke out on behalf of his friend who was being harassed by the police. The charge against him was eventually dropped. Femi, too, has successfully applied for and received legal aid in order to sue the police.

The cases we have attempted to bring together here illustrate the kinds of racist policing occurring in Newham today. They also demonstrate that groups like NMP, far from being exercises in police-bashing, are a vital resource for all those who continue to suffer the sharp edge of police injustice.

## 8 ANTI-COMMUNITY POLICING

Another aspect of policing strategy is the introduction of multi-agency policing where the police, supposedly, work with various other agencies in order to combat crime. Increasingly, this has come to mean, in practice, the control of community politics by police and the isolation of groups that are critical of the police. It is this manipulation of community politics that is the subject of this chapter on 'Anti-community policing' and the following chapter on 'Police accountability'.

#### THE COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Every year, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police issues a strategy statement. The most recent of these, published last year, declared that there was a need for greater consultation, a need for more professionalism, and the need for greater economy and efficiency.

The document emphasised the notion of the 'police-public contract' which had been developed by Sir Peter Imbert's predecessor, Sir Kenneth Newman, five years ago when he reorganised the Force Planning System. Under this so-called contract, the police decide where their priorities lie. 'We cannot meet every demand and not every demand is a priority. Improvements to the quality of life in the inner city areas will need concerted action by central and local government linked with the efforts of other agencies including ourselves.' The underlying message of all this is that the police are not alone responsible for fighting crime; yet it is they alone who will decide what police priorities are.

The Commissioner's report is largely a public relations document. However, a secret paper — the Strategic Appraisal Document — is also issued every year to the Commissioner's Policy Committee and senior managers in the Metropolitan Police Force. This document — leaked in 1987 — offered a remarkable

insight into police thinking on social and political issues and how their priorities are to be determined in accordance with this. For the black community it merely revealed what we already knew from bitter experience — for example, commenting on the rise of black leaders within labour-controlled authorities, it says: '[this] is set to give police/community relations a difficult future. More important perhaps is the threat to inter-agency cooperation.'

The document goes on to explain how the police should go about winning influence among the Asian community. 'The votes of Asians — who have consistently been the victims of 70% of incidents over the past three years — could be decisive in many parliamentary seats. Unlike the black (A/C) or young vote, the Asian vote can be mobilised and will respond to leaders within the various Asian communities and that failing to be seen to get to grips with this intractable problem ... the force will be without political friends.'

There are a number of things that concern us about this approach. It would seem to us, and this is also borne out by our experience, that:

- (a) the police regard the problem of racist attacks as 'intractable'
- (b) the police want to be seen to be responding to racist attacks — but this is not the same as actually effectively acting against racism. Hence, money is poured into various high-profile publicity campaigns.
- (c) the police appear to be dividing the Asian/African-Caribbean community.

The document closes by stating that 'the force needs to act ... to prevent some of our warmer friends from cooling'.

Clearly this appraisal document has implications for community struggle.

## 9 POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

During the past few years the struggle for police accountability has grown increasingly unpopular among sections of the 'left'; Labour councils especially are prone to regard any demands for accountability as unattainable and, therefore, unfashionable. Newham Council have regrettably gone down this 'new realist' road.

Since 1984 we have outlined our reservations and objections to the 'consultation' process which was made mandatory under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. Not only are forums like the PCCG talking shops, powerless to influence policing in Newham, but at a street level they play a more sinister, divisive and dangerous role, for they are, we believe, designed to penetrate community politics by gathering information and by coopting and diffusing critics of police malpractice.

We feel that participation in this forum, no matter how well-intended the participants, is naive and mistaken. We take no pleasure in being able to confirm, after four meetings of the group, that our misgivings have been proved right.

had been dominated by the police, who spent their time challenging minutes of virtually everything discussed at previous meetings and presenting various reports on road safety schemes, traffic reports, crime statistics, that were readily available anyway. The creation and implementation of various police schemes, such as the lay visitors schemes, had also been discussed.

There had been no discussion, however, on the 'real' policing issues of concern; for example, how and why the Territorial Support Group was used so frequently (as seen in previous chapters) to break up parties held by black people.

We take no pleasure in saying that we had predicted that all this would occur, and that the group would be used to marginalise and attack 'elements' which voiced dissent at the way that £6 million of Newham ratepayers' money was being used to pay for policing against the community.

### NMP lobby meetings

It was only when NMP and the Plaistow 4 Campaign lobbied the PCCG in December that issues of real concern to the community were raised. The police chose to remain silent. Whilst refusing to discuss 'individual cases' on grounds of 'sub judice', they then refused to discuss 'general issues' on the grounds that these could only be discussed when specific examples of police abuse could be provided. This type of response is in-built within the PCCG and gives us no confidence whatsoever in the mechanism.

Even more illuminating was the response of the police, in particular DAC Wyn Jones, to the unanimous decision of the group, on the suggestion of Cllr McCauley, that NMP's name be added to a publicity leaflet for a forthcoming racial harassment campaign. A week later we were told that Wyn Jones had refused to allow our name to go on the leaflet. As soon as we heard of this, we wrote to the Commissioner to challenge this action, and a question was tabled for the following meeting in January 1989. At this meeting, Wyn Jones put forward his own interpretation of the minutes and argued that no such decision had been made. A vote was then taken, which went 14-4 in favour of NMP's name being included on the leaflet. Wyn Jones then told the meeting that the leaflets had already been printed and no reprint was possible. When asked what his political reasons were for refusing to allow NMP's name to be included on the leaflet, he launched into a tirade against NMP and how it had a history of opposition to the PCCG, and how it undermined the police by telling victims not to report cases of racial harassment to the police.

We were not allowed to respond to these allegations and it was only by our persistent efforts that we were able to question the meeting as to who 'runs' the PCCG, its majority members or the deputy assistant commissioner. At this point some Newham councillors roundly criticised us as being 'amateurish disruptors'

and implied that we should either join the group or not come to the meetings!

A week later we received a letter from Wyn Jones telling us that our name was to go on the leaflet after all. A week later the leaflet was issued, with our number printed incorrectly!

No member of the group would claim that action as a 'victory'. It is a realistic reflection of this group's inadequacy that 'amateurish disruptors' had to shout to raise an issue of concern. If we had not done so, the police would have been allowed to get away with their action.

### MULTI-AGENCY INITIATIVES

Various other multi-agency initiatives have been set up in the borough.

#### Neighbourhood policing panels

Neighbourhood policing panels are locally-based 'informal' consultative groups, once again lacking in any formal powers. They were established by Newham Council and the police in Canning Town and Forest Gate, who have been noticeably unsuccessful in setting them up in black areas.

The Forest Gate group has not got off the ground, despite three attempted meetings. The Canning Town forum came about as a result of pressure from tenants' associations. The first meeting was attended by over 30 people. They chose to discuss as their first issue — police harassment! We understand that the police received this very coolly and we wait to see what developments occur this year.

#### The lay visitors scheme

Lay visitors schemes operate in many boroughs and are part of the 'consultative' mechanism. A number of 'lay visitors' are chosen from the PCCG membership and are then 'cleared' by the Home Office. In pairs, they then 'inspect' any police station, arriving unannounced, in order to establish whether prisoners are being kept in proper conditions. All marvellous stuff on the face of it. In reality, however, when 'visitors' enter stations they inevitably have to wait several minutes. They are then announced to the prisoners as 'our' lay visitors and asked 'do you have anything to say to them?'. The answer is usually no! Visitors are not allowed to ask to see specific detainees, nor are they allowed to ask about detainees' solicitors requirements.

This scheme is used by the police to great effect when they need to justify their actions. For example, following the rebellions in Brixton in 1985 and the arrest of over 236 people, lay visitors who visited stations claimed they could find no evidence of police abuse/malpractice inside the station cells. So cases such as that of Abena Simba Tulloh, who had a dog set on her leg at the end of a leash being uncoiled inch by inch, were left out of the report because it happened outside the station in a police van. In fact, the lay visitors' report was given wide press coverage

and used as evidence of the 'responsible' way the police had acted.

Home Office guidelines state that this scheme is designed to allay fears of police mistreatment, denial of rights and poor conditions for those held in custody. Many people would interpret this as covering up for the denial of these rights and therefore masking these fears.

### Home Office Interdepartmental Working Group on Racial Attacks (RAG)

This scheme was established, under the auspices of the Home Office and with the backing of Newham Council, the police and (supposedly) local groups, some 16 months ago in Plaistow North, which according to police figures has the highest level of recorded 'racial incidents' in Newham. The 'brief' of the scheme was to examine the level of racial harassment in the area, and identify sound practices to combat it (no mention of monitoring police responses to racial harassment was made).

The council, in order to establish the scheme, proposed an independent steering group consisting of local representatives to oversee the project and direct its work. However, this was opposed by the Home Office and the police, who also approached a chair of their choice to run the project. Once again we can see that, although the police and government continuously emphasise that tackling racial harassment is not just the responsibility of the police, it is they alone who determine the action to be taken by all. This scheme is a more obvious example of a police/Home Office initiative — controlled by them and yet demanding support from the community.

Fourteen months into the scheme, in late 1988, we were indirectly approached and asked whether we would allow the scheme access to our files. It appears the Home Office's 'black expert', brought in specially from the USA, did not have enough information to make the project viable. Apart from Newham CRE, few local groups had agreed to have anything to do with this scheme. Desperate approaches are now being made to other groups to come forward, to 'participate' and basically lend to this shameful exercise some official credibility.

### Canning Town racial harassment project

This police and council-run project was launched for six months during May-October 1988. Yet more ratepayers' money was spent on a publicity campaign, the central purpose of which was to try to 'enhance reporting levels' to police. A secondary purpose was to try and improve the level of victim support.

Once again, we stated that any campaigns not based on improving police action against racist attacks are quite frankly a waste of resources, they ignore the central issue of why reporting levels of racial harassment to police are so low. The reasons are: (i) dissatisfaction, in the first place, with the response of the police; (ii) fear of police criminalising the victims. Until these issues are taken up by the council



### NEWHAM'S POLICE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP

A great deal of controversial publicity had preceded the first and second meetings of the PCCG. Demands were made that there ought to be greater black participation. And the Newham Neighbourhood Watch Group (which has now splintered) had themselves made vociferous demands for greater representation on the scheme. Despite this, until NMP lobbied their meetings on specific issues, the PCCG



and the police themselves, such publicity campaigns will continue to be met with fundamental reservations.

#### Tarling Road police shop

The London Borough of Newham have, for over a year, been negotiating with the police to establish a

'police shop' in South Newham in response to demands from some residents. £1,000 of council money has been set aside for this, plus rent-free premises. Contrast this ready response with the lack of response to demands from black tenants in the north of the borough who demand protection from racial harassment.



