

POLICING

IN

HOPE KING



CHALLENGES
FROM YOUTH IN 2020:

THE ZINE

ACCOUNT

www.accounthackney.org

 @HackneyAccount

 @Hackney_Account

Account is a social action project led by young people and based in Hackney.

The group started in 2012 as the Young people's Stop and Search Monitoring Group at Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (CVS), tasked with scrutinising police activity in the borough.

Since 2019 the group has expanded its role to also include research, campaigns and outreach work in the community.

On top of its media and research work the group meets regularly with the local Basic Command Unit (BCU) to hold officers to account on issues including use of force, Stop and Search, racial disproportionality and taser usage.

The group also advocates for young people at Hackney Council and other local government bodies.



 #FairerHackney
hackney
CVS

DEMANDS

Our report was created to elevate those most frequently denied a voice in our society. The project was created to give power to those pushed aside by the system.

Our key demand is to give our communities safe spaces to build and heal from years of traumatic treatment.

We need better mental health support as well as better support to get accountability and justice for young people.

Most importantly we want to see our communities treated with dignity, respect and humanity.

Young people cannot be seen as second-class citizens anymore when it comes to policing.

They need to be at the table, with a role to play in making decisions that affect their lives.

This is crucial for the future of our democracy itself.



EMMANUEL ONAPA
CAMPAIGNS MANAGER

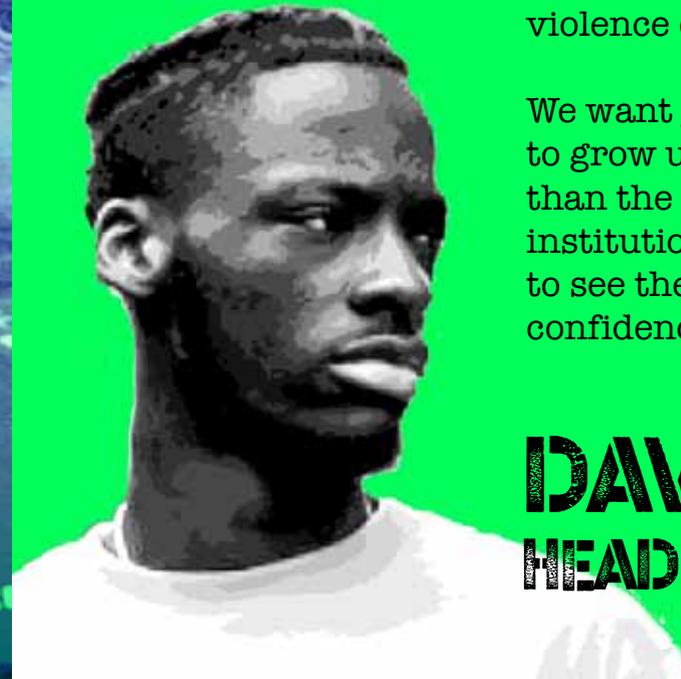


Q&A

Research is important to everything that we do at Account. People don't expect young people to be armed with their own evidence. Research gives us the ability to go out and seek a deeper meaning to the things that get presented to us. We don't have to accept the story presented to us in the media, by the government, or by other institutions.

Too many young people we work with grow up blaming themselves for the injustices they face. They internalise the negativity that is all around them and turn that violence on themselves.

We want young people to be able to grow up to be bigger and better than the stereotypes our institutions put on them. We want to see them stand tall, walk with confidence, lesser than no one.



