

twentieth anniversary

joint annual report 1999-2000



newham
monitoring
project

NMP
Anti-Racist Trust
INFORMATION • EDUCATION • RESEARCH

■ Contents

Jointly Produced by Newham
Monitoring Project and the NMP
Anti-Racist Trust

Suite 4
63 Broadway
Stratford
London E15 4BQ

Office: 020 8555 8151
Fax: 020 8555 8163

E-mail:
NMP: nmp@nmp.org.uk
The Trust: trust@nmp.org.uk
BRAIN: brain@nmp.org.uk

Website: www.nmp.org.uk

This Annual Report is
dedicated to the memory of
Sessu Ramayya ('Remi'), one
of NMP's most dedicated
volunteers, who died in 1999

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Celebrating Twenty Years Of Resistance

Newham Monitoring Project's Annual Report

A New Era in Anti-Racism	2
Advice & Support Project	4
The Emergency Service	4
Community Development	6
Casework Support	10
Issues of Concern	13
Free Satpal Ram!	22
A Voice Heard Loud and Clear - A Tribute to Hardev Singh Dhesi	23

NMP Anti-Racist Trust's Annual Report

Review of the Year	27
The BRAIN Network	29
The Resource Centre - A Goal for the Future	30
Anti-Racist Citizens 2000	32
Accounts	34
Staff, NMP Management Committee, Trustees and Volunteers	36

A New Era of Anti-Racism

Newham Monitoring Project 1980 - 2000

The last year will be remembered as a significant one for the progress of anti-racism and the development of NMP's future. The Public Inquiry into the Death of Stephen Lawrence acknowledged what community based organisations such as NMP have struggled to highlight for two decades: that racism was a reality of life for the black communities of the UK. That the police force and other institutions could be plagued by racism was now a legitimate matter for public debate. Racism was on the top of the public agenda.

Since the publication of the Lawrence Report, NMP has been disappointed by a degree of self-congratulation within the Metropolitan Police and complacency from the Home Office about the massive effort needed to achieve meaningful change. Adverse publicity and a sustained campaign by the McGowan family from Telford has forced a belated investigation into the horrific hangings of Errol and Jason which should have been treated as a murder inquiry from the outset. Levels of racial harassment have remained alarmingly high with

a 66% increase in the reporting of racial incidents. The clear up rate of racially motivated crime is alarmingly low at 19%. If that was not bad enough, 1999 saw the unprecedented bombings of the black and gay communities in Brixton, Brick Lane and Soho, causing death, injury and the fear that racists and bigots were laying siege to our communities.

After decades of over-policing of black communities and anger at the way racist violence was investigated. Voluntary organisations working at a grassroots level have viewed the promise of a watershed in race relations with scepticism.

Organisations round the country like NMP grew out of communities with a tradition of resistance to the racism and hostility they faced. In the period since Scarman many such organisations were unable to survive, starved of resources as local and national government funding became increasingly restrictive and was withdrawn. Yet black people still faced racist violence in the street and their homes, discrimination at

school, at work, and criminalisation by the police and the criminal justice system. Stephen Lawrence's death was only one of many racist murders that caused equal anger and grief for the families of those who have died. Family campaigns and community groups which supported them in the last twenty years, were sometimes successful in forcing justice from the system, often not. The investigation and prosecution of the murder of Panchadcharam Sahitharan in Newham in 1992 was a shambles and came to nought. The Lawrence Report confirmed what black people already knew; racism within the police is institutionalised at every level.

What was new about the Inquiry was a sense that the public mood demanded and politicians were admitting that this time something had to be done about the existence of structural racism. Essential to any long term change will be the genuine accountability of the police. Ideas such as a Police Ombudsman, Truth and Reconciliation Commissions at a local level and an independent Police Complaints Authority are

being debated. The most immediate solution to tackling local issues is to use the experience of monitoring groups as a model and rebuild the network of black organisations that once existed in the 1980's.

Newham Monitoring Project (NMP) was itself set up to provide advice and support to individuals and families suffering racial and/or police harassment. Since 1981 we have dealt with, on average, over 400 cases a year in east London. NMP has a history of monitoring how police and other institutions respond to incidents of racial harassment and their treatment of the black community as whole. NMP's experience has shown that providing immediate support changes nothing without also highlighting local communities experiences through campaigning. Following the death of Stephen Lawrence there would never have been an Inquiry without the unceasing struggle of Doreen and Neville Lawrence, and the support of the Lawrence Family Campaign and community groups from many areas.

However, the capacity for

community groups to continue this role is severely affected by lack of funding and resources. A specific concern of the Lawrence Inquiry team was harm caused by short term funding or withdrawal of funding to support such initiatives. It reflects a tendency amongst funding agencies, including local authorities to withdraw support from groups perceived to be too confrontational. Yet without that confrontational role, the issues surrounding the deaths of countless victims of racial harassment and deaths in Police custody would continue to be ignored. The local government culture of competitive performance, and control without genuine support and facilitation has also affected the funding and activities of local groups. The trend to tender out services that exist for the welfare of the community to profit making companies is particularly deplorable.

In this context NMP faced the greatest challenge of our 20 year history from 1997 to 1999. Since funding by Newham Council ceased in March 1997, the Project has continued to provide support and assistance to individuals and families affected by racial attack and/or police harassment. Our capacity to provide such support was severely limited as we could no longer employ the four to five staff to provide the level of casework and community development work



Another era: never to be repeated? - riot police face black people supporting the Newham 7 and Justice for the Pryces Campaign, May 1985. Photo: Andrew Potheary

needed. NMP was only able to employ a part-time worker, and rent a small office to provide administrative and fund-raising support. NMP is fortunate to have retained during this challenging period the skills, specialist expertise and professionalism of many individuals who have worked for and with us over many years .

In last years annual report we outlined why Alert (Estates Management UK Ltd), a profit making company which won the corporate contract for Newham's racial harassment services (formerly carried out by its own Race Officers), performs a very different role from NMP. (See Community Development Section on its role as a

law enforcement agency.) Providing support for victims of police harassment and outreach work to raise awareness of anti-racism specified in Newham Council's draft invitation to tender has not been part of Alert's role. Alert works closely with the police and though it has successfully provided evidence for prosecution of racists, it is not in a position to recognise the intricate relationship between racism and policing or challenge police racism faced by the black communities in east London. In addition, Alert will not challenge Newham Council where victims of racist attacks have sought legal action against the Council for mistakes or failures which have compounded their problems.

An organisation with the independence to monitor both racial and police harassment in the borough and provide support and assistance based on an independent stance was therefore solely needed. Despite the massive impact of the Lawrence Inquiry sources of funding for the kind of anti-racist work NMP is now well placed to pursue have been meagre. That we are able to do so is a testimony to the commitment of our many supporters, volunteers, friends and the wider black community. Many have generously contributed donations to sustain our basic infrastructure and funding of our campaigning work.

The Advice & Support Project

A successful bid to the National Lotteries Charities Board (NLCB) has enabled us to employ two workers to provide a casework and improved emergency service. Funding is for a three years period. The primary aim is to develop NMP's advice and support services, which will include the following:

- A comprehensive 24 hour Emergency Service to provide immediate and specialist help to victims of racial and civil injustice.
- Casework support and assistance for the above through outreach work.
- Monitoring, research and documentation of incidents of racial harassment

The funds have enabled NMP to employ two new workers for a three period and relocate to a larger office space which provides office space, small meeting and interview rooms. A locum worker was appointed in 1999 to carry out a community audit and two workers were appointed starting December 1999 and January 2000.

The Project is co-ordinated by the Project Manager (who is jointly employed by the NMP Anti-Racist Trust), who provides ongoing support and supervision. As an employing organisation, we are committed to supporting the professional development of our staff and continually reviewing and improving our services to the public. Many former staff have gone on to distinguished careers in the black voluntary sector, national organisations and government advisory posts, or as lawyers specialising in civil and racial injustice.

As we enter the post-Lawrence period we are thankful that the NLCB funded project allows us to tackle some of the work that needs to be done. The struggle of the Lawrences has ensured far firmer ground to take that work forward. We need secure funding to ensure the management and expansion of our work, both for NMP and for NMP Anti-Racist Trust. The Management Committee has been focused on developing an immediate and long term fund raising strategy to that

end and we hope this report will describe the work of the past year and our hopes for the future.

The Emergency Service

NMP's 24 hour emergency phone line is being relaunched at June 2000's Annual General Meeting. In restructuring and improving the service, we are able to draw upon the experience of running 24-hour support between 1983 and 1998, adding the strengths of the old service with a commitment to improving its professionalism and the breadth of training for new volunteers

The Emergency Service until 1997

Out of office hours, the service was run by a rota of between 25 - 40 trained volunteers, receiving calls in their own homes. The Service provided immediate practical and personal support to victims of racial and police harassment. For example, if someone whose home was being attacked rang to say the police had failed to arrive, the volunteer would repeatedly call the police station to

ensure the incident was treated as an emergency. Volunteers from the local area have remained committed to the emergency service, some for many years, and we are especially grateful for their continued involvement.

Emergency Service volunteers are taught that, unlike many of the statutory agencies that black people suffering harassment come into contact with, volunteers are not to make judgements about the people who ring the Service but act as advocates.

The old emergency phonenumber service was an essential self-referral and public access point to NMP's casework service run by four full time workers until 1997. It provided on average 25% of NMP's caseload. The task of co-ordinating and supporting the volunteers was formerly shared between all staff.

A new emergency service for 2000.

The new emergency service, together with the office hours casework service, will provide a 24 hour point of contact, seven day a week. It has been decided to use a free phone number to provide callers with easy access to the service, taking into consideration that users may be on low income or homeless. The service is co-ordinated by a dedicated Emergency Service worker appointed in December 1999. The Emergency Service Worker's role is to support a more formal structure for the operation of the Service, with greater support for volunteers and better integration into the on-going casework support offered by the Project This involves ensuring that volunteers are available to staff the service out of hours and arranging future training sessions.

As reported in last years annual report, a sub committee within NMP spent a considerable amount of time planning the structure, training and operation of the new service. The sub-committee includes management committee members, experienced Emergency Service volunteers and former NMP casework staff. They have been able to contribute expertise in many aspects of the law, training methods, publicity and involvement in the local community. The group evaluated the old procedures,

RACIAL HARASSMENT

24:7

POLICE HARASSMENT

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monitoring methods, and practical arrangements, and have devised new management systems, training packages and a re-written and completely new and updated volunteers handbook, which will be an essential reference tool for new volunteers.

A thorough re-evaluation of the working of the old service has been invaluable in identifying more systematic ways of ensuring volunteers know their work is valued, and updating them with progress on issues that arise out of casework, as well as devising efficient administration for the organisation of the volunteers rota. It has also led to a complete re-writing of the Emergency Service

handbook, which provides information on police procedure and guidelines and practical steps that volunteers should take according to the type of incident they face. It includes new forms for recording incidents, as part of a system for improving the time that detailed information is available to NMP's full-time staff.

Emergency Service Training and the Role of Volunteers

A pilot training day for volunteers was devised by the sub-committee and tested in November 1999. This enabled some modifications to be made to the current training package, which is in two parts: knowledge and its practical application through case studies. There have been subsequently been seven training sessions attended by 25 volunteers.

Emergency Service volunteers are taught that, unlike many of the statutory agencies that black people suffering harassment come into contact with, volunteers are not to make judgements about the people who ring the Service but act as advocates. In doing so, the training makes clear the chasm that exists between what senior police officers say should happen when a racist crime is reported and what happens in reality. This has always been central to the training we offer and

A HISTORY OF RESISTANCE

Five thousand people march through Newham following the racist murder of Akhtar Ali Baig. Local campaigners for NMP.

