



Home Sec Priti Patel
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

21st August 2019

The Coalition of Race Equality Organisations (CORE) comprises of 15 charity and voluntary organisations working in the sector. This letter expresses our view and that of our supporters and affiliates.

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities want the police to catch criminals, particularly violent ones who are a menace to the very communities in which we live. But equally, communities demand that there is 'policing by consent' and that policing policy is driven by consultation, collaboration, accountability and above all trust.

Therefore, we the undersigned wish to express our grave concerns concerning the recent announcements by Home Secretary Priti Patel on the 3rd and 11th August 2019, that have indicated a zero tolerance to cannabis possession, and removed the enhanced Section 60 authorisation conditions introduced by The Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme, as part of the government purported efforts to combat violent crime.

Whilst the use of Section 60 powers can be a useful policing tool when used sparingly, as part of intelligence-led operations, it is largely ineffective for taking weapons off the street. The Home Office in 2016 published an evaluation of the impact of Operation Blunt 2, a Metropolitan Police stop and search initiative, and the findings were stark. The large increase in Section 60 searches that took place in 2008/09, coinciding with the first year of Blunt 2, resulted in the arrest rate halving from 4% to 2%.

More recently, in 2017, College of Policing research found stop and search had only a limited deterrent effect on crime. Despite the efficacy gap in evidence, the heavy-handed use of Section 60 stop and search continues to be advocated and worse still implemented. This cannot be right or just, especially as the data for the period April 2017 to March 2018 revealed that only 2% of stop and searches carried out under Section 60 led to an arrest for an offensive weapon. In comparison, 14% of stop and searches carried out under Section 1 PACE led to an arrest for an offensive weapon.

With a change of administration there was/is an opportunity to re-engage with communities and other interested agencies such as the Race Disparity Unit. However, the first chance has been missed and disappointingly the new Home Secretary has decided to wilfully disregard the pilot that would help in regards to learning what does and doesn't work.

Rather than adopt an approach that embraces effective evidence-based policy, support the principle of policing by consent and provide communities reassurance, the Prime Minister and Home Secretary worryingly seem to be going in another direction. It is notable that according to the Office of National Statistics, in the time of the announced pilot of increased Section 60 stop and search, March to June 2019, stop and search increased from 19% - 22% but so too did knife crime and the number of homicides.

Race on the Agenda, Resource for London, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA
t: +44 (0) 20 7697 4093 e: rota@rota.org.uk web: www.rota.org.uk
Registered Charity: 1064975 Company Limited by Guarantee: 3425664

Voice4Change England, Kosmos Centre, 2c Falklands Road, Kentish Town, London NW5 2PT
t: +44 (0) 7485 4789 e: info@voice4change-england.co.uk web: voice4change-england.co.uk
Registered charity in England no: 1140624 and company Limited by Guarantee: 7322971



Home Secretary Patel's claims that 'stop and search' tactics are the foremost way to curtail serious youth violence are erroneous at best and disingenuous at worst. The Office of National Statistics recorded in 2016/17 that approximately two thirds of all stop and searches were targeted at drugs rather than possession of weapons. A recent report published by StopWatch, [The Colour of Injustice](#), reveals the extent to which ethnic disproportionality in relation to drugs and law enforcement is heavily concentrated on black and minority ethnic groups. It is concerning that two decades after the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry and Sir Macpherson's report, Black people are now nine times more likely to be stopped and searched for drugs than their White peers.

Policing by consent is a fundamental principle of modern-day policing. The police cannot hope to have a healthy relationship with any community that it operates within, without having their confidence and respect. Unfortunately, the disproportionate misuse and abuse of stop and search powers by the police has poisoned the well of good police-community relations with Black Ethnic Minority communities and led to the recording of some of the lowest levels of trust and confidence in police forces. At the recent Parliamentary Home Affairs Select Committee the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Cressida Dick, told MP's that recorded levels of "Black, Asian and ethnic minorities, trust and confidence in policing fell by 13%" over [the last] 12 months. There seems not to be any clear strategy for addressing the trust and confidence deficit.

