London-wide Race Hate Crime Forum Annual Report

2004 - 2005



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FOREWORD

Race hate crime is one of the most pernicious and insidious forms of discrimination which must be combated with all the resources available to Londoners. The Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) was instrumental in the formation of and leads in the support of the London-wide Race Hate Crime Forum (LRHCF)¹ launched in May 2003 at the House of Commons.

The establishment of the Forum was a landmark event in the capital and the first of its kind in Europe. Eleven years after the murder of Stephen Lawrence, the Forum is helping to establish a consistent and effective approach to dealing with cases of race hate crime by statutory agencies across the criminal justice system.

The Forum, chaired by Peter Herbert, a member of the MPA, is a multiagency partnership of statutory and not for profit organisations that play a key role in responding appropriately and effectively to racist crime. Over 20 statutory and voluntary organisations were involved in developing the Forum's terms of reference, its aims and objectives.



LRHCF Chair – Peter Herbert The aims of the LRHCF are to:

- improve the co-ordination between the key agencies responsible for dealing with victims of race hate crime;
- improve the effectiveness with which perpetrators of race hate crime are brought to justice;
- support the reduction and prevention of race hate crime;
- improve the confidence and satisfaction of victims in reporting crimes; and
- to promote consistent service across London.

We are proud to present this report, which sets out:

- The range of the Forum's work over the past year;
- How the Forum plays a crucial role in improving the experiences of Londoners and creating a safer city for all its diverse communities; and
- The Forum's recommendations following its first year of formal business.

¹ The terms LRHCF and Forum will be interchanged within the body of this report.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The MPA would like to express its sincere gratitude and appreciation for inspirational contributions from the Forum members and the participation of London boroughs. Without their commitment, energy and enthusiasm, the Forum would not have achieved so much in a single year.

We would also like to thank our own colleagues in the Forum Project Team, Bennett Obong (Project Manager) and Michael Wadham (Project Administrator), for their hard work, persistence, dedication and significant contribution to the Forum's achievements over the last year.

In addition we would like to express our thanks to the Government Office for London (GOL) who have provided a significant contribution in both financial support and active participation in the Forums work.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Forum's purpose is to reduce race hate motivated crime and the fear of hate crime through working in partnership with others and to contribute to making London safer for all its diverse residents, visitors and commuters. We know this cannot be done in isolation but instead requires commitment, resources and action from its partners in order to deliver improvements in performance and experience.

In its first year, the Forum identified eight of London's 32 boroughs as the Forum's *priority boroughs*². These represented the boroughs in London with the highest volume of reported racist incidents³.

During May 2004 – May 2005, the Forum heard presentations from six of the eight priority borough councils. Each of the boroughs presented their multi-agency response to racial harassment to the Forum. The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) borough Commanders from all eight boroughs made presentations to the Forum. Presentations have also been heard from the Southall Monitoring Group, RaceActionNet and Hackney Community Safety Unit.

The Forum was, unfortunately, unable to work through the formal meeting process with two of the eight boroughs. Of these, a dialogue was established with an organisation within one of the boroughs, which was able to influence and contribute to emerging strategic borough plans. However, the Forum was unable to engage the remaining borough through the formal process. Both boroughs will have an opportunity to re-engage with the Forum on a formal basis at a later date.

The Forum structure includes four sub-groups, which support the Forum to progress its broader work programme. The four sub-groups are:

- Good Practice Sub-Group⁴
- Information: Civil Side Sub-Group⁵
- Information: Criminal Side Sub-Group⁶
- Conference Planning Group⁷

The nature of race hate crime touches the very hearts of all those working, living and learning in any multi-racial society. If we do not challenge and be critical of ourselves, we stifle the possibilities of establishing a more tolerant and just society for all, which is especially so for those sections of our community who feel or are perceived as most vulnerable. In its dealings with local authorities, police and other agencies, the Forum strives not to be confrontational but rather to support and encourage those agencies to learn and develop their own effectiveness in partnership at local level.

 ² Barnet, Croydon, Greenwich, Hounslow, Newham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Westminster
 ³ Based on data collected by the MPS Diversity Directorate, Borough hate crime data 2003-04

⁴ See Appendix 3, page 48.

⁵ See Appendix 3, page 48.

⁶ See Appendix 3, page 49.

⁷ See Appendix 3, page 49.

WORK PROGRAMME

During its first year the Forum has been successful in engaging the interest and commitment of a range of statutory criminal justice agencies, including the: Crown Prosecution Service, London Courts Service, Metropolitan Police Service, as well as other public sector pan London organisations such as the Association of London Government, Greater London Authority and voluntary and community organisations, for example the Black Londoners Forum, Board of Deputies of British Jews, Race on the Agenda and Victim Support London.

Over the past year, our work with the identified priority boroughs has been supported by a system of pre-meetings with local borough Commanders and local authority Chief Executives, or their representatives, to ensure participation in the Forum's work.

The work of the Forum is progressed through four sub-groups, which offer dedicated time and space to:

- examine in finer detail good practice across the region;
- contribute to improvements in combating racist crime in both the civil and criminal fields; and
- plan an international conference on race hate crime.

In addition to making positive policy interventions in relation to local Action Plans, such as the recording of race hate crimes as separate and distinct from anti-social behaviour, the Forum has facilitated, and contributed to, positive outcomes for individual, long-standing and protracted cases of racial harassment.

This included advice and support in an on-going situation in one of the London boroughs where racial harassment had been in existence for some time. The Forum became involved to support both the borough and the victims in this situation. As a result the perpetrator was evicted from their home.

This was exceptional and a test case for the work of the Forum but it is not the normal work practice the Forum performs. The Forum's aim is to maintain a strategic position in relation to establishing strategies to deal with race hate crime in London.

The Forum is making progress on a number of projects and initiatives to support and complement the broader work programme and is looking forward to continuing this work during its second year. This includes developing a database of regional, national and international projects tackling race hate crime; supporting, evaluating and developing Third Party reporting⁸, campaigning for broader more accurate and uniform information recording systems; and contributing to the development of MPS policy on investigating and supporting victims of hate crime.

⁸ Third Party reporting centres are places where a racist incident or crime can be reported other than police stations, e.g. community centres, places of worship, council offices etc.

Following its first year of engagement with boroughs, the Forum has made a number of recommendations, which can inform practice in London and beyond.

FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations reflect the Forum's findings based on its learning from interventions with victims of race hate crime, meetings with boroughs identified as initial priority areas by the Forum and discussions with local race hate crime / racial harassment fora.

Partnership working

- 1. Each Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) should prioritise race hate crime and promote early prevention and intervention projects/programmes.
- 2. CDRPs, in supporting communities experiencing race hate crime, should establish and support the sustainability of appropriate good practice projects/programmes by ensuring access to mainstream funding.
- 3. Each London borough should have an effective multi-agency partnership in place to co-ordinate and improve the local response to racist incidents and racist crimes.
- 4. In order for these multi-agency partnerships to increase effectiveness, each borough should have a local race hate crime forum/panel with positive and on-going dialogue with the Race Equality Council or agency providing support and advocacy directly to victims of race hate crime.
- 5. Each partnership should develop a comprehensive and cohesive strategy and action plan to ensure effective arrangements are in place to deal with issues of race hate crime. This should include:
 - identifying 'gaps' in service delivery across departments;
 - support for victims; and
 - effective behaviour change programmes for perpetrators.
- 6. Each agency should be fully aware of its responsibilities and establish a working dialogue with community, voluntary and statutory partners.
- 7. Each local area race hate crime forum/panel should engage in a dialogue with the LRHCF to share and report back on good practice and identify areas of local concern.
- 8. Local Education Departments, the Department for Education and Skills, and the Office for Standards in Education should demonstrate a more proactive approach to tackling hate crime in both schools and youth services. Research conducted in the London borough of Hackney⁹, a study of 200 school pupils, indicated that 40% of pupils felt they were experiencing bullying and 5% of this group identified themselves as feeling

⁹ Hackney Homophobic Bullying Project, the result of a partnership between the Metropolitan Police Service, Haringey Council and Haringey Safer School Project, 2004.

suicidal. In this context, work should be done to identify the extent of bullying motivated by racism and/or homophobia and its impact on both young people's educational attainment and self-esteem.

Data collection

- 9. Accurate and high quality data should be recorded consistently (accepted practice in relation to acquisitive crime¹⁰) in cases of race hate crime in order to enable London-based agencies to tackle race hate crime more effectively.
- 10. Race hate crime specific data should be collected across agencies. Data collection categories for recording race hate crime must enable an incident and its motivation to be interrogated by the relevant data collection system.
- 11. A common data recording system should be established in each borough to make information accessible to all statutory and community services, this recording system must identify race and other hate crime.

Information sharing

12. Levels of appropriate information sharing must improve in order to enable London-based agencies to support families and local communities, bring racist offenders and offences to justice and prevent race hate crime occurring in the future.

Best Practice

13. Successful interventions and 'what works' should be shared across agencies, boroughs and communities.

¹⁰ This refers to crimes where the perpetrator gains property as a result of the crime committed. This encompasses Theft, Burglary, Motor Vehicle Crime, Fraud and Counterfeiting.

