



RUNNYMEDE TRUST PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Post Lawrence, a new approach is needed to tackle ethnic minority over-representation in the criminal justice system, think tank argues

A renewed focus on tackling ethnic minority poverty and inequality is needed to reduce racial disproportionalities in the criminal justice system, a leading race equality charity has argued.

Following the Stephen Lawrence verdict, and the discovery this weekend that black people are now 30 times more likely to be stopped by the police than white people (Guardian, 14 January), a new report by the Runnymede Trust has argued that now is the time for a new approach to tackle race inequalities in the criminal justice system.

Whilst tackling institutional and individual racism should still be a priority, the report argues, it is crucial that wider inequalities in employment, pay, education and housing are tackled in order to reduce the numbers of black and minority ethnic people (BME) in the criminal justice system.

In particular, the report highlights the shocking statistic that there are three young African Caribbean men in prison for every one at a Russell Group university.

Due to the impact deprivation and inequality has on participation in criminal activity, the report argues, over-representation in the criminal justice system will only be defeated once these issues are tackled.

The report, entitled "Criminal Justice v. Racial Justice", features contributions from Danny Dorling, Manny Barot, Theo Gavrielides, Mary Hickman, Simon Holdaway, Kelly Jussab, Karim Murji and Colin Webster and was edited by Kjartan Sveinsson.

Commenting on the report, Runnymede director Rob Berkeley said: "The convictions in the Lawrence case have highlighted significant racial inequalities in our society and institutions. A fitting legacy would be a renewed effort from government, civil society and citizens to address these inequalities. The solutions to racial injustice have to include alleviating poverty and disadvantage as well as tackling institutional racism and personal prejudices"

Notes to editors

1. For press inquiries call Vicki Butler on 020 7377 9222 or email vicki@runnymedetrust.org

2. The full report is available here:

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/CriminalJusticeVRacialJustice-2012.pdf>

3. The Guardian article of 14 January which highlighted that black people are now 30 times more likely to be stopped by the police than white people is available here: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2012/jan/14/stop-search-racial-profiling-police?newsfeed=true>

3. The Runnymede Trust is a social policy research organisation focused on race equality and race relations. We work by:

- Identifying barriers to race equality and good race relations
- Enabling effective action for social change
- Influencing policy at all levels through providing thought leadership and robust evidence

Further information is available on the Runnymede website:

www.runnymedetrust.org