



EMBARGOED UNTIL: 12:00 Monday 16th February 2009

Progress slow on tackling police institutional racism

The Runnymede Trustⁱ publishes a new report today charting the progress of key agencies in meeting the recommendations of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry. The report argues that while there have been developments in some areas of the criminal justice system, ***Black and minority ethnic communities continue to experience disadvantage both within and at the hands of the police service.***

The report *The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry 10 Years On: An Analysis of the Literature*ⁱⁱ highlights the continued difficulties faced by the police service as it struggles to retain Black and minority ethnic officers and support their career progression. Controversially, it challenges the recommendation of the Lawrence Inquiry that stop and search should remain unchangedⁱⁱⁱ calling instead for an independent review of the use of stop and search due to the continued over-representation of Black people in stop and search figures; an average of only 12% of whom are arrested.

Speaking on the day of the report's publication, Runnymede Trust Director, Dr Rob Berkeley, urged:

"It is time for the police service to look at its own practice and policies to understand how it can continue to justify the disproportionate rates of Black people being stop and searched and how it manages so successfully, year on year, to exclude Black officers from its ranks. It's only with this type of brutal self-interrogation that we will begin to see a more just police service for all."

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. Rob Berkeley, Director of Runnymede, is available for interviews and comment. To arrange an interview, please contact Rob Berkeley on 020 7377 9222 during office hours, or 07764 935 770 outside of office hours.
2. Copies of the report summary are currently available from Runnymede on 020 7377 9222. The full report will be published online on Tuesday 24th February 2009.
3. The report has been funded by the Leigh Trust and the Uniting Britain Trust.

ⁱ The Runnymede Trust is an independent policy research organisation focusing on equality and justice through the promotion of a successful multi-ethnic society. Founded as a Charitable Education Trust, Runnymede has a long track record in policy research, working in collaboration with eminent thinkers and policymakers in the public, private and voluntary sectors. Since 1968, the date of Runnymede's foundation, we have worked to establish and maintain a positive image of what it means to live affirmatively within a society that is both multi-ethnic and culturally diverse. Runnymede continues to speak with a thoughtful and independent public voice on these issues today. For further information visit www.runnymedetrust.org

ⁱⁱ Rollock, N. (2009) *The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry 10 Years On: An Analysis of the Literature*. London: Runnymede Trust

ⁱⁱⁱ In 1999, Black people were 6 times more likely than white people to be stopped and searched. Today that figure stands at 7 times.