*Policing ... into the '90s*

## 10 ISSUES OF CONCERN

Although NMP officially deals with racist violence and police harassment, we cannot ignore the whole area of immigration — not least because the police play such a large role in carrying out internal control of the immigration laws. It is important to emphasise the links between racist violence and racist immigration laws. The same institutions that condone and encourage racist violence create immigration laws; the same institutions that welcome Third World workers when cheap labour is needed, restrict their

entry when unemployment is high and the demand for unskilled labour is low.

For these reasons we include in our report cases that we have dealt with that we feel highlight the police's role in carrying out racist immigration laws. In this section we also look at other issues of concern related to the fight against racist violence and police harassment.

### (A) Police and internal controls

#### KATHERINE ROAD 'FISHING' RAID

On 7 December 1988 the police and a variety of civil servants raided a clothes factory in Katherine Road on a 'fishing' raid to check the passports and status of all the factory's workers. They acted (we are reliably told) on information supplied by the Department of Employment and Woodgrange House DHSS. As far as we know, some five people have been deported as a result.

The raid was carried out by a joint party of over 20 people, including the police and civil servants from the Department of Employment, the DHSS and the Home Office. The police blocked off all the exits. All the workers were interrogated and some were physically searched.

The management at Woodgrange House DHSS claims that it was tipped off by the Department of Employment and that it casually mentioned the matter to the police during their regular informal discussions. It also claims that the police came along to the factory merely to protect the civil servants in case of violence, that individual workers were questioned only because their employers were not known to the DHSS, and that workers voluntarily offered information. This is hardly surprising considering the police were at every exit and inside the factory.

The links between immigration laws, internal controls and policing against the black community must be exposed. Last year we knew that the then 'Illegal Immigration Intelligence Unit' was operating from Forest Gate police station. How far it has managed to penetrate the black community, we cannot be sure. Yet results such as the raid mentioned above demonstrate its effect.

#### VICTORY TO DORA OPPONG

As this Annual Report was being prepared, we received the good news that Dora Oppong had been granted leave to remain in Britain.

Last year members of the Project, along with other groups in the borough, launched a campaign to



*Dora and her daughter — faces of a family under threat*

prevent the deportation of Dora Oppong, a Ghanaian woman who has lived in Britain since 1973. Dora has three children, who were born here and are British citizens. If Dora was deported, her children would have remained here and been taken into care by the local authority.

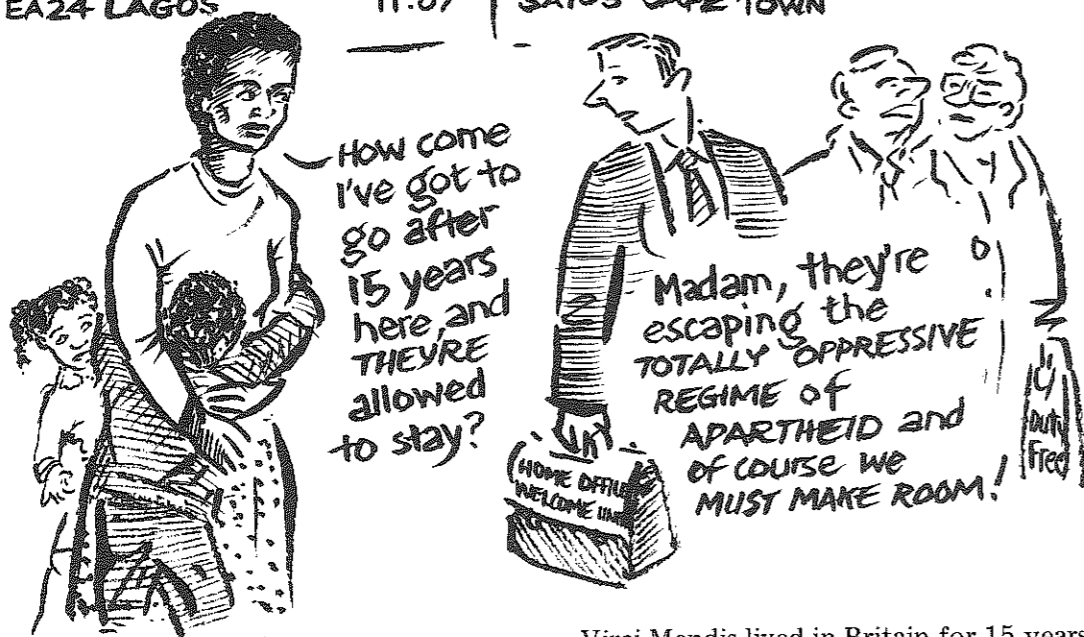
The campaign was supported by Newham Council, the British Council of Churches, the Newham Churches Immigration Support Group, and over 200 groups locally and nationally. Over 3,000 individuals signed petitions asking that Dora be allowed to remain in this country on compassionate grounds.

An appeal against her deportation was due to be heard in January 1989. However, the Home Office on the previous day asked for the case to be withdrawn from the court because the notice to deport Dora had not been properly authorised by them! We were then in the ironic position of asking for the appeal to be allowed so that evidence of public support from relevant individuals — like the children's teachers at Forest Gate and Ranelagh schools, and the minister at Dora's church, the Bryant Street Methodist Church — could be heard.

Under the 1988 Immigration Act, which came into

→ Departures  
 N007 ACCRA 10.05  
 1405 NAIROBI 10.35  
 EA24 LAGOS 11.07

→ Arrivals  
 SA423 JOHANNESBURG  
 SA101 DURBAN  
 SA103 CAPE TOWN



force quietly in August last year, if a new notice had been served on Dora she would have had no right of appeal and would have been deported immediately. The Home Office would not recognise that she had lived here for more than seven years, which under the Act is the only condition under which one has the chance to appeal.

Under the Act, 'overstaying' is now classified as a criminal act. The implications for the black community are massive. The police are now notified of 'overstayers' and can forcibly enter any premises, remove people to police stations, keep them in custody until a flight out of the country is arranged, and then transport them to the airport in security vans. Some 300 black people are being deported every month in this manner without anyone knowing about it. The Home Office is currently recruiting more immigration officers. Its stated aim is to remove a further 23,000 people from this country!

Although we were asking for Dora to be allowed to remain in Britain on compassionate grounds, the premise of this campaign was that immigration laws are introduced to keep black people out, and are therefore racist in their intent and result, and that any black person who faces deportation should be supported.

#### THE DEPORTATION OF VIRAJ MENDIS

On 18 January 1989, some 100 police and immigration officers surrounded the Church of the Ascension in Hulme, Manchester. They proceeded to smash their way into the church and seize Viraj Mendis from his sanctuary. Two days later, handcuffed to British police, he was placed on an aircraft back to his native Sri Lanka. His brutal deportation provides an indication of the racism and intolerance that black people can expect from the British state in the years to come.

Viraj Mendis lived in Britain for 15 years. In 1985 the Home Office served him with a 'deportation notice'. He appealed immediately on the grounds that he would face persecution and possible death if he returned to Sri Lanka, a claim supported by Amnesty International. His appeal was rejected. A Sinhala communist and outspoken supporter of the Tamil liberation struggle, Viraj was more than justified in fearing for his life if he returned to Sri Lanka. He thus entered sanctuary on 20 December 1986. The Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign proceeded to organise against his deportation and successfully kept the struggle against Britain's racist immigration laws on the political agenda. Viraj's fight to stay in this country gained the support of thousands of people and hundreds of campaigns, organisations, MPs, Euro-MPs, churches and trade unions. Yet all of this was not enough to prevent his arrest and deportation.

#### A NEW EUROPE-WIDE RACISM

Britain's racist immigration laws are disgraceful. The European Court of Human Rights has declared them unlawful. The 1988 Immigration Act has even taken away the right of appeal which refugees used to have when refused asylum, and criminalised those who overstay. As a result, it is estimated that as many as 300 black people are being deported from Britain every month.

The 1988 Immigration Act, however, should not be seen in isolation but in the context of Britain 'harmonising' its frontier controls with the rest of western Europe. This harmonisation process, in preparation for 1992 and the single market, has huge repercussions for the black communities in all European countries. Laws regulating access to benefit, social security, health care, etc, will be linked across Europe as a new unfettered pan-European racism emerges.

Particularly alarming is the Trevi group, which consists of the Justice, Foreign and Home Office ministers as well as the secret services and intelligence agencies of all Common Market countries. Its brief is to combat international terrorism and regulate state security.

However, following secret meetings, its brief has been extended to cover immigration policies. It is now in the process of constructing an international 'Alert System' whose main purpose will be to monitor and prevent the development of black refugee/migrant underground networks and black resistance groups.

Of immediate concern to black people is the Shengen group consisting of representatives from northern

European countries (France, Benelux, Scandinavia). This group is monitoring asylum seekers, visa regulations and the fines imposed on airlines that bring passengers without the required documents. The Treaty of Shengen comes into force in 1990 and will act as a blueprint for the Trevi group in 1992. Its aim will be quite simply to deny asylum seekers (from Third World countries) entry to western Europe.

The national computer in Liverpool already logs details of all asylum seekers and refugees; if it is linked to similar computers on the continent, we will have to fight back against a unified European racism more authoritarian and more virulent than we have ever seen.

## (B) Newham police suspended yet again

Police in Newham are among 24 officers from Area 2 Territorial Support Group who will go to court in February 1989 in the largest-ever case of its kind. They face a total of 26 charges of assault, conspiracy and perjury as a result of investigations into the policing of the Wapping strike.

Two of them have already resigned, a further 15 have been suspended, and the rest have been transferred to desk duties.

Many of those summoned are already notorious in Newham as a result of their activities within the TSG, activities which include raids on parties, clubs and homes. Indeed, one particular officer, who is accused of actual bodily harm, was involved in the Plaistow 4 case and the raid on the Imbert family!

The 24 officers involved were listed in the *Newham Recorder* as follows:

'The officers are: Insp Derek Watts, accused of perjury and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice; Sgts David Shey, Michael Standing, accused of actual bodily harm; Sgt Robert Goodger, accused of conspiracy; Sgt Colin Langstone, accused of two counts of conspiracy and perjury; WPC Michelle O'Hare, accused of actual bodily harm.

'Also summoned are Constables Malcolm Bartlett, Mark Elton, Thomas Mofatt, Alistair Newton and Edward Tucker, all accused of actual bodily harm; Philip Warby, accused of three cases of actual bodily harm; Mark Brewster, accused of conspiracy and actual bodily harm; Russell Cherry, accused of grievous bodily harm; Terence Chitty, Nigel Parlane, Nigel Pratt, Gavin Steft, Ian Storrar and Ivan Szubin, all accused of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice; David Hughes, Christopher Tolley and David Bird, all accused of perjury and attempting to pervert the course of justice; and Dean Johnson, accused of attempting to pervert the course of justice.'

