



JOURNEY TO JUSTICE
LAUNCH PARTY

CONWAY HALL, LONDON

21ST JUNE 2014

INTRODUCTION AND THANKS

Welcome to you all on this exciting night, it's great to see you.

All campaigns for justice are made up of individual journeys and everyone has a story to tell. June 21st 2014 is the 50th anniversary of the murder of civil rights workers, James Chaney, Andy Goodman and Michael Schwerner in Mississippi. The launch of Journey to Justice is dedicated to their memory. We remember Kevin Gately who was killed 40 years ago in a demonstration against the National Front, here in Red Lion Square.

It's remarkable how much Journey to Justice has achieved in a year by what is essentially a group of volunteers. Huge thanks to the steering group, scores of volunteers, associates, patrons and advisers – too many to name here - for your time, energy and talent. We are very grateful to our funders for enabling us to organise this evening, develop our website, crowd funding, social media and start planning our 2015 pilots in Newcastle and Sheffield.

It's wonderful to see the organisation grow from what was an inkling of an idea, born when I visited the King Centre in Atlanta, Georgia with my friend Jude in 2012. We have had a tremendous response from a fantastic range of people of all backgrounds and ages. Educators, young people and students, human rights and faith groups, artists, filmmakers, designers, fundraisers, media people, musicians, historians, curators, trade unionists and politicians. Journey to Justice strikes a chord for anyone concerned about creating a more fair society. It's a simple concept - that we can be inspired by the example of human beings who choose to stand up and challenge injustice. And that we must look after each other.

Carrie Supple, Director, Journey to Justice

"Ben, make sure you play 'Precious Lord, Take My Hand' in the meeting tonight, play it real pretty."

These were the last words uttered by Martin Luther King on 4th April 1968 to the musician Ben Branch. Today, Journey to Justice launches its first project examining the creativity of and links between the American civil rights movement and social protest in Britain. King's words hint at the inextricable link between struggle and song. Many have been inspired by the principles and passion that were invoked and the manner and methods used in the struggle for human dignity and justice. And for some, all of this was captured in the clarion call of one man, Martin Luther King. But the civil rights movement was about more than one person. Why did so many get involved? How and why did individuals come together and persist in the face of inhumane treatment, hostility and sometimes just plain indifference. Was it courage? conviction? personal circumstance?

Journey to Justice would like to thank everyone who helped make this evening possible: performers, our compere, those who ran the publicity, organisation, made food, gave the drinks, managed the sound, the tickets, filming and photography, designed programmes or prepared the venue. And of course we thank you, our audience. Thanks to everyone who has given either financially or by offering special rewards for our crowdfunding campaign. Your support means everything. It's not too late to make a donation if you so wish. The campaign ends on July 30th. Please visit www.buzzbnk.org/journeytojustice if you haven't yet. We need your help to take us to the next phase of our work - the establishment of a travelling exhibition. For now though, sit back, relax and enjoy some sweet soulful performances...

Mark Hutchinson, Chair, Journey to Justice

JOURNEY TO JUSTICE: OUR MISSION AND AIMS

The need: There is alarm at the entrenched and increasing inequalities of wealth, income, education and employment opportunities in the UK, but many people feel hopeless or apathetic in the face of it. While thousands are involved in positive social action, there is growing individualism and disconnect with history and community which can result in a sense of isolation.

Our mission: Journey to Justice inspires people, through learning from past and present human rights struggles to take action for social justice.

JOURNEY TO JUSTICE AIMS

1. REAWAKEN PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE LONG HISTORY IN THE UK AND GLOBALLY OF INDIVIDUALS AND MOVEMENTS WHO TAKE A STAND FOR FREEDOM, EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS.
2. EDUCATE THROUGH CREATIVE ARTS AND MULTIMEDIA PROGRAMMES WHICH EXCITE DEBATE.
3. MOTIVATE PEOPLE TO SEE THAT INJUSTICE CAN BE CHALLENGED AND THAT THEY HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT CHANGE.
4. EMPOWER PEOPLE TO TAKE PRACTICAL ACTION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, ENCOMPASSING AN INTERGENERATIONAL APPROACH.
5. BUILD A NETWORK OF PEOPLE WORKING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

'WE ARE CAUGHT IN AN INESCAPABLE NETWORK OF MUTUALITY, TIED IN A SINGLE GARMENT OF DESTINY. WHATEVER AFFECTS ONE DIRECTLY, AFFECTS ALL INDIRECTLY.' (DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR, 1963)

Dr. King's belief that our lives are inextricably interrelated and his call for solidarity is a message that transcends time, place and issue and the US civil rights movement remains a universal symbol for people fighting for social justice on every continent.

