



STEPHEN THE PERSON

HIS LIFE AND LEGACY
– *LIVE OUR BEST LIFE*

Stephen Lawrence Day (on or around 22 April) is an opportunity to use Stephen's life and legacy to enable and support pupils to **live their best life** by valuing and respecting their own lives and the lives of others.

At the heart of Stephen's legacy is a focus on building pupils' confidence and skills relating to emotional intelligence, resilience, respect and care. Stephen's Day should support children and young people to value difference, embrace diversity, behave responsibly and make positive choices to contribute as active, healthy, engaged citizens in multicultural Britain.

STEPHEN'S STORY

A TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS AND CHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN BROUGHT ABOUT IN STEPHEN'S NAME



EARLY YEARS AND PRIMARY

Loved by family and friends; enjoyed school and many other activities

- 13 September, 1974 – Stephen Lawrence was born
- Loved by his family – Mum (Doreen), Dad (Neville), brother (Stuart) and sister (Georgina)
- Attended nursery and school in South London
- Loved school – maths, art, PE and playing with his friends were his favourites
- He was kind and generous to his brother and sister and others

LOWER SECONDARY

Enjoyed school, worked hard, interested in music and building on his art interests

- Attended Blackheath Bluecoats Secondary School in London
- Loved his friends and was generous with other pupils, particularly those who may have been excluded or marginalised by others
- He enjoyed being entrepreneurial around his interests; painting pictures of friends and printing t-shirts



UPPER SECONDARY

Worked hard, dreamed of studying architecture, mini-marathon runner and fund-raiser

- Kind and aspirational – enjoyed helping others by setting himself personal goals; signed up for the Greenwich Mini-Marathon and raised money for Great Ormond Street Hospital
- Alongside his studies, music, running and drawing all featured as favourite pastimes as he transitioned to upper secondary

THE TRAGIC MURDER



22 APRIL 1993
Stephen Lawrence murdered.

The 18-year-old is stabbed to death in an unprovoked attack by a gang of white youths as he waits at a bus stop in Eltham, south-east London, with his friend Duwayne Brooks

23 APRIL 1993
Suspects identified. The day after the murder, a letter giving the names of the suspects is left in a telephone box. Police surveillance begins on their homes four days later

4 MAY 1993
Family express frustrations. Stephen's family hold a press conference to complain not enough is being done to catch the killers

6 MAY 1993
The Lawrence family meet Nelson Mandela

29 JULY 1993
Charges dropped. The Crown Prosecution Service drops the prosecution saying the ID evidence from Duwayne Brooks is unreliable

22 DECEMBER 1993
Inquest halted. The Southwark coroner, Sir Montague Levine, halts an inquest into Stephen's death after the family's barrister, Michael Mansfield QC, says there is "dramatic" new evidence

APRIL 1994
CPS refuses to prosecute. The CPS says there is insufficient evidence to bring charges based on the new evidence, which was believed to be the identification of further suspects

DECEMBER 1994
Police surveillance. Covert video shot over several days in Dobson's flat captures him and Norris using strong racist and violent language. Neil Acourt and Luke Knight are also caught on camera using violent and racist language

18 – 25 APRIL 1996
Private prosecution fails. The murder trial begins against Neil Acourt, Luke Knight and Gary Dobson at the Old Bailey, but the case collapses when Mr Justice Curtis rules that identification evidence from Brooks is inadmissible. Acourt, Knight and Dobson are found not guilty. Not guilty verdicts had to be entered at the direction of the judge after legal arguments

13 FEBRUARY 1997
Inquest verdict. The inquest resumes and the five suspects refuse to answer questions. A verdict of unlawful killing "in a completely unprovoked racist attack by five youths" is delivered by Sir Montague Levine

14 FEBRUARY 1997
Daily Mail front page. The Daily Mail newspaper uses its front page to name the five men it says killed Stephen Lawrence. It invites them to sue if it is wrong

FEBRUARY 1997
Doreen Lawrence has initial meeting with Jack Straw, Home Secretary

MARCH 1997
Police Complaints Authority investigation. The Kent Constabulary launches its probe into police conduct, which nine months later highlights "significant weaknesses, omissions and lost opportunities" but it says there is no evidence of racist conduct

JULY 1997
Public inquiry announced. Jack Straw says there will be a judicial inquiry into the killing and subsequent investigation, to identify lessons for police in dealing with racially motivated crimes. It will be chaired by Sir William Macpherson, a retired High Court judge

MARCH 1998
Inquiry opens. The five suspects are told to give evidence or face prosecution. In June, they appear and are pelted with bottles by protesters as they leave, after being accused of being evasive



JULY 1998
Police apology. The Lawrence family call on the Met Police Commissioner Sir Paul Condon to resign. He apologises to them when he appears in October, admitting there had been failures

FEBRUARY 1999
Macpherson report published. It accuses the Metropolitan Police of institutional racism and makes 70 recommendations, many aimed at improving police attitudes to racism. It also includes some proposals for changes in the law, including strengthening the Race Relations Act to try to clamp down on discrimination

SEPTEMBER 2002
Norris jailed. David Norris and Neil Acourt are jailed for 18 months for a racist attack on an off-duty police officer in Eltham in 2001. Norris, a passenger in a car driven by Acourt, threw a drink and shouted racist abuse at the black officer

MAY 2004
Trial ruled out. The CPS finally announces there is insufficient evidence to prosecute anyone for Stephen's murder following a review

APRIL 2005
Double jeopardy scrapped. Government drops the legal principle which prevents suspects being tried twice for the same crime subject to new evidence

JULY 2006
BBC documentary. A BBC documentary investigating the case raises fresh questions about the prime suspects, prompting the Metropolitan Police to review their evidence. In October 2007, the Independent Police Complaints Commission says it has found no evidence of wrongdoing by an officer as alleged in part of the documentary

NOVEMBER 2007
Forensics review. Police confirm they are investigating new forensic evidence in the case after a police review, staffed by 32 officers, was launched the previous summer. It examined evidence gathered at the time, looking at opportunities to use new technology to find leads

FEBRUARY 2008
Memorial opens. Doreen Lawrence opens a £10m school resource centre in honour of her son. Two weeks later vandals smash its windows in a suspected racist attack

FEBRUARY 2009
Report anniversary. Ten years on from the Macpherson inquiry, a report from a member of its panel, Dr Richard Stone, says the police have made significant progress in reforming but charges of racism remain. Justice Secretary Jack Straw says the Met is no longer institutionally racist, but Stephen's mother says police still fail black Britons

1993 1993 – 1994 1994 – 1997 1997 – 1998 1998 – 2005 2006 – 2009

7 MAY – 23 JUNE 1993
Suspects arrested and two charged. Police arrest brothers Neil and Jamie Acourt, David Norris, Gary Dobson and Luke Knight, and search their homes. Neil Acourt and Luke Knight are identified by Duwayne Brooks at ID parades as part of the gang responsible

SEPTEMBER 1994
Private prosecution launched. Stephen's parents, Doreen and Neville Lawrence, launch a private prosecution against Gary Dobson, Luke Knight and Neil Acourt. All three deny the charges. A private prosecution is the same as a standard criminal trial but not brought by the CPS



JULY 2010

Dobson jailed. Gary Dobson starts a five-year jail term for supplying a class B drug after being caught during a sting by the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA)

MAY 2011

Two to face trial. Gary Dobson and David Norris are to face trial over the murder of Stephen Lawrence following a review of new and compelling forensic evidence. The Court of Appeal decides there is enough new and substantial evidence to allow Dobson's acquittal to be quashed. The pair had been charged the previous September

JANUARY 2012

Guilty of murder. Dobson and Norris are both found guilty of murder at the end of a six-week trial into the death of Stephen Lawrence. During the trial, the court hears that microscopic evidence found on clothing belonging to the accused links them to the murder. The jury takes two-and-a-half days to reach its decision. Both men receive life sentences; Dobson is jailed for a minimum of 15 years and two months, Norris for 14 years and three months

JUNE 2013

Former police officer 'spied' on Lawrence family. The prime minister calls for an immediate investigation into reports the police wanted to smear Stephen Lawrence's family. The Guardian claims former officer Peter Francis went undercover to infiltrate the family's campaign for justice in 1993. Mr Francis tells the paper and Channel 4's Dispatches programme he was looking for "disinformation" to use against those criticising the police

MARCH 2014

A new public review. On a dramatic day of developments, a review into the original murder investigation – by the barrister Mark Ellison – finds that an undercover Met Police officer worked within the "Lawrence family camp" while an inquiry into the handling of the murder was underway. It also finds there are reasonable grounds to suspect at least one detective on the team was corrupt. This leads Home Secretary Theresa May to announce a new public inquiry into undercover policing. A separate report into Operation Herne – an investigation launched by the Met into the allegations made by former undercover officer Peter Francis – finds no evidence to back claims he was tasked to smear the Lawrence family but it does find failings regarding allegations about undercover officers indulging in inappropriate sexual relationships



MARCH 2015

Public Inquiry into undercover policing. A public inquiry chaired by Lord Pickford into the abuse of undercover techniques by police officers is launched. While its scope is wide – it includes, for example, the use of dead children's names in fake identities – one of its main focus points is the infiltration of the Lawrence campaign for justice. Over the next three years the inquiry suffers setbacks due to a burgeoning list of participants and issues around revealing the identities of former undercover police officers. In March 2018, campaigners stage a walk-out during proceedings and call for the inquiry's current chair, Sir John Mitting, to step down from his post

MARCH 2016

Officer 'had case to answer'. The police watchdog finds ex-Met Police commander Richard Walton would have had to answer a case for misconduct after meeting an undercover police officer during the Stephen Lawrence inquiry. Mr Walton met the officer in 1998, allegedly obtaining information about the Lawrence family and their supporters. The watchdog said he would have faced a disciplinary hearing but had retired. Lawyers for Neville Lawrence unsuccessfully urged the force to halt Mr Walton's retirement earlier that year. Mr Walton said the Met had rejected the watchdog's findings and "did not plan to bring misconduct proceedings"



APRIL 2018

Investigation 'unlikely to progress'. Doreen Lawrence tells the Daily Mail she believes detectives have run out of lines of inquiry and calls on them to "be honest" about the likelihood that anyone else will be convicted over Stephen's murder
The documentary, **Stephen: The Murder That Changed A Nation**, airs on the BBC

2010 – 2011

NOVEMBER 2011

Trial begins. The trial of Dobson and Norris begins at the Old Bailey. The jury hears that Stephen's DNA was found on the defendants' clothes

2012 – 2013



2014

2015

OCTOBER 2015

Police corruption investigation. The National Crime Agency (NCA) confirms it has been investigating alleged police corruption during the 1993 murder inquiry for months. The new investigation is prompted by the findings of the 2014 Ellison review. Any findings are to be reported back to the police watchdog and could result in criminal or misconduct proceedings

2016 – 2018

SEPTEMBER 2016

Handbag strap mystery. Scotland Yard announces it has received "significant information" after a BBC Crimewatch reconstruction. Detectives attempt to identify a woman whose DNA was on a handbag strap found close to the murder scene and a separate possible witness

2018

APRIL 2018

National Day announced to commemorate Stephen Lawrence's life. A statement is made by Prime Minister, Theresa May as she attends memorial service marking 25th anniversary of murder
Stephen Lawrence Day will be celebrated each year on 22 April