## (C) Racial violence and the Housing Act

The Project does a lot of work on council estates, and last year 44 of the cases of racial harassment reported to us were on council property. We have worked with, and put pressure on, Newham Council's housing department which, as a result, has one of the better track records of local authorities in terms of tackling racial harassment. Much of this good work is likely to be undone by the recently-ratified Housing Act.

The Housing Act will further reduce black people's access to decent, affordable accommodation and will take away much of the already-limited judicial protection from racist attacks that black people have. The new legislation is, after all, but one part of the government's war against the welfare state, a war that is increasingly characterised by open attacks on the very right of black people to live in this country with equal rights and dignity.

As the *Housing Bill Anti-Racist Group* has concluded, the new legislation has serious implications which include the following:

- Under the Housing Act, tenants have the right to opt for private landlords. But where this occurs and a Housing Association or Management Co-operative is formed, black tenants will no longer be protected by section 71 of the Race Relations Act (1976) which calls for the elimination of unlawful racial discrimination and the promotion of good race relations.
- Black people living on council estates converted into Housing Acting Trusts (HATs) by the government will also lose judicial protection from racism guaranteed under section 71. It is worth mentioning here that black groups have recently negotiated with the junior housing minister to ensure that some sort of judicial protection from racial harassment is guaranteed. The outcome is not yet known.
- Black housing associations could be wiped out as their assets are unlikely to attract sufficient private finance.

- Private sector landlords have historically discriminated against black people. Even those black people able to secure private rented accommodation will face an increase in racial harassment as proposals to protect tenants from eviction exclude racial harassment.

- The Housing Act does nothing to address the problems of the homeless or those housed in bed and breakfast accommodation. The Federation of Black

Housing Organisations (FBHO) estimates that 70% of the homeless in London are black, so this has serious implications as far as the housing of black people is concerned.

We fully recognise the limitations of any municipal anti-racist policy. Nevertheless, it is fair to say that, because of a lack of safeguards and a lack of people to enforce them, we can expect to see a rise in racist attacks on housing estates as we enter the 1990s.

## (D) The legal system

Profound changes in the legal system are being planned as a government Green Paper issued last year suggests, changes which will have direct consequences for the work NMP does.

The proposed changes will make it even harder for those on low incomes to obtain legal aid. The Legal Aid Board intends to restrict access to legal aid for matters considered a waste of court time. We feel this will directly affect the chances of those people who seek legal aid to take legal action against the police or to pursue cases of racial harassment through the courts.

In addition, the proposed changes, which look set to go through parliament in the autumn of 1989 in the form of a White Paper will give the government more control over the judiciary. By fusing the differences between the roles of barristers and solicitors (not altogether a bad thing) and issuing certificates for solicitors to advocate in courts, the government will be able to have the power to revoke the licence of any lawyer on the grounds that s/he is wasting court time and public money. Those lawyers who take on political issues like 'self-defence' will be under tremendous pressure to stop doing so.

## (E) Fascism

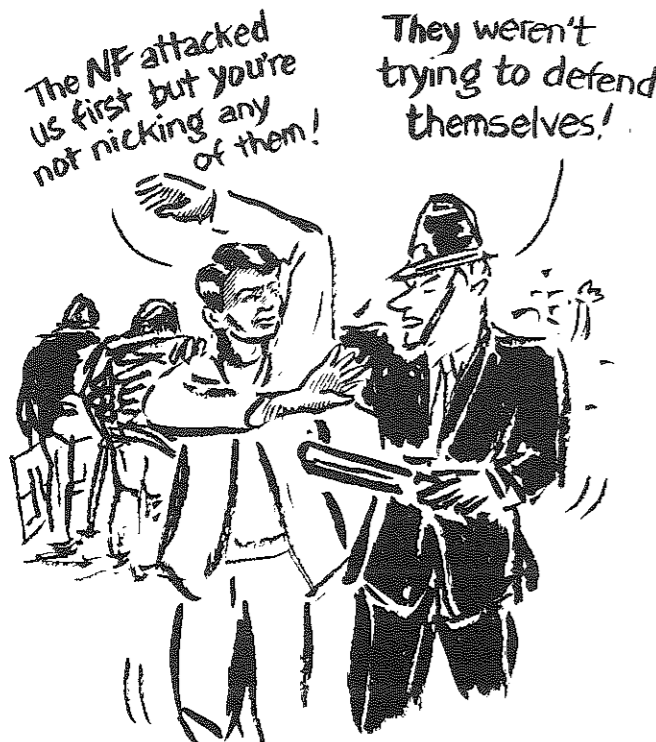
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### STATE OF PLAY AMONG FASCISTS

The National Front continues to be split in two seemingly diverse factions. The 'Flag' group of the National Front has been wracked with internal personal differences and seems incapable of running parallel campaigns without falling into disorganisation.

Working through old membership lists, and asking old hands to join, has brought their membership to nearly 3,000. The growing realisation by the leadership that they can fill the traditional role of the NF by blatant racism and high-profile public events has led to their most successful turnouts, including several people with convictions for violence, racism and bombing. One example is the crazed bomber of Ilford, Tony Lecomber, who appeared at their so-called 'march against terrorism' in London last year.

The other wing of the National Front, the 'political soldiers', have embarked on an increasingly bizarre set of policies that have left many of their older members totally confused. They base their policies on what has come to be known as the 'Third Position'. This means that they try to promote a third way, which is neither communist nor capitalist, and this involves them in trying to infiltrate various protest groups to destabilise them. As a result of these policies, membership has fallen to around 600-800, many of whom are well indoctrinated with the movement's jaundiced views. This faction has been exposed repeatedly in the anti-fascist magazine, *Searchlight*, and in a recent report on the Channel 4 programme 'Disciples of Chaos'. A new publication by *Searchlight* is called *Inside the Front*, and this new book can only serve to sap the confidence of an increasingly dispirited membership.



Another neo-Nazi organisation that we need to be aware of — and whose growth constitutes one of the most alarming present-day developments — is 'Blood and Honour', a music-based fascist organisation which through its paper (claiming to be the 'independent voice of rock against communism') seeks to indoctrinate dispossessed white youth. Around 'Blood and Honour', who organise music gigs which include bands such as *Screwdriver*, *No Remorse* (formerly called *Dead Paki in the Gutter*), and *Brutal Attack*, a whole crop of virulently racist magazines have grown up. These include cartoons openly inciting racist violence.

Newham Monitoring Project is among groups giving active support to the *Anti-Fascist Action* campaign against the open sale of this literature in Carnaby Street. What concerns us is that bookshops selling this kind of 'literature' could sprout up all over the country unless 'Blood and Honour' is stopped in its tracks now.

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### FASCISM IN NEWHAM

Newham has had in the past the highest NF vote in the country and traditionally has been a focus of much fascist activity. Today, the state of the far right in Newham seems to mirror the situation nationally — smaller in size but equally dangerous. At a local level, Newham has continued to be an organisational base for Ian Anderson, the new chairman of the NF. NF press releases regularly give the telephone number of his house in Monmouth Road, which he shares with ex-photographer Michael Hipperson. We are pleased to say that Anderson keeps a very low profile in the area and 'Flag' group activity has been virtually nil. However, his movements and activities continue to be closely monitored.

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## Chelsea job jailed

A Chelsea soccer lout with National Front sympathies has been jailed for three years after being found guilty of causing an affray.

James Bodkin, unemployed, from Whiteley in Surrey, was said in court to have been part of a large crowd of Chelsea fans, members of the notorious 'Headhunters' gang, which launched a savage attack on a group of Everton fans at Kensington High Street underground station.

Police discovered his political sympathies when, in a raid on his home, they found a detailed diary he had kept to record his violent exploits. Giving vent to his views, Bodkin wrote

that football was "one of the last white strongholds" and that there was much support for the Nazi National Front.

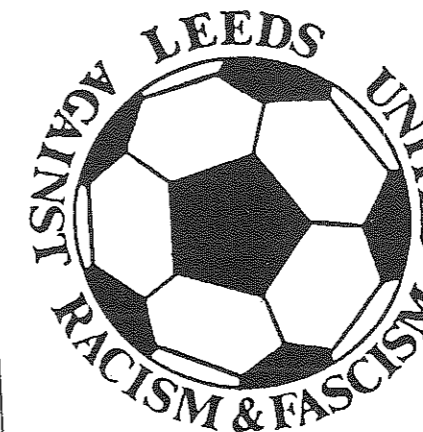
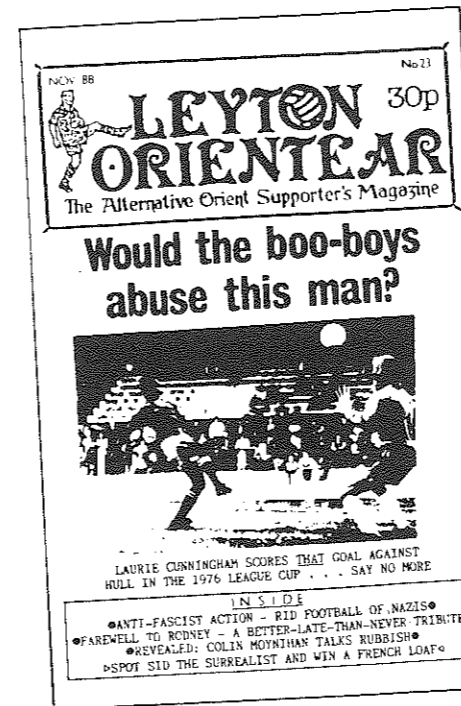
Elaborating on this, he continued: "What it boils down to as far as the authorities are concerned the black have an excuse, left-wing would dearly love to see the football firms destroyed. Because every time the lefties or the FA have a match in London or Leeds it gets opposed (ie) by the football firms".

Later in his diary, he complains about bans on National Front marches. "During the case, the court heard how the 'Headhunters' ambushed Everton supporters on a train and how 22-year-old Bodkin boasted about 'streaming into

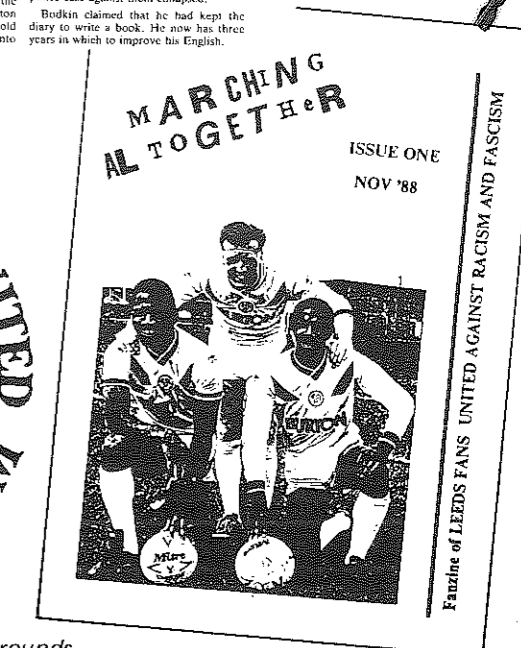
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This was not Bodkin's first brush with the law. He already had a conviction for threatening behaviour at a football match and, in May, was one of a group of fascist-inspired louts who were cleared when a police case against them collapsed.