FORUM ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1. The Forum has been able to engage high profile statutory criminal justice agencies, community and voluntary organisations. A High Court Judge is a member of the Forum and is apprised of the progress of its work. This enables direct contact to be maintained with High Court Judges in the sentencing of race hate crime perpetrators.
- 2. The Forum has engaged in a series of high profile meetings with borough Commanders and Chief Executives (or representatives) of those London boroughs that have the highest levels of recorded race hate crimes, in order to scrutinise their practices, procedures and local policies and to ascertain whether these are effective in dealing with incidents of racial harassment. This action has resulted in the MPS placing a higher level of importance on investigating and charging those committing racially motivated offences and setting higher targets for dealing with perpetrators.
- 3. The increased reporting of race hate crime in the national and local media, has generated a high level of interest in the Forum's work, such as the reporting of activities linked to British National Party (BNP) as well as specific attacks on minority groups.
- 4. One example of the Forum's work is illustrated in our engagement with the London borough of Hounslow. Following discussions with the Forum the Borough established an action plan recognising the importance of dealing effectively with racially motivated crimes. The Forum intends to assist the MPS and local authority staff in implementing and monitoring performance on the action plan.
- 5. The Forum's involvement had a direct impact on the establishment of a 'Gold Group'¹¹ to review a specific case in the London borough of Hounslow which had been on going for several years. As a result the borough has secured a complete possession order against the perpetrators, sending a clear message to both victims and perpetrators that such behaviour is not tolerated and will be stopped.
- 6. A database of race hate crime projects has been developed and is continually expanding. This database is currently maintained by the MPA.
- 7. The issue of disproportionality across the diversity strands¹² has been a topic of discussion on many occasions. As such, the Forum has interrogated existing data to identify those most vulnerable to race hate crimes in the eight priority boroughs. The Forum is in the process of reporting its findings to MPS and others. To our knowledge this research does not appear to have been conducted elsewhere.

¹¹ 'Gold Group' refers to a specialised team of MPS officers, including senior ranking officers, trained to investigate specific crimes.

¹² Diversity strands refer to the different equality areas covered by equality legislation in the UK. Specifically age, disability, gender, race, sexual orientation and religion.

- 8. The Chair and Project Team continue to inform regional, national and international work through their participation in conferences and the development of strategic documents.
- 9. The Project Manager meets and engages with several local based race hate panels and forums to render assistance, support and advice on work and practice¹³.
- 10. Over the course of the year the MPS has raised their detection¹⁴ target rate for racist crime from 18% to 36% (as of January 2005). This is a positive step in the acknowledgement of the impact of race hate crime on the victim/s and the wider community.
- 11. Contributing and supporting the MPS in the development of its Hate Crime Policy and Standard Operating Procedures. This will have implications for:
 - training and development issues for Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)
 - Community Safety Unit (CSU) Managers and
 - front line officers
 - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Communities

¹³ These include Race Equality in Newham, Multi-Agency Racial Incidents Forum in Hackney and Hillingdon Racial Harassment Forum.

¹⁴ This refers to the number of incidents recorded by the MPS.

SECTION A: AN INTRODUCTION

In July 2001 the Metropolitan Police Authority established a Working Group, chaired by Peter Herbert, an independent member of the MPA, to discuss a London-wide response to the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report and propose recommendations for a co-ordinated multi-agency response to race hate crime¹⁵. This group included representatives from over twenty agencies from the community, voluntary and statutory sectors with key responsibilities for responding to racist crime.

The Working Group engaged in a dialogue around current strategies and practice in London, confirming the need for improved co-ordination, information sharing and a space to share best practice between agencies.

On the basis of its discussions, the Working Group put forward a proposal for a permanent Forum.

The Forum's inaugural borough meeting, with dedicated staff, was held on May 24^{th} 2004 at the MPA and six public Forum meetings were held during 2004 / 05.

The Forum is open to new members and welcomes participation from all interested contributors. Forum members meet to discuss the work progress and hold regular public meetings.

Accountability

The Forum's work is managed and co-ordinated, on a day-to-day basis by a small Project Team consisting of a Project Manager and Project Administrator. The Project Manager is accountable to the MPA's Head of Race and Diversity and is supported by the Forum for the delivery of its work programme.

¹⁵ To view those recommendations that form the driver for the LRHCF see Appendix 1, page 43.

THE CASE FOR A LONDON WIDE RACE HATE CRIME FORUM

- 1. London is a city of great ethnic diversity. More than one in three of London's residents belong to an ethnic minority group¹⁶.
- 2. The British Crime Survey found that about 1 in 6 of all incidents of criminal victimisation against Asians and African Caribbean's were believed by the victim to be racially motivated¹⁷.
- 3. Research shows that young people who commit crime from an early age are especially likely to become habitual offenders with long criminal careers if not prevented and detected early on.¹⁸
- 4. The profound effects of racist victimisation on individuals and their families are catalogued in research funded by the Joseph Roundtree Foundation¹⁹. The research suggests that those affected by racist victimisation usually wait until their lives have been made intolerable before lodging a formal complaint. Yet police and other agencies often fail to respond to the routine nature of harassment in a sympathetic or appropriate way²⁰.
- 5. Racist victimisation is far more complicated than individual incidents of harassment and affects every aspect of a family's or individual's life. Incidents, which occur on a daily basis and are routine levels of racist harassment, are frequently not taken into account by official agencies. "The sense of isolation from friends and family as well as agencies creates an intolerable atmosphere in the lives of the victimised", Kusminder Chahal¹⁸.
- 6. Media coverage has reflected the prevalence and incidence of race hate crime and its impact on London's communities, particularly the rise in Islamophobia following the events of 11th September 2001.²¹
- 7. Reducing race hate crimes is likely to contribute to general crime reduction targets for London.
- 8. Multi-agency partners should be encouraged to take account of perpetrators of race hate crime, as they are likely to be involved in other low level crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.

 ¹⁶ Without prejudice? Exploring ethnic differences in London. Greater London Authority, 2000.
 ¹⁷ 2000 British Crime Survey. Home Office, 2000.

¹⁸ Understanding and preventing youth crime a review. David Farrington of the Institute of Criminology, Social Policy Research 93 - April 1996

¹⁹ We can't all be white!" Racist victimisation in the UK by Kusminder Chahal (Federation of Black Housing Organisations) and Louis Julienne, 1999. A report commissioned by the Joseph Roundtree Foundation ²⁰ The Search for Tolerance: Challenging and changing racist attitudes and behaviour among

²⁰ The Search for Tolerance: *Challenging and changing racist attitudes and behaviour among young people*. Lemos and Crane, 2005 ²¹ The destruction of the Michael Content of the M

²¹ The destruction of the World Trade Centre, USA.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the LRHCF currently includes:

Criminal justice agencies

- CPS London
- London Court Service
- London Probation Service
- Metropolitan Police Authority
- Metropolitan Police Service
- Prison Service

Community and voluntary sector organisations

- Black Londoners Forum
- Board of Deputies of British Jews
- Circle 33
- Commission for Race Equality
- Forum Against Islamophobia and Racism FAIR
- Hindu Forum
- National Association for Care and Resettlement of Offenders NACRO
- Race on the Agenda
- Refugee Council
- Searchlight
- The Monitoring Group
- Victim Support London

Other statutory agencies

- Association of London Government
- Department of Education and Skills
- Greater London Authority
- Government Office for London
- Housing Corporation

SECTION B: BOROUGH-BASED ACTIVITIES

What is the face of race hate crime?

For many, when the phrase "racism or racist attack" is mentioned or referred to, the image conjured will be of far right wing rallys distributing racist and inflammatory flyers. For others this may conjure more extreme and major world events that have had a considerable and lasting impact on modern times.

For others still, race hate crime is often a daily occurrence, which for the most part involves much lower levels of harassment. These can be, and often are, long lasting. Sometimes subtle and other times more blatant behaviour can act as a constant threat of harm and fear of harm to those affected. Such behaviour may include verbal abuse/insults, spitting, physical assault, racist graffiti, mimicking, jokes, stereotyping, and differential access to services, support and protection.

In 'Violent Racism, Victimisation, Policing and Social Context', 1998 [Ben Bowling] highlights, that these forms of, (what he refers to as), "exclusionary behaviour can be reconnected with racism [where it is] expressed in the form of aggression and violence".

Perceptions of race hate crime

The Forum maintains contact with borough Race Equality Councils (RECs) and other local groups. Current responses from victims and members of the community who have engaged the Forum indicate a significant disparity with statutory agency claims of achievement and community perceptions. The Forum, in conjunction with the MPA Community Engagement Unit, will monitor "Satisfaction Surveys" to assess any change in community perceptions.

Data from the Crime Victims Survey²² on victim satisfaction indicated that of those offences detected, there was an increase in the number of victims content with how the matter had been dealt with. This would suggest that there has been some improvement in how services are provided to the community. However, there is still more to do in relation to the numbers of undetected offences and instilling trust in the community that all agencies will respond effectively when cases are reported.

The Forum recognises that race hate crime impacts on individuals, groups and families as well as organisations, businesses and services. The cost to London is likely to be evident in the impact on education, the judiciary, policing, security, housing, health, rescue services, community confidence and safety. The Forum will be carrying research in this area over the coming year.

²² Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update to December 2004, 1 April 2005 Home Office Statistical Bulletin 07/05

In order to prioritise borough-based activities, research was undertaken to assess the scale of race hate crime in the capital from a range of sources including the Metropolitan Police Service, the Crown Prosecution Service, the Home Office, the British Crime Survey, local monitoring groups and Race Equality Councils.

In 'Race crime and harassment' $(2001)^{23}$, it indicates the

"reporting of racial harassment is not generally the first response after an incident. This happens when the victim can take no more harassment".

The research already cited by the Joseph Roundtree Foundation indicated that 25% of people who had experienced racist victimisation have done so for 18 months before reporting it. Isolation of victims in areas with a low Black and minority ethnic community is another barrier to reporting harassment.

Non-reporting of crime

Our discussions, anecdotal evidence and surveys conducted with local community groups, local RECs and local hate crime forums, highlight the lack of community confidence that race hate crimes will not be taken seriously. Further exchanges with Forum member organisations also appear to support this perspective. Despite all that has been done by boroughs and the MPS, many minority communities remain concerned and sceptical that racist incidents will not be investigated and dealt with appropriately.

Definition of a racist incident:

"Any incident, which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person." (The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report, recommendation 12, February 1999.)

The Metropolitan Police Service Hate Crime Policy incorporates other diversity areas and extends this to include. "Any incident that is perceived by the victim, or any other person, to be racist, homophobic, transphobic, or due to a person's religion, belief, gender identity or disability".