1980

is based on twenty years of experience of acting on behalf of black people who have contacted us. For users of the Emergency Service complaining about the way they have been treated by the police on the streets, the key issue, perhaps unsurprisingly, is the use of stop and search. Our training covers in detail the use and misuse of stop and search and in particular what can and cannot be done by officers

The development and efficient maintenance of the service will rely on a committed body of volunteers who have undergone a minimum of two training sessions. The sessions are intended to give volunteers not only relevant knowledge of the law and legal rights, police procedures and so on, but also a sense of a clearly defined role with the confidence to refer on to legal specialists, for example drawing on services of reputable solicitors. The sessions are also intended to involve new volunteers in a supportive network. New volunteers will receive back up from experienced "Second Tier" volunteers who can provide advice and other support as needed.

Publicity and Development of the Emergency Service

Over the last two years, many people have continued to refer themselves to NMP from word of mouth contacts and personal

recommendations, but if we are to succeed in reaching out to new and diverse communities in Newham, we need to publicise the Emergency Service as if it was an entirely new initiative. NMP has drawn up publicity materials to actively promote the service and will be using every opportunity through our community development activities to make sure that the service is accessible to the widest range of black communities in east London. New publicity, giving advice on immediate action following a racist attack, is being prepared and will be translated into seven languages. We are also keen to encourage more people to be part of the service and have produced publicity to promote recruitment of new volunteers.

Future initiatives being discussed for the Emergency Service will include taking a revised version of the training into schools, youth clubs and community centres

Future initiatives being discussed for the Emergency Service will include taking a revised version of the training into schools, youth clubs and community centres. This will also provide us with the opportunity to distribute publicity and rights cards, and suggests avenues for broader training and education initiatives.

In order to promote the emergency service to other advice agencies, advice workers and other professionals in the fields of health and social welfare, its details are listed in The Telephone Help Line Directory is a national source of information about non-commercial, confidential help that includes details of over 1,000 help lines from Child line to the London Rape Crisis Centre. Information is also included in the new Community Legal Service directory, on its national database and its web site.

Community Development

During 1999, the NLCB authorised the appointment of a locum worker following difficulties in the first recruitment round for staff in the

summer. The locum worker's brief was to conduct a community audit to prepare for the resumption of a funded casework service.

The aim of the audit conducted between August and October 1999 was to gather up to date information and review service provision for the black and ethnic minority communities, particularly for those suffering racial harassment or police harassment in Newham.

The information in the audit report was based on meetings with 20 organisations and questionnaires sent out to community organisations in Newham 20 detailed responses were received. Meetings covered a range of organisations for example Newham Rights Centre, Newham Chinese Association, East London Black Women's Organisation and Stratford Advice Arcade.

NEWHAM MONITORING PROJECT KNOW YOUR RIGHTS ON THE STREETS

- The police can stop and search you without arresting you. They must tell you what they are looking for.
- If stopped, stay calm and cooperate. Give the police your correct name and address.
- **DON'T GIVE THEM AN EXCUSE TO ARREST YOU.**
- Note the officer(s) number(s).
- If arrested, shout to a witness to contact relatives or friends.
- Get in contact with us as soon as possible on the number below.

24 HOURS A DAY: 0800 169 3111

NMP's new Rights Card

NMP's Community Audit: Key Findings

- Although racial harassment services exist in Newham, many respondents were unhappy about their effectiveness. A number expressed the view that they would only refer to the 'official' services unless there was no alternative. An number of local groups were genuinely pleased that NMP was able to again take referrals.
- A number of community organisations and advice agencies said that they were still finding it difficult to get the police to take racial harassment issues seriously. Most of those who expressed an opinion felt that people suffering racist crimes were more likely to get a appropriate response if supported by an outside agency.
- There is a wide disparity of views locally about whether to participate in forums with the police and a very varied level of interaction with police officers.
- Concerns were raised about Newham Council's 'informal' policy of 'temporarily' housing refugees outside of the borough, in places like Great Yarmouth and Devon. Refugees suffering racist attacks, although council tenants, were completely cut off from access to support and likely to face continued harassment.

The report outlines recent developments in Newham, for the two years when NMP has only been able to run a limited casework service on a voluntary basis. It indicates the direction that NMP's community development work should take, and looks at changes in statutory and voluntary sector agencies to inform a preliminary re-assessment of our relationship to these agencies.

Newham Council

Newham Council's racial harassment services are contracted out to Estate Management UK's subsidiary 'Alert in Newham'. (See 1999 Annual Report).

Alert has taken over the function of Race Officers once employed in the Housing Department, and its remit also includes that of a general law enforcement agency and involvement in the Council's general crime reduction strategy. It's role is markedly different from an independent monitoring group, for example it has gathered evidence against a black tenant subsequently evicted for alleged noise nuisance. The council retains an Equalities Unit responsible for monitoring Alert's performance. NMP has had limited contact with Alert to date and our casework in future will clarify what direct role council departments (other than the Legal Department)

and other contracted out services have in cases of racial harassment. For example the Education Department is currently reviewing its racial harassment guidelines for schools.

The Council's Lawrence Inquiry Steering Group was set up in July 1999 to examine it's response. A press release entitled 'Newham takes lead in Lawrence action plans,' was issued in August. Council leader Robin Wales, in a moment of extreme rhetoric, was quoted as saying, "*Racism of any kind is a totally unacceptable disease which has no place in society. We are certainly determined that it is not going to have a place in Newham. Where we find evidence of racism there will be a full investigation ...Every allegation will be carefully examined because we do not need this kind of scum in a multi-cultural capital or anywhere else. Their days are numbered.*" We await results.

The Police : New developments after the Lawrence Inquiry

Community Safety Units (CSUs) CSUs have been set up in every London borough with a remit to deal with racial harassment, racist attacks, domestic violence and homophobic attacks. The former Newham Organised Racial Incidents Squad (NORIS) dealt exclusively with racially motivated offences. NMP's

A HISTORY OF RESISTANCE

Thousands march in support of the Newham 8, arrested for defending themselves against racist attacks

1983

experience of NORIS was that it prioritised high profile cases at the expense of smaller cases. People supported by NMP in former years consistently expressed little or no confidence in NORIS.

It is too soon to assess whether the CSUs will have an impact on improving police responses to racial harassment. We have had contact with Plaistow, Croydon and Ilford CSU's. We are not aware of any significant improvement in the experience, for example response times to call from victims do not appear to have improved (See Casework Section). Respondents to the audit reported insensitive treatment of victims, and considerable delays in taking witness statement, in one case for as long as six months. The involvement of outside agencies was still needed to pressure the police to make arrests. Over the three months that the audit was conducted the clear-up rate for racially motivated crime in Newham was an appalling 7.5%, compared with an unsatisfactory London wide figure of 20%.

NMP's previous experience of NORIS and the conduct of some individual cases (see casework section) raises questions about how much impact CSUs will have on the whole police service response to racist crimes. Will mainstream officers communicate and co-operate with

Police 'out of touch with racial groups'

Independent 11/11/98

CSUs or will they be reluctant to come to the assistance of victims because they consider it is the CSU province? Will CSUs take on the role of informing or educating mainstream officers about a pattern of racial harassment when a victim is arrested as a result of false allegations from perpetrators? Will previous difficulties in contacting NORIS staff continue with CSUs, leading to extended delays?

Police Community Consultative Group (PCCG)

We have attended meetings of the PCCG to observe rather than as members. Since the Lawrence Inquiry we have not observed a significant change in the role of the Newham PCCG, though we would have expected its members to take a more pro-active and critical stance.

The Racial and Violent Crimes Task Force (CO24)

This was set up with Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Grieve at its helm. Its documentation on tackling racist crime includes general targets and projections for significant improvement in the London wide clear up rates of racist crimes. However, we are unclear about the role of the Task Force at local level. The Task Force has taken a positive role in turning round some cases which have received national publicity, for example that of the murder of Michael Menson, but is it likely to have the authority or the capacity to improve the local police services' response to the bulk of racial harassment cases?

NMP's experience before and since the Lawrence Inquiry is that the

police are far more likely to respond to victims of racial harassment or violence who have assistance from an outside agency. Most community organisations and advice agencies contacted in the Audit reported they were still finding they had to pressure the police into taking racial harassment problems seriously. Even after an initial contact, consistent pressure had to be maintained or cases of racial harassment were not taken seriously. Those interviewed felt that often, though not always, the right soundings were made, but there was little tangible difference in outcomes. Our experience, since beginning our full time casework service in January, has corroborated the findings of the audit (see Casework Section). Our respondents observed no tangible difference in the response to victims of racial harassment post the Lawrence Inquiry Report and the Metropolitan Police's 'Diversity Strategy' to improve the service ethnic minority communities receive from the police.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Between 16 -20,000 refugees and Asylum seekers live in Newham with significant numbers from Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Uganda, Sri Lanka (Tamils) and Turkey (Kurds), as well as Eastern Europe. Newham Council "pioneering" policy of housing refugees and asylum seekers in

Race hate victims hit by routine abuse

Amelia Gentleman

Routine racial harassment is placing a burden of "devastating stress" on victims and has a damaging effect on all areas of their lives, a new report on racist victimisation in the UK concludes.

Victims of low level - apparently inconsequential - but daily abuse described how their personal relationships, social life and health all suffered, the Joseph Rowntree foundation study reports. However, most were reluctant to complain or seek help until the harassment had become intolerable - conscious that

Throughout the interviews talk of anger, stress, depression, and sleepless nights were common and recurring themes.

Victims said there was limited support for them from bodies like the police and housing associations, and described feeling "ignored, unheard and unprotected". There was a sense of futility about what reporting incidents to the police would achieve. One man said: "How can you prove verbal abuse? These things happen so often, you can't go to the police every five minutes."

Many said they felt official

The Guardian 21/6/99

temporary accommodation outside of Newham is more expensive than housing people in Newham, but has been justified as easing the strain on housing resources. Refugees not complying with dispersal face a twilight existence without any means of support (see Issues of Concern).

We expect that refugees in Newham will be increasingly vulnerable to racist attack, and in view of the diversity of the local refugee population the audit has indicated the need for focused outreach work and publicity to ensure refugees are aware of and have access to our casework services.

Other Issues that will impact on our work include:

Young People

The Crime and Disorder Act 1999 includes new powers such as parenting orders, anti-social behaviour orders and curfews. These could be used as legal remedies on behalf of victims of racial harassment, but we are concerned at the wider social implications of such powers, and the appropriateness of their use.

Racist Attacks and Community Services

Respondents to the audit identified problem areas for racist incidents: In Newham: *Forest Gate, Green Street, Stratford, Canning Town, West Ham, Manor Park, Plaistow, Green Gate and the South of the Borough in general.* Romford was also specified. There does not appear to have been any significant reduction in racial harassment in Newham.

Most respondents indicated that both workers at these organisations and service users who would have previously come to NMP, have had nowhere to go for specialised advice and support. The resumption of a specialised casework service, even though with far fewer staff than before was welcomed with enthusiasm and relief by respondents to the audit.

Community Development Priorities

In light of the audit report, NMP has set the following priorities. They are refugee and asylum Seekers support work, youth work and work with unfunded, community groups. Our community development work is at an early stage. Since January we have restarted some of our work within schools and colleges, at Forest Gate School and Newham FE College and are building close links with those working with refugees in Newham and East London, through the Newham Refugee Support Group. An NMP working party to look at all three areas of community development comprising staff, Management Committee members, supporters and volunteers has been set up. There are many innovative projects and pro-active groups working in Newham and we look forward to building closer links and working together in the future.

Whilst the NLCB funded staff will have a component of their time for community development work, including the community development aspect of the emergency service, NMP relies on its volunteers and supporters to develop this work. We hope that the community development and education projects envisaged by NMP Anti-Racist Trust can play a large part in an effective community development strategy.

A HISTORY OF RESISTANCE

Newham 7 Defence Campaign formed to support seven Asian youths arrested after fighting back against a racist gang.

1984

Casework Support

NMP's casework service is pivotal to the work of the organisation as a whole. We seek to provide practical advice and support to those suffering from racial harassment and police harassment. After two years of limited casework provided by experienced volunteers and management committee members we have been able to resume a full-time casework service staffed by NLCB funded workers.