DAVID SMITH
HEAD OF RESEARCH



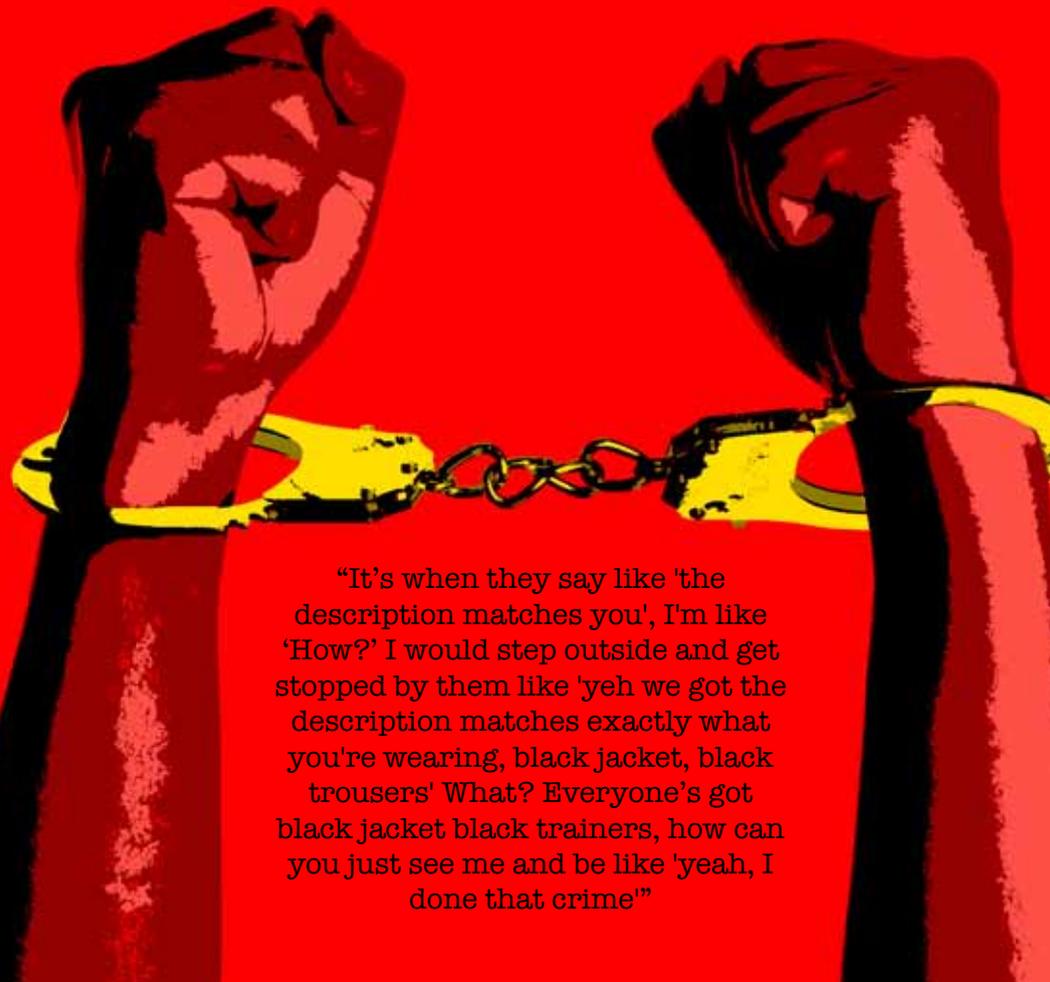
**RESEARCH
FINDINGS:
THE 3 CHALLENGES OF POLICING**

1. TRAUMA

2. TRUST

3. ACCOUNTABILITY

TRAUMA



“It’s when they say like ‘the description matches you’, I’m like ‘How?’ I would step outside and get stopped by them like ‘yeh we got the description matches exactly what you’re wearing, black jacket, black trousers’ What? Everyone’s got black jacket black trainers, how can you just see me and be like ‘yeah, I done that crime’”

KEY STATISTICS

IN HACKNEY FROM JULY 2019 TO AUGUST 2020



IF YOU ARE A YOUNG BLACK MALE YOU ARE 6 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE STOPPED AND SEARCHED THAN YOUR WHITE PEERS

IF YOU ARE BLACK YOU ARE 4 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO HAVE FORCE USED AGAINST YOU

KEY FINDINGS

1.

For many young people we spoke to, the use of handcuffs by police officers caused psychological distress.

2.

Many young people believe they are singled out for excessive police attention due to their skin colour.

3.

Uses of excessive force by police can have a serious long-term impact on the mental health of young people.



Toyin: I mean, I still reflect on it. Sometimes like rah that happened, and knowing the person I am, like really? Honestly, you're going to Stop and Search me? If only you knew what I was tryna do and you knew where my mindset is? And you're really trying to Stop and Search me?

