

MEDIA

The press ignored the story - then used it to change society

By Ian Burrell
MEDIA EDITOR

It is no exaggeration to say the media's coverage of the Stephen Lawrence murder was transformational, forcing an unprecedented examination of the issue of race in British society.

But at first the murder largely made only local news. Fleet Street took a while to throw off its old instincts but the Lawrence case eventually struck a chord. Years later, the BBC made a programme asking the question: Why

(i) Paul Dacre, editor of the *Daily Mail* said: "This really is a glorious day for Neville and Doreen Lawrence... for the police... and for the media."

Stephen? Brian Cathcart, author of *The Case of Stephen Lawrence*, said there was something straightforward about the killing which appealed to the media. "This was a clean-living, honest young man with ambitions, coming from a

well-ordered and law-abiding home. There weren't any defensive excuses the white establishment could make for his death or failure to investigate it."

Nelson Mandela also pushed the issue up the news agenda when, on a visit to London, he spoke about the case and the apparent cheap value of black lives in Britain. But the real change in coverage came in February 1997, when the *Daily Mail* printed pictures of the five suspects on its front page, under the headline "Murderers". Yesterday the *Mail's* website carried

Daily Mail

This was the *Mail's* front page nine years ago. It changed race relations in Britain. Today, as new evidence emerges against Stephen Lawrence's killers, we proudly reprint it...

MURDERERS

The *Mail* accuses these men of killing. If we are wrong, let them sue us



The *Mail* took the unprecedented step of accusing the suspects and challenging them to sue the paper

an extraordinary 12-minute video in which the editor Paul Dacre spoke about producing such a legally contentious front page. That night, he said, he had woken at 4am "drenched in sweat and convinced my career was all over". He said the *Mail* had shown a boldness "that I shall be proud of for the rest of my life".

The subtext was that Stephen's father, Neville, knew Dacre, having done plastering work at his house. But the *Mail's* stance was also the result of the paper's anger at the contempt shown by the suspects at Stephen's inquest.

The "Murderers" headline set the scene for the announcement by Jack Straw five months later of the Macpherson inquiry, which found institutional racism in the Met Police. Dacre said the Home Secretary told him the *Mail's* coverage had influenced his decision to order the inquiry.

POLICE

Met 'still institutionally racist' says inquiry panellist

By Paul Peachey

The Metropolitan Police remains "institutionally racist", a member of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry panel told *i*, and has wasted the opportunity to carry out major reforms.

Dr Richard Stone, one of the four men whose damning conclusions in

the 1999 Macpherson report led to major changes in UK race relations, said that police tactics remained biased against the black population.

Dr Stone identified stop-and-search tactics, which disproportionately target young black men, and the absence of even one serving black or Asian officer above the rank

of commander at Scotland Yard.

"The police really haven't moved on at all when it comes to racism," Dr Stone claimed. He said Lord Macpherson told him that, of all the things he had done in his life, that inquiry was the most important. "I felt the same," he said. "I feel it's all wasted." Asked if he thought the

force remained institutionally racist, he said: "I'm afraid so."

Dr Stone was one of the three assistants to Lord Macpherson on the panel whose findings produced a wave of national soul-searching after it said that Britain's biggest force was institutionally racist. Following the report, the Met

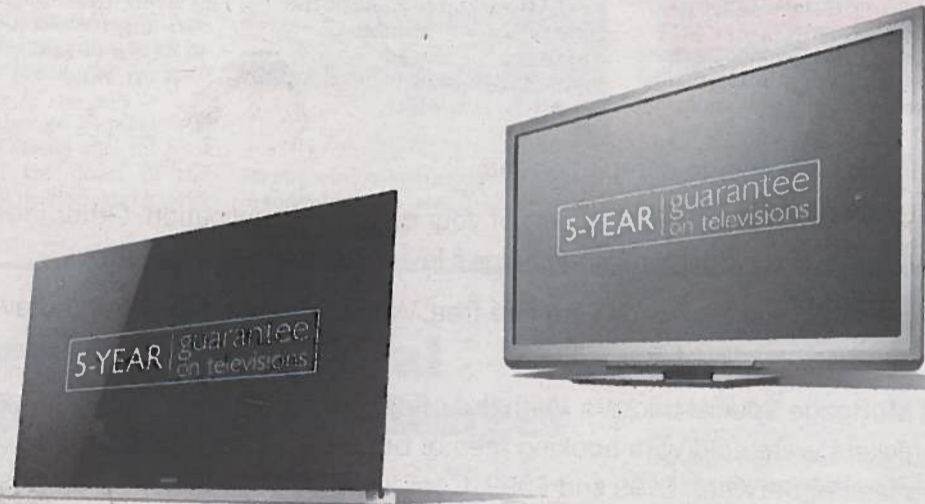
underwent major changes to the way it conducted murder inquiries, dealt with victims' families and worked with the community.

Scotland Yard now has nearly 10 per cent of black or ethnic minority officers, up from 3.4 per cent at the time of the inquiry's report in 1999.

Acting Deputy Commissioner Cressida Dick said the force had been "completely transformed" and added: "It's for others to judge if we are institutionally racist or not."

Sony KDL40NX723
40" Smart 3D LED TV
with built in Wi-Fi
and sound bar
Stock No 824 50215
Was £1,099[†]
Now **£799**
£300 saving

Panasonic TX-P50ST30
50" Smart 3D Plasma TV
Includes 2 pairs of 3D glasses
worth £159.90
Stock No 824 81210
Was £899.95^{††}
Now **£699.95**
£200 saving



John Lewis Clearance.
Save up to £300 on
these 3D Smart TVs.

About these products and offer:

Watch both 2D and 3D content in stunning quality on these TVs

With our wide range of TVs, whatever you're looking for we'll have the perfect one to suit your needs and budget

Panasonic 3D glasses offer ends 31 January 2012 or while stocks last

About our service:

We include a 5-year guarantee on all TVs at no extra cost

We match high street competitors' prices in store and online, so if they have an item on sale that we sell, it's on sale with us - it's all part of being Never Knowingly Undersold*

Buy online or visit one of our shops today

Never Knowingly Undersold
on quality | on price | on service

John Lewis
in store | online | mobile

Prices correct at time of going to press. *Our commitment to value means that we match the prices of high street competitors (this excludes online-only or mail order businesses). Price matching applies to identical products and service conditions must be comparable. We match our competitors' prices as quickly as possible. See our 'Never Knowingly Undersold' leaflet in our shops or online for details. †Between 9 October 2011 and 25 December 2011. ††Was £799.95 between 29 November 2011 and 7 December 2011, and £899.95 between 8 December 2011 and 25 December 2011.