Our first project will be a mobile exhibition focused on the movement, starting with the music and arts of the time to tell the extraordinary story of the men, women and children involved. The exhibition and related activities will examine key events, themes and tactics, demonstrating what leads people to become and stay active in campaigns. We will illustrate how the civil rights movement was influenced in part by the history of dissent in the UK and the US movement affected people, organisations, government and culture in the UK and worldwide. It also helped inspire subsequent women's, peace and gay liberation movements. As the exhibition travels, it will partner with local communities, incorporating lessons from UK campaigns for human rights. Using arts and intergenerational activities, we will show how change for social justice can happen led by 'people like us'.

We will create the exhibition and related workshops with our partners from July to December ready to pilot in Newcastle and Sheffield in 2015. Next, Manchester, Bristol, London, Belfast, Birmingham, Bradford, Cardiff, Glasgow, Norwich, Newport, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Nottingham and wherever else you invite us to come.

JOURNEY TO JUSTICE: PART 1

The launch will be filmed by **Fig Tree** who produce humanitarian documentaries, promotional films and marketing material. Predominantly working with organisations in Kenya, Syria and Mauritania, they cover human rights issues such as infant mortality, families in war, torture and kidnap.

7:00 - 7:30

Songs of struggle, protest, freedom, affirmation and social commentary chosen by **Mark Hutchinson** and photo montage and photography this evening by **Aziz Rahman**.

7:30 - 8:30



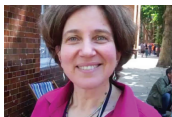
WAYNE MARSHALL

We start with Wayne Marshall singing *A Change is Gonna Come* by Sam Cooke. 'Any cause for justice is worthy of my support'.



PAULINE PEARCE

Welcome by Pauline Pearce, Hackney Heroine, our compere. 'I do what I do for the love of the people, humanity and a fairer society'.



MARY SPYROU

Remembering Maya Angelou – *Still I Rise*



CARRIE SUPPLE AND MARK HUTCHINSON

Introduction to Journey to Justice **Carrie Supple**, Director and **Mark Hutchinson**, Chair. Greetings from **Olive Supple-Still** and children, India.



SIR GEOFFREY BINDMAN

Steering group member and founder of human rights law firm Bindmans; and a message from our patron **Lord Herman Ouseley**, founder of Kick It Out, the anti-discrimination football organisation.



STREETZ AHEAD

A dance and performance company, providing training for young people with a thirst for the magic of dance and performance, regardless of any financial, social, emotional or other barrier. **Olivia Wakeford** and **Elizabeth Harry** (organisers). **First performance: Zakarius Harry** dancing with **Victoria** and **Abi** (Choreography: **Zak**). **Second performance: Shane Sloane, Shadee Yaghoubi, Michael Nearchou, Lemonitsa Petris, Emma Winter** (Choreography: **Jamie Mason**).



DAVID IDOWU CHOIR

Formed following the murder in a knife crime of 15 year old David in 2008, the award winning choir members are students from Southwark secondary schools, directed by **Laura Howe** and managed by **Southwark Music Service**. Committed to the power of music, they bring people together, giving a wider voice to issues that concern them and those they love.



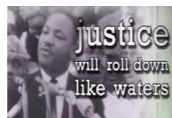
ZENA EDWARDS

Poet and singer, 'Poetry, music and images are tools of my trade and my life's passion. We have to be part of social change and that means pointing out injustice. We need to change how we interact with people and ask questions about the world we live in.'



TAYO ALUKO

Writer and performer of the multi-award-winning *Call Mr. Robeson*. Tayo will be performing a song associated with Paul Robeson and reading from the work of the African American poet and writer Langston Hughes. Both men used their tremendous gifts to fight for a better world, and their words and music provide us with powerful fuel for our journey on the road to justice.



FILMS MADE BY EXPOSURE YOUTH MEDIA

Martin Luther King's acceptance speech on receiving an honorary degree from Newcastle University 13.11.1967 and Revolution 2.0. Presented by **Gary Flavell**, Exposure editor.