Former senior police officers, academics and community leaders from black and ethnic minorities have offered to work with past and present Governments to deal with serious violent crime, and devise effective policing strategies. Currently, there appears to be zero dialogue with the Home Office, or No.10 on how police powers of stop and search should be used effectively and in accordance with the law. The latest announcements by the Home Secretary represent regressive and counterproductive policing policy and cheap political point scoring. The leadership demonstrated by [West Midlands Police is to be lauded](#); the police force which was part of the initial pilot has declined to lower the level of authorisation required from senior officer to an inspector.

In the absence of a completed and independently evaluated pilot, we urge the Home Secretary to halt the roll out of this Section 60 initiative and begin meaningful engagement with BME communities and NGO's. In keeping with the Peelian principles of policing, it is paramount that policy and practice is founded on meaningful engagement with communities and stakeholders. One only need look back at our country's recent history to understand the damage that is caused when we neglect to involve and empower communities in the decision making process. Deliberately or not, the Section 60 proposals are too often discriminatory, inflammatory, ineffectual in reducing serious violent crime, and ultimately alienating to a generation of young children and adults of Black, Asian and Ethnic minority heritage.

We are unequivocal in our position that the government's reliance on Section 60 stop and searches, is neither a short nor long term solution to the social problems underlying serious violence in the UK. The main police power under Section 1 PACE, ensures the police record the reason for a stop, helps build trust, and keeps communities healthy and safe.

It is paramount that elected officials, policymakers and police forces begin actively listening to and involving those that are far too often ignored and overlooked in policy formation.

We look forward to an urgent meeting sooner rather than later.

Race on the Agenda, Resource for London, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA
t: +44 (0) 20 7697 4093 e: rota@rota.org.uk web: www.rota.org.uk
Registered Charity: 1064975 Company Limited by Guarantee: 3425664

Voice4Change England, Kosmos Centre, 2c Falklands Road, Kentish Town, London NW5 2PT
t: +44 (0) 7485 4789 e: info@voice4change-england.co.uk web: voice4change-england.co.uk
Registered charity in England no: 1140624 and company Limited by Guarantee: 7322971



CORE Members:

John Delahunty	BME National
Asif Afridi	BRAP
Tebussum Rashid	Black Training Enterprise Group (BTEG)
Charles Kwaku-Odoi	Caribbean and African Health Network (CAHN)
Kahiye Alim	Council of Somali Organisations
Andrew Brown	Croydon BME Forum
David Weaver	DWC
Zoe Matthews	Friends, Families and Travellers
Edie Friedman	Jewish Council for Race Equality
Nadeem Murtuja	Just Yorkshire
Fizza Qureshi	Migrants' Rights Network
John Mayford	Olmec
Simon Woolley	Operation Black Vote
Tracey Bignall	Race Equality Foundation
Cym D'Souza	Race Equality Matters
Andy Gregg	Race on the Agenda
Omar Khan	Runnymede Trust
Kirit Mistry	South Asian Health Action
Alan Anstead	UK Race and Europe Network
Kunle Olulode	Voice4Change England
Sado Jirde	Black South West Network

Supporters:

Iqbal Wahhab OBE	Chair - EQUAL
Katrina Ffrench	Chief Executive - StopWatch
Lee Jasper	Former Deputy Mayor and Policing Director for London
Viv Ahmun	Blaksox
Yvonne MacNamara	Chief Executive - Traveller Movement
Sanjiv Lingayah	Independent Consultant

Race on the Agenda, Resource for London, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA

t: +44 (0) 20 7697 4093 e: rota@rota.org.uk web: www.rota.org.uk

Registered Charity: 1064975 Company Limited by Guarantee: 3425664

Voice4Change England, Kosmos Centre, 2c Falklands Road, Kentish Town, London NW5 2PT

t: +44 (0) 7485 4789 e: info@voice4change-england.co.uk web: voice4change-england.co.uk

Registered charity in England no: 1140624 and company limited by Guarantee: 7322971