Bodkin claimed that he had kept the diary to write a book. He now has three years in which to improve his English.



The fight against racism on football grounds



- Private sector landlords have historically discriminated against black people. Even those black people able to secure private rented accommodation will face an increase in racial harassment as proposals to protect tenants from eviction exclude racial harassment.

- The Housing Act does nothing to address the problems of the homeless or those housed in bed and breakfast accommodation. The Federation of Black

Housing Organisations (FBHO) estimates that 70% of the homeless in London are black, so this has serious implications as far as the housing of black people is concerned.

We fully recognise the limitations of any municipal anti-racist policy. Nevertheless, it is fair to say that, because of a lack of safeguards and a lack of people to enforce them, we can expect to see a rise in racist attacks on housing estates as we enter the 1990s.

## (D) The legal system

Profound changes in the legal system are being planned as a government Green Paper issued last year suggests, changes which will have direct consequences for the work NMP does.

The proposed changes will make it even harder for those on low incomes to obtain legal aid. The Legal Aid Board intends to restrict access to legal aid for matters considered a waste of court time. We feel this will directly affect the chances of those people who seek legal aid to take legal action against the police or to pursue cases of racial harassment through the courts.

In addition, the proposed changes, which look set to go through parliament in the autumn of 1989 in the form of a White Paper will give the government more control over the judiciary. By fusing the differences between the roles of barristers and solicitors (not altogether a bad thing) and issuing certificates for solicitors to advocate in courts, the government will be able to have the power to revoke the licence of any lawyer on the grounds that s/he is wasting court time and public money. Those lawyers who take on political issues like 'self-defence' will be under tremendous pressure to stop doing so.

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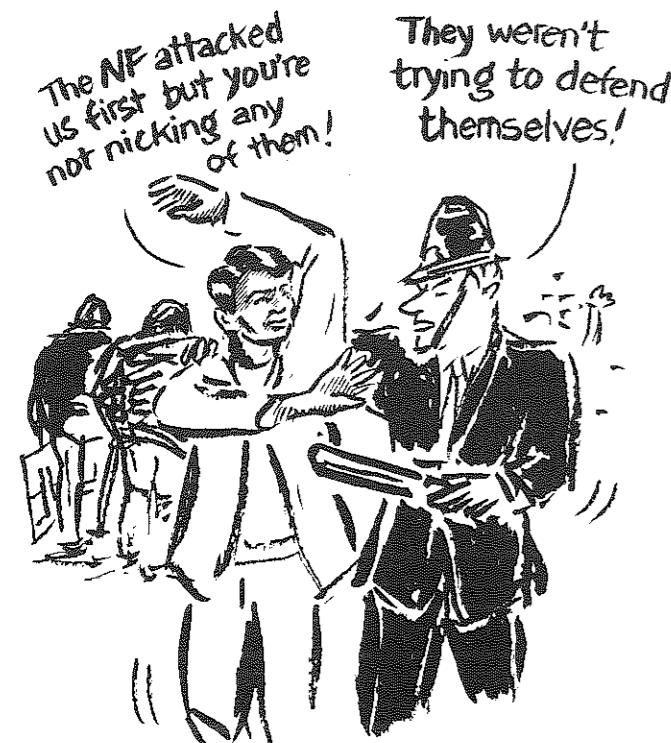
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Searchlight  
Jan 88

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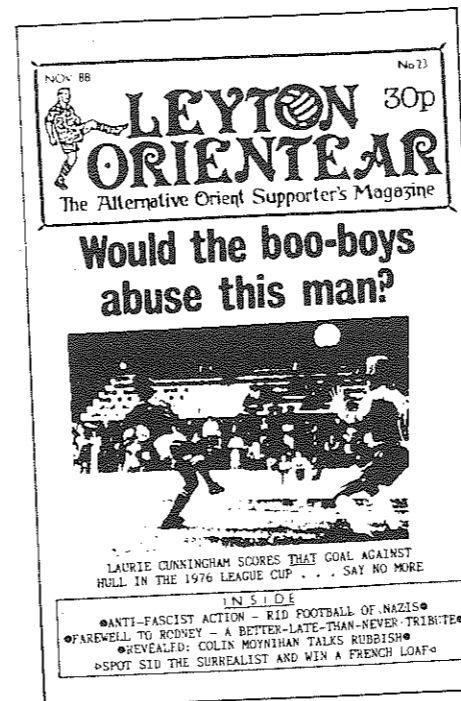
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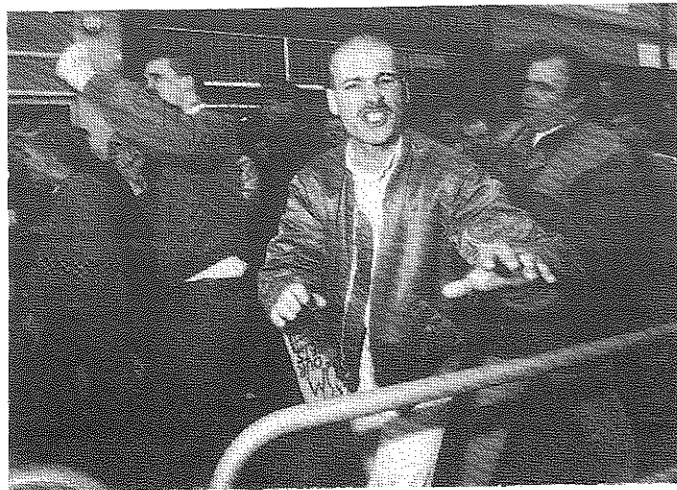


The fight against racism on football grounds



seen selling its papers on High Street North and outside West Ham football ground. We have had reports that workmen in the Tower Hamlets Road area in Forest Gate (who may possibly be council workers) have been seen carrying walkie-talkie radios with swastikas on them. We have also spotted 'Blame the bosses' stickers in Stratford and North Woolwich, and National Front graffiti and posters on corrugated iron fences in Canning Town.

Newham Monitoring Project has also linked up with AFA's campaign against fascists on the terraces. Nationally, AFA has written to all the football fanzines (the newssheets of the independent football supporters' groups) warning them about the dangers of fascism and outlining strategies to combat racist chanting at matches. On a local level, AFA has made contact with football supporters at Leyton Orient, and in December 1988 they leafleted the Leyton Orient v Lincoln game. Further leafleting is planned in the future.



Fascism is ugly

On the Remembrance Day march last November, when fascists threatened the non-stop picket outside South Africa House, NMP activists were among the many anti-fascists who were brutally arrested when attacked by fascists.



Officers give a helping hand

It is vitally important that as many people as possible join the anti-fascist movement. It may be that fascists are organising in your area — in your tenants' association, community group, etc. You may have seen National Front or other Nazi stickers and slogans in your area. In order to stop them we need to be extra vigilant, so if you have any information you should report it to us immediately.

Newham Monitoring Project will continue to remain vigilant in the fight against fascism by fulfilling its dual role of careful monitoring and effective mobilisation against the ever-present threat it poses.

## 11 RACISM AND THE MEDIA

NMP continues to monitor the local and national press, as the press not only reflects the racism of society but increasingly fuels and creates it. Although during 1988 we have worked closely with individual journalists on a national level, at a local level the *Newham Recorder* continues to belittle any attempt to challenge racism. The role of the British media in defining the immediate concern of today's society and maintaining the status quo means it actually encourages racism in a variety of ways. For example, the concentrated ownership of the press has resulted in a common stance being adopted by all mainstream newspapers: the respectable racism of the so-called quality press is ultimately legitimised in the crude and outright racism of the tabloids.

### Squad to tackle Yardie 'cancer'

By Terry Kirby  
Crime Correspondent

THE METROPOLITAN police is setting up a special squad to tackle what one senior officer described yesterday as the "cancerous growth" of Yardie criminal gangs of Jamaican origin.

Although senior officers do not believe there is a "black Mafia" planning to take over organised crime in Britain, they are extremely concerned about the potential of some gangs seeking to gain control of particular territories.

This type of 'respectable' report legitimises tabloid hysteria about a 'black mafia' taking over Britain (*Independent* 28.2.88)

Racist stereotypes of black people as violent and threatening abound, and the press constantly use the term 'immigrant' to remind us that black people are here on sufferance. Needless to say, there is also the continuing failure to report issues affecting black people or to recognise the inherently racist nature of the British status quo.

More recently, the press has turned towards ridiculing anti-racist struggles, portraying black people as being manipulated by the 'loony left' who are attempting to give black people 'special treatment', all very threatening to 'the British way of life'. In such reporting there is a refusal to acknowledge the underlying social injustices that determine the black experience. This is especially the case with the *Newham Recorder*. Even when inequalities are considered by the mass media, they are treated in a sensationalist manner, where racism briefly becomes 'news' and then almost immediately returns to relative obscurity.

The squad, led by Commander Roy Penrose, head of the serious crimes squad, will target people active in gangs in south-east and north-east London. It will work with police covering black communities in Bristol, Nottingham and the Midlands, as well as the force in Miami, which alerted police in Britain to the Yardies.

Detectives have identified about 20 people linked to organised crime in Jamaica. A number of younger criminals, who have adopted the Yardie guise, are associated with them.

Announcing the new squad yesterday, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Simon Crawshaw, the head of crime operations at Scotland Yard, said: "There is growing concern, notably among the black community, that a number of criminals are seeking to exercise control using violence and drugs. We intend to operate against this cancerous growth."

These criminals were active in extortion and violence, with possible involvement in at least two murders. Hundreds of people were in the gangs which operated independently.

### LINKS WITH THE MEDIA

Given this failure of the media to understand the black perspective, when dealing with the press we insist that they expose the persistent nature of racist attacks and police harassment, and the wider nature of racism in general, in order to further the anti-racist struggle.

On a national level, the result has been favourable television coverage on both BBC and ITV, as well as features on Radio London, Capitol Radio, LBC, Radio 4 and BBC World Service. We have also had extensive coverage in the black press, major national newspapers and *City Limits*, and also in-depth features in *Time Out*, *Cosmopolitan* and the *New York Times*. We have been covered overseas by media from European countries and also from Singapore,

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## New look at race attack

by ARLEN HARRIS

THE Metropolitan Police are to reopen an investigation into a vicious racial attack after inquiries by *The Observer* revealed police had failed to put the main suspect on an identity parade.

