

Public Meeting
Institutional Racism in Action: The Criminalisation of Black Women
#KingsCross3

PANELLISTS

1. Andrea Simon

Andrea has worked in the ending violence against women and girls sector since 2017. Prior to this, her work included policy and campaigns on tackling child trafficking and exploitation, and being a senior researcher to Members of Parliament. She was appointed EAW's Director in 2021, to lead the organisation's influential work improving responses to women and girls at risk of and experiencing abuse. EAW is a UK-wide coalition of more than 160 women's organisations, academics and activists working to end all forms of VAWG. Andrea is also a member of the London Policing Board and Co-Chair of the London VAWG Board at the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime.

2. Suresh Grover

Suresh is the founder and national coordinator of the community-based anti-racist organisation The Monitoring Group (TMG). Over four decades, he has coordinated scores of high-profile campaigns in the UK and abroad, including around Stephen Lawrence, Zahid Mubarek and Victoria Climbié - cases in which state failures led to Public Judicial Inquiries and the acknowledgment that institutional racism was the core reason for the litany of failures. Both Suresh and TMG are Core Participants in the current Undercover Police Inquiry to examine unlawful police spying of protest and campaigning groups.

3. Marai Larasi

Marai is a feminist advocate, community organiser and consultant who has worked in social justice for three decades. Much of her work has focused on ending violence against Black/Global Majority women and girls. She currently works across a range of contexts, providing strategic, policy, practice and training support around decoloniality, intersectionality, racial justice and ending violence against women and girls among other areas. She is a member of Project Tallawah, an emerging Black feminist collective, and serves as steering group member, trustee and adviser in several community organisations and non-profits.

4. Daniel Kebede

Daniel is a former primary teacher and rep in North Tyneside. He was an NEU rep and officer from 2013, undertaking casework/negotiation. He served on the NEU National Executive Committee and was elected Senior Vice President of the National Education Union in 2020. He became National President of the National Education Union in September 2021 and represented the Union on various platforms in the UK and abroad.

He was elected NEU General Secretary in 2023. In 2017, Daniel was awarded the national Blair Peach Award for outstanding contribution to anti-racist work.

5. Sukhdev Reel

Sukhdev is the founder of the Justice for Ricky Reel campaign. In the aftermath of the tragic loss of her 20-year-old son Ricky's life in a racially motivated attack in October 1997, in response to which she received little support from the police, Sukhdev began her crusade to expose the institutional racism that had prevented the pursuit of justice in her son's case. Through her campaigns, Sukhdev has changed several police policies and procedures, and is currently a Core Participant in the Inquiry into undercover police surveillance. In 2022, Sukhdev's book about her son 'Ricky Reel: Silence is Not an Option' was published.

6. Dr Shola Mos Shogbamimu

Shola is a political and women's rights activist. She is also a New York Attorney and Solicitor of England and Wales with broad expertise in the financial services industry. She founded the Women in Leadership publication as a platform to drive positive change on topical issues that impact women globally through inspiring personal leadership journeys, and established She@LawTalks to promote women and BAME leadership in the legal profession through universities and secondary schools. In 2021, her book titled 'This Is Why I Resist' was published.

7. Rahila Gupta (Chair)

Rahila is a freelance journalist, author and activist. She is Chair of Southall Black Sisters, a group which has campaigned for and supported Black, minoritised and migrant women escaping violence, and Chair of The Nihal Armstrong Trust which provides grants to children with cerebral palsy for cutting edge equipment and services. She has edited and contributed to Turning the Page (2019), an anthology of writings by the Southall Black Sisters support group. She is a Royal Literary Fund writing fellow.