Our approach to casework remains a mutual partnership, giving those at the centre of the case maximum control over the direction their cases take. The methodology of a community-based approach to casework is solely determined by the needs, wishes and concerns of the individuals and families affected, in contrast to services often provided by many statutory organisations. Our aim remains to provide a high quality advice and support service by involving those suffering from racist violence, racial harassment or police harassment at every stage in the dialogue and feedback from agencies such as the local authority, the police or other agency involved.

Casework does not exist in isolation and an individual case or a trend has ramifications for the whole community. It is important to assess what these are in any given case. Whilst those involved directly remain central to the conduct of a case, we also adopt a strategy of building on our casework with their consent, to encourage community self-organisation, participation and defence. We are also concerned to raise public awareness of issues that arise from our casework.

We expect to take on an increasing caseload in the coming year which should provide a wider evaluation of the impact of the Lawrence Inquiry on local policing. The cases highlighted in this report, however, provide disturbing evidence of failures by policing in east London to practise the positive anti-racism officially adopted by the Met. They are examples of the kind of policing severely criticised by the Inquiry.

One case also highlights concerns about Alert, whom we will be far more monitoring closely in the coming year.

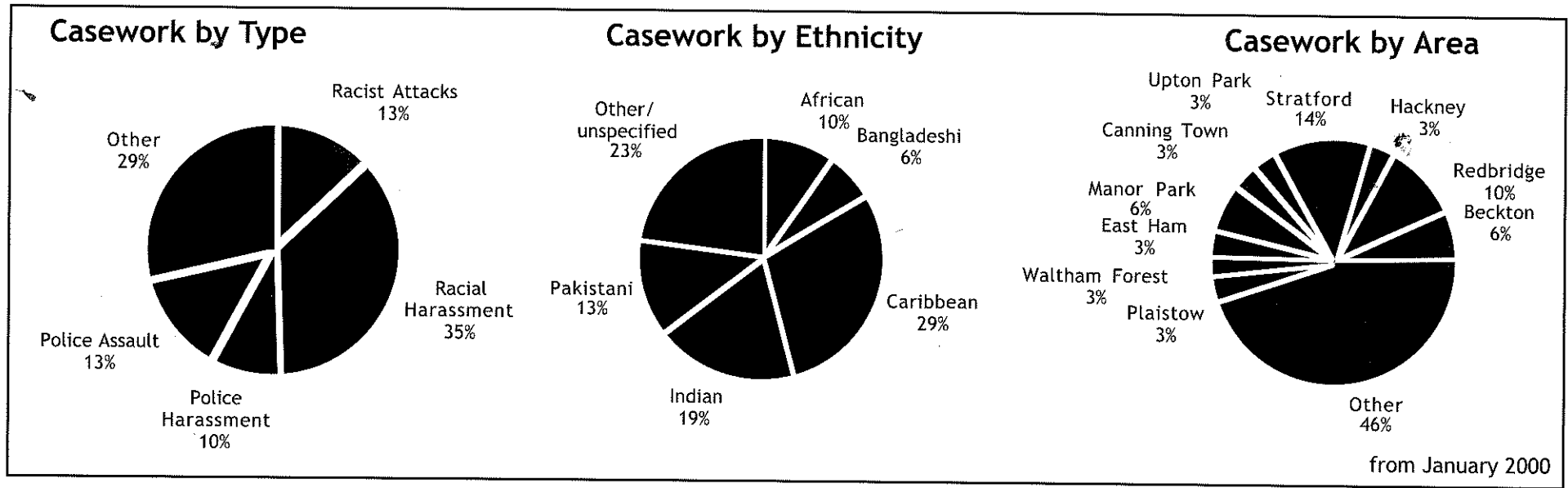
No prosecutions after five years of harassment

The case of Mr A, Stratford

Mr A and his family came to NMP around five years ago. They have a small corner shop where they experience racist abuse and assaults on a regular basis. They have also suffered violent robberies as well as regular thefts.

The family have continually faced a lack of police action in either situation. An incident involving an assault on Mr A led to them contacting NMP again. It was carried out by an individual known to the family, as he has been harassing them for years, and also to the police. Despite this, it took the intervention of NMP before the police made an arrest. Subsequent to the arrest it took sustained pressure for the man to be charged.

On the day of the trial (which was adjourned), six months after the original assault, NMP was still asking the police to finish taking witness statements from the family. The family feel that without the intervention of NMP it is unlikely that an arrest would have been made at all and that would have been unacceptable.



New Style 'Community Policing'?

The case of Mr B, Stratford

Mr B was on his way home one morning when two police officers crossed the road in order to speak to him. They asked him if he spoke English, and having established that he did they went on to ask him a series of questions including "do you have a job?" and "what are you doing here?"

When Mr B asked them why they were questioning him, the officers replied they were "making friends with the local community". Mr B asked whether, in light of the recent Stephen Lawrence Inquiry, the police recognised that some Black people did not want to make friends with them? One of the officers responded

that he had several Black friends and that this is how he had made them.

Understandably, Mr B did not wish to have further discussions with the officers, however when he tried to go, the officers said to him "just tell us what you are doing here and you can be on your way". We do not regard this as a genuine "community befriending exercise". Was Mr B really free to walk away from the officers, as the alleged attempt to make friends was against his wishes, or was he being questioned in an official capacity and therefore not free to walk away? Such behaviour is far more likely to intimidate and antagonise black people, than enhance community relations if that was really object of the exercise.

Concerns about Alert

The case of Mrs D, Stratford

The following case raises a serious question about the quality of the service provided by Alert, Newham Council's contracted 'racial harassment service provider.'

Mrs D lives in a block of flats. She has been the victim of continuous racial harassment at the hands of children who live upstairs. The parents of the children involved have failed to stop their behaviour and one parent has encouraged them by acting as a lookout. Mrs D went to Alert, the council's contracted agency dealing with racial harassment; however she felt there was little progress in her case and she was not being kept informed.

A HISTORY OF RESISTANCE

Justice for the Pryces Campaign formed after Eustace Pryce, a 16 year old African Caribbean youth, is stabbed and killed in a racist attack.

1984

She found it difficult to contact her caseworker and alleges on one occasion she phoned and was told he was in a meeting and unavailable; she phoned later and was told he was on holiday. She asked a friend to telephone. The friend, it is alleged,

was put through immediately and was so shocked by this that she suggested Mrs D contact NMP for assistance in her case. We are currently offering Mrs P advice and support.

We hope this incident is an isolated one but the need to monitor the role of statutory agencies clearly remains. The findings of the community audit conducted by NMP in 1999 indicated a desperate need

for effective, independent advice and support for individuals and families. Those we have contacted working within the black communities in Newham have enthusiastically welcomed the resumption of our casework service.

Arresting the Victim, Not the Racists

The case of Mr C, Ilford

Mr C had returned from work, when his eleven-year-old daughter, who had gone on her bike with a friend to the local park, rushed home very distressed. She managed to explain that she and her friend had been the victims of a racist assault by about 20 youth. Her friend was still in the park and was still being assaulted when Mr C's daughter escaped to get help. Extremely concerned that his daughter's friend was in grave danger, he asked his wife to call the police and tell them to go directly to the park. He then drove to the park with his daughter, removed her friend from immediate danger and waited for the police to arrive.

By the time the police eventually arrived, Mr C and the girls were surrounded by a large threatening crowd of adults and youths. Many of the adults were related or

closely connected to the attackers. Police officers witnessed Mr C being threatened and racially abused and intervened in order to prevent him from being attacked. The crowd became increasingly abusive and the girls were terrified. As soon as the attackers had been identified by the girls, Mr C suggested that he take them home and invited the police to come to his house to inform him of the action they had taken against the perpetrators. Incredibly, when they came to his house some time later, rather than assure him that appropriate action had been taken against the attackers, they arrested him.

Mr C is a respected member of the local community who, like any parent, is concerned for the safety of his children and their right to play in a public space without fear of violence. As a result of rescuing his

daughters' friend from a vicious racist attack. Mr C was arrested and charged. It is appalling that in the aftermath of the Lawrence Inquiry, the pattern of victims of racist crime being arrested and treated as criminals continues. This was an important part of our submission to the Inquiry based on our experience of two decades. Despite recognition in the Inquiry Report of "double victimisation" of individuals and families of racist attacks, firstly by the racists and then by the justice system, the police and CPS are pursuing this prosecution.

There has been a great deal of anger at Mr C's treatment within the local community and NMP has been working to ensure that these concerns are heard. The policing message appears to be: Do not intervene if your children are being racially attacked, attackers will not

be prosecuted and we might press charges against you instead! We are currently putting pressure on the CPS to drop the charges against Mr C as well as arranging appropriate legal representation for him.

These cases raise questions about local mechanisms to manage improvements throughout the police service, identified by the Lawrence Inquiry, if reluctance to treat the victims of racist attacks seriously is to be overcome. Victims of racist attacks are still being charged with offences themselves on the basis of perpetrator testimony, proceedings against racist attackers are still rare without outside intervention and those who are on the receiving end of racist attack are still disappointed at the lack of effective action.

Issues of Concern

In February 1999 when the Lawrence Inquiry was published, Home Secretary Jack Straw described it as 'a watershed in race relations in Britain.' Remembering similar claims made about the Scarman Report, many grassroots organisations wondered whether the Inquiry would really have the impact so vigorously claimed by the government and the media. It is too early to judge the impact of the Lawrence Inquiry in changing the relationship between black people and state institutions for the better, but there are some issues of concern.

The 'Partnership' Culture

As an organisation providing casework support, NMP has long argued that the only meaningful 'partnerships' are in the pursuit of prosecutions, involving police, those on the receiving end of racist crimes and those providing direct assistance, including community advocates and legal representatives. The Lawrence Inquiry revealed how difficult the Metropolitan police found engaging in dialogue with the Lawrence family and their solicitor. However, there

seems as a result to have been a general acceptance, unfortunately given credibility by the Inquiry's recommendations, that vigorous investigation of racist crimes is difficult or even impossible without 'partnerships' and multi-agency working parties, involving ever more committees and panels.

The 'partnership' idea is currently fashionable, but it is also because the police in particular find it easier to deal with victims of racist crimes at arm's length. Senior officers are keen to seek an 'advisory' role for anti-racist groups, including their "sternest critics", in order to do so. NMP has, for example, been asked to join both the Racial and Violent Crimes Task Force's Lay Advisory Group and its local equivalent in Newham. This 'inclusiveness' may appear ground-breaking compared with attitudes in the past, but there are conditions attached, notably the secrecy of discussions; that members of the Lay Advisory Group were able to see the Police Complaint's Authority report on the investigation of Ricky Reel's racist murder but were unable to reveal its contents,

even to members of Ricky's family, illustrates how something much more controversial than aspirations and policy-formulation can result in a serious conflict of interest. For this reason, NMP decided not to participate in either group.

NMP has generally adopted a cautious approach to multi-agency partnerships at a local level. Such initiatives have existed for years whilst incidents of racist violence have continued to increase and those responsible for these crimes were rarely prosecuted. Multi-agency bodies have been slow or unwilling to address complaints about the way investigations are dealt with, drawing back from the criticism and pressure on the police that could produce results. They have often advocated solutions that seem to bear little relevance to the traumatic experiences of those who have suffered racist crimes. Examples include proposals to send young perpetrators from West Ham on holiday, or 'diversion to leisure and recreational facilities,' encouraging neighbourhood watch schemes, random police patrols and

A HISTORY OF RESISTANCE

To mark NMP's tenth anniversary, 15 000 people of all ages converge on Plashet Park, East Ham, for the borough's first Anti-Racist Festival

1990

'community policing.' All have been shown, by the Home Office's own study, 'Reducing Offending: An Assessment of Research Evidence on Ways of Dealing with Offending Behaviour,' to have little or no effect on reducing crime.