Mr Mohinder Singh from Goodmayes, east London, had his stomach slashed open by a knife during an attack by a group of white men outside the Rising Sun pub in Newham 18 months ago. Although the police were provided with the registration number of the car used by the attackers, they did not put the car owner on an identity parade.

Last week Chief Inspector Terry Walter admitted there had been a serious mistake, probably caused by having two different officers on the case. The reopening of the case came as Scotland Yard launched a £100,000 campaign against racially motivated assaults after an increase of more than 25 per cent in race attacks in London last year.

The campaign aims to secure community support for police action against racial harassment. But community groups are sceptical.

Nish Kanwar of the Newham Monitoring Project, an east London community group, said: "The Mohinder Singh case is symptomatic of the police's inefficiency in cases of race attack. It is an indication of an unwillingness at the grassroots to deal with the problem."

Mr Singh was in hospital for a week after the attack and off work for two months. In October 1986 police arrested the owner of the car used by the attackers but failed to invite either Mohinder Singh or his business partner Mr Balbir Singh, who was punched in the attack, to identify him.

When *The Observer* first contacted Forest Gate police we were told that the case was closed because there had been no positive identification at an identity parade. But we found that neither Mohinder Singh nor Balbir Singh had witnessed an identification parade, in spite of the record in the police case file: 'Victims unable to identify suspect.'

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Australia and the Caribbean. This level of exposure is important in fighting racism, and NMP continues to be the first point of reference for those reporters attempting to provide a more balanced perspective. It is for this reason that NMP continues to write letters to the press and issue press releases, and generally make ourselves available for interviews on television and radio.

#### LOCAL PRESS: THE NEWHAM RECORDER

The *Newham Recorder* persists in its poor coverage of attacks on black people, often failing to acknowledge a possible racist motive. The identities of the assailants in attacks are usually only detailed when they are black. This is part of the overall process of criminalisation of black people, where crime statistics are collected by the police, and reported by the media, in such a way as to provide a very inaccurate picture as to how many black people are committing criminal offences. And, by employing such racist concepts as 'black crime' (a classic example is 'mugging'), the *Newham Recorder*, in line with the national press, identifies black people as a subversive and criminal minority.

The *Recorder* can be seen to follow this trend in its reporting of a new label that has been created and placed under the category of 'black crime': 'steaming'. This is illustrated in the *Recorder* (17 January 1988) where a report of the robbery of a white woman states that 'the gang were all black teenagers' and it quotes the police claiming 'the numbers involved lead us to think it might be a steaming gang'. This is totally unfounded and unnecessary speculation which immediately criminalises black youth by linking them with 'steaming' and so implicitly justifying racist policing against them.

The same principle applies to the portrayal of blacks as drug addicts. The *Recorder* (1 December 1988) includes a haunting 'mug-shot' of a black man caught smuggling cocaine in his suitcase. The article states that 'his job was to supply the drug to Britain's black population'. This is not only journalistic sensationalism, it is journalistic racism. If the smuggler had been white, would the article have read 'his job was to supply the drug to Britain's white population'? This type of reporting is an attempt to make the whole black community appear sinister.

Those black people who are not labelled as criminals are portrayed as illegal immigrants, as demonstrated in the headline from the *Recorder* (2 June 1988), 'Refugee drove at 95 mph "to test brakes"'. What does a person's refugee status have to do with this driving offence? The implication that the person does not belong in Britain comes even before the offence is mentioned.

#### Vendetta against NMP

The *Recorder* also acts as a forum for police propaganda and has openly promoted the police perspective on most issues. At the same time, it has provided a ready vehicle for attacks on NMP, with headlines describing us as a 'Harmful Race Group'.

Prominence has also been given to conservative letters which attack NMP. These attacks are, in part, due to the editorial policing of Tom Duncan, who openly stated in the *Recorder* (28 January 1988) that NMP should be 'put out of business', simply because we dare to identify racism and criticise the police. No mention is made of the service we provide to the black community.

This vendetta also draws attention to another important similarity between the national and the local press: in both cases it is the editor, not the journalist, who makes the final decision regarding headlines, articles and all the other aspects of the newspaper. Such decisions are, by definition, political decisions and highlight the limitations of the press, which is based on such subjective concepts as 'news value'.

But Tom Duncan's favourite theme, it would seem, is the irrelevance of groups like NMP who try to counter racism. After three Tamil students died in a feud between two rival Tamil factions, Duncan again took the opportunity to deride the Project. Originally, the death of the students was thought to be the result of a racist attack but, when the true details began to emerge, rather than treat the case factually, as did the *Stratford Express*, the *Recorder* instead launched into an attack on NMP in an attempt to discredit us. For instance, an editorial in the *Recorder* (5 May 1988) appeared with the headline 'Dangerous Dialogue of Anti-Racist Hot Heads'. Criticising those who try to oppose racism by describing them as 'hot heads' and 'loony', and capable of 'angry outbursts' is, we believe, a convenient way of ignoring the real issues.

Tom Duncan has also taken a stance on other issues pertinent to the black community. In the *Recorder* (25 June 1988) he launched into an attack on Bernie Grant MP (who had described the inner cities as still having the potential for uprising), and Duncan went on to deride all 'black representatives', claiming they do not serve the black community and encourage race hate. 'No pun is intended by saying that they represent the blacker side of life in areas like this,' Duncan concludes. A man of his journalistic experience could surely have found a less offensive phrase than this.

Another example of Tom Duncan using his editorial to comment on racism came after neighbouring borough Tower Hamlets evicted 46 Bangladeshi families from bed and breakfast accommodation. A high court ruling supported the council's claim that they had made themselves intentionally homeless by leaving Bangladesh. When Newham offered to board them, Duncan claimed 'it is not reasonable to accuse Tower Hamlets of acting with malice'. Newham should not intervene, he declared, and if they did it would constitute a misuse of ratepayers' money.

When this is combined with an aggressive stance towards black people and a tendency to 'whip up' the race issue wherever possible, this type of journalism is destructive and legitimises racism. The fact that Newham has the highest rate of racist attacks in Britain seems to have escaped the *Newham Recorder*.

by MIHIR BOSE

INDIAN AUTHOR AND BROADCASTER

**T**ODAY we should be saluting Judge Malcolm Potter for suggesting that Mohammed Sarwar should, after 23 years in this country, learn to speak English. Instead, he has been branded as a racist. How ridiculous!

Today, we should have some sympathy for the Manchester mother who finds her child, who attends a multi-racial primary school, can count further in Punjabi than in English. Instead, she's branded as an insular threat to multi-culturalism. How absurd!

The idea that a person living in England should be required to speak English seems so elementary and straightforward as to require no comment, judicial or otherwise.

If the law does not specify that, it is because it assumes everybody speaks the language. The law would be an ass if it actually spelt out the need for English people to speak their own tongue.

But the reaction of the professional anti-racist to Judge Malcolm Potter's eminently sensible suggestion shows how far we have travelled down the slippery slope.

The immediate cry of the professional anti-racist is that the judge's comments show the fangs of imperial culture. They do nothing of the sort, if anything, they show the exact opposite: How a liberal society, through a mixture of tolerance and characteristic English diffidence, has allowed an impossible situation to develop.

Britain has a long tradition of accepting people from different races and cultures, be they Huguenots and Jews or Bangladeshis and Punjabis.

Each group that has come here has accepted that they need to learn English and get on with English culture. Yet, as the Jews show, it is possible to preserve the deeply-held traditions of one's own culture.

Nothing stops the orthodox Jew from observing the strictest Sabbath regulations, like not using any public transport or cooking any food on that day. Once the Sabbath is over they have little or no difficulty in adjusting to English life.

#### Ghetto

It should have been no different for Mohammed Sarwar. Judge Potter has not said that he cannot kneel down in the direction of Mecca and pray to Allah, or observe the restrictions of the Muslim festival of Ramadan or eat non-halal meat — where the animals are killed in a particular fashion.

Indeed, in Britain today there's nothing to stop Mr Sarwar practising his faith or preserving his links with his culture and language.

All he is required to do is accept that he lives not in the Punjab but in Britain — and since he's been doing that for 23 years already that, surely, should not be difficult.

If it has been made to appear impossible it is because Mr Sarwar and people like him have been allowed to create ghettos of the mind where none exist.

I was made aware of this when, more than 20 years ago, I arrived in this country to go to university. Within a few weeks I was asked to act as interpreter in a local factory which employed a group of Bangladeshis.

I was staggered to discover that though they had lived in England for 10 or 12 years, and had worked with English people, none of them spoke a word of English, had any intention of learning English nor of taking

any part in English life outside the factory.

So we have the absurd situation that I, an immigrant of a few weeks, was interpreting on behalf of immigrants who had been living here for many years.

True, my background had exposed me to English culture at a very early age and in my Jesuit school in Bombay there was almost a missionary zeal to teach the English way of life, ranging from the Just William books and P.G. Woodhouse novels to BBC World Service broadcasts.

A similar missionary zeal is now required if the tragedy of Mr Sarwar is not to be repeated.

In Toronto, which I have just been visiting, the city has taken in large quantities of new immigrants from the Indian sub-continent. It is proud of its multi-culturalism, where the schools — both state supported and private — propagate the mainstream English language and culture.

However, multi-culturalism means that children of immigrants can speak their mother's tongue at special schools over the weekend. That seems a sensible, proper policy.

Our failure to develop such a policy has led to a vacuum which has been cleverly exploited by the professional anti-racists, keen to maintain their position by peddling the most wretchedly absurd ideas.

That vacuum has arisen because the British people have never thought properly about the problems of modern immigration. Just as, historically, Britain acquired an empire by accident, so in the Fifties and Sixties it acquired immigrants from the West Indies and the Indian sub-continent by accident.

In contrast, the U.S. and Canada require immigrants to take to English culture, and the new arrivals are told they must forget the old alle-

giances and become part of American or Canadian culture.

The U.S. also insists that immigrants take an examination in English to prove they can speak it before they are granted citizenship.

In this case patriotism, far from being the last refuge of the scoundrel, as Dr Johnson said, is the first principle for the immigrant.

The British naturally shy away from such cultural jingoism despite the wealth and outstanding contribution of English literature. Only once in English history was there such a missionary zeal.

