

REEL EVENT

JUSTICE IN KINGSTON

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On the 20th October, an event took place at Coombe Girls School in order to raise awareness of the racial justice initiative in Kingston.

Each year Kingston holds a memorial event in remembrance of Ricky Reel. This year we chose to look forward, asking questions like, what is racial justice and is there racial justice in Kingston?

The 'Reel Event' involved groups of pupils from schools all over the borough coming together and discussing ways of promoting racial justice. The afternoon was spent in workshops discussing not only ways in which racial injustice can be stopped, but also about how young people think racism affects them.

The Story of Ricky Reel

On the night of 14th October 1997 Lakhvinder 'Ricky' Reel and three of his friends were racially attacked in Kingston upon Thames. Ricky was separated from his friends and never returned home that night. The incident was immediately reported to the police, but his parents felt that no action was taken. Fearing for Ricky's safety the family then began their investigation and discovered vital video evidence and witnesses. Seven days later, Ricky's body was found in the Thames, less than half a mile away from the location of the incident. The police concluded that further investigation was not required.

The family instigated a complaint against the police because they believed that they had responded poorly. This was undertaken by the Surrey Constabulary and supervised by the Police Complaints Authority. The police maintained that Ricky died by slipping over

the edge after urinating in the river. They refused to investigate other theories. Consequently the circumstances of Ricky's death still remain a mystery.

In 1998 the investigation was taken over by the Race and Violent Crime Task force. Their report was completed in 1998 and in early 1999 it was released to the family and their solicitor on the condition that it is not disclosed to the public. In November 1999 the inquest into Ricky's death began at Fulham Town Hall. As the inquest progressed, the new investigating team announced that they did not believe that Ricky died in any other circumstances than an accident.

This was a shock to the family who had some faith that this team was at last looking seriously into Ricky's death. Despite the police arguing that the death was accidental, the jury returned an open verdict. The family continues to demand that the report be made public and will continue their campaign to discover how Ricky Reel died.

What is Racial Justice?

Racial Justice is all about achieving equality and fair judgement for all races in society. It doesn't matter where you're from, there should be justice for all racial groups and justice against racism. Those who attended the Reel Event learnt that people should be treated the same, regardless of their colour, race religion and culture. No one should be bullied or hurt due to where they come from. Racial justice is based on the **UND**ief that we

RACIAL INJUSTICE

Lyrics by Chris Smoove

Ok wait
Some of u thinking what's this
What I dealing with is Racial Injustice
If you don't know get to know about this
Gather round when I'm done to discuss this
And ask yourselves where u find it exists
In your town
Your country
Your estate
Your niche
How can it be helped
How can we get rid of it
The system ain't doing much about it so I gotta tell of it
It's relevant
So I'm leading by example in hope to influence
Being unjust to someone because of their race
Their colour
Their beliefs
Is just not right
No matter who you are no matter where you be
In Life we should all get treated equally

I hope you listening to everything I say
I need you to think about everything I say
A whole bunch of things ain't really right today
And racial injustice is one of them

This is the real
Lets think about what happened to Ricky Reel
If it happened to your family how would you feel
Tell you what, here's what I'll do
Lets think about this like this was you
You're out one night with three of your mates
For a drink, laugh and maybe score dates
Then you and your mates get racial abuse
Situation blows out of control like a fuse
Next think you know you're being attacked
So in fear you gotta run for your life
When reported Police don't believe the hype
A week later your body is found in the Thames
No investigation
No suspect names
A sad incident
Written off as an accident

I hope you listening to everything I say
I need you to think about everything I say
A whole bunch of things ain't really right today
And racial injustice is one of them

WHAT PEOPLE SAID

About Racial Justice...

Stop racism
Stand up for your rights
Stop racial injustice in schools
Start racial Justice
Always be safe

About Racial Justice in Schools...

There is racial injustice in schools
Teachers can be racist
It's bullying
It's not talked about

What people thought of the event itself...

It was good and taught them a lot
People shouldn't be treated differently
The event was inspiring
There should be a lot more events like it

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Racism and Racial Justice is an ongoing issue, some ideas on how to take this topic further involve...

Talking to more young people and getting more opinions

Finding out more about racial justice in schools

If you have any ideas on this topic or want to get involved let us know, you can email us at youthunlimited@rbk.kingston.gov.uk. You can also check out the [younglavin'](http://www.younglavin.org.uk) bulletin board at www.younglavin.org.uk to give us your opinions on racial justice.