Without quantifiable results on the ground, the multi-agency approach could be perceived as public relations giving the illusion of activity. In Newham, for example, the police and other agencies have been part of an initiative funded by the Government Office for London, recently renamed Diverse City. It was set up some years ago but regular meetings have produced insignificant results. The council's published response to the Lawrence Inquiry describes the partnership as having a "chequered history" with unrealistic targets. Nevertheless, statutory agencies could point to its continued existence as evidence of taking the issue of racist crime seriously.

Another concern is the potential for multi-agency partnerships to dissipate confronting police failure to respond appropriately to racist crime. Local plans in Newham propose that voluntary groups act as local 'reporting centres,' to which victims of racial harassment notify incidents. Far from putting pressure on the police to provide an acceptable service and dissipating mistrust that leads to under-

Local plans in Newham propose that voluntary groups act as local reporting centres... If we had an 'anti-racist' police service, the only 'reporting centre' that black people who have suffered a crime should need is the local police station.

reporting, the police are absolved of their responsibility to provide sympathetic initial contact. If we had an 'anti-racist' police service, the only 'reporting centre' that black people who have suffered a crime should need is the local police station. Involving the voluntary sector so that racist crimes are reported at arms length is not a solution to the changes police need to make, post Lawrence.

Facing Up To Institutional Racism

In the last twelve months, public bodies, including the Metropolitan Police and local authorities, have been conducting reviews of their practice and structures, in order to formulate action plans. We suggest three trends have emerged:

Firstly, the emphasis on increasing ethnic minority recruitment as the priority solution to ending institutional racism from institutions as diverse as the BBC, the Home Office and the Metropolitan police, appears to place the burden of change on individual black staff.

Secondly, as the Inquiry panel highlighted in response to the public hearings around the country, "there is a striking difference between the positive descriptions of policy initiatives by senior police officers and the negative expressions of the minority communities... we were left in no doubt that the contrast between these views and expressions reflected a central problem which needs to be addressed." (para 45.6). That

contrast still exists, in relation to the police and other organisations. Newham Council's interim response to the Lawrence Inquiry, published in April is the third review on race in twenty years. It sets out aspects of equalities work previously in hand before the Lawrence Inquiry, but does not indicate precise targets for combating institutional racism across all Council Departments. For example, a 'Performance Indicator of Action to co-ordinate Housing Departments outputs for the SRB funded Diverse City project says that "a holistic racial harassment service will have been put in place" with the aims of "partnerships... in order to cause a substantial reactivation" of the project. Newham Council is not alone in this respect. In other local authorities where targets do exist, they can relate to work already taking place and are therefore easily achievable. The same criticism has been made of the DfEE in the Spring edition of *Multicultural Teaching*.

Thirdly, a common factor of many new policies and initiatives is lack of independent scrutiny of their implementation. Current debate has already raised the broad issue of Council Cabinets concentrating power and adversely affecting local democracy. The Lawrence Inquiry report represents a potentially radical challenge to all public bodies, but advisory bodies that are

set up with a membership nominated by them, subject to strictures of confidentiality will be unable to provide effective or independent scrutiny. Independent monitoring of service provision to combat racial harassment and the policing of black communities in East London remains an urgent need

The Police Backlash Against the Lawrence Inquiry

In the last year there has been a rapid rise of reported incidents of racist crimes. This may in part represent what Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Grieve described as 'taking up the slack' in the aftermath of the report's publication. It also suggests victims of racist crime may hope the public

pressure on the police to deliver a proper response to incidents of racial harassment will have an effect.

Senior Officers have frequently emphasised the new 'anti-racist' policies within the Metropolitan police. In London and across the country, however, there has been growing resentment and a backlash against the Lawrence report from within the lower ranks, focused on attempts to redress the disproportionate levels of stop and search of black people.

Some 40% of people stopped and searched by the Metropolitan Police in 1997-8 were from the ethnic minorities and nationally, black people are five times more likely to

be stopped than white people. However, as the use of stop & search has been reined in, police representatives have tried to link the reduction in searches to rising levels of crime; at the Police Federation's Conference in May 1999, Sergeant John Harrison, Chair of the Sergeant's Central Committee said: "There has been an unprecedented decline in the number of stops. And surprise, surprise, there has been an unprecedented increase in the number of street robberies."

This theme was continued on Radio Four 'Today', June 1999. Glen Smyth, London Police Federation spokesman stated that: "*Police officers are terrified of being accused of being racist so they are disengaging from the tactic of [stop and search] full stop. The Lawrence Inquiry has had a marked effect, stop and search has fallen since January up to March by 46%.*" Careful not to lay the entire blame of the increase in crime on the reduction of stop and search, Smyth adds that as a factor, "*it is a significant one, certainly*". By February 2000, after sections of the press had consistently taken up the issue in attacking the Lawrence Inquiry recommendations, the Police Federation were going further, with Glen Smyth arguing "*it is clear that crime is continuing to soar as a knock-on effect of the Macpherson*

There has been growing resentment and a backlash against the Lawrence report from within the lower ranks of the police, focused on attempts to redress the disproportionate levels of stop and search of black people.

A HISTORY OF RESISTANCE

Defend Mr Govindan Campaign: an elderly Asian shopkeeper is acquitted and receives compensation after his arrest for defending himself from a racist attack

1991

report," adding that "officers believe they are being used as a political football."

The perception of "political correctness" as the biggest problem resulting from the Inquiry indicates a widespread failure to recognise the problem of racism and little sign of a cultural shift within the ranks of the police. A more damaging implication is the disgraceful idea that if the police fail to clamp down hard on black people then they will inevitably be out committing crime. That the tabloid press has not taken up this theme to a great extent may be because Asylum Seekers are taking up the slack of public and media racism.

Asylum Seekers and the 'New' Racism

Debate about the state of 'race relations' in Britain can never ignore the issue of immigration since all post-war immigration legislation from the 1962 Commonwealth Immigrants Act has been aimed at excluding black people. The late Mr Dhesi stressed the direct link between racist immigration laws and racist hysteria, violence and attacks in Newham Monitoring Project's 1983 report. (See Tribute). The Asylum and Immigration Act 1999, effective from April 1st 2000, follows that tradition of perpetuating and placating racism, not confronting it.

The government has claimed that it seeks a system for asylum seekers that is 'firmer, faster and fairer,' but the Act like its predecessors is designed to be 'firmer' in controlling numbers entering the country. Far from strengthening Britain's commitment to the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees and Asylum, the Act adds fuel to the myth repeated by politicians on all sides

coming to power in May 1997, New Labour have deported over 97,858 people. In January 2000 an average of five people per hour were being deported.

The new Act makes it almost impossible to enter Britain legally. Any owner of a vehicle carrying an asylum seeker into the country faces a £2000 fine, whether that person is

**£32,000
A YEAR
ASYLUM
SEEKER**

**Beggars
be warned**

**New curse of the
awayday beggars**

**Handouts to
refugees are
robbing the
British poor**

Racist press hysteria over asylum seekers, spring 2000

that most asylum seekers are 'bogus'. Even under an unfair and chaotic system, 54% of asylum cases resulted in refugee status or exceptional leave to remain. Far from the 'waves' of asylum seekers 'swarming' into Britain, claimed by Conservatives, more people are being deported from the UK than at any time in recent history. Since

eventually found to have a 'genuine fear of persecution' or not. Those facilitating illegal entry or assisting 'deception' face serious criminal charges. Members of the Jewish community helped smuggle Jews from Nazi persecution with forged passports. Today they would face imprisonment and those they sought to help would be deported. Today's

asylum seekers are at the mercy of exploitative smuggling rackets and are branded as criminals by association.

The most draconian parts of the Act are restrictions on fundamental civil liberties. (see panel). Following the racist backlash against asylum seekers arriving in Dover, which the local authority in Kent has fuelled, a programme of 'dispersal' means that those applying for asylum at ports of entry will be forced to live where they are told to. Newham has described itself as a pioneer in advocating dispersal and has been criticised for placing individuals in cruel isolation outside London, long before the Act came into force.

Asylum seekers, already prevented from working, have now been removed from the benefits system and forced to live on vouchers. A single man must live on vouchers worth £25 a week and £10 in cash. Shops agreeing to participate in the voucher scheme have been told they can only be used for 'stated' goods such as groceries and toiletries and must not be exchanged for cash. If a mother buys nappies for £4.50 with a £5 voucher, supermarkets chains like Sainsburys will get to keep the change.

The marginalised status of Asylum seekers is made obvious every time they have to produce a voucher to

The Asylum & Immigration Act 1999

- Asylum seekers will be made to live in designated no choice areas.
- Asylum seekers will be made to live in designated no choice accommodation.
- Asylum seekers can be subject to house and area curfew.
- Asylum seekers will not be able to leave the area or accommodation for more than seven days.
- Asylum seekers will be forced to live on vouchers and £10.00 a week cash (total 70% of minimum DSS rates).
- Asylum seekers will be subject to increased use of detention (without trial) pending decisions on their cases

get the necessities to live. The dangers of increased racial harassment and attacks in such circumstances are clear and are specially worrying in Newham, with the highest number of asylum seekers in London.

Far from improving 'race relations,' the Act has encouraged a surge in popular opposition to asylum seekers fuelled by newspapers such as the Daily Mail and The Sun. As the press indulged in a storm of ugly racist invective over a tiny number of Roma women begging on the streets, Home Office Minister Barbara Roche described beggars as 'vile' and promised their asylum applications would be subject to fast-track procedures. The term 'bogus asylum seeker,' officially discontinued in 1997, has been used by the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary. The UN High Commission for Refugees has condemned both

Labour and Conservative parties for playing the race card. A new policy of 'zero-tolerance' of beggars has been announced by the Metropolitan Police, and senior officers locally are promising swift action if people report "aggressive" begging. The "issue" of asylum seekers is racism presented as socially acceptable at a time when Britain is supposed to have entered a new era in race relations.

This is the paradox within the government's approach to race in Britain. A commitment to eradicate institutional racism made to established black communities sits uneasily- alongside institutional racism, sanctioned by law in the treatment of those seeking asylum. The paradox is explicit in the much praised Race Relations Amendment Bill. It rightly brings the work of all public authorities within the scope of the Race Relations Act, but allows

ministers, under clause 19, to discriminate in determining issues on immigration and asylum on the basis of ethnic or national origin (for example, by classifying certain countries as 'safe' and therefore unlikely to persecute its citizens, a practice that has been discredited in the past). Categorising black people and others as 'worthy' and 'unworthy' is as old as the introduction of immigration controls but it is not a distinction that those responsible for carrying out racist attacks stop to consider. Heightened racist sentiment, no matter how it is fuelled, endangers lives in all black communities.

Zero Tolerance and the Future of Policing in London

The election of a Mayor for London and the creation of a Metropolitan Police Authority, offers new opportunities to shape the way that black communities are policed in the capital.

NMP has sought to encourage a positive agenda by contributing to proposals drawn up by the London Voluntary Services Council, to be presented to the Mayor after the elections in May 2000. We have argued for independent scrutiny at a local level to be actively encouraged and, in the absence of a reformed system of handling police complaints, for the creation of a

A HISTORY OF RESISTANCE

The March for Justice brings 5000 onto the streets to protest against the racist murder of Panchadcharam Sahitharan and the police harassment of the Deane family

1992

Brutality cases against NYPD tarnish image of city's mayor

Guardian 30/3/99

London Ombudsman on Policing, to examine issues of concern raised by the public.

However we are concerned that the 'tough on crime' ethos of government policy and the furor over begging, rising crime and the use of stop & search will be used by those arguing for the kind of 'zero tolerance' policing pursued in American cities. Meetings NMP had with members of the New York based Centre for Constitutional Rights (CCR) in November 1998 highlighted the dramatic impact of 'zero-tolerance' on black communities in the US. In Mayor Guiliani's first term

of office, complaints of police brutality rose by 62% and 90 people, the majority Black, Latino or Asian, were killed under suspicious circumstances. In a situation familiar to the families of people who have died in police custody in Britain, the officers who shot the unarmed Amadou Diallo nineteen times in the Bronx in February 1999 did not even face suspension. The CCR spoke of meetings where parents beseeched the mayor and the police commissioner not to arrest their children for standing on a street corner. In attempts to control 'quality of life' crimes, thousands of mainly young black people are being

arrested for minor 'misdemeanour crimes' such as playing a radio too loud and given a criminal record. Amnesty International for the first launched a campaign against human rights violations in the US.