Definition of a racist crime:

A racist incident becomes a racist crime where, through the process of investigation, it becomes apparent that an offence, which may result in an arrest, has been committed.

The comments above are supported by research conducted by the Audit Commission. The following tables (Fig 1 & 2) from an Audit Commission

²³ 'Race crime and harassment', renewal.net, 2001

report²⁴ indicate that 33% of victims and 61% of witnesses do not report to the police, together with the reasoning behind their decisions.

Fig.1	
Victims of Crime	
Reporting 67%	
Not reporting 33%	Top five reasons of victims and witnesses
	Did not think the police would do anything
	Incident was too trivial
	I could not be bothered
	It was a private matter
	It happens 'all the time'

Fig.2 Witnesses of Crime	
Reporting 38% Not reporting 61%	Top five reasons of victims and witnesses
	Someone else reported or the police were present
	Did not want to get involved
	Did not think the police would do anything
	It happens 'all the time'
	I could not be bothered

Nationally there were 3,728 cases of racially aggravated crime handed to the CPS by police between April 2001 and March 2002, a rise of 20% on the previous period 2000-2001. A local community study undertaken by the Community Action Team $(CAT)^{25}$ reflects the findings highlighted in the tables. This was also reflected by CPS data in 2003.

Identification of Priority Boroughs

Over the past year the Forum's work has centred on scrutiny of the eight London boroughs with the highest levels of recorded racist incidents.

The initial priority boroughs, according to race hate crime data collected and supplied by the MPS 2003-04, were Barnet, Croydon, Greenwich, Hounslow, Southwark, Newham, Tower Hamlets, and Westminster.

Work with these eight boroughs continues as they develop and establish action plans, as well as enhance the work of local multi-agency partnerships.

²⁴ Criminal Justice National Report from the Audit Commission, 2003, 'Victims and Witnesses, Providing Better Support'.

²⁵ The Community Action Team is an independent, non-profit making organisation consisting of a team of Community Development Workers, based in LB Newham. They provide a community lead approach to tackling racial harassment. We acknowledge this is a small sample study, but nevertheless, it does reveal and support much anecdotal evidence.

Initial Findings

Initial discussions and research from Forum meetings indicated the following trends:

- between April 2003 and the end of March 2004 the CPS dealt with 4,728 defendants and prosecuted 3,616, or 76%, an increase of 2%. There can be more than one charge per defendant and 4,719 charges were prosecuted, of which 3,247 were found to be racially aggravated.²⁶
- in 2003/04, Victim Support helped 33,374 people in England and Wales, who believe they were victims of racially motivated crime. The increase has been tracked from 3,072 in 1993/94 to 20,950 in 2002/03²⁷.
- there are inconsistencies in borough statutory agencies using the full range of legal powers at their disposal to vigorously combat racially motivated crime, which they are required to do under current legislation.
- in particular, the Forum has examined the number of evictions and injunction proceedings taken against council tenants, as well the implementation of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs),²⁸ and found some significant gaps between the number of incidents recorded and the number of ABCs and ASBOs issued. The Forum will continue to monitor the use of ASBOs and ABCs to ensure greater consistency across London.
- the Forum realises, however, that boroughs seek to support victims of racist incidents and to take action against perpetrators, especially if they are in council tenure. The Forum also recognises that boroughs do not seek eviction or possession orders lightly and that these are sought in the most extreme cases where other forms of intervention would be inappropriate. The Forum fully supports boroughs in the use of all other forms of intervention but urges that possession / eviction should also form part of the repertoire of action where necessary. The London borough of Hounslow demonstrates a good practice example of partnership work in this regard.

²⁶ Crown Prosecution Service Press release, Jan. 2005, 107/05

²⁷ Victim Support, reported in BBC New UK Edition, 12 October 2004

²⁸ Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) are statutory measures that aim to protect the public from behaviour that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress. An Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) is a voluntary written agreement between a person who has been involved in anti-social behaviour and one or more local agencies whose role it is to prevent such behaviour (e.g. police and housing).

- boroughs recording increases²⁹ in levels of race hate crime of more than 10% include Barking & Dagenham, Brent, Bromley, Camden, Havering, Islington, Lewisham and Wandsworth.
- boroughs recording decreases²⁹ in levels of hate crime of more than 20% include Enfield, Richmond, Merton, Southwark and Newham.
- boroughs performing below the MPS detection target of 36%²⁹ include Croydon, Bexley, Hounslow, Kingston, Greenwich, Merton, Redbridge and Tower Hamlets.
- boroughs achieving more than 40% of the detection rate²⁹ are Camden, Enfield, Lewisham and Richmond.³⁰

²⁹ The Forum is aware that levels of reported race hate crime can be influenced by a number of factors, including; community confidence to report, better training of staff involved in the identification of race hate crime, an increase in policing of race hate crime and/or decreases in actual numbers of race hate crime incidents occurring.

³⁰ MPS borough crime data, Diversity Directorate 2003-2004

PRESENTATIONS TO THE FORUM

The process by which borough partnerships are requested to make presentations to the Forum is outlined below.

- 1. Letters of request are sent to Council Chief Executives and MPS borough Commanders, inviting them to meet with the Forum and deliver a presentation on the issues for race hate crime in their boroughs.
- 2. Specific questions are provided as guidance to support boroughs in gathering information for their presentation.³¹
- 3. Boroughs were informed that part of the process would involve representation from community individuals or groups and provide a victim's viewpoint on personal experience and on boroughs performance/improvement.

There is no expectation that boroughs will respond to issues raised from the specific cases but discussions would take place in relation to any learning gained to improve service delivery and support to victims.

- 4. Presentation dates are agreed and the Project Manager, with other Forum representatives, offers an initial meeting with borough Chief Executives and the borough Commanders to clarify issues and questions in advance of the formal Forum meeting.
- 5. Initial meeting held with Chief Executives department, borough Commander or representatives, and nominated Forum members.
- 6. Public Forum meeting takes place, consisting of all Forum members, the Chief Executive, borough Commander or representatives. Wherever possible, sample cases from the relevant borough are explored in relation to the borough action plan or race hate crime strategy.
- 7. Follow up meetings are scheduled 6 8 months later to assess learning in borough.

³¹ See appendix 6, page 55.

FORUM LEARNING – SHARING THE GOOD PRACTICE IDENTIFIED BY PRIORITY BOROUGHS

During the year all priority boroughs identified a number of examples of good practice in relation to tackling race and hate crime. The Good Practice Sub-Group is developing methodology to evaluate and measure good practice identified at local level. The Good Practice sub-group intends to have this methodology established in the coming year. The good practice sub-group intends to have this methodology established in the coming year. A range of good practice in the priority boroughs is outlined below:

Barnet

- The borough has a well-established Third Party reporting scheme. The Multi Agency Harassment Group led on the development of the scheme, which was successfully launched on May 15th 2002.
- Reporting sites are located within a number of organisations that have established trust within the local community. The list of Third Party reporting sites is included in the borough's publicity information and includes housing associations, a probation office, youth centres and community groups.
- The associated publicity and information pack also outlines definitions of racist incidents, the purpose of Third Party reporting centres and the links to the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report recommendations.

Croydon

- A joint letter, dated 4th September 2003, from the borough Commander and Director of Housing was sent to residents in a particular area urging the reporting of racial harassment and anti social behaviour. The letter informed the community of the courses of action available to the police and local authority for persistent anti-social behaviour. The borough has pledged to deal effectively with problems when reported and continues to deliver on positive community engagement to improve the community's sense of safety, for example the deployment of Neighbourhood Wardens.
- Future plans include a dedicated Anti-Social Behaviour Order court based at Croydon Magistrates' Court.
- 'Show Racism the Red Card (www.srtrc.org) a national charity established in 1996 uses professional footballers as positive role models to challenge racism. Although the Charity reports that racism is on the decline in professional football, it appears unfortunately to be on the increase in other areas of British society.

Greenwich

- Greenwich Racially Motivated Offender Project (GRMOP) is a multiagency scheme designed to address racially motivated offending in the borough and supported by Greenwich Neighbourhood Renewal and the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. The project works with offenders aged 14 and above who have been convicted of offences involving racial motivation. A data sharing protocol between police and probation has been agreed to support the project.
- Between January 2001 and October 2004, 524 individuals had been referred to the project. Information captured by the project has greatly enhanced the borough's understanding of the pattern of racist incidents in the borough. The Diversity Awareness Programme (DAP) is a one to one case management resource manual which details a number of exercises and interviewing techniques designed to support meaningful engagement with offenders. The programme has been specifically designed to examine the basis for the perpetrators racist beliefs and raise their awareness of the victim's perspective and develop skills to reduce further offending.

Hounslow

- There was a successful joint operation between the local authority and borough police in combating racially motivated harassment in a problem neighbourhood area.
- The MPS Racial and Violent Crime Task Force (DCC4) was deployed to assist the borough in addressing a particularly difficult race hate crime case, which had been unresolved for over six years. As a result of this intervention four Anti-Social Behaviour Contracts and three Interim Anti-Social Behaviour Orders were granted with further orders in the application process. Community members have been involved in supporting the police and information regarding the case has been shared across the borough.

Newham

- Race Equality in Newham (REIN), a local multi-agency race hate crime forum has been established.
- REIN's Racial Harassment Subgroup and the Community Action Team have worked successfully, with the council, towards the development of action plans to address race hate crime within the borough. The local authority is in the process of finalising their action plan with the borough Commander.
- Newham Neighbourhood Information Management System (NIMS) is a common recording system that stores and makes available, from one source, a range of both local and national data. This enables complex

and sophisticated data analysis leading to an improved level of understanding of the inter-relationships between crime types and crime patterns. Information can be accessed, interpreted and displayed easily.

- However, hate crime is not currently recorded. The system should be expanded to explore how hate crime specific data can be highlighted rather than classified as 'other crime'.
- NIMS is currently used within the borough and does not allow for comparison with other boroughs, although we understand Redbridge and Enfield are acquiring the system. If all boroughs were to employ this data management system and use the same data formats, it could become a regional resource and a powerful monitoring tool.

