



# **Black and Asian Police Association Greater Manchester**

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*“Water Under Bridges”*



Aung San Suu Kyi



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A number of years ago I saw a film about Aung San Suu Kyi; The film was called The Lady (2011), I had never heard of Suu Kyi before. To be honest I had come across the film on catch up TV, it was a slow day so I watched the film without knowing the plot or without any expectations. It was totally absorbing and utterly brilliant.

In 1947 Aung San Suu Kyi 's father Aung San lead Burma to independence. Burma is now known as Myanmar. On 19 July 1947, Suu Kyi's father was assassinated by a group of armed men in uniform in the family home. Suu Kyi was only two years old when these events unfolded.

Suu Kyi was later educated in India and England, where she married, returning to Burma in 1988 due to her mother's poor health. When visiting her mother in the hospital, Suu Kyi met many people who were wounded during the Tatmadaw's crackdown in the 8888 Uprising. Suu Kyi realised that political change was needed in Burma and was drawn into the movement to promote reform.

Suu Kyi accepted the role of icon in support of self-determination by the Burmese people and devoted herself to activities in support of goals of greater political freedoms. Suu Kyi founded a political party and clearly won the 1990 elections. However, the Burmese military refuse to accept the result of the election and moved to bring Suu Kyi under control. Suu Kyi and her family became separated when her husband and children were banned from Burma and she was put under a house arrest for more than a decade.

This story sounds familiar and so it should, Nelson Mandela went from Prisoner to President in South Africa, Suu Kyi's devotion and commitment to her people and her beliefs withstood many tests over many years at great personal cost to her.

Suu Kyi has won numerous awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize, Sakharov Prize from the European Parliament, United States Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Jawaharlal Nehru Award from India and Rafto Human Rights Prize.

I have been fortunate enough to have visited Suu Kyi's childhood family home in Yangon (Formerly known as Rangoon). The house sits on a suburban road and is now a visitor centre. Cameras or recording devices are not allowed within the grounds that are incredibly peaceful. The pond or ornamental lake where one of Suu Kyi's brothers drowned when he was eight lays empty and in a poor state of repair something that cannot be said about the house that looks and feels as though it is still the 1950's. The room in which Suu Kyi's father was assassinated feels triumphant rather than like a mausoleum, a place where freedom and self-determination triumphed over oppression and misery.



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# By Any Means Necessary

By Charles Crichlow



I had the honour recently of hosting a public debate commemorating the 50 years since Malcolm X's assassination. It is important that these historical events be remembered and celebrated as lessons and road maps, even, for how we ought to navigate our way through life within a system that is institutionally racist and deceptive. 'Our shining prince' – as Malcolm X was described by the famous actor Ossie Davis at his funeral in 1965 – taught that if we are to reap the fruits of freedom, justice and equality, we must do so 'by any means necessary', which became the theme of the commemoration event.

It was therefore interesting that when a teenage girl in the audience stood up and spoke powerfully about her experience of racism in a local academy high school and described the intimidating presence of white policemen patrolling the school, she articulated clearly the need for a good education unhindered by prejudice. While a number in the audience did not immediately see the relevance of her story to the theme of the event, it was clear to me that she had in fact hit the nail bang on the head by identifying the school environment as a critical aspect of the struggle for the very freedom, justice and equality Malcolm X spoke of so often. In fact he described the school system as 'the killing fields' because of its hand in the miseducation of black people. I came away from this event reminded that whilst we focus much needed attention on the Police and Criminal Justice System, we must remember to listen to our children's experiences to make certain that while in school they are being educated and not policed.



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# GMP Settle Police Inspector's Claim For Race Discrimination Quietly Out of Court.

By Paul Bailey

GMP has settled Police Inspector Scott Winters' claim for racial discrimination out of court. Agreements such as these are commonly known 'Compromise Agreements.' It is my belief that the mere fact that GMP has chosen to settle Inspector Winters' claim, at this late stage, reflects poorly on the decision makers within GMP and vindicates Inspector Winters and his decision to take GMP to tribunal in the first place.



Once again GMP has chosen to defend a case at great cost to the public purse only capitulate when presented with thorough and well thought through evidence of racial discrimination. One cannot underestimate the great personal impact that the court process has on those like Inspector Winters who are willing to fight for equality within the police service. Inspector Winters has both my support and admiration for seeing the process through to a conclusion.

I witnessed the first part of Inspector Winters' hearing and therefore witnessed the tactics employed by GMP in cases such as this one. I have never seen such a vitriolic attack on a person's integrity, let alone a police Inspector with 25 years of service. I have no problem with witnesses being asked hard questions and have been known to ask hard questions myself but what I saw was Inspector Winters being portrayed as an aggressive, violent, arrogant and argumentative bully a 'Bête Noire' seems the appropriate term. I believe this to be totally unacceptable.

What was also unacceptable, in my view, was GMP's failure to disclose documents that were not only relevant to the case but supported Inspector Winters. In addition GMP literally produced 'policy' out of thin air during the hearing.

So what now, what does GMP do with the complaint of racial discrimination now that the court will not be making a ruling? What happens to those accused of racist behaviour? And what happens to those who allowed this officer to be dragged through the mill? Where is the so called Ethics Committee? And where is the Police and Crime Commissioner?

Inspector Winters is a greatly valued BAPA member; his influence is greatly appreciated.

<http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/police-inspector-sues-gmp-over-8618463>



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