The way that stop & search has been used against black communities in Britain and the resentment it causes was extensively documented in the Lawrence Inquiry report. Yet New York continues to be seen as a model for reducing crime by British politicians and sections of the press. Simon Heffer (Daily Mail, March 00) argues that stop & search tactics in New York are directly responsible for the drop in crime and that "New York's large black and Hispanic middle class have become as fed up with being preyed upon by the underclass as everyone else." He dismissed the death of Amadou Diallo as an "unintended casualty of the (New York) Street Crime Unit's extensive stop and search patrols." The evidence from the CCR shows that New York working class black communities view such deaths at the hands of a police force that is allowed to act with impunity. NMP will campaign against attempts to import 'zero tolerance' to Britain and later this year hopes to meet with counterparts from San Francisco to share experiences on the policing of black people in our cities.

A HISTORY OF RESISTANCE

Nine youths are arrested protesting against the racist attack on Quddus Ali. NMP helps set up the Tower Hamlets Nine Defence Campaign

1993

Black Deaths in Custody

Families of black people who have died in the custody of the state have long known that the legal "duty of care" is no guarantee that a person will receive the very best care. Maybe in the future it will be, but before that can come about there must be honesty and transparency to prevent distrust and suspicion. Anger and revulsion is what many families and friends experience when they probe the circumstances of the death of a loved one such as Paul Jemmott aged 19, found hanging in his cell at Aylesbury prison. He died in May 1999 in Stoke Mandeville Hospital, five days later. Paul had previously been moved to a cell in A-Wing, regarded by prisoners as a punishment wing. Though Paul had no previous history of attempted suicide, his mental health suffered whilst he made increasingly desperate requests to be removed from A-Wing. During the Inquest, the family learnt for the first time of delays in attending to Paul once he had been found hanging in his cell by prison guards. An Officer had left to fetch a 'self-harm' kit from another block. The Inquest returned a verdict of accidental death as

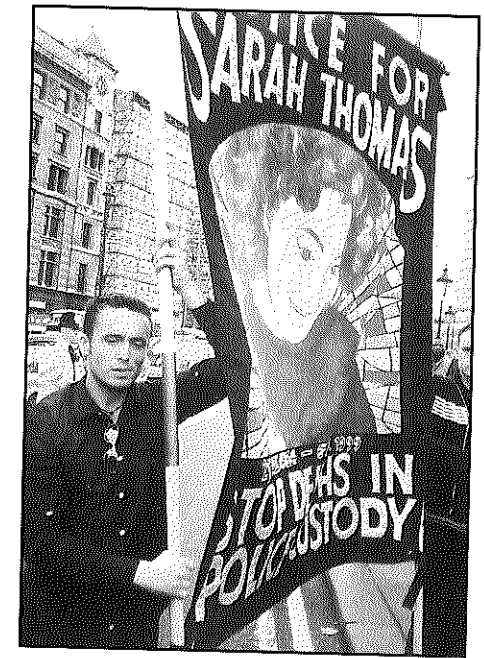
evidence emerged that efforts Paul took to extricate himself proved to be fatal. His family was bitterly disappointed that their attempts to have a 'neglect' rider to the verdict came to nothing.

A similar nightmare was experienced by the parents and friends of Roger Sylvester who died after an encounter with Tottenham Police in January 1999. Again, the familiar experience of family members finding it very difficult to illicit a coherent explanation from the police about the circumstances of Roger's death continued. The process of misinformation and besmirching Roger's character extended to doctors who made (later shown completely wrong) "authoritative" judgements about "substances" found in Roger's body. The friends of Sarah Thomas who died after coming into contact with Stoke Newington police in August 1999 are still in the dark about the circumstances of her death. Again, we see a smoke screen of substance abuse deflecting serious examination into the conduct of police officers, who are based in one of the countries most notorious

police stations, with a chilling record of abuse and corruption.

Myrna Simpson has been seeking answers about the death of her daughter Joy Gardner since she was bound, gagged, and killed during a joint police and immigration service attempt to detain her in July 1993. Some questions never go away and are frequently repeated by each new family enduring the aftermath of a death in custody on top of their loss and grief; why is it that the official response in such circumstances is invariably an attempt to destroy the character of the deceased? Why are the lines of responsibility obscured and sometimes even the identities of those who should be brought to account? Why do the actions of public officials appear designed to wear and grind down family and friends to the point where they give up and turn to trying to re-establish some kind of normal life?

Family campaigns about these cases have been publicised nationally as have two NMP cases described in detail in previous annual reports, where verdicts of unlawful killing



were returned by inquest juries. On 16 December 1994, Shiji Lapite was stopped for "acting suspiciously" by Stoke Newington police officers. That encounter killed him. He suffered over 36 separate injuries including a fractured voice box. An inquest recorded unlawful killing, death caused by asphyxia from compression of the neck. On 16 March 1997 Ibrahima Sey died under restraint in



Ibrahima Sey

Ilford Police station having been taken there by police officers from Forest Gate. Whilst Ibrahim was handcuffed behind his back he was sprayed with CS spray and endured further restraint by being held face down. That encounter also killed him. He stopped breathing and was pronounced dead upon arrival at hospital. Having exhausted UK law for redress and for individuals to be brought to account, both cases have begun the long process of working their way through the European Union courts. In a long fight for

justice the families have had to campaign to force the issues onto the public agenda as well as pursuing legal avenues for redress.

These two cases brought NMP into contact with the United Friends and Families Campaign (UFFC), not long after its formation over two years ago by relatives and friends of individuals like Brian Douglas, Joy Gardner, Orville Blackwood and others who have died under the care and control of the criminal justice system. NMP was invited to join

UFFC because of our experience of working with families whose loved ones have died as a result of racist murder or in custody like those of Shiji Lapite and Ibrahim Sey. UFFC has brought together small and isolated family campaigns across the country in order to create a more effective voice. It is demanding an independent public inquiry into deaths in custody. UFFC and NMP both believe that the following principles should be upheld by the state when a death in custody arises. NMP restated these in its written

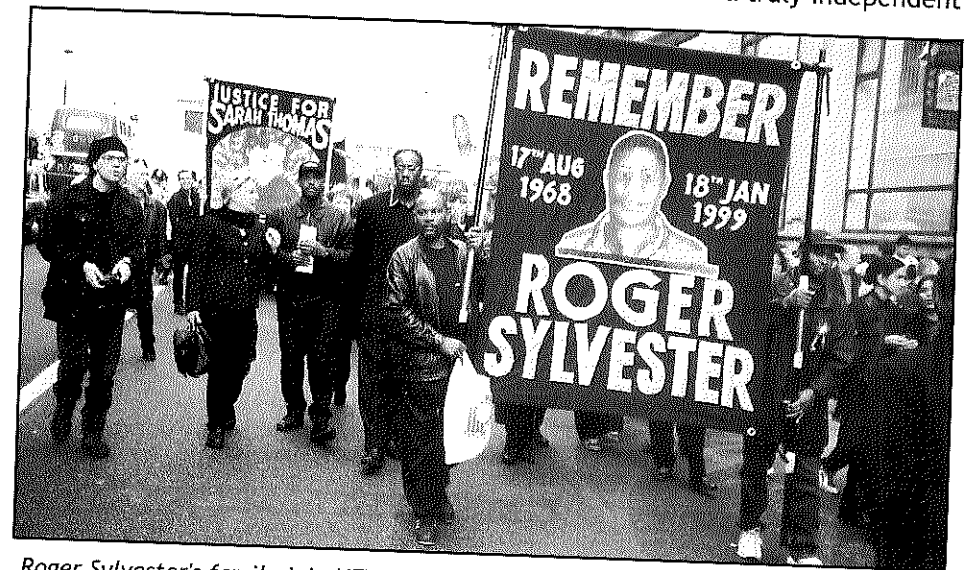
submission to the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry. These include:

- immediate suspension of all officers involved in a death in custody until investigations are completed.
- full disclosure of all information to families and their legal representatives.
- investigation of deaths in custody to be absolutely independent of institutions under examination.

In April 1999, two months after the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry presented its report to the public, a UFFC delegation of families pressed the Home Secretary, Jack Straw to hold

an independent public inquiry into all deaths in custody, whether they occur under the care regime of the police, prison or secure psychiatric units.

The Home Office is of the view that things are getting better, deaths are falling, confidence is rising (sic), policy is being reviewed and that the best way to deal with UFFC concerns is to establish more committees. The Home Office may well be sympathetic to the concerns of families over multiple post-mortems and delays in releasing the body of the deceased. However, on other equally important matters such as the disclosure of information to families, legal aid and the establishment of a truly independent



Roger Sylvester's family join UFFC's Procession, October 1999

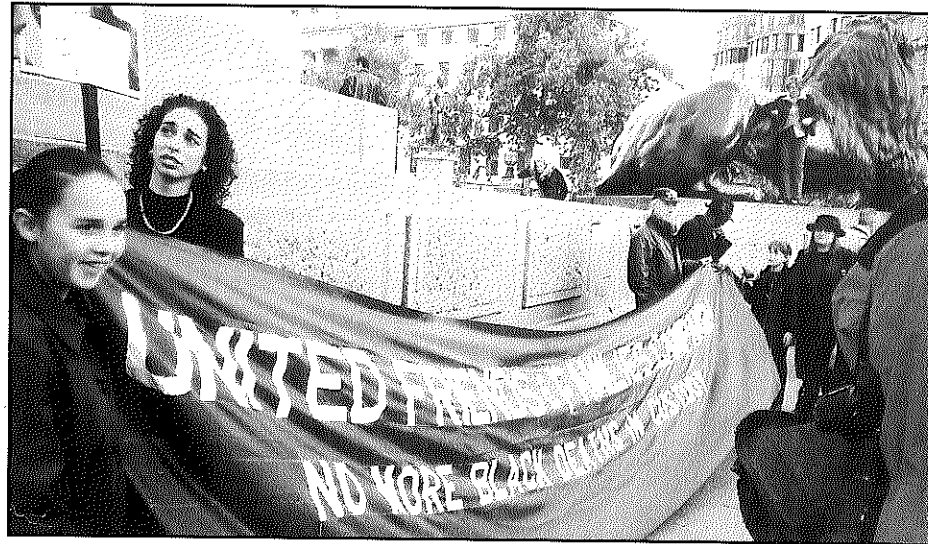
complaints procedure, the response is to bury the issues in a long drawn out feasibility study.

After a period of silence, letter exchanges and Home Office delays, UFFC publicised its intention to hold a procession of the families and friends of individuals who have been killed to Downing Street and place its demands there.

The UFFC procession from Trafalgar Square to Downing Street on 30 October 1999 was well supported by families and received widespread press coverage. A small delegation handed in a letter to the Prime Minister's office whilst other family members read aloud the names of many of those who have died in state custody over the last thirty years. It was an opportunity to raise the whole issue of deaths in custody in the public arena and also gave UFFC an opportunity to meet with more families who want to be involved.

Future Activities

UFFC intends to repeat last years procession in October 2000. NMP is also discussing with the campaign the possibility holding a UFFC sponsored peoples tribunal into deaths in custody since the Home Office appears to date to have washed its hands of the issue. It could seek to examine the role of key organisations such as the police,



Above: UFFC Procession, October 1999 Below: Vigil for Brian Douglas, May 2000



the process of investigation of a death and aspects of the inquest and wider legal system. NMP has taken on lead responsibility for fund raising for a tribunal, and would be

extensively involved in helping UFFC members present cases of individual families as well as taking the issue of deaths in custody to a much wider public.

A HISTORY OF RESISTANCE

Thousands march in support of the Ibrahima Sey Memorial Campaign, following Ibrahima's death in the custody of Forest Gate police officers using newly issued CS spray.

1996

Free Satpal Ram!

Over the last year, NMP has begun to play an active part in supporting the campaign for the release of Satpal Ram, who after thirteen years in prison is still serving a life sentence for defending himself against a racist attack.

Satpal was attacked in a restaurant in Lozells, Birmingham in 1986. He was eating with two friends in a Bengali restaurant when a group of six white people arrived. The group had been drinking and started to behave aggressively. Racist abuse was directed at Satpal's table and others in the restaurant. Things came to a head in an dispute about the music being played by the waiters. Satpal asked them to turn up the volume, and Clarke Pearce, Satpal's attacker, said 'we don't want any more of this fucking wog music'. In the course of the argument that followed, Pearce smashed a glass on the table and stabbed Satpal twice, on the face and shoulder. Satpal was pushed up against a corner with no means of escape, a table in front of him and people on both sides and a wall behind him. After having been badly

stabbed twice, Satpal used a small knife from his work opening boxes in a warehouse to defend himself.

Both men were wounded in this attack on Satpal and both men were taken to hospital. Satpal received treatment for his wounds. Clarke Pearce, however, refused medical treatment, pulled out his drips and died of blood loss.

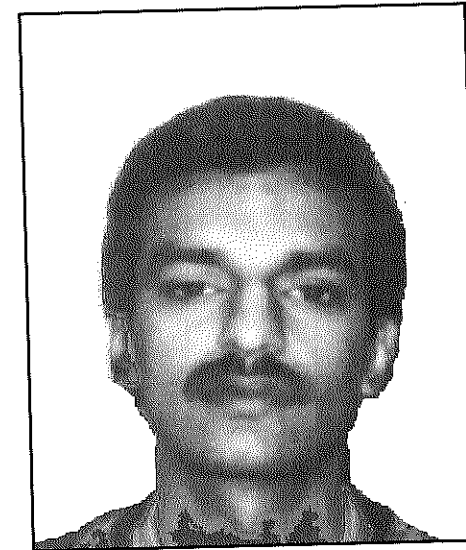
Satpal went into hiding for a few days after this, fearing the consequences of a Clarke Pearce's death, but after days of police harassment of his family, Satpal gave himself up.

At Satpal's trial, his barrister changed his defence of self-defence to one of provocation, after meeting with Satpal for only a 40 minute meeting before the trial. Satpal was not called to give evidence on his own behalf. This meant that the actual nature of events was not discussed. Instead, the main evidence came from friends of Satpal's attacker who painted Clarke Pearce as an innocent victim rather than a violent racist.

Although the main independent witnesses were Bengali-speaking waiters, no interpreters was provided in court. Instead the judge said that he would interpret for the Bengali-speakers. He could not speak or understand Bengali. West Midlands police wrote statements on behalf of the Bengali-speaking waiters which the waiters themselves later disowned. No interpreters were used to take these statements. The waiters were not given the opportunity to describe the violent attack upon Satpal.

An all-white jury, hardly a jury of Satpal's peers, convicted him of murder. In the political context of Birmingham at the time, this must be seen as a politically motivated conviction. Satpal was given a tariff of 10 years by Lord Lane.

Satpal has been in 59 prisons. Often he has been moved from prison to prison each month, always being kept in segregation. This makes it impossible for Satpal to settle in a place, form relationships with other prisoners, or engage in activities that would prepare him for release.



These constant moves have made it difficult for Satpal to maintain proper contact with his family and supporters and to keep his own legal papers in order. Often, prison officers will destroy Satpal's possessions in the course of the moves.

As Satpal faces a parole hearing, we urge everyone concerned with this terrible case of injustice to support the campaign. Further details are available from NMP.

A Voice Heard Loud and Clear.

A Tribute to Mr Hardev Singh Dhesi 1933 - 1999

The sudden death of Mr Hardev Singh Dhesi in April 1999 was a shocking and tragic loss for his wife Gurnam Kaur, his family and friends, colleagues and individuals from the myriad of community organisations he contributed so much to. Mr Dhesi was the first chair of NMP when the organisation was founded in 1981. He played a pivotal role in the group of individuals who pushed hard for the funding of an organisation which could address the issue of racial harassment and violence, at a time when local councils, let alone the police, were yet to be convinced that the problem existed at all. Funding was obtained from the GLC, and Mr Dhesi's foresight and vision ensured that the work and philosophy of NMP was securely established from the outset on sound and uncompromising principles.

We were shocked and distressed at his premature death. In this tribute we have asked those who knew him from NMP to contribute their memories. He was a wise, gentle and kindly man who inspired the utmost respect and affection; a warrior who, in fighting racism changed

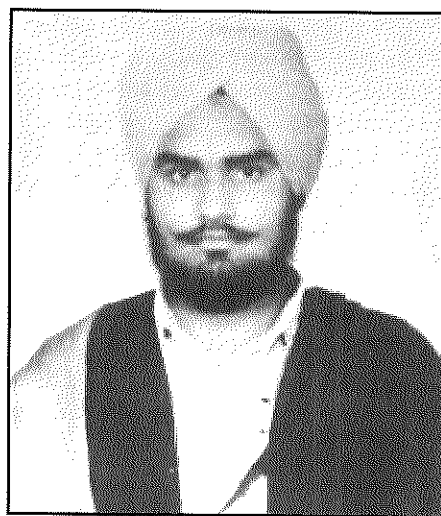
society and the lives of many people for the better. His death is a great loss to all sections of the community, as speaker after speaker at a memorial meeting at the Ilford Punjabi Centre revealed. As a tribute we wish to republish Mr Dhesi's introduction to the 1983 Annual Report, which is just as relevant to the issues of today. Far fewer people in those days were willing to stand up and say what he did, than they are today.

Mr Dhesi was born in 1933 in the village of Khahne Dhesian, District Jullundur, Punjab, India. He studied at DAV College, qualifying as a high school teacher, graduating BSc and Bt. Whilst teaching he took an MA and then MSc at Chandigarh. He married Gurnam Kaur in 1954 whilst still a student, and was an activist even in those early days.

Mr Dhesi came to live in Ilford in April 1965, but soon moved to Wolverhampton, where his wife came to join him in 1968. He met Mr Naranjan Singh Noor and others with whom he had political affinity. Together they fought racism through

the Indian Workers Association (IWA) and on a memorable occasion organised a counter demonstration to physically challenge a fascist march in the area at the time of Enoch Powell's infamous "Rivers of Blood" speech.

Like so many others who experienced the harsh realities of racism, Mr Dhesi could not get work matching his qualifications, so he became a bus conductor, then a bus



Mr Dhesi at his graduation

driver. He retrained as a teacher, together with Mr Noor, and took a local post. In the seventies he moved to Waltham Forest as a science teacher and was active throughout the eighties with NMP, as well as equally active in many other organisations and campaigns. Mr Dhesi was a leading organiser of the sit down demonstration that blocked Green Street, Upton Park, after the racist murder of Akhtar Ali Baig in East Ham High Street, in 1980.

Mr Dhesi led the campaign about the Virk Brothers Case in 1976 and was able to command support from all the Gurdwaras, notably Singh Sabha, Barking. This was a notorious case of victims of racist violence they being charged with assault. The racist attackers became prosecution witnesses and Judge Michael Argyle ruled that racial motive was irrelevant. The Virk brothers were sent to prison.

Mr Dhesi was an internationalist and inspired many against sectarianism. He took a stand against the sectarian Khalistan movement in the mid eighties. This was a very brave

move in the face of severe pressure. People may recall him chairing a meeting at Stratford school with pickets outside and threats of violence. He also gave his support to the Ravi Dasia Association, in Manor Park.

He was instrumental in the development of Ilford Punjabi Centre. Satnam Singh recalls the initial reluctance to accept it as an all Punjabi cultural and community Centre for Sikhs, Hindus, and Muslims. He has looked up to Mr Dhesi as a father figure, a role model and mentor, for two decades; "he had no enemies, no-one ever spoke badly of him even if they disagreed, no-one was in his league in uncompromising commitment to Justice and Equality issues, combined with caring and personal kindness. Everyone called him "Mr Dhesi" including those of his own age, as a form of respect."

Mr Dhesi profoundly influenced the development of many campaigns within Newham Monitoring Project, including Newham 8, Newham 7, Justice for the Pryces and the Kara (Steel Bangle) Case. To him, any racist attack had to be fought as an attack on all black people, and he mobilised powerful support for campaigns spanning the Asian and African Caribbean communities. He was there for whoever or wherever he was needed. His involvement in

'A Challenging Task': from NMP's Annual Report 1983

Black communities in Britain live in a hostile environment. Many of us have to put up with racial abuses and attacks on our properties and persons. Even Newham police have had to officially admit that in the short period of six months from May 1982- November 1982, 67 racial attacks took place. Each attack affects not only the victim but also his whole circle of friends and relatives. Such attacks generate insecurity and adversely affect the confidence of the community.

For the last two and a half years Newham Monitoring Project has been trying to assess the deteriorating situation. It has achieved some modest successes. At least it succeeded in persuading the Greater London Council to spare some resources to enable us to more effectively monitor racist activities in Newham and the response of the police and the local authority.

Our task is five-fold:

Firstly we have to convince the Labour and Trades Union movement and the battery of politicians about the need of isolating racists of all kinds.

Secondly we have to make the white disadvantaged community realise that the black community shares all their sufferings and hardships and in no way is responsible for any of the ills of our society. The real culprits are those who take economic decisions in the interest of profits of a few individuals rather than for fulfilling the needs of the whole community. Unemployment, bad housing and shortages of hospital, education and social services are their creation.

Thirdly we must tell the establishment in a voice loud and clear that the institutionalised racism encourages racist thugs to release their 'anger' on black people. Their hysteria at the number of black citizens and their relentless obsession with inhumane, racist and sexist immigration rules play directly into the hands of fascists. The new Nationality Act and the proposed changes in the immigration rules simply add on to the hostility generated by the immigration Act of 1971.

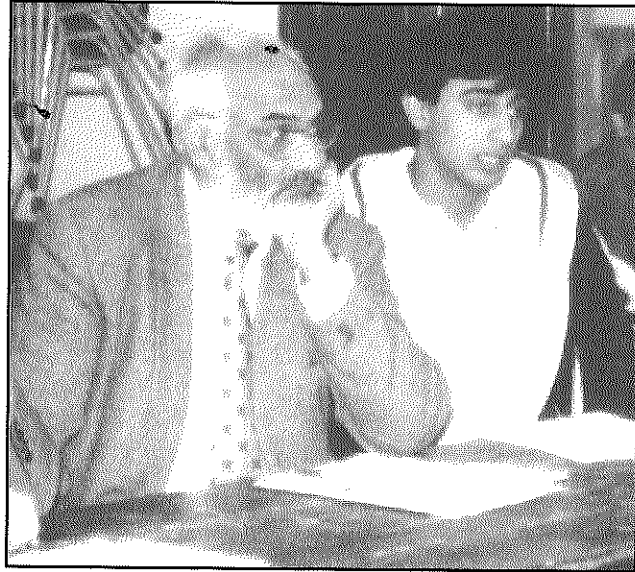
Fourthly, the biased and racist attitudes of the police exacerbate the already tense racial situation. Until we succeed in forcing the Home Office to institute instant dismissal of officers who exhibit racist behaviour, the black community cannot put its full faith and confidence in the police to protect it from racial attacks.

Fifthly given the lack of police response to racial attacks, the black community has no choice but to organise and defend itself. We seek to give assistance to this development.

I sincerely hope that with the help and good wishes of all the sections of British society we will make substantial progress in the coming weeks and months.

H.S. Dhesi,

Chairperson: Newham Monitoring Project. January 1983



the Seven Kings campaign after the murder by arson of the Khassam family and the Redbridge anti-fascist labour movement reminds us today of the nature of commitment necessary in the struggle for justice.

Kenny Pryce remembers the impact Mr Dhesi had on his family after the racist murder of his young brother Eustace in 1985. They first met when Mr Dhesi and Herbie Boudier came to pay their respects to his brother and offer NMP's support. "Mr Dhesi helped us to use our voice, helped us to use it to demand justice and make changes, from a time when we had been overwhelmed with grief and helplessness. He had a gentle, calm and dignified way of encouraging the confidence and strength to do it. He was a role model showing young

people how to use their own experience, not be frightened and find the courage to speak out boldly. As I got to know him he showed me that racism was far broader than I had thought, the massive effect institutional racism has across so many areas of life, from policing to education. He was like an excellent ambassador from his community, before that I had little contact with Asian people. He was

like a teacher and a fatherly friend encouraging so many people to develop their own skills and fight for justice. He worked tirelessly to do that, he wasn't interested in creating a high profile for himself. That is his legacy."

Ilona Aronovsky recalls how much she learnt from writing NMP's pioneering anti-racist education policy document together with Mr Dhesi in 1983. At the time anti-racism was often perceived as a threat to racial harmony within education or dangerously subversive. The document stands as a comprehensive and practical approach prefiguring such policy documents later produced by LEA's and other bodies.

Naranjan Singh Noor

Everyone mourning Mr Dhesi was devastated by the sudden death of Mr Naranjan Singh Noor not long after the memorial meeting, where he spoke so movingly of his friends' life and work. Mr Dhesi had supported Mr Noor in the case against a Wolverhampton head teacher who had forbidden the Turban. He lost, and as a result suffered great financial hardship.

Mr Noor was similarly a Warrior in his own right, and a thinker, poet, author and philosopher. He came to Newham as the first Race Adviser to Newham Education Department. They worked closely together, Mr Dhesi as chair of Newham Asian Teachers Association, and the Punjabi Parents Association in Newham. They were instrumental in establishing provision for bilingual children and campaigning for the status of community languages teaching as of right. Mr Noor advised NMP on its work promoting anti-racist policies and practise in schools and the LEA. They were a formidable team ensuring that Newham Council's 1980s working party on multicultural education addressed issues of racism, not "saris, steel bands and samosas". As a result the teaching of Urdu, Hindi and Punjabi was established in local colleges. LBN later produced guidelines on racist attacks in schools.

Finally Mr Dhesi gave so much of his time and energy to young people, perhaps that's why he gave unequivocal support to campaigns like the Newham 8 & 7 which were about the right of young black people to fight back against the racist violence they faced on the streets. This was probably one of the reasons why he challenged police racism so vigorously. These cases received national publicity and were amongst the campaigns of that time which forced the issues onto the national agenda; Mr Dhesi made an important contribution through his appearances on TV programmes such as Choice, Big Debate, and Panorama.

Mr Dhesi's last act was a powerful speech at the Vaisakhi function in the Punjabi Centre. He urged young people to value their own identity, culture and the meaning of Sikhism for today; that **justice, equality, and valuing all humanity transcends class, caste and religion.**

Memories of Mr Dhesi and Mr Noor contributed by Satnam Singh, Kenny Pryce, Herbie Boudier, Cilius Victor and Ilona Aronovsky

The Trust: Review of the Year

Introduction - The scope of the NMP Anti-Racist Trust

The NMP Anti Racist Trust is a charitable organisation set up to provide education and training concerning the issues of racial and civil injustice. Since its formal inception in 1998, the Trust has provided a service open to individuals, local schools, and youth & community organisations throughout London.

The Trust seeks to expand the scope of its work within the next three years to reach over 500 people per annum in east London through accessible services to the local black and ethnic minority communities. There include advice, support, education, training, research, the dissemination of information and documentation.

The Trust works in partnership with Newham Monitoring Project (NMP), with the objective of our collaborative work is to tackle exclusion, disempowerment and social isolation affecting black and ethnic minority communities due to racial and civil injustice.

The Trust, working alongside Newham Monitoring Project, is committed to promoting equality of opportunity for all communities, groups and individuals that are amongst the most disadvantaged and excluded sections in Newham.

Context - Racism and Black Communities in Newham

The London Borough of Newham has a population of 231,287 of which the Black communities comprise

approximately 51%. This is the largest proportion black and ethnic minority communities of any London borough.

The statistics represent very diverse communities. Refugee and asylum seekers constitute a range of ethnic groupings; East Europeans, Africans, South and South East Asians as well as Central and Latin Americans. Estimates of refugees entering the UK since 1993 suggest there are between 16,700 to 19,500 refugee

and asylum seekers in Newham. This is 7% of London's refugee constituency and the highest of all its boroughs, ahead of Haringey with an estimated constituency of between 15,000 to 17,500, or 6.3% of London's total.

Living in Newham is further complicated by a variety of socio-economic factors. It is one of the poorest and most deprived boroughs in London. Unemployment currently rests at 10.7% of the total population with youth unemployment at 17% (June 1999). Educational achievement is also very low with only 28% of pupils leaving school with 5 or more GCSE grades A-C compared with the national average of 43%.

The levels of racial harassment perpetrated directly against the Black and Ethnic Minority communities are alarming. Statistics provided by local police at the Police and Community Consultative Group (PCCG) in 1997 give 502 racial incidents reported to the Police in 1996. In 1997, this increased to 512. However research indicates that only one in sixteen

The Trust, working alongside Newham Monitoring Project, is committed to promoting equality of opportunity for all communities, groups and individuals that are amongst the most disadvantaged and excluded sections in Newham.

incidents are reported and so the actual number of incidents is likely to be nearer 8,000. Two thirds of perpetrators are considered to be white young people under the age of 21. The impact of racial violence and victimisation is immense causing a plethora of social ills; physical and/or emotional illness, stress and tension within the family, the arrestment of emotional and developmental progress amongst young children, poor and under achievement at school are just a few. Racism leads to feelings of disempowerment, isolation, and exclusion particularly when victims meet with inadequate, institutionally racist, or overtly racist responses from local institutions such as the police and the local authority.

The Aims of NMP Anti Racist Trust

The NMP Anti Racist Trust aims to promote good race relations amongst the diverse communities of Newham and east London through accessible education, training and documentation in a variety of languages. It aims to raise levels of racial tolerance, mutual understanding and encourage equality of opportunity between racial groups/communities. Its education activities aim to promote better communication and co-operation amongst diverse communities thus moving towards greater tolerance and the elimination of racism.

That need has been demonstrated through NMP's service delivery and campaigning initiatives. In the years prior to the Lawrence Inquiry the commitment of schools, youth services, trade unions and other organisations of civil society to take proactive initiatives to tackle racism at source have been patchy and neglected in favour of other priorities. The Trust can offer unique services to local institutions through its ability to tap the experience and history of the local black communities.

The Trust aims to empower black people to improve their quality of life and facilitate a process of social change within their environment through community action, policy development and participation at planning and decision making levels. It will do so by promoting racial and civil justice from the perspective of those on the receiving end of injustice.

The high level of involvement of volunteers and people experiencing racial and civil injustice is seen as unique and essential to the success of the project. They will play an influential role in the development of self help initiatives through participation in mutual support groups, the supporters groups, the Emergency Service, the education and training initiatives, breaking the isolation felt by many victims particularly that of older people,

single women and mothers, unemployed and refugees; The education and training initiatives will enable disadvantaged people to increase and develop their knowledge and skills and encourage people from different backgrounds to work together.

The Work of the Trust, 1999- 2000

The work of the Trust over the last year has been considerable. Activities have been conducted by supporters on a voluntary basis. We are fortunate in being able to draw on their wide ranging expertise. Activities of the Trust began before its formal inception and included the following:

Raising awareness and providing educational support to local community and voluntary groups; One Love Centre, an education and training centre for the local African, African- Caribbean and Refugee community, the Tamil Information Centre and the Black & Ethnic Minority Care Forum invited the Trust to participate in workshops and anti-racism days organised for client groups. With the Newham Asian Women's Project, the Trust organised and participated in a peer education initiative funded by European Year Against Racism to enable young girls (aged 12-15) to create an anti-racist pack to raise awareness amongst their peers.

The Trust aims to empower black people to improve their quality of life and facilitate a process of social change within their environment through community action, policy development and participation at planning and decision making levels.

A lengthy submission was been made to the Review of the National Curriculum England, stressing the need to ensure that all schools include specific education against racism. The Trust networked with a number of black and anti-racist organisations, widening the range of organisations contributing to the public consultation. (See below)

Anti racist issues have been raised in local schools and other educational establishments such as the Newham College of Further Education, Forest Gate School and the School of Oriental and African Studies.

The Trust has attempted to raise such
NMP Anti-Racist

issues among young people in a variety of forums. For example, our work in football first began in 1996 through the organisation of a tournament, bringing together girls and boys from different schools and communities on the theme of No Racism in Football, eventually leading to further involvement in youth sports. The Trust also acted in an advisory capacity with the Charlton Athletic Racial Equality Partnership on the Sports Charter on Racial Equality.

The Trust is currently designing a web site to provide accessible information on a variety of issues of racial and civil injustice. In June 2000, the new site (at www.nmp.org.uk) will go online and will continue to be developed into a major resource.

The BRAIN Network

Barrow Cadbury has awarded the Trust a grant of £54,000 over 2 years for the management and development of the BRAIN national network. BRAIN (Black Racial Attacks Independent Network) is a national network of community-based organisations engaged in activities towards racial justice and the elimination of racism to provide support information exchange and policy orientation.

Membership comes from groups from across Britain. The Network is open to all grassroots, independent black



Neville Lawrence speaking at BRAIN's Launch conference. Photo: Sharon Wallace

voluntary and community groups tackling issues of racial violence and policing in local communities. It was formerly known as the Good Practice Against Racism Network it was based at SIA, the national development

agency for the black voluntary sector. In 1999, it became independent. Members of the Network offer support to those suffering violence and police harassment, act as advocates on their behalf and campaign for change.

The proliferation across the country of new independent grassroots organisations tackling racial violence and police harassment is a practical response to the conclusions of the Lawrence Inquiry.

BRAIN's member organisations are:

- Birmingham Racial Attacks Monitoring Unit
- Brighton & Hove Race Equality Project
- Cambridge Racial Incidents Support Group
- Civil Rights Advice & Support Group (covers Tower Hamlets)
- Edinburgh Black Community Development Project
- Leeds Racial Harassment Project
- Newham Monitoring Project
- Liverpool 8 Law Centre
- Newcastle Youth Congress
- Sandwell Racial Harassment Unit
- The Monitoring Group

The aims and objectives of the Network are as follows:

- To provide mutual support and share information
- To encourage the proliferation across the country of new independent grassroots organisations tackling racial violence and police harassment
- To influence the national agenda on policy and legislation aimed at combating racial violence
- To shape future practice

The new BRAIN co-ordinator, Ruhul Tarafder, can be contacted Via the Trust . He will be working with BRAIN members to development the network and can provide information to local groups interested in joining BRAIN.

The Resource Centre

A Goal for the Future

NMP

Anti-Racist Trust

INFORMATION • EDUCATION • RESEARCH

Resource Centre Project

The Resource Centre will be a collaborative venture by the Trust and NMP aiming to provide a focal point for black and ethnic minority communities in east London. Its purpose will be the provision of comprehensive services, within a safe and accessible environment. It will be a major plank of the Trust's fundraising strategy.

The Resource Centre would be owned and managed by the Trust and would house NMP. Accessible to all members of the communities in east London, there will be a particular focus on those particularly marginalised and disadvantaged in the African & African- Caribbean, Asian and refugee communities. Services will be fully accessible and provided in a variety of languages,

reflecting the diversity of the communities in east London.

All aspects of the service provision will incorporate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms including setting targets for our services, for example the number of volunteers trained for the Emergency Service or people attending educational and training events. The composition of Resource centre users will be monitored to ensure equality of access and inclusion of black & ethnic minority communities, refugees, the poorer communities in South Newham, single parent families, disabled, and unemployed people

The Resource Centre will be directly managed by the Trust's Project Manager responsible for staff support, supervision, fund-raising, financial and resource management. The Project Manager is in turn supervised by a sub-committee consisting of members of the Trust and NMP. They will review and evaluate work programmes, activities and targets in relation to outputs and service improvement.