Southwark

- Bede House Anti-Racist Project aims to support victims of racial harassment, understand their fear and actively tackle racism. It works to promote racial integration and cross-cultural understanding. The initiative offers support, counselling and advice for victims of racist crime.
- Southwark Mediation Centre's Hate Crime Project supports people experiencing hate crime through mediation. Focusing on people who are subjected to hate crimes which are predominantly racial and homophobic in their nature. The Centre works as part of a multi-agency approach.
- Southwark Hate Crimes Directory, as part of the borough's Campaign Against Hate Crime, is aimed at staff and volunteers who work directly with communities in Southwark. The directory acts as a guide to local services which provide an appropriate and supportive response to victims of hate crime.
- The Safer Southwark Partnership, the statutory crime and disorder reduction partnership, was awarded Beacon status³² in April 2004 for its innovative approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

Tower-Hamlets

• The Anti-Social Behaviour Control Unit (ASBCU) brings together specialist teams tackling racial harassment, domestic violence and anti-

³² The Beacon Council Scheme identifies excellence and innovation in local government. The scheme exists to share good practice so that best value authorities can learn from each other and deliver high quality services to all.

social behaviour. The Unit provides support, advice and ongoing training to all agencies involved in responding to these experiences.

• The Unit also co-ordinates the Racial Harassment Inter Agency Forum (RHIAF) and Tower Hamlets Multi-Agency Action Against Racist Incidents (THMAAARI).

The City of Westminster

- The Church Street Racial Harassment Project has been set up in one of the most deprived areas of Westminster, an area of focused partnership working and neighbourhood renewal activity. Five community reporting centres operate through the project in addition to a programme of multi-agency training.
- The London China Town Unit set up in 1983 is regarded as an international centre of excellence. It serves as a contact point for the Mandarin community, as well as a contact and answer phone service, which supports confidence in tackling organised crime.

FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

Although the Forum's work was initially focused on the priority boroughs, relationships have been established with several other boroughs and organisations. The Forum has made, and continues to make, contacts in each borough and updates on Forum work are available on the MPA website (www.mpa.gov.uk). Positive meetings and information exchanges have also taken place between staff, managers and co-ordinators of local hate crime forums and the Forum Project Manager.

The coming year will see the LRHCF expanding into the next eight priority boroughs beginning with Barking & Dagenham and Havering. The other boroughs invited to present to the Forum over the course of the year are Brent, Camden, Hackney, Islington, Lambeth and Lewisham.

SECTION C: SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND DATA

The Forum carried out a study on a London-wide profile of victims and perpetrators. The tables below provide a breakdown of the ethnicity of victims of race hate crime and persons accused across London from April 04 – January 05 (source MPS Diversity Directorate).

Victims of racist crime April 04 – January 05										
	White European	Dark European*	African / Caribbean	Indian / Pakistani	Chinese / Japanese	Arabic / Egyptian	Not Completed	Total		
Number	2864	829	3885	3888	201	321	523	12511		
Percentage	22.9%	6.6%	31.1%	31.1%	1.6%	2.6%	4.2%	100%		

Persons accused of racist crime April 04 – January 05										
	White European	Dark European*	African Caribbean	Indian / Pakistani	Chinese / Japanese	Arabic / Egyptian	Not Completed	Total		
Number	1042	61	276	88	3	11	6	1487		
Percentage	70.1%	4.1%	18.6%	5.9%	0.2%	0.7%	0.4%	100%		

The largest group of victims of racist crimes is equally African Caribbean and Indian/Pakistani (31.1%), with the next largest number being White European. This is in contrast to persons accused where the majority 70.1% are White European.

The data above were recorded using an outdated system of coding with individuals being categorised in accordance with ethnic appearance. The MPA has submitted its concerns in relation to this system and the MPS, has complied with the Home Office directive and followed an alternative way of recording an individual's ethnicity – by self-definition using a system known as $16+1^{33}$.

Since the Forum received the raw data with the above terms we have not changed the terminology, as this would create discrepancies in the information. In future reports however the Forum will use the 16+1 system.

³³ 16+1 system now used by the MPS is derived from the 16 ethnic groups used for classification in the 2001 Census.

The picture across London

The following charts and tables have been formulated from data submitted to the Forum from the MPS Diversity Directorate covering the time period January 04 – June 04.

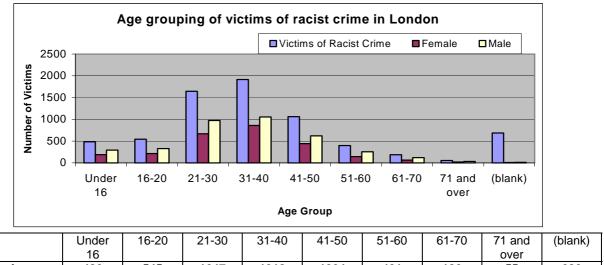
The charts below illustrate the age range of victim and perpetrator, the ethnic appearance, time of day profile of when racist crime occurs, whether the perpetrator is known to the victim and the level of injury to the victim. The final chart illustrates the volume of racist offences over the last three years in the eight priority borough areas. In reading information contained in the following charts, the following should be noted:

- where the term 'unknown' appears within a chart it refers to cases where the police officer involved was unable to determine the correct category. For example if information was recorded from a telephone conversation an officer would not necessarily be able to identify the age or ethnicity of the individual;
- similarly the term 'blanks' refers to cases where the form was not accurately completed and therefore the necessary information is missing. Where this is the case the totals presented may not be even in all cases; and
- where there are 'unknown' or 'blanks' in the data, the information illustrated in the following charts may not equal the total of figures presented but the representation is still valid.

Age group of victim

The largest number of victims of racist crime falls within the 31-40 age group. Twenty three of the 32 boroughs have recorded more crimes with this age of victim than other age groups. The second largest age group of victims of racist crime is 21-30, with 9 boroughs showing this as the most common victim age.

The highest proportion of racist crimes recorded by the MPS as a whole are committed against victims aged between 31-40, which represents 27.4% of the total reported figure. Of this number 23.6% are aged 21-30.

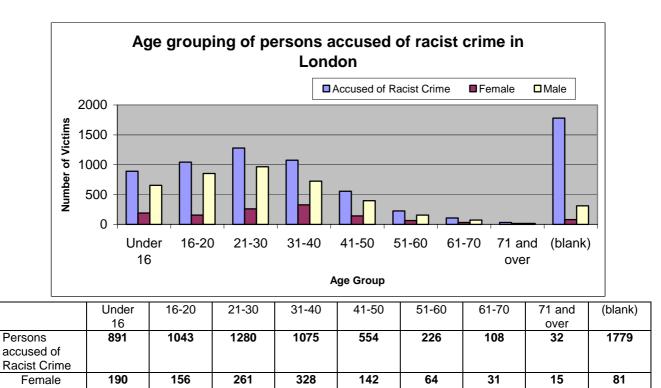


									(
	16							over	
Victims of race	486	545	1647	1918	1064	401	186	55	686
hate crime									
Female	191	215	670	862	443	145	65	22	11
Male	295	330	976	1056	620	256	121	33	14

Age of suspect

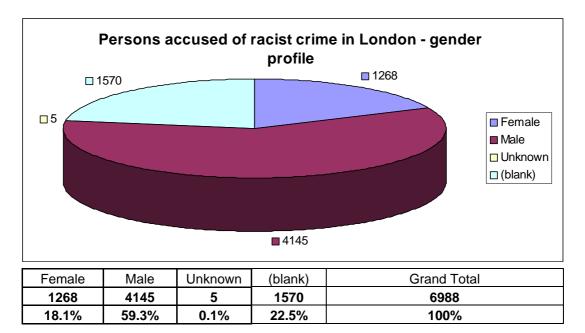
Male

The age of suspects of racist crime across London ranges from 16-40, with a slightly higher proportion of boroughs experiencing crime committed by persons aged 21-30.



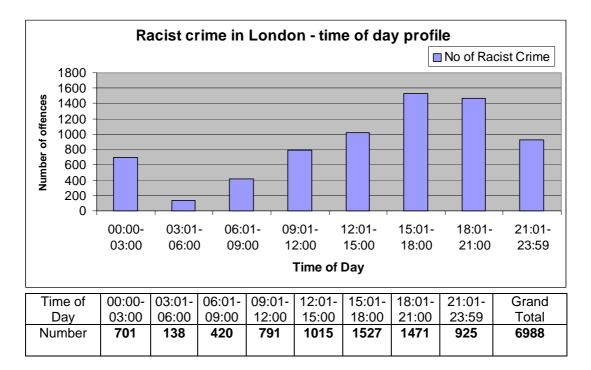
Gender of suspect

The gender split of suspects in London is highly dominated by males. 59.3% of all suspects recorded are male, with just 18.1% female. 22.5% of suspects are unknown.



Time of racist crime being committed

Racist crime is mostly committed between the times 15:01 and 21:00. Thirtyone boroughs recorded the majority of their crimes between these times, with just one borough recording most crimes between 12:01 and 15:00. The profile below shows the averages over the whole week.

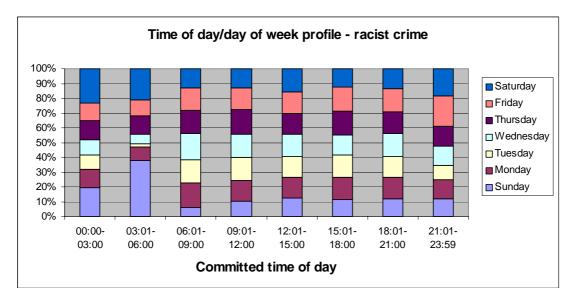


Time of day/week profile

When the time of day is considered, including the weekends, it would appear, the most likely time of day to fall victim of racist crime is between 00:00 and 03:00 and 03:01 and 06:00 on Saturday and Sunday mornings (this is following Friday night and Saturday night). This may be accounted for by a number of reasons, including:

- the usual times bars and clubs close;
- the consumption of alcohol;
- high volume of people in transit ; and
- loss of inhibitions.