#### Quarrel

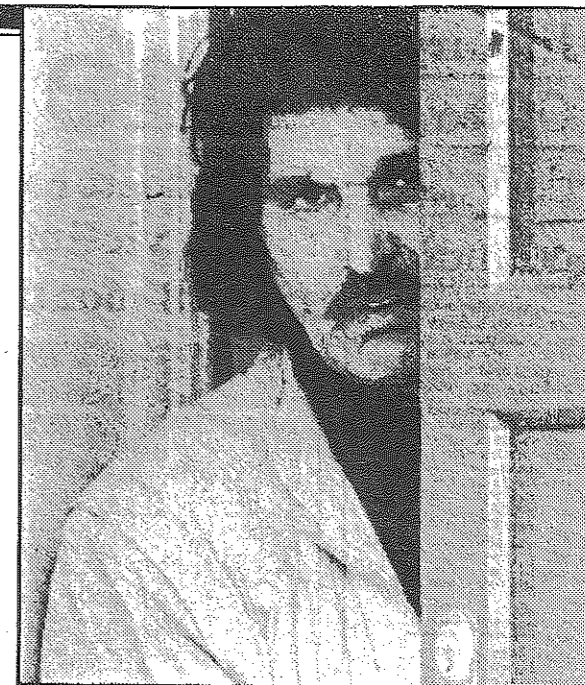
That was in Bengal in the 19th century when a vibrant English culture, led by men like Warren Hastings, the first Governor-General of Bengal, met a decadent, dying Hindu culture and produced the Bengali renaissance.

It ultimately brought forth poets like Rabindranath Tagore, who wrote as much in English as his own tongue, the only Asian to win a Nobel Prize for literature.

They were some of the greatest Bengalis ever produced, men who knew that, far from demeaning them, English culture would enrich them. They were great men who were made greater by their readiness to accept and adapt the best of English literature and life.

Were they around today, their only quarrel with Judge Potter would be: Why has it taken 23 years for an English judge to say that if you live in England, you must speak English?

These were men who were sure that they could assimilate English culture yet not lose their own roots. Those who brand Judge Potter as racist are little men who are scared that, should they take to English culture, they will lose the shallow roots of their own.



LANGUAGE BARRIER: Mohammed Sarwar, no English after 23 years

# In plain English...

Why it is absurd to make excuses for an immigrant who won't learn our language

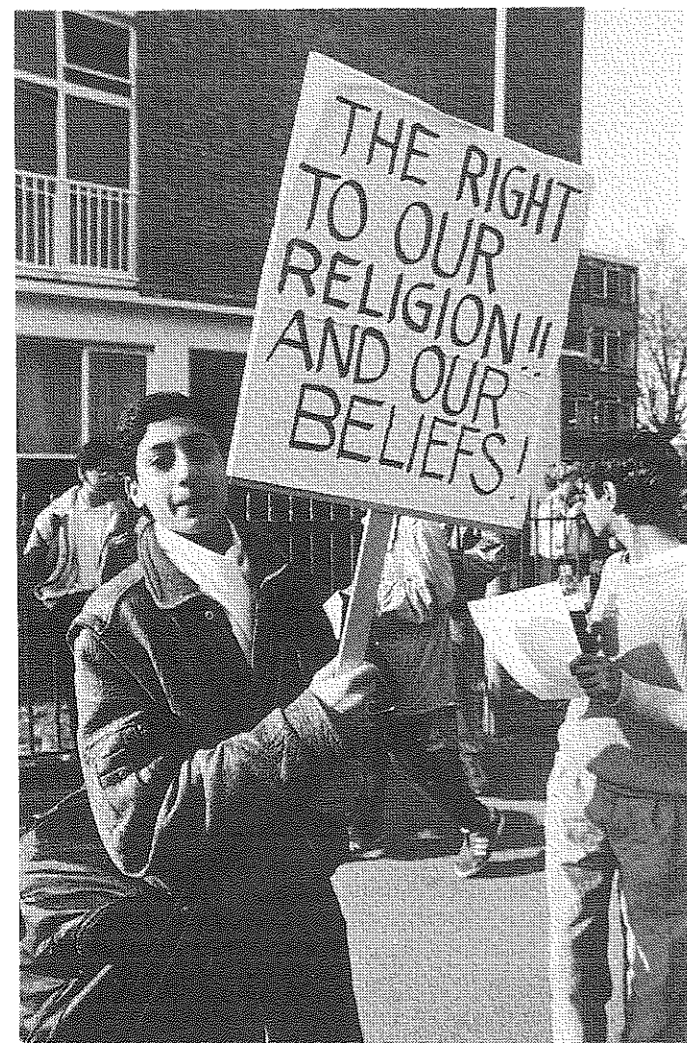
*This article, published in the Daily Mail of 7 May 1988, is an example of the right-wing press using a black writer to lend credibility to racist notions of the superiority of British culture and the threat that the 'sinister' immigrant poses to it.*

*The 'absurd ideas' of the anti-racist struggle are sensationally presented as taking advantage of our 'innocent' and 'tolerant' British society!*

## 12 RACISM AND EDUCATION

On 24 September 1982 local black youths got together to escort younger schoolchildren from Little Ilford School in Manor Park to their homes, after a spate of racist attacks in and around the school. When three white men jumped out of a car and racially abused and assaulted them, the youths, thinking they were racist thugs, fought back in self-defence. The three men were in fact police officers. Within minutes police reinforcements arrived and eight youths were arrested and charged. The trial of these youths — the Newham 8 — remains one of the landmark political trials of recent years.

On 28 April 1988 the *Newham Recorder* published a letter by Mr G, a teacher at Stratford School, Forest Gate, expressing disappointment that 'Christians in Newham have allowed people to worship gods which the Bible teaches are false'. Not surprisingly, the letter caused great offence, not least because of its racist implication that non-Christian religions are inferior, alien and unacceptable. More than 300 students spontaneously responded by demonstrating outside the school. Newham Council was unable to prevent the crisis from escalating and in desperation sought to amend teachers' contracts. A councillor subsequently admitted that its policies were inadequate.



Stratford School Students Action Committee (SSSAC)

The important question to ask is: what had the local education authority learned in over five years since the Newham 8 case about fostering genuine anti-racism rooted in the needs and experiences of black people? The answer is: next to nothing. Despite various anti-racist education policies, students were forced to take matters into their own hands in the case of Stratford School, just as they had been forced to do in the case of the Newham 8. Over the course of 1988, mirroring events nationally, where the whole area of education has become one of central concern to black people, NMP has found it more and more important to look at issues of racism and education, in particular the failures of local authority anti-racism.

### THE NEWHAM EXPERIENCE: RACIST VIOLENCE AND 'ETHNICITY'

As in years past, black schoolchildren in Newham have been subjected to both physical attacks and a failure to deal with racism at an institutional level during 1988. In February, a group of 60 white parents organised to withdraw their children from Vicarage School, East Ham, in support of the Gordon family who removed their 5-year-old son, supposedly in protest against 'ethnic lessons'. The white parents called for a ban on the teaching of non-Christian faiths and a return to Christian-only lessons. Newham Council was caught off-guard, and failed to respond effectively. Its multiculturalist policies proved unable to appease the racism of white parents or prevent the scapegoating of black children. Instead of challenging the way an all-encompassing culture of racism has developed and is spoon-fed to schoolchildren generation after generation, Newham's policies preach a vague internationalism that approaches the problem as one of cultural differences and not one of racism. In the light of such 'ethnicism', what happened at Vicarage School is hardly surprising.

Physical attacks continue unabated as well. Black children are especially prone to attack on their way to and from school. We know of examples involving Eastlea and Sarah Bonnell schools, and there are undoubtedly examples galore involving other schools in Newham. In one publicised case, four black teenagers were assaulted in July by a gang of about 20 racists near Trinity School in Canning Town.

Although victims can often identify their attackers, little is done to bring the culprits to justice. Schools often have policies on paper but such policies rarely stretch beyond the school gates or after school hours. Teachers who will take action in defence of their students are few and far between. Yet it does not usually take much effort to discover who the culprits are. It is a question of taking initiatives, and following them through, so that potential attackers are deterred from harassing black schoolchildren in the future.

Unfortunately, little initiative was taken recently by teachers at Central Foundation Girls School in neighbouring Tower Hamlets (see chapter on Racial

harassment for more details). When schoolgirls who live in Forest Gate suffered racist abuse and physical attack at Mile End Tube Station, the majority of the teaching staff oscillated between guilt and fear rather than support the very children they are there to assist.

### Students organise at Stratford School

As mentioned before, the racist views espoused by a Stratford School teacher in the *Newham Recorder* in April sparked off a spontaneous student demonstration. On 6 May a huge public meeting was held and the Stratford School Students Action Committee was formed. NMP helped facilitate weekly meetings and supported SSSAC's demands for an apology from the teacher concerned and some assurance from the council that a repetition would not be tolerated. Despite the council and the school distancing themselves from the teacher's comments, by saying he behaved 'unprofessionally', no further action was taken with regard to him. Lobbies were organised of the education sub-committee and a delegation spoke to a full council meeting on 19 July. And the Elim Pentocostal Church, to which the teacher belonged, had threatened the council with legal action if the teacher were disciplined in any way.



Public meeting where parents and teachers discuss Stratford School issue

Following this pressure, the council proposed to amend teachers' contracts and to write to all teachers in Newham, via the Boards of Governors, reaffirming its anti-racist policy. Never did the council discuss whether or not it considered the teacher's letter to be racist or what the implications of the letter were; instead it used its bureaucratic policies to fudge the issue.

The teacher never apologised for his comments and the council failed formally to sanction him, as they had failed to decide politically where they stood. Thus students were forced to take matters into their own hands. Like the Newham 8 before them, the students at Stratford School had drawn attention to the inadequacy of the council's anti-racist education policies and the fact that the council was not capable, when put on the spot, of diffusing a crisis at one of its schools. It is only because students refused to bow down to authority that the teacher was forced to sit up and take notice. He has since resigned from Stratford School.

### THE NATIONAL EXPERIENCE

1988 has been a most significant year for education. Events that have occurred nationally, at Burnage School in Manchester and at Dewsbury, Yorkshire, serve to illustrate further the failures of multiculturalism and institutionalised anti-racism. And the failures of the system, so evident now, can only be further compounded by the fundamentalism of the new Education Reform Bill.

In September 1986 Ahmed Iqbal Ullah was murdered by a white pupil at Burnage High School in Manchester. Following his death, an inquiry was set up to examine the circumstances surrounding the murder. In April 1988, the Macdonald Inquiry concluded that racism was primarily responsible for his death but that anti-racism, as practised at Burnage, had been an accessory. The Macdonald report has been attacked by the right-wing press as well as by 'professional' anti-racists. Meanwhile, racism continues unabated in the area surrounding Burnage, and indeed the racism that gave rise to Ahmed Iqbal Ullah's tragic death is all too prevalent in so many areas in Britain.

In September 1987, white parents refused to send their children to a school in Dewsbury, Yorkshire, where 85% of the students were black. As was the case at Vicarage School in Newham, the parents argued that their British, Christian way of life was under threat. In July 1988, the courts ruled in their favour, giving them the right to choose not to send their children to a predominantly black school. This 'victory' for parental choice in effect legalised racial segregation in schools.

