

STOPWATCH  
PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## JESSE JACKSON TO LAUNCH NEW STOP AND SEARCH ACTION GROUP

Following this week's Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) finding that Black and Asian people are disproportionately stopped and searched in the UK, Reverend Jesse Jackson will next week launch a new action group to help tackle the issue.

The group – named “StopWatch” – will be made up of activists, academics and campaigners and aims to cut ethnic disproportionality in stop and search by half over the next five years, as well as to promote best practice in policing. It also intends to work with the government to ensure that its recently announced policing reforms are fair and inclusive.

Reverend Jackson will launch the group on Monday 18 October at King's College London between 15.30 and 17.00, where he will also call for an end to “racial profiling” on both sides of the Atlantic.

As stated in its Triennial Review published on Monday, the EHRC has found that despite making up between 2-3% of the population, 15% of those stopped and searched by the police are black. In addition Asian people are stopped and searched at twice the rate of white people (Ministry of Justice 2009). Given this disproportionality, stop and search tactics continue to drive a wedge between communities and the police, leading to mistrust of the police in some parts of society.

Commenting, Rob Berkeley, Director of the Runnymede Trust, a member organisation of StopWatch, said: “Given the government's current review into policing in the UK, it is crucial that any reforms announced are fair and inclusive – particularly in relation to stop and search. StopWatch intends to act as a check on government as it carries out these reforms, as well as address the stark ethnic disproportionalities in stop and search”.

Ben Bowling, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at King's College London – also a member of StopWatch – said, “The abuse of stop and search has driven a wedge between police and communities. It is often unfair and ineffective and can be counter-productive. StopWatch aims to monitor the use of stop and search powers and focus research and public policy on developing good policing. Together we can find fairer and more inclusive ways of creating a safer society”.

### **Notes to Editors**

1. The event will take place in the Great Hall, King's College London on 18 October between 15.30 and 17.00. To reserve a space please contact [kam@runnymedetrust.org](mailto:kam@runnymedetrust.org).
2. Reverend Jesse Jackson will be available for interview at the end of the event. Please contact Karen Chouhan on 07903 581968 or [kchouhan09@googlemail.com](mailto:kchouhan09@googlemail.com) to arrange interviews.
3. For all other press inquiries please contact Ben Bowling on 07944 803 042 or [ben.bowling@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:ben.bowling@kcl.ac.uk).
4. StopWatch is made up of the following organisations:
  - Equanomics
  - Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FOSIS)
  - Mannheim Centre for Criminology, London School of Economics
  - Muslim Safety Forum
  - NACRO
  - Not Another Drop
  - Open Society Justice Initiative
  - Release
  - Runnymede Trust
  - School of Law, Kings College London
  - Second Wave
  - Turning Point
5. StopWatch's goals are as follows:
  - Cut ethnic disproportionality in stop and search by half over the next five years and give forces guidance and support on how to achieve this.
  - Review the use and regulation of stop and search powers that do not require reasonable suspicion such as section 60, schedule 7 and the Road Traffic Act.
  - Ensure that procedures are in place for effective monitoring and external accountability of stop and search.
  - Create a parliamentary champion/independent reviewer for fair stop and search use, and equality in policing.
  - Promote research on stop and search and alternatives to the use of the power.
6. The Equality and Human Rights Commission's triennial review – How Fair is Britain? – was published on Monday and is available here: [http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded\\_files/triennial\\_review/how\\_fair\\_is\\_britain\\_-\\_complete\\_report.pdf](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/triennial_review/how_fair_is_britain_-_complete_report.pdf)