There appears only slight variance across times and day of the remainder of the week, other than Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday during the hours of 03:00 and 06:00.

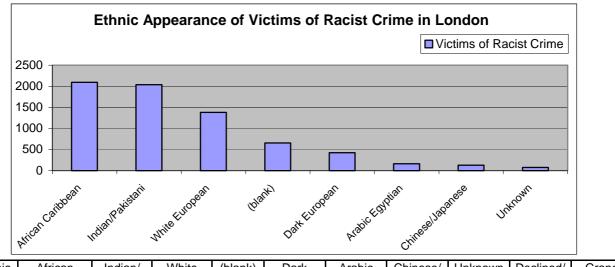


Committed on/from time (3 hour								Grand
intervals)	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total
00:00-03:00	136	88	67	71	92	85	162	701
03:01-06:00	52	13	3	9	17	15	29	138
06:01-09:00	25	71	65	74	66	65	54	420
09:01-12:00	81	112	123	125	130	117	103	791
12:01-15:00	127	141	146	151	141	149	160	1015
15:01-18:00	175	227	233	209	248	242	193	1527
18:01-21:00	174	214	211	227	219	227	199	1471
21:01-23:59	112	119	89	119	128	189	169	925

Ethnic appearance of victim (recorded by police officer)

The majority of boroughs have recorded crimes against African Caribbean persons, with 17 of the 32 boroughs recording more crimes against these victims than other ethnic groups. The second highest ethnic group to experience racist crime is Indian/Pakistani. This group saw 14 boroughs record the highest number of crimes against these people compared to other ethnic groups. Tower Hamlets recorded 36% of all victims in the borough as White European, 31% were Indian/Pakistani and 17% were African Caribbean.

In summary, the MPS has recorded racist crimes against a number of ethnic groups, with 30% against African Caribbean, 29% against Indian/Pakistani, 20% against White European, 6% against Dark European, 2% against Arabic/ Egyptian and 2% against Chinese/Japanese persons.

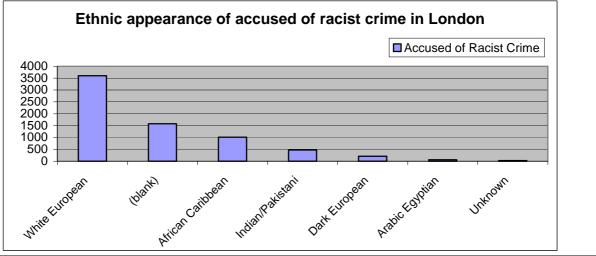


Victim Ethnic	African	Indian/	White	(blank)	Dark	Arabic	Chinese/	Unknown	Declined/	Grand
Appearance	Caribbean	Pakistani	European		European	Egyptian	Japanese		Refused	Total
Number	2093	2036	1379	656	423	164	130	74	33	6988

Ethnic appearance of suspect (recorded by police officer)

All 32 boroughs have recorded White European suspects for the majority of racist crimes. The second most common suspect ethnicity across London is African Caribbean, with seven of the 32 boroughs recording crimes with these suspects as their third highest occurrence.

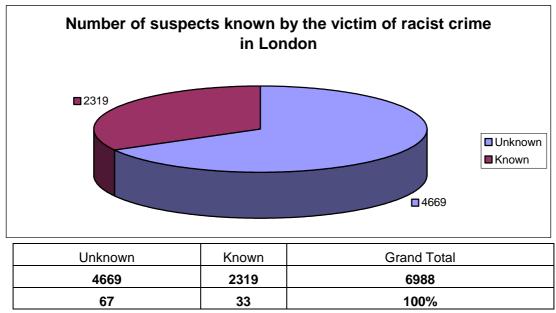
A large number of crimes have not yet been detected, and therefore will not have an entry in the suspect field. This has led to a large number of crimes showing blank ethnicity.



Suspect Ethnic	White	(blank)	African	Indian/	Dark	Arabic	Unknown	Chinese/	Declined/	Grand
Appearance	European		Caribbean	Pakistani	European	Egyptian		Japanese	Refused	Total
Number	3602	1579	1011	472	207	64	30	18	5	6988

Does victim know the accused?

The greater proportion of racist crimes committed in London is where the victim does not know the person accused. All 32 boroughs have recorded crimes with more unknown persons accused, with the MPS as a whole recording only 33% where the victim and accused are known to each other.



Level of injury to victim

All 32 boroughs recorded the majority of racist crimes with no injury to the victims. There was one fatality recorded in Tower Hamlets, where a male Indian/Pakistani murdered a male African Caribbean, reported as a race hate crime. Both victim and suspect were aged 16-20.

The highest proportion of crimes where no injury was caused across the boroughs was harassment, followed by threats and abuse. In the main victims are likely to experience this type and level of crime and not report and in some cases, not note it as a specific race crime.

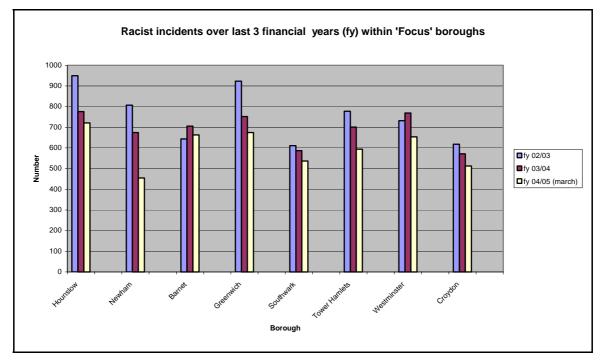
Criminal damage of under £5000 was also recorded in a number of boroughs. Greenwich, Merton and Newham all recorded this offence as the highest out of all non physical injury causing racist crime.

Racial incidents in the priority boroughs

The graph below shows the number of racial incidents recorded by the MPS in all eight priority boroughs over the last three financial years (Source Borough Hate Crime Data April 2003-2004 and April 2004- March 2005).³⁴

While the graph appears to show a steady drop in incidents across all but one of the boroughs, it is as yet unknown if the drop is due to fewer incidents taking place or falling community confidence in reporting incidents to the statutory powers.

The Forum will be working closely with all London boroughs in the future to investigate this trend further.



	Hounslow	Newham	Barnet	Greenwich	Southwark	Tower Hamlets	Westminster	Croydon	Total
02/03	950	807	644	923	611	778	732	618	5232
03/04	776	675	706	752	587	701	769	572	5538
04/05*	721	455	663	675	537	594	654	513	4812

³⁴ The year 04/05 does not include incidents collected in April 05 and is in effect a total of incidents over only 11months.

Borough data

The following is list of data that has been presented to the Forum by the initial eight boroughs themselves and illustrates the types of civil action taken against perpetrators of race hate crimes over a set period.

The Forum acknowledges there is differing diversity and population make up in each of the London boroughs. Therefore the figures illustrated below *do not* in any way refer to a comparison across the boroughs in terms of actions taken in response to race hate crime incidents.

The information presented to the Forum reveal the following:

Barnet, figures fro	om Jan 2002 – 2004	. Information from police	only
ASBO's	5	ABCs	1
Possession order	1	Suspended Possession Order	1
Injunction	1		

City of Westminster, figures for 2002 -2005								
ASBOs	0	ABCs	5 (4 completed successfully)					
Evictions	1	Injunctions	1					
Warning letters sent to residents	23							
Notice to seek possession	5							

Croydon, Figures for 2002-2005				
ASBOs	6	ABCs	36	
Injunctions	14			
Notice to seek possession	14	Possession action taken	8	

Greenwich, figures from April 2002 – September 2004					
ASBOs (race specific)	9	ABCs (race specific)	13		
Injunctions 4 (3 successful, 1 resulting in an eviction)					
Possession orders (3 direct and 1 suspended)	4	Evictions	3		
Diversity Awareness Programme for working with Racially Motivated Offenders (figures from 02 – 03). - 64 referred - 46 completed - 7 still in progress - 6 breached					

Hounslow, figures from Jan 2002 – Dec 2003					
Injunctions (0-race specific)	8	Possession Orders (1-race specific)	11		
Evictions (3-race specific)	13	On-going legal action (9-race specific)	26		
ABC and ASBO figures from April 2002 –March 2004					
ABCs (16-race specific)	55	ASBOs (0-race specific)	8		

Newham, figures from 2001 - 2004 All figures race specific					
ASBOs	2	ABCs	7		
Injunctions	2	Possession Orders	3		
Residents provided wi (An additional 4 were			2		
Tenants requesting move due to racial harassment (An additional 7 were not race specific)			1		

Southwark, figures 2003-2004		
ASBOs	22	(12 race specific of which 4 in progress)
ABCs	40	(2 with racial element)
Possession orders with racial element	0	
Race rehousing cases registered	12	
Race rehoused/under offer	8	

Tower Hamlets, figures from 2003 – 2004				
ASBOs	0	ABCs	12	
Possession Order	3			
Legal action pending	3	Legal advice pending	3	

SECTION D: OTHER FORUM ACTIVITY

Further to borough-based activities conducted through the LRHCF's meeting schedule, the Forum has also been involved in the progress of a number of additional initiatives to support its work through its four sub-groups. These have included:

• Projects database

The Forum has compiled a database of projects, which are working to tackle race and hate crime locally across London, nationally and internationally. The database is in its early stages but when completed the Forum will look to make it available on the Internet.

• 'Race for Justice'

The Forum has been supporting the response to research conducted by the CPS, *Race for Justice: A review of CPS decision making for possible racial bias at each stage of the prosecution process* (G. John, Gus John Partnership, 2004). The work of the Criminal Side sub-group has included reviewing the decision making process of racially aggravated crimes within CPS London in terms of consistency and appropriateness of offence charge. This report has been completed and will be available in due course through the Forum website.