HACKNEY AIN'T INNOCENT

BY YOLANDA LEAR

Hackney ain't innocent
There's blood on our streets from the hands of the police
Remember the name
Rashan Charles
He was killed in 2017
His family still weeps
But Coolie, "The officer was just doing his job"
Nah man, the brudda couldn't breathe
This one's close to home, really broke Hackney,
Still no justice, officer walked free,
There's a murderer out on the streets, and he's still patrolling Hackney,
How can we feel safe, who's gonna protect us?
My prayers go out to his family,
We must never forget his name
So, say his name, Rashan Charles.
Say his name Rashan Charles, RIP.
Maddest ting is, he ain't the first
In 2002 we was saying R.I.P Kwame
Another death in custody
And it's the same old story, he died of natural causes,
But when he asked for your help
Officers refused, they thought he was faking it
Though he was constantly collapsing, moving round in agony
He should have lived, he had a 90% chance
But they show you neglect, when your skin colour is dark,
Kwame R.I.P, my prayers are with your family
1994 that's the year of my birth
But right before Christmas, the feds left Hackney hurt,
That's another family crying, another brother dying,
An unlawful killing as he struggled for his life
Say his name Oluwashiji
Say his name Oluwashiji

In 1998, there was still no justice for his family
My prayers are with them, as the officers where let free
But hold on wait, ain't the police meant to serve and protect,
So what happened to Vandana
Is that a case of neglect?
In 1991 she seeked refuge in your station
Escaping from her boyfriend, who used her body as a target,
She pleaded for your protection, she didn't want him in the meeting,
But you let him in anyway
And he stabbed her to death,
She was only 21, she should've had a lot of life left,
I'm sorry officer, what is your job again
Because it can't be to serve and protect,
As we remember their names
Let's remember their families,
Because nothing makes sense when tryna comprehend these tragedies,
In 1983 Hackney said R.I.P
To a brother named Colin Roach,
Died from a gunshot, in the entrance of the police station
Coroner's Jury deemed it a suicide
Typical, I'm starting to think suicide means "We did it"
Because the amount of suicides in their station
I swear it deserves an investigation,
Colin Roach was 21
His family deserves some justice man,
Do you want me to believe a Black man could walk down the streets of
Hackney, in 1983
With a bag and a shotgun,
And not get stopped by no one,
Only to make it to the station, then turn around and commit suicide?
You'll have an easier job convincing me
That I'm actually white, than me ever believing that lie
And since that will never happen,
I know for a fact that Colin Roach didn't commit suicide
See Hackney ain't innocent
There's blood on our streets
From the hands of the police
And there's some names I didn't even mention
Like Vincent Graham
Tunay Hassan, and Michael Ferreira
All these names and no officers charged
Still no justice for their families
My prayers are large
Coz it do'nt take a bullet to break someone's heart
R.I.P to da fallen, Hackney ain't innocent
There's blood on our streets from the hands of the police.

TRUST

KEY STATISTICS

"Police can be relied upon to be there when needed." *

56%

AGREE

For Hackney residents
2019-20

63%

AGREE

For respondents living in
council housing 2018-19

69%

AGREE

Average for London
2019-20

72%

AGREE

For respondents living in
other accommodation (private
renting, mortgage etc.)
2018-19

"The police in this area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are." *

53%

AGREE

For Hackney residents
2019-20

76%

AGREE

Average for London
2019-20

*Taken from survey questions from the Mayor's Office for Police and Crime (MOPAC) Public Attitudes Survey

NO JUSTICE
NO PEACE

54

SC11
54

RUGBY ROAD



BUT...I ASKED
YOU FOR HELP?

“I feel like another issue would be, again, police and how they’ve treated communities in the past, which has just destroyed communities where they’ve just really took the piss in terms of the ‘Sus’ laws back then. So, you see how there’s that boundary where the elders will say ‘don’t trust the police’. And the younger will grow up thinking, yeah, well, it is their reality, don’t trust the police, and that also destroys community, in a sense, because who do you trust? Who do you call when there’s a problem? I mean, you’re not going to call the police, you’re going to call your boy.”

KEY FINDINGS

1.

