

1640 — 1807

The Roots of Injustice



Britain grew wealthy through the slave trade. For 150 years, British ships took millions of Africans across the ocean against their will. This cruel system caused long-term poverty and unfairness. Even after slavery ended in 1833, the damage lasted.

How can a country move forward when its wealth was built on suffering?

Justin Mulvaney

1807 — 1838

The Road to Freedom?



The fight against slavery was long and fierce. In 1807, Britain banned the slave trade, but human bondage continued. Decades of resistance by enslaved people and tireless campaigning finally forced parliament to pass abolition in 1833. Full freedom was only achieved five years later.

How does a society truly heal and deliver justice after generations of state-sanctioned cruelty?

Justin Mulvaney

1950 — 1970 Post-War Arrivals



After World War II, many Black and Asian people arrived to help rebuild Britain. By 1961, the Caribbean community had grown significantly. However, many who joined local churches were treated coldly. The Church was slow to welcome them.

Why did shared faith fail to stop prejudice in local communities?

Justin Mulvaney

1963 Bristol Bus Boycott



A Bristol bus company refused to hire Black or Asian drivers. In response, local people stopped using the buses to protest this "colour bar." This successful campaign gained national support and led to Britain's first anti-discrimination laws.

What happens when ordinary people refuse to participate in an unfair system?

Justin Mulvaney

1981

New Cross and Brixton



Thirteen Black youths died in a house fire, but many felt the police were indifferent. This tension sparked the Brixton Riots. The Scarman Report later admitted the Black community faced terrible social and economic disadvantages.

Can social peace exist if a community feels the law does not protect or respect them?

Justin Mulvaney

1984

The Birth of CARJ



The **Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ)** was started to give minority groups a voice. As a charity, it ensures Black and Asian people are heard within the Church. CARJ advocates for fairness and structural change.

How can large organisations ensure that minority voices lead to actual, permanent institutional change?

1958

Notting Hill Riots



In 1958, white mobs attacked Caribbean residents in London. For several nights, the community defended their homes from violence. These riots exposed deep racism in society. Out of this pain, the community eventually started the **Notting Hill Carnival**.

Is it possible for a community to find joy after such hatred?

Justin Mulvaney

1993:

Stephen Lawrence



The racist murder of teenager Stephen Lawrence shocked the UK. The police performed a very poor investigation, and his family fought for years for justice. This tragedy forced the country to look at how big organisations handle crimes against Black people.

Why does it take tragedy to acknowledge systemic flaws?

Justin Mulvaney

1995

Racial Justice Sunday



Churches across the country held the first "Racial Justice Sunday." Today, this is an annual event where parishes take a special day to pray for fairness, learn about racism, and collect money to fund anti-racism programmes.

How can the message of "Racial Justice Sunday" be lived every single day?

Justin Mulvaney

February 1999

The Macpherson Report



1988

Racism Declared a Sin



The Vatican released a major statement saying that **racism is a sin**. This was vital for activists. It meant that fighting prejudice was a religious duty for every Catholic. It showed that following Jesus means treating everyone fairly.

If racism is a sin, what is the spiritual cost of silence?

Justin Mulvaney

2021

Local Action Teams



Local church regions began setting up their own teams to fight racism. For example, the Archdiocese of Southwark created a commission to start anti-racism hubs in local schools and churches. This moves the fight from words to real-life action.

What are you doing against racism in your own community?

Justin Mulvaney

2020 A Global Wake-Up Call



Following George Floyd's death, Catholic bishops called racism an evil that violates human dignity. They acknowledged systemic racism in the UK, highlighted by COVID-19's impact on ethnic minorities. They declared that silence makes us part of the problem.

Is it enough to be "not racist," or must we actively stop injustice?

Justin Melugin

1600

Justin Melugin

1700

Justin Melugin

1800

Justin Melugin

1900

Justin Melugin

2000

Justin Melugin