• Partnership working

The LRHCF continues to engage with representative bodies and individuals, such as local Forum Community members and the MPS Independent Advisory Group, to ensure the Forum has a thorough understanding of communities' perspectives. The Forum will continue to develop and expand its relationship to ensure it remains inclusive of other community groups, and ensure their perspectives form part of the learning process.

• Metropolitan Police Service Hate Crime Working Group

The Forum is represented on the MPS Hate Crime Working Group and has made a series of interventions to inform the development of the MPS Hate Crime Policy and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which outline the appropriate process for the investigation of hate crime incidents.

The SOPs identify the role of each member of police staff or officer involved in the investigation of a race hate crime incident and the appropriate procedures to be undertaken at each stage. (They outline the responsibility of each person involved in the investigation process from telephone call handler, the station reception officer, through to the responsibility of the borough senior management team.) The Forum will form a key part of the review process responsible for monitoring the effective implementation of this policy.

• Participation in local borough Race Hate Crime Fora

Forum project staff have been involved with local Race Hate Crime Panels and Fora in several boroughs. This has provided the team with a detailed picture of race hate crime patterns, community concerns and necessary improvements to services on the ground.

• Third Party reporting sites – research

The roll-out, use and effectiveness of Third Party reporting centres have been issues of prime concern to the Forum. Continued and ongoing debate among the Forum membership will offer practical solutions and promote best practice.

The Forum knows that changes are taking place in relation to how boroughs are using Third Party reporting sites. We are currently gathering further information and, when completed, will table our findings.

• Improving victim care and support

We know that victims of racist crime access support and advice from a range of agencies and the Forum is keen to generate a profile of these services. The Forum has already begun to assess the effectiveness of the range of these interventions. For example, the Forum is working with Victim Support London to assess the level of use of their service by victims of racist crime. The Forum hopes to document its findings in the next annual report.

Data collection

The Forum is campaigning for improved information and data collection on the level and nature of racist crime across London. For example, many victims may report a racist incident to their GP because of the negative impact the experience of racism may have on their health. However, this information may not be formally recorded or shared with other agencies. Consequently, there is a clear need to lobby for a mechanism to capture this information to positively inform the London-wide response to, and understanding of, racist crime. The Forum will contribute to this agenda through future work with Transport for London, the London Fire Brigade, Primary Care Trusts, Housing Associations, Local Education Authorities and Social Services Departments, Citizen Advice Bureaux and Independent Advisory Groups. The Forum Civil-Side sub-group will lead on this piece of work.

• International conference

The Forum is planning a race hate crime conference set to take place at the end of 2005 bringing together an international audience to discuss race

hate crime. Leading activists, academics and professionals from around the globe will be invited to take part. This will present a major opportunity for London to continue to lead this debate.

The conference will be a platform from which, to share the range of models and strategies in place in different parts of the world. This will be a showcase to share good practice and an opportunity to establish a programme for action against race and other hate crimes on an international scale.

• Training programme

The Forum is exploring the development of a specifically designed training programme to support local authority legal departments and similar professionals in the appropriate and progressive use of legislation to progress cases of race hate crime through the available routes. It is the Forum's aim to have this available by the end of 2005.

• Forum profile

The Forum Project Team has presented and discussed the work of the LRHCF to a number of groups and conferences demonstrating how it is taking a lead position in the field of combating hate crime. The Forum is also represented on a number of multi-agency fora due to its recognised expertise, for example the London Black and Minority Ethnic Cracking Crime Project Board. The Forum Project Team has also been involved with the following:

- o Community Safety II Conference, CSAC, 2004
- Hate Crime Conference, Belfast, 2004
- Harrow Multi-Agency Forum on Racial Harassment AGM
- o Hate Crime Working Group, MPS
- Multi-agency Racial Incidents Forum, London Borough of Hackney
- o Race Equality in Newham, Racial Harassment Group
- Racial Harassment Forum, London Borough of Hillingdon
- Racial Incidents Panel, London Borough of Wandsworth
- Policy Spotlight, Tackling Hate Crime Conference

• London Black and Minority Ethnic Cracking Crime Partnership Board

The Forum is represented on the London Black and Minority Ethnic Cracking Crime Partnership Board, the management of which lies with the Government Office for London. Lee Jasper is Chair of the Board and Chief Adviser to the Mayor on Race and Policing. The strategic aims of the Board are to:

- increase the collective understanding of the experience of crime and its consequences in BME communities;
- stimulate ideas and share best practice about what is being done and can be done to reduce crime in BME communities;

- improve opportunities to access funding for crime reduction projects and initiatives in BME communities; and
- propose policy changes that will improve the practice of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) and key statutory agencies in this area.

• Other Research

The Forum is liaising with research analysts within the MPS to assist in the identification of compound discrimination and targeting. There are some common issues of concern, which appear to be replicated in areas where the Forum has established local community contact. The Forum is continuing the research in this area and will report back on its findings in the next annual report.

The Forum Project Team, in conjunction with Victim Support London, is gathering information on the use of Victim Support services to victims and the take up from black and minority ethnic groups as a result of race hate crime across London. The Forum is continuing this research and information gathering and envisages reporting its findings in the next annual report.

SECTION E: CONCLUSION

The London-wide Race Hate Crime Forum is the first city-wide multi-agency, organisation combating race crime to be established in Europe. London has taken the lead in seeking to co-ordinate the response to race crime, in line with the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report recommendations. The Forum has successfully brought together and engaged the energy and enthusiasm of the key statutory criminal justice agencies along with voluntary and community sector organisations.

The Forum has engaged in different ways with all of the eight boroughs identified as a priority and in order to promote consistency across London is anxious to continue this level of engagement evenly across the remaining 24 boroughs over coming years. Learning and good practice have been shared widely among members, practitioners and community members.

Demonstrable improvements to the experience of victims in individual cases and by support for boroughs to help bring an end to unnecessarily protracted cases, demonstrates that the Forum is able not only to play a strategic role but also provides a mechanism to potentially unblock persistent obstacles.

The LRHCF looks forward to its second year and hopes to build significantly on our previous progress. The Forum hopes to have the continued support of its partners and to develop its existing relationships further as it continues its positive, proactive and constructive improvement of London's multi-agency response to racist crimes.

The following Recommendations from the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report form the main driver for the work of the Forum:

12. That the term "racist incident" must be understood to include crimes and non-crimes in policing terms.

15. That Codes of Practice be established, to create a comprehensive system of reporting and recording of all racist incidents and crimes.

16. That all possible steps should be taken by Police Services and other agencies and local communities to encourage the reporting of racist incidents and crimes.

17. That there should be close co-operation between Police Services and local Government and other agencies.

18. That ACPO, in consultation with local Government and other relevant agencies, should review its *Good Practice Guide for Police Response to Racial Incidents*.

21. That the MPS review their procedures for the recording and retention of information in relation to incidents and crimes.

28. That Police Services and Victim Support Services ensure that their systems provide for the pro-active use of local contacts within minority ethnic communities to assist with family liaison where appropriate.

29. That Police Services should develop guidelines as to the handling of victims and witnesses, particularly in the field of racist incidents and crimes.

30. That Police Services and Victim Support Services ensure that their systems provide for the pro-active use of local contacts within minority ethnic communities to assist with victim support and with the handling and interviewing of sensitive witnesses.

34. That Police Services and the CPS should ensure that particular care is taken at all stages of prosecution to recognise and to include reference to any evidence of racist motivation.

70. That in creating strategies under the provisions of the Crime & Disorder Act or otherwise Police Services, local Government and relevant agencies should specifically consider implementing community and local initiatives aimed at promoting cultural diversity and addressing racism and the need for focused, consistent support for such initiatives.

Protocol for the London-wide race hate Crime forum

This protocol is an agreement between the key partners of the Londonwide Race Hate Crime Forum and outlines those key areas that it and its members will pursue.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The London-wide Race Hate Crime Forum was established as a result of the work previously undertaken by the MPA Race Hate Crime Working Group, formed in July 2001 under the chair of Mr Peter Herbert, then deputy chair MPA.
- 1.2 The Working Group drew its membership from a wide range of agencies with responsibilities for progressing policies and influencing practices on race hate crime across London.
- 1.3 The London-wide Race Hate Crime Forum was launched at the House of Commons on the 13th May 2003.

2. AIM OF THE FORUM

2.1 The Forum is a London-wide multi-agency partnership bringing together representatives from the statutory and voluntary services including Crown Prosecution Service, Magistracy, Probation Service, Health Services, Local Authorities, the Police Service, Victim Support, Greater London Authority and others interested in tackling race hate crime. The Forum's aim is to monitor and review the implementation of the Race Hate Crime 'aspect' of the Crime and Disorder audit at a pan-London level.

3. THE LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT OF THE PROTOCOL

- 3.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a requirement on local authorities and the police, together with other key agencies and the community, to work together at borough level to develop, implement and monitor strategies for reducing crime and disorder in the area. Section 17 of the Act places a duty on all to ensure that crime and disorder issues is reflected in all policies and strategies.
- 3.2 The recommendations of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report, backed by central Government called for local partnerships to formulate strategies to tackle racial harassment.
- 3.3 The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 places a duty on all public bodies to take the necessary steps to eliminate racial discrimination,

promote equality of opportunity and promote good relations between all racial groups.

- 3.4 Other legislation (Housing Act 1996, Young Persons Act 1998, Children and Young Person Act) reinforces the responsibility of local partnerships to positively address problems of harassment and antisocial behaviour, among others.
- 3.5 Furthermore there are a number of relevant articles under The Human Rights Act 1998, which have a direct impact on dealing with race hate crime.

4. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE FORUM ARE TO:

- 4.1 Effect policies, protocols and processes that will contribute to the effective and efficient implementation and monitoring of performance of the race hate crimes "aspect" of the Crime and Disorder Audits.
- 4.2 Support the development of strategies by the local partnerships at a pan-London level.
- 4.3 Engage with key central Government departments and pan London agencies to secure agreement to a pan-London protocol for responding to and dealing with race (and other) hate crimes at local partnerships.
- 4.4 Secure the agreement among key agencies, pan-London and locally, for the sharing of personalised and depersonalised information in order to satisfy agency responsibility under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
- 4.5 Co-ordinate and disseminate good practice examples in dealing with race (and other) hate crimes across the key statutory and voluntary agencies in London.
- 4.6 Provide policy and guidance to local Crime and Disorder partnerships in their dealings with race hate crimes.
- 4.7 Continuously monitor and review the learning gained from developments on race hate, to inform the development of policies, protocols and practices on race hate crime. Ensure racists identified by original agency (MPS) are tracked through the system i.e. police, courts, prison service to probation.
- 4.8 Proactively establish relationships with other stakeholders, central Government departments and pan-London agencies to ensure that learning is devolved to local borough level.
- 4.9 In consultation with Ministers, central Government departments, the Association for London Government (ALG), Government Office for London (GOL) and other key agencies, develop protocols and

agreements that would hold the partnerships accountable for the delivery.

- 4.10 Co-ordination of implementation and performance monitoring of race hate strategies.
- 4.11 Influence emerging and published legislation, policies and practices to ensure the London dimension is taken into consideration at all stages of all developments. *This will require the active participation of members of the London-wide Race Hate Crime Forum to represent the views of the Forum in a range of situations.*
- 4.12 Development of a co-ordinated approach to dealing with race hate crimes across London.

Mission Statement	Provide a forum for practitioners and stakeholders to share good practice and input into policy development that can be utilized to reduce fear of crime, make the streets of London safer and improve the quality of life of Londoners; and actively encourage and harness local community involvement in taking a stand against perpetrators of race hate crime.
Vision Statement	 Through partnership working to assist service providers in making London the safest major city in the world by: tackling 'quality of life' issues that are important to our communities' well being; being responsive to local needs and reflecting the diversity of London's communities'; and delivering reassurance.

5. MISSION, VISION & VALUES

Values Statement	Be open, inclusive, honest, empowering and responsive;
	work in partnership;
	set high standards of excellence aimed at improving efficiency and effectiveness;
	inspire commitment;
	be proactive & positive;
	add value; and
	be responsive to change.

Forum Sub-Groups

The Forum currently has 4 sub-groups responsible for progressing specific elements of work. A summary of current work is provided below.

GOOD PRACTICE SUB-GROUP³⁵

The Good Practice sub-group was set up to research examples of good practice relating to the tackling of hate crime, in particular race hate crime.

A database of projects and organisations undertaking work relating to hate crime has been compiled and is continuously being added to. A filter search tool has been designed to more easily breakdown the projects and it is hoped that the database will eventually be available via the Internet.

The sub-group has also formulated a scoping paper on the state of race hate crime projects across London. The assistance of the Black Londoners Forum, which has a representative on the sub-group, has also been invaluable in providing example projects and contacts for the Forum to seek additional information for the content of this Scoping paper. The key outputs emerging from the Good Practice sub-group will be reported upon in the next annual Report.

INFORMATION CIVIL SIDE SUBGROUP³⁶

The Information Civil Side sub-group, concerned with gathering information before cases enter the criminal justice system, has been contacting local authority Chief Executives, through the Association of London Government, to find out what processes are in place to record race hate crime, what data is available from such processes (particularly on perpetrators) and what the numbers are of unreported incidents over the last 12 months. The key outputs emerging from the Information Civil Side sub-group will be reported upon in the next annual Report.

The subgroup is reviewing figures collected from the Audit Commission specifically Performance Indicators 174 & 175 (number of racial incidents recorded by an authority per 100,000 population & The percentage of racial incidents that resulted in further action, respectively³⁷). It has been suggested by the sub-group that such definitions provide insufficient data and could be improved. In addition performance indicators on victim satisfaction would be very useful.

³⁵ Membership of this group consists of: Association of London Government, Government Office for London, Metropolitan Police Service, Greater London Authority, National Black Crown Procecution Association. ³⁶ Membership of this group consists of: Victim Support London, London Probation Service,

Housing Corporation, Crown Prosecution Service, Association of London Government

Source BVPI. Further information on all Best Value Performance Indicators is available from ODPM Local Government Performance site www.bvpi.gov.uk

The sub-group has begun a new project to determine what information on hate crime is collected by a range of civil organisations and how this information is used. A proforma to help determine the quantity and quality of this data have been designed and consultation on these proforma is currently being sought.

INFORMATION: CRIMINAL SIDE SUB-GROUP³⁸

This sub-group is concerned with the gathering of information in the criminal justice system, including the MPS, CPS and Criminal Courts. The sub-group have developed a questionnaire for use by Crown Court Judges to gather information about the way in which they monitor and deal with racially motivated cases that come before them.

The Chair of the sub-group is conducting a review of local CPS branches in five of the eight boroughs with the highest levels of reported racial incidents. The review aims to evaluate whether systems are in place to accurately identify racist elements in crimes and to see if the CPS is dealing with such crimes appropriately.

Preliminary results have been mostly encouraging. However, the review has highlighted some areas of concern around the reduction of charges without reason and the accepting of non-aggravated offences without challenge. The final report will be available toward the end of 2005.

The sub-group is also conducting a review of MPS procedures within boroughs and will inform the sub-group, and the wider Forum, of the findings when the work is completed.

A reoccurring theme in this sub-group is a desire to record defendants' background and character, and improve communication between agencies to ensure that background information and knowledge of previous incidents are recorded and submitted with case files, rather than each case being investigated in isolation and important information being lost.

The notion of recording people's 'history' rather than just their criminal record is currently being discussed. An isolated incident may make a weak case in court, but evidence of a series of 'single' incidents could be used to support a course of conduct in respect of a harassment prosecution. Such records would be immensely useful in many fields and the sub-group will investigate this further.

CONFERENCE SUB-GROUP³⁹

This subgroup has been established to coordinate an international conference on race hate crime to be held at the end of 2005.

³⁸ Membership of this group consists of: Board of Deputies of British Jews, Central Criminal Court, CPS, MPS and Searchlight.

³⁹ Membership of this group consists of: Board of Deputies of British Jews, CPS, GOL, MPA, MPS and Nacro.

London-wide Race Hate Crime Forum protocol on responding to racist incidents

MINIMUM STANDARDS

All member organisations of the London-wide Race Hate Crime Forum will seek to adhere to the following minimum standards when investigating directly or ensuring that investigations are undertaken of race hate crime.

1. Recording and monitoring of race hate crime

Member organisations must ensure that they:

- record each and every incident;
- record incidents on a standard reporting form;
- obtain the victims signed consent to liaise with other departments;
- agree a lead officer and agency/organisation.;
- open and establish a case file the moment the first allegation is made;
- monitor the progress of the case every ten days;
- write to the client when the case is closed / or when no further action is intended and enclose a client satisfaction questionnaire; and
- pass on all recorded information regarding incidents/victims/perpetrators to all other relevant agencies.

2. Interviewing the victim

When interviewing victims it is essential that reporting officers:

- identify a suitable room ensuring privacy in order to maintain confidentiality;
- ensure language needs are met via interpreters (or interpreting services on the phone);
- ensure that victims are treated sensitively;
- agree an action plan, which may include additional security arrangements with the victim following the first complainant; and
- confirm the action plan in writing to the victim at the earliest opportunity, which should be no more than 3 working days.

3. Person responsible for taking statement

It is imperative that a detailed statement is taken from the victim. All statements must include the following details:

- name / age / ethnic origin of the victim;
- address / tenure / how long the victim has lived in the property;

- date and time when each incident occurred starting with the most recent one. (If the victim cannot recall the exact time take an approximation;
- each incident should be recorded in detail including (where possible) the exact words used by the perpetrator;
- other relevant factors including the impact on the victim / family (e.g. their fears, effects on their health, their children's schooling etc);
- the names and addresses of others present at the incident/s, including children;
- details of the perpetrator(s) if known i.e. name and address; and
- whether or not the police have been informed. If they have, the details must be obtained of the police station and the officer handling the case as well as the date it was reported.

4. Information on perpetrators of racist crime

- perpetrators of racist crime must be identified and tracked through the Criminal Justice System and into support groups that challenge racist attitudes and behaviours operating within the wider community;
- plea-bargaining on all racially motivated crime must be ended;
- victims' perception of racism is clearly shown on police officers/CPS reports/papers;
- probation Services to have a copy of victims' report when dealing with perpetrators of racially motivated crime;
- information pertaining to racist perpetrators must be passed between criminal justice agencies;
- prison and Probation Services to work towards correctional programmes for racist perpetrators;
- racist perpetrators progress on correctional programmes to be monitored and evaluated; and
- flow of information to continue, after criminal justice system involvement, to support groups to help perpetrator integrate with community and avoid relapses in future behaviour.

5. Preserving evidence

- the reporting officer should photograph evidence such as injuries to the person, damage to property or racist graffiti;
- the reporting officer should take items of evidence into safe custody and facilities should exist for obtaining photographs where appropriate. This may require specialist training; and
- where photographs are taken they should be kept in an envelope together with the negatives and the envelope marked (*Date / where photo was taken / name of person taking and recording the information*).