For a variety of reasons, many young people we spoke to had problems with trusting the police.

2.

The young people we spoke to with low trust towards police, could point to examples where they had witnessed police abuses of power.

3.

Due to a lack of trust, many young people said that they would not call on police to help them.



**ARE
WE
ALLOWED
TO LIVE
?**

**Statement on
the killing of
George Floyd**

**BY YOLANDA LEAR
COMMUNITY RESEARCHER**

Frustration, pain and agony. These are some of the emotions I feel when staring into the face of this tragedy. When I see a Black man, who could be my father, brother, uncle or cousin, murdered, with no justice. And this isn't the first.

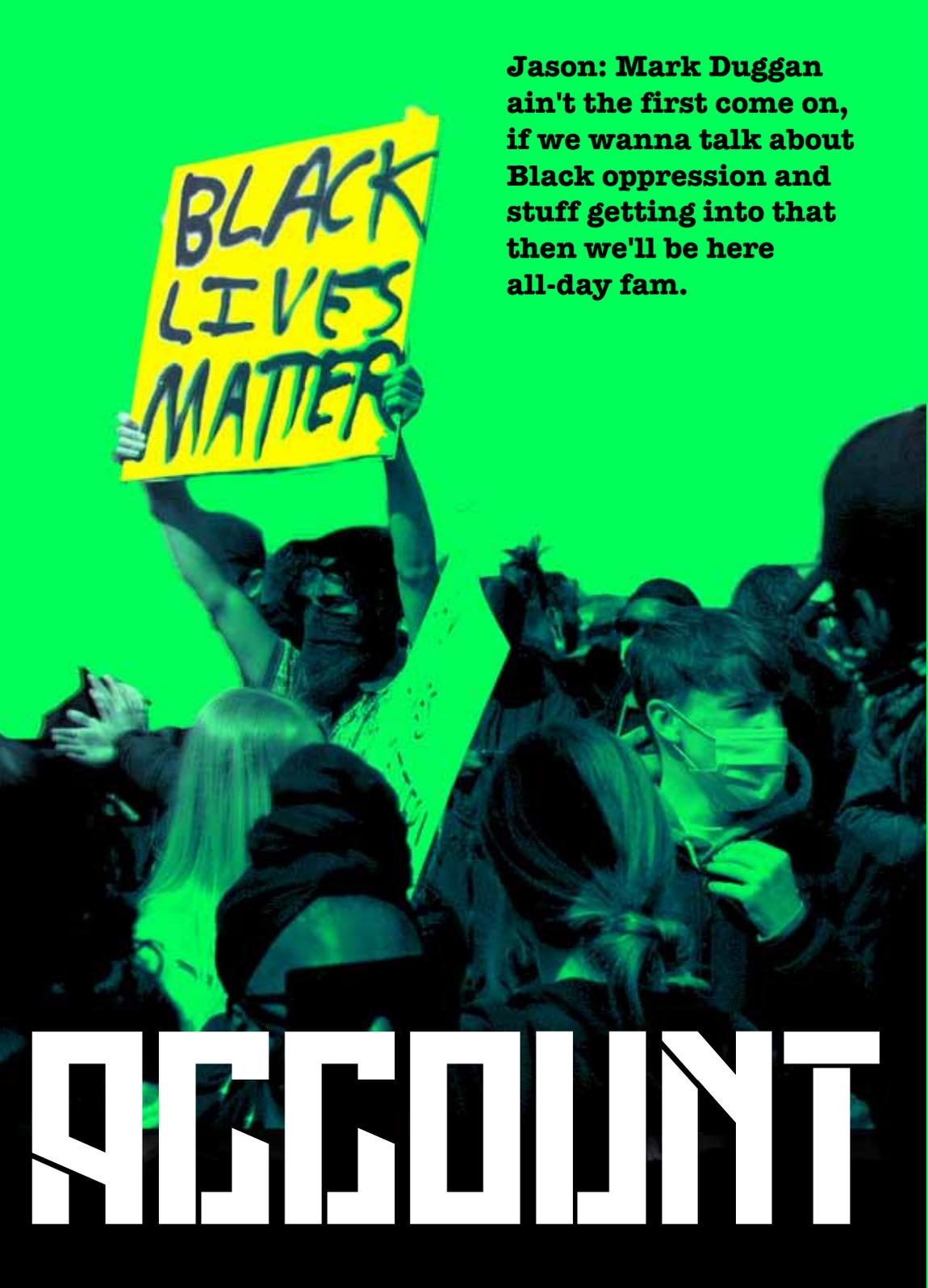
Are these murders a way of silencing our struggle, our pain as a people? Are these murders a way of the system telling us we don't belong? That we aren't welcome on the land of the "Great"? Nor are we welcome in the kingdom that is supposed to be United? United means to be one, to be treated equally regardless of anything. But where is the equality?