Whatever the problems and inadequacies that already exist within the education system, they will be further aggravated by Kenneth Baker's Education Reform Bill. It will fundamentally change the face of education and it comes as no surprise that black students will particularly suffer as a result. The introduction of a national curriculum will not only narrow the range of what subjects students will be offered at schools, but it will also discourage the study of anything that lies outside the parameters of a colour-blind, conflict-free education. Children are to be cloistered in chauvinist bliss, protected from the risks of the outside world, protected from having to examine themselves from the vantage point of other people's experiences. Thus the racism of British society which renders other cultures inferior will be further entrenched.

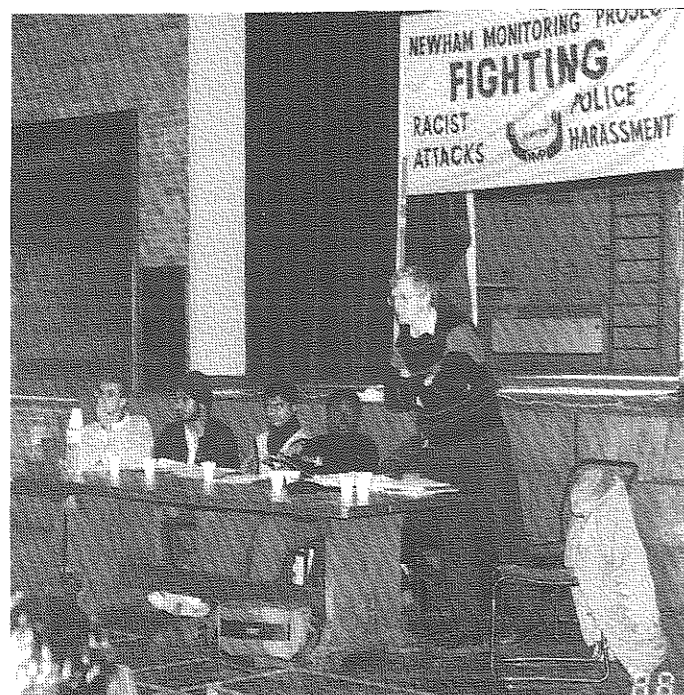
In addition, by taking education out of local authority control through its opting-out clause, the Education Reform Bill is sanctioning racial segregation in schools. Dewsbury was clearly a test case, a precedent, an indication of what lies ahead.

### EXAMINING THE ISSUES: NMP's EDUCATION CONFERENCE

In the light of the disturbing trends outlined above, and as a direct result of the Stratford School campaign, on 27 November the Project organised a conference, *Racism and Racist Violence in Schools*.

The aim of the conference was to appraise critically so-called 'anti-racist' education policies and practices, and to develop our own anti-racism rooted in the experiences of black people.

The conference was attended by nearly 200 students, teachers, parents and other interested persons. In addition to local participants, people came from all over London and from around the country as well. The conference was addressed by Ian Macdonald and Reena Bhavnani from the Macdonald Inquiry and A Sivanandan and Colin Prescod from the Institute of Race Relations. Further contributions were made by a member of the Kirklees Black Workers Group, a member of the Stratford School Students Action Committee, a teacher at Stratford School, and Linda Jordan (chair of Newham Council's education committee). Workshops discussed the issues raised in this chapter, as well as reassessing how the community needs to respond to the failure of municipal anti-racism and the growing problem of racist violence in schools.



Ian Macdonald QC addresses education conference

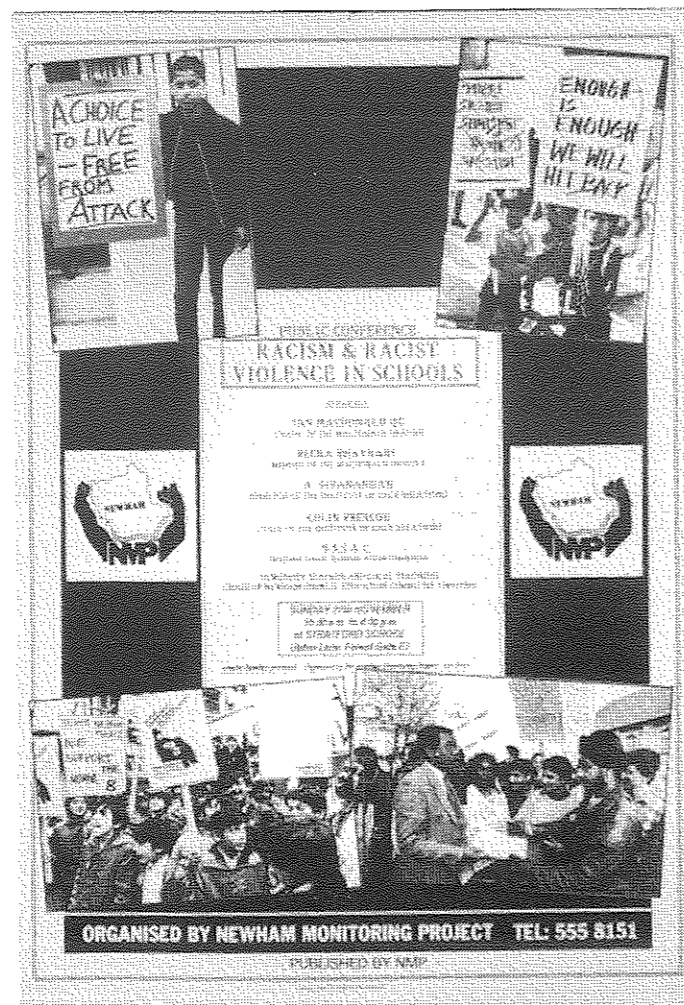
A number of concrete recommendations came out of the conference, most of which mirrored ones made by NMP in its document, *Establishing Anti-Racist Education Policies and Practices in Newham*, which was released in January 1983. Recommendations included:

- To pressure schools to establish their own *operative* anti-racist procedures and practices to which teachers and students can be made accountable. This has to go beyond paper policies alone; anti-racist education can never simply be a matter of adhering to a given set of guidelines, for it necessitates questioning an entire

way of thinking. Students, staff and teaching unions need to be involved in planning the way forward.

- To strengthen existing networks and build an independent and permanent pressure group around racism and education in Newham.
- To develop strategies for opposing racism, however it rears its ugly head, and to monitor how teachers respond to complaints of racism.
- To identify strategies for resisting the implicit racism of the national curriculum. The importance of taking an historical rather than a cultural approach needs to be stressed.
- To pressure the local education authority to use its resources to improve race relations rather than encourage racial polarisation and white resentment.
- To get the broad left to take on board the demands of black people rather than dictate to black people what their struggles entail.

NMP intends to take the initiative forward on a local and concrete level by drafting a document incorporating the main political points and recommendations coming from the conference.



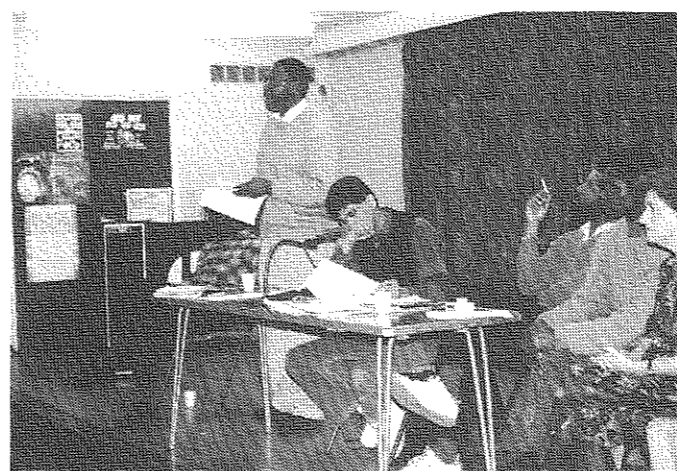
## 13 OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT WORK

An essential part of the Project's work has always been outreach and development. After all, it is only by maintaining and extending our links locally and nationally that we can even begin to mobilise the grassroots strength necessary to fight and overcome racist and police attacks on our communities. As we approach the 1990s, this becomes increasingly important. We must continue to draw on and learn from the experiences of black people in order to adapt our strategies accordingly and strengthen our particular brand of community politics and black self-organisation.

It is encouraging that more and more people come to us to find out about the work that we do and to volunteer to help run the Project on a day-to-day basis. Such support is the lifeline of the Project; without it we can hardly provide an effective service in terms of combating racist attacks and police malpractice. It is in this context that we can look back on 1988 with some satisfaction at the progress that has been made in cementing old links and forging new ones.

### THE AGM AND OTHER PUBLIC MEETINGS

Some 150 people attended NMP's Annual General Meeting held on 20 March 1988 at Kensington Youth Centre. Colin Prescod from the Institute of Race Relations spoke on the urgent need for unity among all those fighting racism. Councillor Jeanne Reeves spoke on the housing department's commitment to enforcing its racial harassment policy and the implications of the Harris survey.



NMP's AGM 1988: Pondering the Way Forward!

The Project also organised several public meetings which were well attended by concerned local people. On 20 January 1988 some 150 people gathered to express their reservations about police community 'consultation'. As we have discussed in previous annual reports, we see such 'consultation' as a public

relations stunt designed to deceive the public into thinking that the police are accountable to the community when in fact they are not.

As discussed in other chapters, the Project also organised a public meeting on 24 November to publicise the case of the Plaistow 4, and a conference on 'Racism and Racist Violence in Schools' on 27 November 1988.

### SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

The Project gave many talks in 1988 to local and national groups and statutory departments. Although we reject the politics of Anti-Racism Training and Racism Awareness Training, we are always willing to present our views on matters related to racism or policing. As black people and the anti-racist struggle come under further attack from the state and the media, it is crucial that racism — however it manifests itself — is discussed and analysed, and that information about black resistance gets out to as many people as possible.

Locally, we have spoken to students and teachers at various schools, including Cumberland, Sarah Bonnell, Rokeby, St Angela's, Stratford, Forest Gate, Plashet and Little Ilford. In addition, we are frequently visited by students, in particular fourth form sociology students from Plashet, Sarah Bonnell, Langdon and Little Ilford schools, who want to know how a community group operates, or want information about racism and what we do to fight it.

We have also developed links with local youth clubs — including Forest Gate, Little Ilford and Neville Road — which we hope to strengthen further in the months ahead.

We have given talks to housing officers, housing association workers, trade union branches, Labour Party wards, local black organisations and voluntary sector groups.

Nationally, we have led workshops at the Shelter conference and at the National Black Caucus conference on organising against racist attacks. We have also participated in Legal Action Group workshops on local government initiatives in combating racial harassment. We have spoken at public meetings all over London and nationally to people interested in hearing about the Newham experience, about the work that we do and about the campaigns we are involved in. We have spoken at many marches, including one in Leicester.

A considerable amount of time and effort has been spent assisting students and researchers. We have spoken to groups of social work (CQSW) students and EEC exchange students. We have had students spend time with us on placement, from various local



authority workers who spent a day or half a day with us, to two fourth-form students who spent a week with us, to a CQSW student who spent a month with us.