6. Data Protection Principles

All Forum members are covered by the Data Protection Act 1988. The Data Protection Principles as outlined in Part 1, Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act 1988. Personal data shall be processed fairly and lawfully and, in particular, shall not be processed unless:

- at least one of the conditions in Schedule 2 is met; and
- in the case of sensitive personal data, at least one of the Schedule 3 conditions is also met;
- personal data shall be obtained only for one or more specified and lawful purposes, and shall not be further processed in any manner incompatible with that purpose or those purposes;
- the purpose of obtaining data on racial incidents is or should be to enable it to be dealt with according to the law, and/or to prevent future incidents;
- the data subject has the right under this principle not to have information about them disclosed to any person or organisation that is not mentioned to the Data Protection Commissioner as being entitled to receive it. Therefore, unless the victim/client gives consent to the disclosure of information about their complaint to the Forum members, it is unlawful to have access to such information;
- personal data shall be adequate and relevant and not excessive in relation to the purpose for which they are processed;
- personal data shall be accurate and where necessary kept up to date;
- personal data processed for any purpose or purposes shall only be kept as long as is necessary for that purpose or those purposes;
- personal data shall be processed in accordance with the rights of the individual under this Act;
- appropriate technical and organisational measures shall be taken against unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and against accidental loss or destruction of or damage to personal data; and
- personal data shall not be transferred to a country or territory outside the European Economic Area unless the country or territory ensures an adequate level of protection for the rights and freedoms of data subjects in relation to the processing of personal data.

7. Security of Data

in relation to security of data, the Forum recommends the following:

- any data on cases (either victim or perpetrator details) should be secured by partners receiving or holding the information. The information should be kept in a lockable drawer or cabinet and should only be accessible to authorised staff involved in the case;
- in the case of computerised data this should be guarded with passwords that are changed regularly; and
- any information relating to the forum should be clearly marked 'Private and Confidential'.

Appendix 5

London-wide Race Hate Crime Forum Budget

2004-05 Expenditure

subscription subscription	Race Action Net Conference 12 month membership - Race Action Net 12 month membership - Race Action Net (upgrade)	735.00 295.00 150.00
Subscription	Hate Crime Conference	240.75
Advertising & Marketing	Race Hate Crime leaflet	256.00
Staff costs	to March	54,091.54
	Total	55,768.29
	Promised contribution from GOL	-19,000.00
	Cost to MPA Notional budget 'overspend'	36,768.29 30,000.00 6,768.29

Questions boroughs were asked to address in their presentations

Boroughs were asked to provide the following information over the previous three years:

- 1. The details of the Borough Operational Command Unit⁴⁰ (BOCU) race/hate crime hotspots.
- 2. Number of ABCs or ASBOs obtained during the reporting year.
- 3. The number of injunctions applied for against council tenants alleging inter alia⁴¹ race hate nuisance. Successful/unsuccessful.
- 4. The number of possession actions taken against council tenants alleging racist conduct as part of the grounds.
- 5. The number of council tenants/residents provided with panic alarms CCTV etc to protect against racial harassment.
- 6. The number of council tenants that have requested a move alleging racial harassment as a reason for the move.
- 7. The number of council tenants moved due in whole or in part due to race hate.
- Any recorded time scales by which victims received responses from the 8. relevant agency involved.
- 9. Any community satisfaction surveys conducted over the three-year period.

⁴⁰ A Borough Operational Command Unit (BOCU) is the unit responsible for basic street-level policing of London. There are 33 BOCUs, which operate to the same boundaries as the 32 London borough councils apart from one BOCU which is dedicated to Heathrow ⁴¹ Latin: "among other things", "for example" or "including". Legal drafters would use it to

precede a list of examples or samples covered by a more general descriptive statement.

London-wide Race Hate Crime Forum member organisation contact details

Association of London Government

59½ Southwark Street London SE1 0AL Tel: 020 7934 9999 Emal: <u>info@alg.gov.uk</u>

Black Londoners Forum

18a Victoria Park Square Bethnal Green London E2 9PB Tel: 020 8709 9781 Fax: 020 8983 6830 Email: info@blacklondon.org.uk

Board of British Jews

The Board of Deputies, 6 Bloomsbury Square, London, WC1A 2LP Tel: 020 7543 5400 Fax: 020 7543 0010 Email: <u>info@bod.org.uk</u>

Central Criminal Court

Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey) CITY OF LONDON EC4M 7EH Tel: 020 7248 3277

Circle 33 Head Office

1-7 Corsica Street London N5 1JG Tel: 020 7288 4000 Fax: 020 7288 4001 Minicom: 020 7288 4007 Email: <u>repairs@circle33.org</u>

Commission for Racial Equality

St Dunstan's House 201-211 Borough High Street London, SE1 1GZ Tel: 020 7939 0000 Fax: 020 7939 0004 Email: info@cre.gov.uk

Crown Prosecution Service

CPS London 4th Floor 50 Ludgate Hill London EC4M 7EX Tel: 020 7796 8000 Fax: 020 7796 8567 Email: <u>CPS.London@cps.gsi.gov.uk</u>

Department for Education and Skills

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street London SW1P 3BT Tel: 0870 000 2288. Email: <u>info@dfes.gsi.gov.uk</u>

FAIR [UK] – Forum Against Islamophobia and Racism

Suite II, Grove House 320 Kensal Road London, W10 5BZ *Tel: 020 8969 7373* Fax: 020 8969 7358 Email: <u>fair@fairuk.org</u>

Government Office For London

Riverwalk House 157-161 Millbank London SW1P 4RR Typetalk: 18001 020 7217 3328 Tel: 020 7217 3328 Email: enquiries.gol@go-regions.gov.uk

Greater London Authority

City Hall The Queen's Walk London SE1 2AA Tel: 020 7983 4000 Email: <u>mayor@london.gov.uk</u>

Hindu Forum

Unit 3, 861 Coronation Road Park Royal London NW10 6PT Tel: 020 8965 0671 Fax: 020 8965 0672 Email: <u>info@hinduforum.org</u>

Housing Corporation

Waverley House 7–12 Noel Street London, W1F 8BA Tel: 0845 230 7000 Email: <u>enquiries@housingcorp.gsx.gov.uk</u>

London Prison Service

The Secretariat HM Prison Service Headquarters Cleland House Page Street London, SW1P 4LN Email: prisons.dg@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

London Probation

London Probation Area 71/73 Great Peter Street London, SW1P 2BN Tel: 020 7222 5656 *Feedback form available at www.london-probation.org.uk*

Metropolitan Police Authority

10 Dean Farrar Street London SW1H 0NY Tel: 020 7202 0202 Fax: 020 7202 0200 Minicom: 020 7202 0173 Email: <u>enquiries@mpa.gov.uk</u>

Metropolitan Police Service

New Scotland Yard Broadway London SW1H 0BG Tel: 020 7230 1212 Email: <u>new.scotland.yard@met.police.uk</u>

NACRO

169 Clapham Road London SW9 0PU Tel: 020 7582 6500 Fax: 020 7735 4666 Email: <u>helpline@nacro.org.uk</u>

Race On The Agenda

Suite 101, Cremer Business Centre, 37 Cremer Street, Shoreditch, London E2 8HD Tel: 020 7729 1310 Fax: 020 7739 6712

rota@rota.org.uk

Searchlight Searchlight Magazine PO Box 1576 Ilford IG5 0NG Tel: 020 7681 8660 Fax: 020 7681 8650 Email: editors@searchlightmagazine.com

The Monitoring Group

14 Featherstone Road Southall Middlesex, UB2 5AA Email: <u>admin@monitoring-group.co.uk</u>

Victim Support London

Waterbridge House 32-36 Loman Street London SE1 0EH Tel: 020 7928 0498 Fax: 020 7928 0490 Email: info@vslondon.org

Refugee Council

Refugee Council Head Office 240-250 Ferndale Road London SW9 8BB Tel 020 7346 6700 Fax 020 7346 6778 Email: info@refugeecouncil.org.uk

Priority council contact details

Barnet Council

Hendon Town Hall The Burroughs Hendon, NW4 4BG Tel: 020 8359 2000 Email: <u>first.contact@barnet.gov.uk</u> BT TextDirect: 18001 020 8359 2040 www.barnet.gov.uk

Croydon Council

Taberner House Park Lane Croydon CR9 3JS Tel: 020 8686 4433 Fax: 020 8760 0871 Email: <u>contact.thecouncil@croydon.gov.uk</u> Minicom: 020 8760 5797 Typetalk: 0800 515152 www.croydon.gov.uk

Greenwich Council

London Borough of Greenwich Town Hall Wellington Street Woolwich London SE18 6PW Tel: 020 8854 8888 Feedback form available at www.greenwich.gov.uk

Hounslow Council

Civic Centre, Lampton Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 4DN Tel: 020 8583 2000 Email: information@hounslow.gov.uk www.hounslow.gov.uk

Newham Council

Newham Town Hall Barking Road East Ham London E6 2RP Tel: 020 8430 2000 Fax: 020 8430 2522 Feedback form available at www.newham.gov.uk

Southwark Council

Town Hall Peckham Road London SE5 8UB Tel: 020 7525 5000 Textphone/Minicom: 020 7525 3559 *Feedback form available at* www.southwark.gov.uk

Tower Hamlets Council

Town Hall, Mulberry Place 5 Clove Crescent London E14 2BG Tel: 020 7364 5000 *Feedback form available at* www.towerhamlets.gov.uk

Westminster Council

P.O. Box 240 Westminster City Hall 64Victoria Street London SW1E 6QP Tel: 020 7641 6000 Fax: 020 7641 3102 Minicom: 020 7641 8000 Feedback form available at www.westminster.gov.uk

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Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, The

Search for Tolerance, The: Challenging and changing racist attitudes and behaviour among young people. Lemos and Crane, 2005

Show Racism the Red Card <u>www.srtrc.org</u>

Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report, The. Sir William McPherson of Cluny, February 1999

Tackling Racial Harassment in Bermondsey, Rotherhithe, and the London Borough of Southwark. Southwark United Group Against Racism, April 2002

Understanding and Preventing Youth Crime: a review. David Farrington, Institute of Criminology, Social Policy Research 93 - April 1996

Victim Support, reported in BBC New UK Edition, 12 October 2004

We can't all be white!" Racist victimisation in the UK. Kusminder Chahal (Federation of Black Housing Organisations) and Louis Julienne, 1999.

Without prejudice? Exploring ethnic differences in London. Greater London Authority, 2000.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS