



## **Crime, order and social control**

*Visiting victims of racial abuse*

### **V/O:**

Mick and Wolati are going to visit Mrs Lal. Her 10 year old son had his head broken by a full can of Coke thrown by neighbouring children.

CONVERSATION IN CAR

THEY EXIT CAR AND WALK TO HOUSE

### **WOLATI SINGH:**

We do regular follow-up visits or if we can't do the visit, at least we do the phone calls. The visit is much more personal to someone, they feel that someone is actually out there supporting and is concerned about the way they live, and I think it's important that there is that contact. If I was out with the team investigating an incident I'd speak various Asian languages so it would break down the barriers of any victim that needed to speak to someone and perhaps be supported and given comfort.

### **PC MICHAEL KEARNS:**

You had two uniformed police officers come and visit you when you told them your son had been hit on the head with a Coke tin.

WOLATI SINGH NOW INTERPRETS:

### **MRS LAL:**

Yes, that's right. The police came.

### **WOLATI SINGH:**

You didn't tell us before about the Coke tin?

### **MRS LAL:**

No, not at that time. I told the police about other problems. When I went to hospital with my son in an ambulance, I told the ambulance people I couldn't phone anybody. The police happened to be there for some other reason and they asked if we had a problem, and then I reported that my son had been hit on the head with the Coke tin.

### **WOLATI SINGH:**

Mrs Lal said that she was so upset at the time that she didn't report it to the police, all she was interested in was getting the boy to the hospital. Then it just happened that the police officers were here on something else, and then she reported it to them. She was more concerned about getting him to hospital and getting him stitches.

### **PC MICHAEL KEARNS:**

How is he?

### **WOLATI SINGH:**

How is he now?

### **MRS LAL:**

He's better now.

### **WOLATI SINGH:**

He's a lot better.

**PC MICHAEL KEARNS:**

Is there anything more she thinks we could do as the police?

**WOLATI SINGH:**

The two police officers who came to see you before will patrol here and try to keep an eye on things on a daily basis. Is there any other way you would like us to help you?

**MRS LAL:**

I have told the police who those boys are.

**WOLATI SINGH:**

We have made an application for you to move to another house. Is there any other way we can help you?

**MRS LAL:**

Until I move out, I would like the police to patrol around here. This is the most help I need at the moment.

**WOLATI SINGH:**

She just said that if you could keep up the, step up the surveillance around the area, and just make sure that there's some police presence basically.

**WOLATI SINGH:**

Have you taken photographs of those boys?

**MRS LAL:**

I have, but still need to take two or three more boys' photographs yet. The last time I tried taking photos I was confronted with one of the boys calling us 'Paki bastards' and we came back inside.

**WOLATI SINGH:**

She says she appreciates that. She also mentioned the fact that she's taken photographs of two or three of the boys, and she wants to take another two or three more of other boys so that we'll have that on record, and the last time that she actually tried to use the camera she was confronted by one of the boys calling her 'Paki', 'Paki bastard', 'Paki bastard', and then she had to quickly get back into the house basically.

**PC MICHAEL KEARNS:**

Whatever we can do to assist, obviously directly through Wolati, we will keep pushing the ...

**WOLATI SINGH:**

We're trying to hurry the Council to move you to new premises.

**MRS LAL:**

I would like things to hurry up. We've had to move twice before and we can't keep on moving forever. It's very difficult with furniture and decorating and children, etcetera, and asking relatives for favours.

**WOLATI SINGH:**

She says she's got to a situation where she's moved on two occasions now for the same reason, and she can't afford to keep doing that because it's actually calling upon favours from other members of the family to help her move, to help her decorate and, you know, people at the end of the day have got their own lives to live as well, so it's very difficult for her to uproot again and move again.

**PC MICHAEL KEARNS:**

That confidence in us must surely come from the joint approach with the local authority and other agencies, we're together, we're supporting the victim, and we're using the system as it should be used as a community system for everybody to work together and to protect the members of the public that ought to be protected.