I am a young Black woman, asking "What do you want from me?"

If I stay silent, my silence is deafening. A direct injustice to my ancestors. I would feel like I'm letting down my people. But when we speak it falls on deaf ears; so how do we get heard?

Imagine the paranoia we live in, not knowing if today could be the day it happens to you. To make matters worse it's not only the police we have to be on guard for. Cops are killing us, people of other faces are killing us, we are killing us! So again I ask, are we allowed to live?

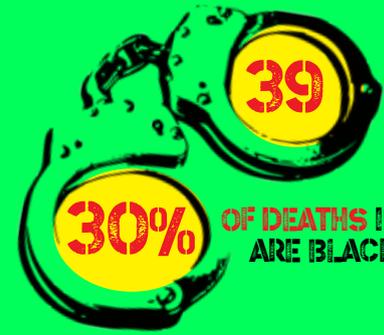
Yolanda Lear, June 2020



Jason: Mark Duggan ain't the first come on, if we wanna talk about Black oppression and stuff getting into that then we'll be here all-day fam.

ACCOUNT

KEY STATISTICS



39 CUSTODY RELATED DEATHS 2017-2019

30% OF DEATHS IN CUSTODY ARE BLACK PEOPLE

2

THAT MEANS BLACK PEOPLE ARE **2 TIMES** MORE LIKELY TO DIE IN CUSTODY THAN WHITE PEOPLE

10

THERE HAVE BEEN **10 DEATHS** IN CUSTODY SINCE 1990 THAT A JURY HAVE RULED AS **"UNLAWFUL KILLING"**

0

OF THESE DEATHS THERE HAS BEEN **ZERO** SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTIONS FOR MURDER OR MANSLAUGHTER

Source: BBC News 'How many black people die in police custody in England and Wales?'

ABILITY



“They’re [Police] taking the piss, they don’t understand, nobody wants to complain, do you know how much of a stressful thing it is to fill out a form about a traumatic experience. People that have been raped barely want to fill out forms, why would I? Someone that’s dealt with physical pain from a multitude of people with zero support, why would I go through that again, to write it down, for police to question me about it, it’s a piss-take, I never want to deal with it again.”

KEY FINDINGS

1.

The death of Rashan Charles in Hackney brought to light several issues around police accountability.

2.

High profile incidents, like the Rashan Charles case, have the potential to damage trust in the police complaints system.

3.

Many young people didn’t feel the police complaints process could be trusted.

ADVICE OF POWER

BY KING
ILLUNGA



They call us names, treat us like animals
hoping we retaliate always wanna provoke us
just coz they can or
think they can.

Meant to protect and serve but to be honest
they really make the problem worse,
If we commit an act of violence, we are sentenced
if it's them they are more likely not suspended,
this ain't justice,
this ain't right.

Have you ever stopped to think yes,
we are the police,
we are the law but
let's be reasonable with those we confront coz
you never know who you may come across
but nah the Jakes want to escalate when sometimes
there is no need.

I say how about those that suffer
from physical or mental illness, depression or anxiety
how about those affected emotionally but
suffer in silence,
family,
friends,
those are also true victims,
of how the system will never treat communities
with some sort of fairness or cease to realise

we are not animals
something must change
Or else nothing will.

OUR PRINCIPLES



**1. BUILD UP
OUR YOUTH**

**2. CREATE OUR
OWN KNOWLEDGE**

**3. GET JUSTICE FOR
OUR COMMUNITY**

**4. HOLD THEM
TO ACCOUNT**



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