

TEACHERS' NOTES

CURRICULUM LINKS:

KS3: 1.1b, 1.1c, 1.2a, 1.2b, 2.1b, 2.2a, 2.2b, 2.3a, 3a,.3b, 3d, 3i, 4g, 4i, 4j

KS4: 1.1b, 1.1c, 1.2a, 1.2b, 2.1a, 2.2b, 2.2c, 2.3a, 3a, 3f, 4g, 4j

DESCRIPTIONS:

Document 1

This is a filmed interview with Avtar Jouhl, an immigrant from the Punjab region in India, who came to Britain in 1958 and quickly became involved in the struggle for black workers' equal rights after taking a job in a foundry and discovering he was being paid less than his white co-workers. Jouhl helped found the Birmingham branch of the Indian Workers' Association (IWA) in 1958 and became its General Secretary in 1961. The IWA took a leading role in challenging racial discrimination both in the workplace and in wider society in the 1960s and 1970s. Jouhl helped arrange demonstrations, strikes, pickets and even a pub crawl of Birmingham pubs that operated a colour bar.

In the clip, Jouhl talks about the discriminatory conditions he and other Asian workers in the Midlands experienced in their places of work, and the social segregation imposed on them by local pubs and barbers' shops that refused to serve them.

In 2002, Avtar Jouhl was awarded an OBE for his services to the community.

Document 2

This is a photograph, taken in the early 1960s, of a man picketing a pub, The Dartmouth Arms, in South East London that refused to serve non-white people. The term 'colour bar' was used in Britain in this period to describe the widespread, and entirely legal, practice of refusing housing, jobs, facilities and services to black people. The British government made it illegal to refuse to serve black people in pubs and other 'places of public resort' in 1965, when it passed Britain's first Race Relations Act.

Document 3

This leaflet was produced by an organisation called the Campaign Against Racial Discrimination (CARD), which was founded in January 1965. An attempt to create a national civil rights movement in Britain, the impetus for CARD came out of a meeting between immigrant activists in Britain and African American civil rights leader Martin Luther King, who was visiting London in December 1964.

Both individuals and organisations could join CARD and its members included white Britons as well as immigrants from Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. Founded just as Britain's first Race Relations Act was being debated in Parliament, CARD's initial priority was to influence the shape of the Act. Before the Race Relations Act was passed in October 1965, it was legal to practise racial discrimination in Britain and so black people had very little recourse to the law if they were denied opportunities because of the colour of their skin.

STRUGGLES FOR JUSTICE: RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

This leaflet, produced after the passage of the 1965 Race Relations Act, was designed to show CARD members how to gather evidence of racial discrimination in the areas of housing and employment. This still needed to be done because, although the Act had outlawed such things as operating a colour bar in a pub and had made inciting racial hatred a criminal offence, it did not cover employment and housing, in which discrimination was still widely practised. CARD's campaign aim was to use the evidence its members gathered to put pressure on the government to enlarge the Race Relations Act to cover these crucial areas. In 1968, a second Race Relations Act was eventually passed that made it illegal to discriminate on grounds of race in employment, housing and public services.

GLOSSARY:

APARTHEID: A system of enforced 'separate development' of white and non-white people invented by the all-white government of South Africa. Under apartheid, non-white South Africans could only live in certain areas, do certain jobs and travel to certain places, could not vote and had to remain socially segregated at all times.

COLOUR BAR: A term commonly used in Britain to describe the widespread racial discrimination practised against black immigrants.

PICKET: A protest directly outside an establishment, for example a factory, held in order to persuade people not to enter the establishment.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION: Treating a member of, or an ethnic group, less favourably than you would a person of your own ethnicity.

RACIAL PREJUDICE: A negative attitude or behaviour towards a member of an ethnic group, based on ideas you have about that group, rather than a knowledge of the individual.

RACIAL SEGREGATION: The policy or practice of separating people of different ethnic groups, in schools, housing, and public or commercial facilities, usually as a form of discrimination.

FURTHER READING:

Homebeats: struggles for racial justice CDROM (Institute of Race Relations, 1997)

A. Sivanandan, *From Resistance to Rebellion: Asian and Afro-Caribbean struggles in Britain* (Institute of Race Relations, 1986)

Craig Donnellan (ed.), *The Racism Issue* (Independence Publishers, 2001)