

# HOT TOPICS – APRIL 2023

## STEPHEN LAWRENCE DAY

Stephen Lawrence Day is celebrated every year on 22 April

**STEPHEN'S STORY:** "Stephen Lawrence was born and grew up in south-east London, where he lived with his parents Neville and Doreen, his brother Stuart and sister



Georgina. Like most young people, he juggled an active social life, school work, family commitments, and part-time employment. But he also had ambitions to use his talent for maths, art, and design to become an

architect, and wanted to have a positive impact on his community.

Tragically, his dream of becoming an architect was never realised. On **22 April 1993**, at the age of just 18, Stephen was murdered in an unprovoked racist attack. He didn't know his killers and his killers didn't know him.

After the initial police investigation, five suspects were arrested but not convicted. A public inquiry into the handling of Stephen's case was held in 1998, leading to the publication of the Macpherson Report, which has been called 'one of the most important moments in the modern history of criminal justice in Britain'" [Source: [Stephen's story : Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation](#)].

The Macpherson report made 70 recommendations, "many aimed at improving police attitudes to racism". The report can be accessed [here](#)

**Stephen Lawrence Day** "Stephen Lawrence Day was first celebrated in 2019 and takes place annually on 22 April, the date of Stephen's death. The Day is marked officially in the British calendar as a celebration of Stephen's life and legacy" [Source: [stephenlawrenceday.org](#)]

**The Stephen Lawrence Foundation.** "The Foundation was established amid unprecedented growing global awareness of racial inequality, exists to inspire a more equal, inclusive society, and to foster opportunities for marginalised young people in the UK. The Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation has been working tirelessly with stakeholders in education, business, and government to develop a framework that will become

the bedrock of the foundation's future work" [Source: [stephenlawrenceday.org](#)]

Talking further about the Foundation, Stephen's mother, Baroness Doreen Lawrence, OBE, said "We've structured our efforts around a virtuous circle of '3 Cs' – classrooms, Community and Careers. We want to inspire children to dream freely without barriers and to realise the absolute importance of education ... our 3 Cs model will benefit all of society. This will be done by ; raising aspirations, working within communities in new ways, creating real pathways to success"

[Source: [www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk](#)]

In 2008, the Stephen Lawrence Research Centre (SLRC) was opened at De Montfort University, Leicester. The SLRC "drives forward conversations that shape and influence how we think about race and social justice. The SLRC honours the enduring legacy of Stephen



Lawrence's life and his family's ongoing pursuit of justice by asking new questions, debating critical issues,

raising awareness, and advocating to bring about positive change". [Source: [SLRC](#)]



Discuss how the issues that you have read about (and any wider reading you have undertaken regarding the murder of Stephen Lawrence) may impact upon you, in your role as a police officer. You should familiarise yourself with the Commissioner's 'Turnaround Plan 2023-2025' and discuss with your PDC how can you support his 'Turnaround Priorities' to influence positive change. (The working draft can be accessed here [MPS Turnaround Plan 2023-2025 \(met.police.uk\)](#)). Think about the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010 and which aspects of our British Values [Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect & Tolerance, Individual Liberty] may be particularly relevant.

If you have been affected by anything that you have read in this Hot Topic, you may discuss your concerns with your PDC, HEI staff or your line manager in the first instance.