

NBPA Conference, Memorial March and MetBPA 20th Anniversary Celebrations, London 2014

The National Black Police Association 15th National Education and Training Conference and the Metropolitan Black Police Association 20th Anniversary Celebration was hosted by the NBPA and the MetBPA and sponsored by the Metropolitan Police, City of London Police and British Transport Police on the 29th-31st October 2014.

The Conference

The conference, lectures and seminars were staged at the Warren, in Bromley under the conference theme of "**Reflecting our Communities**", with more than 200 delegates from 40+ BPA's in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as invited guest from the UK, USA and Canada. Delegates explored and discuss ways of making the police service more reflective of the communities we serve.



The purpose of the conference was to identify and offer constructive actions, from a Black & Minority Ethnic perspective, on how to make the services more reflective of the communities nationally. The conference will look at the barriers from a community and policing perspective and provide possible solutions to this issue.

The conference opening address was given by Janet Hills MetBPA Chair and Franstine Jones NBPA President.



Janet Hills MetBPA Chair

Franstine Jones NBPA President

Conference speakers included; Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe Commissioner of the Metropolis, The Rt. Hon Mike Penning Minister for Policing, Helen Bailey Mayor's Office for Policing & Crime, Reverend Nims Obunge, Malik Aziz President NBPA USA and Assistant Chief Constable Richard Bennett College of Policing.



Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe



Rt. Hon Mike Penning MP



Helen Bailey



AC Richard Bennett



Reverend Nims Obunge



Malik Aziz President NBPA USA

Other invited guests were; Paul Crowther Chief Constable of British Transport Police, Adrian Leppard Commissioner of the City of London and UK Chief Constables.

Panel Discussion

A lively panel discussion followed the conference based on the theme "**Reflecting our Communities**" which included invited guest, such as ; Adrian Leppard Commissioner of the City of London, Richard Bennett College of Policing, Reverend Nims Obunge from the Piece Alliance and chaired by Nick Glynn NBPA Deputy President.



The Memorial March

The National Black Police Association together with representation from 40+ Black Police Association within the UK and US was proud to participate in the memorial march, in memory of Stephen Lawrence who tragically lost his life on the 22nd April 1993, Stephen was murdered in an unprovoked racist attack. He didn't know his killers and his killers didn't know him.

The march took place on Thursday, 30th October 2014, with participation of over 200 officers and staff within the UK, and from around the world, who were in London attending the conference. The march was symbolic in memory of Stephen Lawrence who paid the ultimate price for being black. The memorial march began in Well Hall Road junction with Arsenal Road with officers and staff marching in rows of three down Well Hall Road towards Well Hall Roundabout and concluded on Rochester Way.



The march was led by Franstine Jones NBPA President and Janet Hills MetBPA Chair stopped at the memorial plaque for Stephen Lawrence where Reverend Nims Obunge gave a blessing at the plaque, Franstine and Janet both laid wreaths on behalf of the National Black Police Association.

Janet Hills stated "The march to the site of the Stephen Lawrence memorial site marked a historic moment. Never in the history of the NBPA has a march to the site where he was murdered been staged. It was truly an emotional and touching moment that I will never forget. His family in their pursuit of justice have changed the face of British policing and race equality for which we are grateful."

Franstine Jones said "It was great to see so many people attend the conference including ministerial and ACPO representation. I always look forward to catching up colleagues from across the country and meeting new ones. The March of Unity to the Stephen Lawrence memorial plaque, was one of the most emotional experiences that I have had. I want to thank the following, MetBPA for hosting our conference: MPS, BTP and City of London police for the funding and all the volunteers".



Janet, Franstine, Commander Chishty, Leroy Logan said a few words in remembrance of Stephen legacy. After a short while the march then continued down Well Hall Road towards Well Hall Roundabout and concluded on Rochester Way where the participants returned to their coaches and returned to London.

Workshops

The outcome of the conference workshops is to provide the UK government, Chief Officers and ACPO with some actions, from a BME perspective, to help improve the BME representation across England and Wales police services.



An Interactive exchange which took place in working groups covering the following topics:

- **Reflecting our Communities**
Facilitator: Sonia Brown MBE
- **Progression - Hitting that glass ceiling**
Facilitator: Director Denise Milani
- **Young People - Over Policed Under Protected**
Facilitator: Young Black Positive Advocates
- **Black Police Association Legacy**
Facilitator: Charles Crichlow
- **Institutional Mental Stress**
Facilitator: Dr Aileen Alleyne
- **National Initiative for Leadership and Empowerment (NILE) - Engaging with the Criminal Justice System**
Facilitators: Courtney Hay & Dr Nadia Habashi

Dinner & Dance

During this evening, the guests at the 2014, NBPA Banquet enjoyed an appetising three course menu featuring fresh roasted skinless chicken breast served with creamy basil pesto and concluded by an eye-catching dessert creation featuring chocolate.



Awards to Leroy Logan & Reverend Nims Obunge

The MetBPA chair, Janet Hills presented an award to Leroy Logan for outstanding leadership and devotion in the development of the Cultural & Communities Resource Unit for the investigation of serious crimes with BME communities.

Janet also presented an award to Reverend Nims Obunge for organisational skills, devotion and commitment to BME communities and different faith groups of London and for the establishment of Peace Week.

Keith Smith, MetBPA Events Co-ordinator, said: "It is a privilege to have the opportunity to bring such a high profile and challenging event to London. The MetBPA and NBPA have an excellent team who have many years experience at putting on such activities and we have worked hard to compile a compelling and relevant programme. We hope that it was a valuable experience for all those who attended."