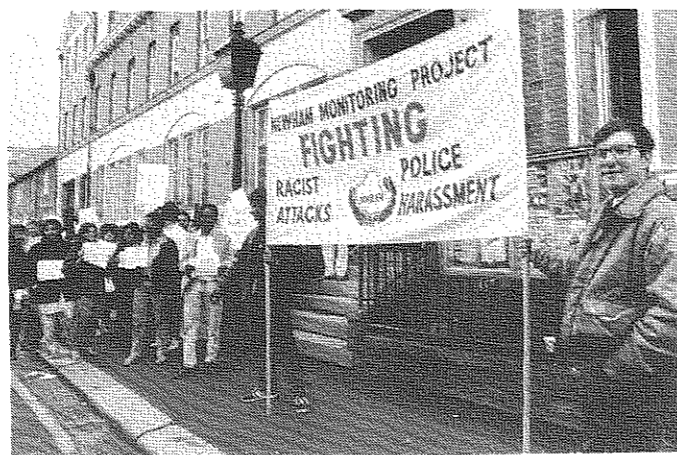
#### COMMITTEES WE SERVE ON

We serve as coopted members on various council committees, including the race equality sub-committee and the police and community safety sub-committee. We are also on various area housing forums.

We have been elected on to various management committees, including Anti-Fascist Action, Legal Action Group, Newham Asian Women's Project, One Love, Newham Voluntary Agencies Council and the Federation of Black Housing Organisations.

#### BUILDING COMMUNITY ALLIANCES

1988 has seen solid anti-racist campaigns emerging across east London. As a matter of priority, we have been working particularly closely with GACARA in Greenwich and HCDA in Hackney, supporting each other in whatever ways we can. This has proved to be fruitful for all concerned. We have spoken at public meetings in Greenwich and Hackney to publicise the



*Demo over police attack organised by GACARA outside Woolwich police station*

case of the Plaistow 4 and to show solidarity with the Justice for Rajah/Ranvir campaigns in Greenwich and the Ali Family and Trevor Monerville campaigns in Hackney.

We have also worked with the Institute of Race Relations, Anti-Fascist Action, Southall Monitoring Group, Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign, and the Tottenham 3 Are Innocent Campaign.

## 14 LIST OF RESOURCES

NMP has a number of resources which are available to local community groups and affiliated members. A deposit may be required on some items, with prices being negotiable according to the user's financial position.

#### NMP Exhibitions

1. *History of racism in the East End*  
23 wipe-clean, wall-mountable panels which illustrate the roots and examples of racism in London's East End. Hire fee: £10 per day

2. *Conspiracy*  
12 wipe-clean, wall-mountable panels which document different campaigns and struggles of black people in Britain. Hire fee: £5 per day

#### Visual Aid Resources

1. *Video camera*, which is a lightweight VHS portable fully equipped camera. Hire fee: £8 per day

2. *Portable video recorder*, VHS format, with full remote control; compatible with video camera, comes with carrying case. Hire fee: £5 per day

3. *Colour television monitor*, 20-inch, full remote control and indoor TV aerial. Hire fee: £5 per day

#### Megaphone

Battery-powered, hand-held loudhailer suitable for demonstrations or pickets. Hire fee: £10 per day

#### Cassette Recorder

SuperScope professional cassette recorder with triple head system. Hire fee: £5 per day

#### Video/Reading Library

A selection of videos, books and reports on racism. Currently a catalogue is being compiled, including videos made by the Project, eg 'The Dividing Line'. Telephone for details.

#### Services

1. *Printing*: We can do printing for individuals or local community groups, depending on the size of the order. Approximately 1p per copy, A4 double-sided.

2. *Translations*: These can be arranged for all Asian languages — quickly, cheaply and professionally. Approximately £6 per 100 words.

## 15 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Below we list some suggestions for future reading:

#### Policing and racial violence

*The Broadwater Farm Inquiry: report of the independent inquiry into disturbances of October 1985 at the Broadwater Farm Estate, Tottenham* (Karia Press, 1986)

Paul Gordon, *White Law: racism in the police, courts and prisons* (Pluto Press, 1983)

Institute of Race Relations, *Policing against black people* (IRR, 1987)

*Policing in Hackney 1945-1984: a report commissioned by the Roach Family Support Committee* (Karia Press, 1987)

*Racial violence and harassment* (Runnymede Trust, 1986)

*Action on Racial Harassment: legal remedies to deal with instances of racial harassment* (LAG/LHO, 1988)

#### Fascism

*Searchlight* (This is a monthly magazine that examines developments on the far right. It costs £1.00 and is available from most good bookshops.)

Paul Gordon and Francesca Klug, *New Right, new racism* (Searchlight, 1986)

#### General literature

Peter Fryer, *Staying power: the history of black people in Britain* (Pluto Press, 1984)

A Sivanandan, *A different hunger: writings on black resistance* (Pluto Press, 1982)

Race Today Collective, *The Arrivants: pictorial essay on blacks in Britain* (Race Today, March 1987)

Paul Gilroy, *There Ain't no Black in the Union Jack: cultural politics of race and nation* (Hutchinson, 1987)

Also see *Race & Class*, a quarterly journal produced by the Institute of Race Relations. Subscription is £10 (individuals) and £14 (organisations) per annum.

# 16 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1988

	1988	1987
	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>		
Grant Funding	117,850	96,058
Transfer of specified funding	3,498	4,272
Other Income	642	1,075
	<u>121,990</u>	<u>101,405</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Salaries & National Insurance	41,901	41,548
Rent, Rates, Light and Heat	1,359	2,082
Repairs and Maintenance	4,011	2,052
Insurance	1,707	557
Telephone	3,391	3,963
Stationery, Postage & Office Materials	6,331	7,723
Printing, Publicity and Reports	2,692	10,250
Literature and Subscriptions	275	1,324
Audit and Accountancy	920	862
Legal Fees	4,312	420
Courses and Conference	1,689	782
Motor, Travel and Subsistence Expenses	5,574	5,934
Volunteers' Expenses	3,516	2,308
Petty Cash Differences	1,093	—
Bank Charges and Other Expenses	1,722	468
Equipment Purchased	234	15,005
Recruitment Advertising	2,747	2,045
Project Expenses	—	3,216
Research Project Expenses	32,442	—
Provision for Doubtful Debts	5,010	—
	<u>120,926</u>	<u>100,539</u>
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<u>1,064</u>	<u>866</u>

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 1988

	1988	1987
	£	£
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Debtors and Prepayments	12,211	19,190
Cash at Bank and in Hand	16,865	6,018
	<u>29,076</u>	<u>25,208</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Creditors and Accrued Expenses	22,098	13,601
Specified Revenue Funding	3,330	6,828
Bank Overdraft	—	2,195
	<u>25,428</u>	<u>22,624</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>3,648</u>	<u>2,584</u>

#### REPRESENTED BY:

#### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Surplus brought forward	2,584	1,718
Surplus for the year	1,064	866
	<u>3,648</u>	<u>2,584</u>

# 17 AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

Affiliation to NMP is open to anyone who lives or works in Newham and agrees with the constitutional aims and objectives of the Project

ASIAN ARTS GROUP  
 ASIAN LADIES GROUP — HAROLD ROAD CENTRE  
 ASIAN WOMEN'S GROUP  
 BEHNO-KI-MILAN  
 CANNING TOWN MUSLIM WELFARE ASSOCIATION  
 CASTLE WARD LABOUR PARTY  
 CAIRDE NA NGAEL — NEWHAM AND DISTRICT FRIENDS OF IRELAND  
 COMMUNITY LINKS  
 CUMBERLAND SCHOOL NUT GROUP  
 DEAN AND COMPANY SOLICITORS  
 EAST LONDON ACTSS (NEWHAM BRANCH)  
 EAST LONDON BLACK WOMEN'S ORGANISATION (ELBWO)  
 EAST LONDON IRISH YEAR OF ACTION  
 EASTWARDS TRUST (HOSTELS) LTD  
 FOREST GATE WARD LABOUR PARTY  
 FOREST GATE YOUTH CENTRE  
 GREATFIELD BRANCH LABOUR PARTY  
 GUJERAT WELFARE ASSOCIATION  
 INDIAN WORKERS ASSOCIATION (GB) LONDON EAST  
 INTERNATIONAL ASIAN WELFARE ASSOCIATION  
 LITTLE ILFORD YOUTH CENTRE  
 MANOR PARK BRANCH LABOUR PARTY  
 MAYFLOWER FAMILY CENTRE  
 MUSLIM WELFARE ASSOCIATION  
 MILAN GIRLS PROJECT  
 NEIGHBOURHOOD CARE PROJECT  
 NEWHAM ALCOHOL ADVISORY SERVICE  
 NEWHAM ANTI-FASCIST ACTION  
 NEWHAM ASIAN WOMEN'S PROJECT  
 NEWHAM BLACK PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS  
 NEWHAM CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU  
 NEWHAM CND  
 NEWHAM COMMUNITY ADVICE UNIT  
 NEWHAM COMMUNITY TRANSPORT  
 NEWHAM CONSORTIUM FOR YOUTH  
 NEWHAM DRUGS PROJECT  
 NEWHAM NALGO BLACK WORKERS GROUP  
 NEWHAM NALGO SOCIAL SERVICES SHOP STEWARDS COMMITTEE  
 NEWHAM LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS  
 NEWHAM NORTH EAST LABOUR PARTY  
 NEWHAM NORTH WEST LABOUR PARTY  
 NEWHAM RENEWAL PROGRAMME  
 NEWHAM RIGHTS CENTRE  
 NEWHAM TENANTS AND RESIDENTS RESOURCE CENTRE  
 NEWHAM WOMEN'S GROUP  
 NEYADIN ASIAN YOUTH CLUB  
 NORTH EAST LONDON POLYTECHNIC LABOUR CLUB  
 ONE LOVE (BEDS)  
 PLASHET BRANCH LABOUR PARTY  
 PLASHET SCHOOL NUT GROUP  
 RAMGAHIRA SIKH GURDWARA  
 SHALOM CENTRE OF JUSTICE AND PEACE  
 ST STEPHEN'S BRANCH LABOUR PARTY  
 SAHALI WOMEN'S GROUP  
 SINGH SABHA (LONDON EAST)  
 SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
 SOCIETY OF ST FRANCIS  
 STARDUST ASIAN YOUTH CLUB  
 STEERING COMMITTEE OF ASIAN ORGANISATIONS AGAINST RACISM  
 THEATRE ROYAL STRATFORD  
 TOM ALLEN COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE  
 UPTON BRANCH LABOUR PARTY  
 URBAN STUDIES CENTRE  
 ZEBRA PROJECT