The Resource Centre will function as:

A specialist advice and support centre for black and ethnic minority communities within east London; At its core will be the Advice & Support Project aiming to provide specialist support on a variety of issues of civil injustice including racial harassment, police harassment, immigration and legal injustice. The Centre will also house a comprehensive 24 hour Emergency Service (staffed by volunteers out of office hours) to provide immediate and specialist help to victims. A drop-in environment will operate for advice on a range of additional social and welfare issues such as housing and welfare.

An education and training centre on specialist issues of racial and civil injustice. Innovative methods and modules - workshops, peer education, seminars and an on-line interactive facility - will be developed to provide for active and creative learning. The education and training will cater for a wide variety of groups - unfunded, statutory and voluntary and seek to raise levels of awareness of

the issues. It will focus particularly amongst youth and disadvantaged communities to increase their skills and knowledge within the employment market. The central ethos of the education and training would bring together people from a variety of different communities to promote co-operative working and mutual understanding.

A focal point for monitoring, researching and documenting incidents of racial and civil injustice. Over 20 years, NMP has monitored statutory responses to racial and civil injustice; for example, police responses to racial violence, racism within the education system, local authority housing and health policy, custodial treatment as well as legislative and judicial responses to the black, ethnic minority and refugee communities. The Lawrence Inquiry Report itself stressed the need for monitoring of statutory bodies by community-based organisations. Currently, incidents and trends are researched and documented. The Trust and NMP aims to expand its monitoring capabilities, ensuring that incidents and trends amongst the

whole range of statutory bodies are regularly documented on both a local and national level. Through links with further and higher education it could provide opportunities for community based research and professional training. It intends to increase the dissemination of research and information through publications and newsletters in different languages and formats including the Internet.

Lifelong Learning: one aspect of citizenship education (see Curriculum submission) is seeing the community as a valuable learning resource for schools and young people. A locally

based resource centre with its own archive could go further and act as a focus for education projects for people of all age groups. We envisage lifelong learning as far more than updating skills for the jobs market. We would like to make training packages developed for Emergency Service volunteers on civil rights and liberties available to a wide range of local groups and individuals, so we can develop an extensive network of community support when racist attacks occur.

A library of literature, publications and archive materials pertaining to

the national issues of racism and the history of local and national anti-racism. At present, frequent requests for information, materials and publications come from journalists, policy-makers, community workers, students and teachers alike. NMP has a range of unique archive materials (photographs posters, leaflets, pamphlets and publications) dating back to 1980. At present there is no central space which can house the materials nor provide accessibility to those who require it. The Centre would house a comprehensive library of archive and present materials, accessible to all. It will catalogue and

update the existing archive, and develop new materials. The scope of the library could be expanded to incorporate similar issues and campaigns from Europe and internationally, providing a resource for comparative analysis of global racial and civil injustice.

The Resource Centre will incorporate an ethos of community involvement in its various services and activities. Community groups will be encouraged to volunteer within the activities and make use of the Centre's facilities for meetings and training.

Anti-Racist Citizens 2000

Consultation to revise the National Curriculum

Whilst all curriculum areas are relevant to anti-racist education, NMP Anti-racist Trust was particularly interested in the new proposals for a Citizenship Curriculum, as an opportunity for the promotion of active anti-racist education, with scope for exciting initiatives bridging schools and community. The acceptance of the Lawrence Inquiry recommendation was potentially a breakthrough after a decade of inaction by Government, a colour blind approach to inequality and educational achievement and neglect of multicultural and anti-racist education policy and practise.

It was therefore disappointing that the Citizenship and PSHE (Personal & Social Health Education) consultation documents produced by QCA failed to address the Lawrence recommendation. Professor Crick (chair of the Governments advisory group on Citizenship) at a meeting of black and anti-racist educationalists organised by Race on the Agenda (ROTA) at the House of Commons said that anti-racism was not specified as it might alienate the middle ground, but that scope for

interpreting the proposals in order to combat racism was there. His comments were not well received. The problems of institutional racism in education cannot be tackled without a clear baseline from which to promote good practise. Our main criticism of the proposals were conflation of racist attacks and name calling with bullying, and the failure to include black and ethnic minority groups in examples of "community" people that children can learn from.

Following the Lawrence Inquiry another disappointing aspect of the public consultation was a failure to publicise and reach out to the black community and black organisations pro-actively, apart from the perennial problem of the indigestibility of such curriculum documents. QCA & the Department of Education and Employment should have organised public events to present the proposals and involve local communities in the curriculum consultation, given the massive public response during the Lawrence Inquiry in Newham and nationally. Local Councils could and should have been instrumental in alerting black

community organisations, many practically involved with education.

Some black policy organisations were unaware of the consultation process, and we took an active role in alerting them, networking with others and discussing a detailed response to the consultation proposals. These included 1990 Trust, Race on the Agenda (ROTA), Runnymede Trust, INSTED Consultancy, and the Black and Asian Studies Association. It was felt important that as many submissions to the consultation should be made in order to increase pressure for there to be "Clear and consistent reference (should be made) to racial harassment and the nature and consequences of racism across the key stages." and "Guidance on the race equality aspects of PSHE and citizenship should be given a high priority." (Dfee EMA Advisory Group).

NMP Anti-racist Trust submitted a 7 page document to the consultation, outlining our view of the purpose of anti-racist education, problems of institutional racism which can impede anti-racist education, and highlighted

the implications of most racist attacks being perpetrated by young people. We made similar criticisms to that of the Dfee Advisory Group, and a number of recommendations, stressing the importance of equipping children to challenge racism in the Primary school.

Extracts from the submission

The value of anti-racist education. We see anti-racist education as empowering all children, black and white to challenge and oppose racism, enable white children to question received racist prejudice, and provide a positive alternative, as well as a preventative approach.

Involvement in local anti-racist community campaigns, black community organisations, or the experience of initiating their own campaigns is not only positive in showing that action can be taken against racism, but can provide an excellent way of learning skills, building confidence and learning how the local democratic system operates.

Local people, organisations, and their

archives can also provide an invaluable resource for researching and documenting local history, from all sections of the community. This aspect of History can be linked with Citizenship.

Our recommendations

There should be a clear distinction between racism and bullying in general in the learning targets.

The finalised curriculum documents, further guidance and schemes of work, should include examples of a range of community organisations including black and ethnic minority groups, the black voluntary sector and anti-racist campaigns.

*Guidance (and Inset) should be provided to address specific strategies for work in schools with a predominantly white catchment. * This should draw on the best practise nationally from both formal and informal education sectors, to ensure that teachers are adequately supported and can develop strategies appropriate to the needs of the area.*

There should be a programme of national curriculum conferences and locally based Inset to implement the Citizenship and PSHE curriculum which draws on the expertise of black voluntary

organisations, community groups and a range of organisations involved in education.

The National Grid for Learning should provide a specific search category to enable easy access to multicultural and anti racist education resources. The need to fund distance learning packages and interactive learning resources via the Internet to resource Citizenship and other curriculum areas should be a priority.

A copy of the Trust Submission is available for £4 including p&p. It gives detail on the issues of teaching anti-racism in areas of Newham where racist attacks are particularly high, issues documented by NMP in its publications, in the last two decades.

Racism as a distinct issue to be tackled is more clearly specified in the Citizenship sections of the Revised National Curriculum published in Autumn 1999, and we believe this would not have been the case without concerted pressure. Both DfEE and QCA had failed to take on board the need to challenge institutional racism so clearly stated in the Lawrence Inquiry Report in the consultation process. The DfEE's own Ethnic Minority Achievement Advisory Group that made a trenchant critique of the Citizenship proposals was subsequently abolished. There is still a lack of

detailed and authoritative guidance on the anti-racist aspects of citizenship, and at present it is unclear whether central government will provide it. It is also unclear how far local authorities will be pro-active in providing the kind of curriculum support needed and where funding might come from. It is likely that such support will be variable at best.

Newham's action plan for education in its response to the Lawrence Inquiry includes a new training module for teaching for equality for new teachers and a football against racism event. These are welcome but limited initiatives. The Guidelines for dealing with racist incidents in schools, training, and monitoring are to be improved, and Borough wide monitoring re-instated.

We would like to see black voluntary and community groups supported in local education initiatives. There is an urgent need for the best practise, and information about local anti-racist projects to be disseminated across the country, and we see a significant role for NMP Anti-Racist Trust providing such resources and training. The high incidence of racist attacks in Newham indicates the urgent need for specific teaching strategies to tackle racism within the curriculum. That need has been stressed by NMP over 20 years. To meet that need requires funding and time to support teachers, high quality

Inset and long term evaluation of effective strategies.

Accounts

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	1999 £ Total Funds	1998 £ Total Funds
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE				
Incoming Resources				
Grants	2,500	1,340	3,840	1,500
Other Income	6,680	0	6,680	26,268
Total Incoming Resources	<u>9,180</u>	<u>1,340</u>	<u>10,520</u>	<u>27,768</u>
Resources Expended				
Staff Costs	9,109		9,109	6,960
Other operating Costs	15,519	1,340	16,859	20,878
	<u>24,628</u>	<u>1,340</u>	<u>25,968</u>	<u>27,838</u>
(Loss)/Profit on Ordinary Activities before Taxation	(15, 448)	0	(15, 448)	(70)
Taxation	<u>(44)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(44)</u>	<u>(13)</u>
(Loss)/Profit on Ordinary Activities after Taxation	(15,492)	0	(15,492)	(84)
Transfer to designated funds	0	0	0	0
General Reserves at 1 April 1998	<u>18,259</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>18,259</u>	<u>18,343</u>
General Reserves at 31 March 1999	<u><u>2,767</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>2,767</u></u>	<u><u>18,259</u></u>

Newham Monitoring Project

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 1999

**Newham Monitoring Project
Balance Sheet at 31 March 1999**

	1999 £	1998 £
Current Assets		
Debtors	1,340	0
Cash at bank and at Hand	<u>2,247</u>	<u>23,484</u>
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	(1,920)	(5,224)
Net Current Assets	<u><u>2,767</u></u>	<u><u>18,259</u></u>
Capital & Reserves		
General Reserves	2,767	18,259
Designated Reserves	0	0
	<u><u>2767</u></u>	<u><u>18259</u></u>

**NMP Anti Racist Trust
Balance Sheet at 31 March 1999**

	1999 £
Current Assets	
Cash at bank and at Hand	<u>4,383</u>
Net Current Assets	<u><u>4,383</u></u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	<u><u>4,383</u></u>
Capital & Reserves	
Income & Expenditure Account	4,383
General Reserves	<u><u>4383</u></u>

**Income & Expenditure Account
for the period ending 31 March 1999**

	1999 £
Income	
NCLB Grant	4,999
Young Samuels Chambers	<u>1,000</u>
	5,999
Expenditure	
Seconded salary costs	<u>1,616</u>
	(1,616)
Surplus for the Year	<u><u>4383</u></u>

Full sets of both Newham Monitoring Project's and the NMP Anti-Racist Trust's Accounts are available on request

**Newham Monitoring Project
is funded by:**

Network for Social Change
National Lotteries Charities Board
Two Garden Court

**NMP Anti-Racist Trust
is funded by:**

Young Samuels Chambers
NLCB Small Grants
Lloyds TSB Foundation
Barrow Cadbury

Trustees, NMP Management Committee and Staff

Newham Monitoring Project Management Committee

Asad Rehman
Yasin Patel
Hossein Zahir
Ilona Aronovsky
Satwat Rehman
Anita Kirpal
Rajiv Menon
Kenny Pryce
Gurpreet Mundy
Kevin Blowe

Workers

Ashika Thanki
Tanuka Chokroborty Loha

Talitha Hatcher

Ruhul Tarafder

Volunteers

Many thanks to Eva Owens who volunteered with NMP from September to December 1999 before returning to the US

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Outreach & Development
(from 10th January 2000)
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(from 1st December 1999)
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(from 9th May 2000)

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