

IT'S YOUR ISSUE, NO, IT'S YOUR ISSUE, NO IT'S OUR ISSUE.

BY MARTINE ORCIUOLI

Nearly a year on, we look at how the catalyst for social justice, has triggered the little to big changes in the University environment.

8 minutes and 46 seconds. The walk from Nottingham Trent Student Union to Rock City takes 7 minutes. Yet in the midst of the pandemic, 8 minutes and 46 seconds was all it took to change the face of social justice. On May 25th 2020 officer Derek Chauvin, murdered George Floyd by cause of asphyxiation, due to suspicions of a counterfeit bill which were found to be false. This acted as a catalyst that forced worldwide recognition of the racial injustice within the system, and worldwide protests in the face of police brutality. However, George Floyd is not the only name that needs to be remembered, the Black Lives Matter movement is built on the blood of countless black men and women who have been victims of police brutality.

Yet why do we feel so connected, to something that happened thousands of miles away? It is human nature, and we recognise that this is an issue that affects us. If you're not talking about it, you are part of the problem; as Desmond Tutu once said 'if you are neutral in situations of injustice you have chosen the side of the oppressor'. This means that even if we are not directly affected, we have a duty to listen and learn from those who are. Black Lives Matter has always fought the corner of justice; from the YouGov website we learn that 84% of all BAME adults in the UK today have experienced racism.



Picture by Tayyib Mahmood

How can we do our bit as a University? The curriculum had been decolonised, and a range of books and texts from BAME authors has been added, alongside modules that focus on Black writing in the UK. NTU does have a zero-tolerance policy to racism, with Vice Chancellor Edward Peck launching the Race Equality Action Plan, which has been put into place to support BAME students, and educate the others. The most important part of this is that the conversation of race, has been started; while these things may seem trivial and little, they are implementing a seed of growth.