JOURNEY TO JUSTICE: PART 2

8.30 INTERVAL

Refreshments and films: **Crossings Choir** from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, a community music project bringing together asylum seekers, refugees, local and international musicians; **War House** are passionate believers in social justice through conscious individual or organisational struggles and dialogue, based on goals that further the collective good. **Mashrou Leila** from Lebanon *Smell the Jasmine*. With an openly gay frontman, Hamed Sino, the band's music is a vehicle for political protest.

9.00 - 10.00



UCLU JAZZ VOCALS

UCLU Jazz Vocals is one of the ensembles of UCLU Jazz Society and features University College of London (UCL) students and alumni. Led by conductor **Sara Mitra**, the group is un-auditioned and this inclusivity makes it a truly unique and diverse choir. In 2013 the UCLU Jazz Society paid homage to the Civil Rights Movement and all the great music that came from it with its show, *I Too Sing America*.



DAREECE JAMES

Poet from Bristol (by film) *Who Are They? Who Are We?* 'While I am heartened by public displays of affection toward prominent figures like Rosa Parks and Dr King, I fear that treating them as saints runs the risk of making their accomplishments seem out of reach. I want to prompt people to see our heroes and heroines as a basis for self-reflection as well as praise and adoration.'



JOANNA CLARKE

Joanna Clarke sings **Nina Simone**. Jo is Head of History at Hurtlepierpoint College, Sussex. 'Hearing and singing the songs of Nina Simone has given me the opportunity to take time to think about and empathise with those who face class, gender and race oppression; oppression I have never experienced, and struggle to understand.'



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: LEYLA HUSSEIN

Co-founder of Daughters of Eve and campaigner against gender based violence. Leyla is a multiple award winner including Cosmopolitan Ultimate Campaigner of the Year, 2010. She was chosen as one of BBC Radio 4 Woman's Hour top ten Game Changers, 2014.



BRANDON PALMER READING BAYARD RUSTIN

Bayard Rustin was a phenomenal organiser of the US civil rights movement. He was also a Communist, pacifist, gay and an anglophile. Involved in organising the Aldermaston marches, he helped campaign for the UK 1965 Race Relations Act and spoke here, at Conway Hall, in 1967. Brandon Palmer is a stand-up comedian and actor.



JOURNEY TO JUSTICE CROWD FUNDING FILM

We Shall Overcome filmed, edited and introduced by **Abdi Cadani** followed by a short film about the successful four month Bristol bus boycott of 1963 which was led by **Paul Stephenson OBE**, our patron.



WAYNE MARSHALL

Wayne Marshall sings Marvin Gaye's *What's Goin' On?*



JOURNEY TO JUSTICE CELEBRATION CAKE

Made by **Trisha Kelly**, artist, teacher and baker extraordinaire.



PETE SEEGER TRIBUTE

Dave Rosenberg, East End Walks In the city of the unjustly rich and the unjustly poor, rebels and dreamers ignited their struggles for social justice especially in London's East End. I tell their stories through guided walks for all ages – and hope that those who walk in their footsteps will want to be the rebels and dreamers of tomorrow.

WHO ARE THEY? WHO ARE WE?

I see public adoration
of justice seekers like Mandela, King and Parks.
I see t-shirts, badges, social media dedications and television
announcements
and sometimes I am comforted by this atmosphere of abundant
praise
but other times I can't help but wonder if the indomitable, intense
passion of such figures
is somehow rendered moderate by us turning them into buzz
words
into popular jargon for self-promotion
Maybe we should transport ourselves
To the time when our most loved visionaries rose to prominence
and think about what our role may have been

We would like to think
that we would stride arm-in-arm with King
Bathe in his beautiful words
and proceed to live out his dream,
reflecting it in every action, every breath

But would we?
If we are not the equivalent now then why would we be in the
past?
Look at us now.
Integration, that ideal people died and struggled for
has been warped
to accuse the most vulnerable of self-segregation
and we treat this as rational conversation.
We rejoice over the dignity of people like
Rosa Parks and Paul Stephenson

who refused to subside to injustice
Now we let people endure racist abuse
and think that by hiding behind our camera phones
we are addressing intolerance

How can we be complacent about the present yet passionate
about past abuses?
Sometimes I envision the next generation of radicals
whose names are now little-known
but will make our present state of living seem incomprehensible.

In anticipation of the future, remember this:
If you're not living the dream, you're living a nightmare.

