“Going through the Inquiry was a reminder of the pain of losing my son – it was difficult but one I had to sit through. The Inquiry filled in the gaps of what happened the night my son was murdered and showed me the depth of racism and corruption that existed in the Metropolitan Police Service. To be able to read the behind-the-scenes account by Dr Richard Stone is important for the history of the Inquiry and its legacy.”

Doreen Lawrence OBE

“... will provide clarity and better understanding about how the combination of prejudice, poor leadership, unaccountable decision making and abuse of power contribute to institutional discriminatory outcomes.”

Lord Herman Ouseley of Peckham Rye

Young people who come into contact with police officers on the streets today have little idea of the significance of the stabbing to death of Stephen Lawrence in a racist attack in 1993. Only their parents or grandparents remember the daily exposures of police incompetence and indirect racism which were given high profile in the media for six months. The repercussions of the case are still ongoing with the long overdue conviction in 2012 of two of the original suspects, and in the same year a number of racist assaults by police. This unique book provides an insider’s view of the seminal inquiry into Stephen Lawrence’s murder. Dr Richard Stone OBE was a panel member of the Inquiry as Adviser to the Judge, Sir William Macpherson. Accessible and engaging, the book includes analysis of hitherto inaccessible transcripts, and shows how the Inquiry was undermined to the point of failure to produce the desired results. Dr Stone also discusses contemporary issues and the relevance of the Inquiry today. He says “I have written about my experience because I feel a degree of obligation to tell, from my position at the centre of the Inquiry, just how difficult issues were dealt with.

Hard-hitting and full of insightful detail, this book makes essential reading for academics, students, researchers and anyone interested in institutional racism, particularly in the police.

DR RICHARD STONE was a panel member of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry into racism in policing (1997-99) as Adviser to the Judge, Sir William Macpherson. At the time he was Chair of the Jewish Council for Racial Equality.

His Independent review of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry 10 years on (richardstonesli.wordpress.com) was launched by the Secretaries of State for the departments of Justice, Home Office, and Communities and Local Government in February 2009.

For 20 years Dr Stone was senior partner of a general medical practice in London. For 14 years he worked with British Muslims as Chair of the Runnymede Islamophobia Commission, and in 2004 he founded AASU (Allah UK) (British Muslims and Jewish). In 2010 he was awarded the OBE for public and voluntary service.

He is an Honorary Fellow of the Cambridge Centre for Muslim-Jewish Relations and an Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of Criminology at the University of Westminster.

“This Stephen Lawrence Report was groundbreaking. It changed Britain for the better. It took courage and determination by the Inquiry’s members to get to the truth. Richard Stone was one of those – and his new book highlights why we have to be ever-vigilant against the unspeakable evils of racism.”

The Right Honourable Jack Straw MP

“By writing this unique book, Richard Stone has recognised that the learning from the Lawrence Inquiry is still a critical factor in the legitimacy and relevance of policing today, which helps to ensure the legacy of Stephen Lawrence withstands the test of time.”

Superintendent Leroy Logan MBE FCMI BSc, Founder Member and past Chair of both the National and Metropolitan Black Police Associations

“It is apt and timely that Dr Stone should reveal detail from the transcript evidence, modulated through his own cool, scientific and humanely liberal interpretation of this important event.”

Dr Bryn Caless, Senior Lecturer in Policing, Canterbury Christ Church University
HIDDEN STORIES OF THE
STEPHEN LAWRENCE INQUIRY

Personal reflections

Richard Stone