Who is standing up for the rights of black people in the UK?



Type of activity: Research and creative

Who is it for? Children and families

What do I need?

- Paper and pencil
- The Internet
- Thinking, questioning and discussion
- A camera with a video



Introduction

Throughout history, individuals have stood up for the rights of different groups and demanded better treatment, equal rights to other groups, and to be treated with fairness.

We hear, and are taught a great deal about civil rights activists in America. But who has been standing up for the rights of black people in the United Kingdom? This activity gives you a chance to research two individuals - Paul Stephenson and Doreen Lawrence (Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon) - who asked and are asking for fair treatment for black people right here in the UK.

Here's how to ...

- 1. Try and find out about Paul Stephenson, who began his campaigning in 1963, and Doreen Lawrence whose son was killed in 1993 for being black. Think about the following questions:
 - i. What events led them to start campaigning for equal rights?
 - ii. How did they ask for equal rights, and how did they make themselves heard?
 - iii. What impact did they have?
 - iv. What is their lasting legacy?
 - v. Can you see the impact that they have had in your community?
- 2. Using your research, plan a short info film that you can ask a grown up to record for you.
 - Think about how you will introduce your film
 - Do you need any props for instance, photos or pictures of either Paul Stephenson or Doreen Lawrence?
 - Think about what you want your audience to do as a result of watching your film - can you ask them to do this?
 - What is your conclusion?
- 3. Share your film with family and friends.

What next?

What other civil rights activists are there in the UK that have campaigned and made a difference to our lives by asking for fair and equal treatment?