

TEACHERS' NOTES

CURRICULUM LINKS:

KS3: 1.1b, 1.3b, 1.3d, 2.1b, 2.1c, 2.2a, 2.2b, 2.2c, 2.3a, 2.3b, 3b, 3e, 3g, 4a, 4c, 4e, 4g, 4i, 4j.

KS4: 1.1b, 1.1c, 1.3b, 1.3d, 2.1b, 2.1c, 2.1d, 2.2a, 2.2b, 2.2c, 2.3a, 2.3c, 3d, 3f, 3h, 3l, 4a, 4c, 4e, 4i, 4j.

DESCRIPTIONS:

Document 1

This article from the local newspaper in Ealing is based on an interview with Balraj Purewal, General Secretary of the Southall Youth Movement (SYM), in which he talks about the way SYM has met the needs of young people between its foundation in 1976 and 1980.

The SYM grew out of young Asian people's anger at the way the police handled the stabbing of an Indian teenager in Southall in June 1976, and what they saw as the older, more established members of their community's inaction. The members of the SYM felt that the older community leaders were not taking into account how racism, the lack of opportunities in work, trouble with the police and poor statutory provision were affecting young people. They also had their own ideas about how to protest effectively and wanted to engage in direct action. Following the lead of the SYM, Asian Youth Movements were formed in many other cities around Britain.

In the interview, Balraj explains the SYM's roots, the sort of problems encountered by young Asian people in Southall and the kind of work the organisation does to address those problems. Nine months before the interview, in April 1979, a huge demonstration in Southall took place, during which the whole community – young and old – mobilised to stop the National Front from meeting in the Town Hall. During clashes with the police at the demonstration a young man, Blair Peach, was killed, a local youth centre was destroyed and 342 people (mostly young people from Southall) were arrested.

Document 2

This 60-second clip from a documentary on Southall begins with footage of protesters, police and fascists clashing at the anti-fascist demonstration in Southall on 23 April 1979 mentioned at the end of Document 1. The second segment of the film is an interview with Balraj Purewal, General Secretary of the Southall Youth Movement, talking about the difference between the way the younger and older Asian residents of Southall wanted to protest against the fascists.

GLOSSARY:

STATUTORY: funded by local or central government.

MOBILISE: encouraging groups of people to take action on an issue.

NATIONAL FRONT: The National Front was founded in 1967 and is an extreme right-wing political group that believes that the preservation of the 'white race' and that all immigration should cease and all non-white people should be deported from Britain.

COMMISSION FOR RACIAL EQUALITY (CRE): the statutory agency established to combat racial discrimination. This has now been replaced by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC).

SELF-HELP ORGANISATION: An independent community organisation that works independently to improve the life of its members and the community it is based in.

FURTHER READING:

Southall: the birth of a black community (Institute of Race Relations, 1981)

www.movinghere.org.uk/stories/story458/story458.htm

Struggles for Black Community DVD (Institute of Race Relations, 2008)

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)