By Dareece James, student in Bristol and member of the Journey
to Justice exhibition planning group



Sanitation workers' strike, Memphis, 1968 © Ernest C. Withers

SUPPORT FOR JOURNEY TO JUSTICE

We've found encouragement from across the UK and beyond. Here are just a few of our supporters:

The exhibition will give young people an understanding of how the civil rights movement affected people; what they went through, the risks they took and the sacrifices they made to help the lives of others. It will make my generation more aware of what's wrong with society and inspire us to help with similar causes.
[Samir Patel, Mossbourne Community Academy, Hackney](#)

The history of the civil rights movement and trade unionism reminds us that, through the struggles and self-organisation of 'ordinary people', we can win justice. We want to pass on this wisdom to new generations, not just to honour the past but so we are inspired to shape our own future. Of all the lessons of our history the most important is this: we can only defeat racism and inequality if we stand together in solidarity. Black and white, men and women, young and old, students and workers, trade unionists, artists, educators and community leaders - together we will win! [Frances O'Grady, TUC General Secretary](#)

As a community development worker in Sheffield, I have for the last ten years through my work come across many young people who have no idea of what Civil Rights mean... or why activists such as Martin Luther King Jr. had to fight. Young people are losing touch with their roots and history and that is the more reason why this project is so important. [Maxwell Ayamba, Project Manager/ Environmental Journalist, Sheffield Black and Ethnic Minority Environmental Network, SHABEEN](#)

Journey to Justice is an important and timely resource. It powerfully documents similarities and differences in the civil rights movement across the US and the UK and different local contexts. It shows how histories and demands for social justice intersect and, how ordinary men and women have fought for and will continue to fight for change. [Dr Nicola Rollock, Deputy Director, Centre for Research in Race & Education, Birmingham University](#)

The promotion of human and civil rights is an on-going task for all of us. Journey to Justice recognises struggles in the past, their relevance for the present and the potential for citizens to come together and co create a different future.
[Sean Pettis, Corrymeela, Belfast](#)

In our little part of the world that prioritises the celebration of 'celebrity' and the consumption of 'consumables' while our neighbours often go hungry and unheard, and we forget to remember the important things, it won't be long until the now hushed voices starting out on their Journey to Justice will be heard singing - quietly at first, then raising to a symphony, an anthem of passion and power - their essential reminders of a different way to live where all are respected, irrespective of race, ability, religion, gender, sexual orientation or age. Get on board!
[Phil Cope, culture & democracy, Wales](#)

In the midst of struggle we need to be inspired in the ongoing pursuit of justice. And this exhibition will do just that - helping us to recognise that we are walking in the footsteps of giants. In the Poverty Truth Commission we have been enormously inspired by the struggles for justice around the world and, in particular, by Martin Luther King's Poor People's Campaign. At the heart of our work lies the simple understanding that real and sustainable change will occur only when those who are victims of injustice are the leaders in the movement to eradicate it. Journey to Justice doesn't just celebrate what has happened, it will also encourage us to continue to see what is possible. We all need that encouragement and sense of solidarity. As such this is less an exhibition and more a testimony of what has happened and what remains possible. [Martin Johnstone, Scotland's Poverty Truth Commission](#)

Journey to Justice will enable people to learn about some of the key struggles for human rights in our history and inspire them to see their own role as guardians of equal rights for all. [Professor Francesca Klug, OBE, Director of the Human Rights Futures Project, London School of Economics](#)

HOW YOU CAN HELP JOURNEY TO JUSTICE

Thanks again to everyone who has given their time, skills, money, gifts, advice and encouragement.

We hope you'll stay with us and everyone is welcome to join.

We will continue to need resources – forever! and our crowd funding campaign goes on until the end of July.

With it, we can start to build our travelling exhibition, so please, if you haven't already, donate online and ask people you know to too:

WWW.BUZZBNK.ORG/JOURNEYTOJUSTICE

We welcome volunteers to help: fundraise; research; organise events; develop ideas and resources for the exhibition programme; with social media and administration; find venues and new partners and spread the word.

You can contact us via:

Website: www.journeytojustice.org.uk

Email: info@journeytojustice.org.uk

Telephone: 07711199198

Facebook: www.facebook.com/journeytojustice.org.uk

Twitter: Journey to Justice @freedomandjobs

We want to thank all our funders and supporters



A big thanks to The Shakespeare pub in Stoke Newington and all the pubs, shops, friends and family who donated drinks so generously.

We are grateful to the Irene Breugel Fund, part of the Lipman-Miliband Trust. Irene was involved in many campaigns to right injustices and empower the most vulnerable in society.

Journey to Justice is advised by CIVA, the Centre for Innovation in Voluntary Action Charity No. 1122095

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