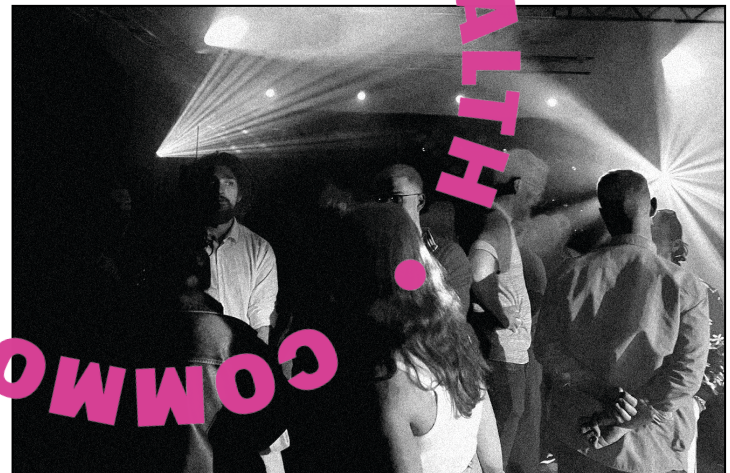


YOU ARE BEING INVESTIGATED

UNDER THE DOCTRINE OF JOINT ENTERPRISE



COMMONWEALTH
COMMONWEALTH
COMMONWEALTH

REVIEW YOUR EVIDENCE

By attending this performance of Public Interest, you have encouraged and assisted in the creation of the music video, making you complicit in the incident. Please review the evidence of your participation online.



If you did not give consent to be featured in this content, please contact us to let us know by emailing comms@commonwealththeatre.co.uk.

Turn page for more information

APPEAL YOUR CASE

CHALLENGE YOUR CONVICTION

PLEASE NOTE:

Your chance of appeal is low. In the UK, there has only ever been one Joint Enterprise case successfully overturned. Scan the QR code to access your options, as listed below.



CHALLENGE THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

- Write a letter to your MP
- Donate to JENGBA
- Support wrongly convicted individuals
- Sign Art Not Evidence open letter
- Sign JENGBA's petition
- Get educated about Joint Enterprise
- You've gotta do all of that!



EVIDENCE OF FORESIGHT

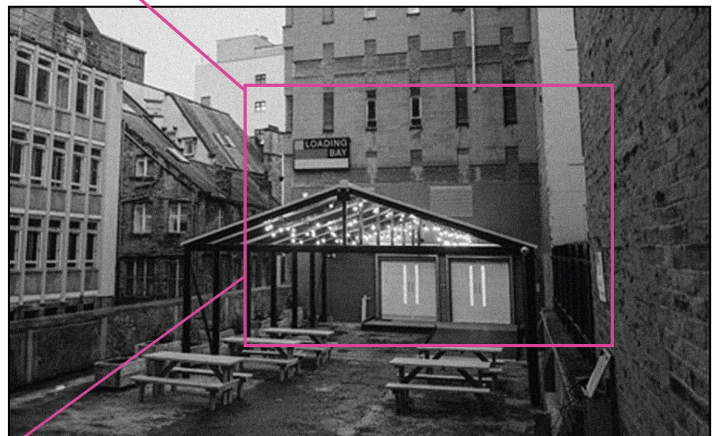
Under Joint Enterprise, "foresight" is considered to be a sufficient enough reason to convict someone of murder. In other words, if a prosecutor can convincingly make the case that a person had prior knowledge of and the ability to stop a murder being carried out by an associate, then they are just as guilty of the murder themselves.

Under Joint Enterprise law, all of the following and more may be used as evidence that you had knowledge of the crime before it took place:

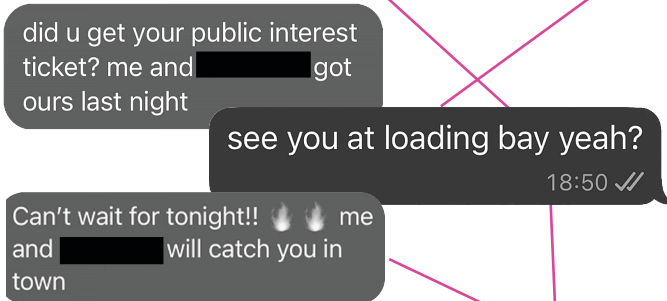
CCTV FOOTAGE



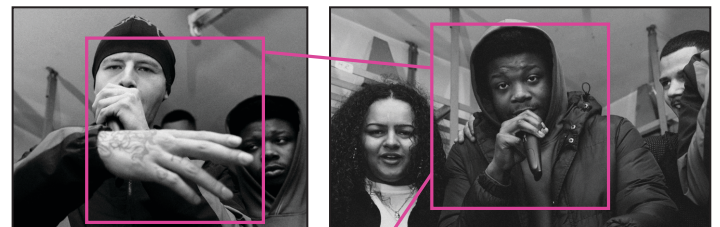
YOUR LOCATION AT THE TIME



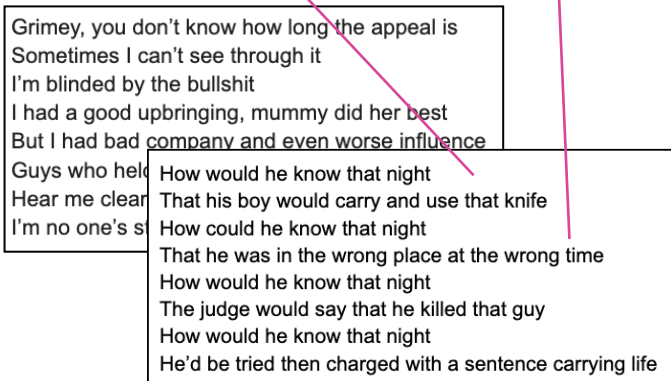
TEXT MESSAGES



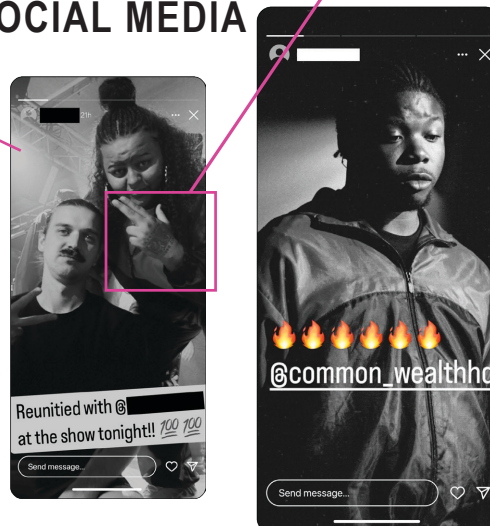
A SHARED INTEREST



SONG LYRICS



SOCIAL MEDIA



EVIDENCE

OF RACIST, CLASSIST DISCRIMINATION IN JOINT ENTERPRISE CONVICTIONS

The 2023 Crown Prosecution Service report found that within 190 Joint Enterprise cases involving 680 defendants:

OVER 50 %

of those prosecuted under Joint Enterprise were of an ethnic minority background

30 %

of defendants were Black
despite making up only 4% of the population

14 %

of defendants were Asian
despite making up only 9% of the population

OVER 90 %

of those prosecuted were men

21 %

of cases were 'gang' related

40 %

of defendants were 18-24

14 %

of defendants were children

THE GANG NARRATIVE

The Lammy review of 2017 pointed out that young people tend to be stereotyped, particularly Black boys and men, as belonging to gangs with insufficient evidence. For example, Greater Manchester Police have 89% Black British young men on their database yet 78% of serious youth violence is committed by those who are white British.



COMMUNITY
HEALTH

£1.2 BILLION PER YEAR

is paid by taxpayers for the conviction of, on average, 1,088 people via Joint Enterprise

FOR 30+ YEARS

Joint Enterprise has been misused in a discriminatory way, and this was ruled by the UK Supreme Court in 2016. Since this ruling, the number of Joint Enterprise convictions in the UK has only increased, disproportionately affecting working class people, and people of colour.

“GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT. BUT THEY
DON'T WANNA PROVE US INNOCENT” - EZE

Turn page for more information

JENGBA

JOINT ENTERPRISE **NOT** GUILTY BY ASSOCIATION

JENGBA is a grassroots, volunteer campaigning organisation, formed by families, mostly women, whose loved ones are serving life sentences for crimes they didn't commit. Born out of the injustice of the use of Joint Enterprise as unjust, unfair and discriminatory towards working class and BAME communities, JENGBA fights tirelessly to end the use of this common law, that makes no common sense.



THE LAW

Joint Enterprise is a common law doctrine that allows people to be convicted for a crime someone else committed, if they are said to have helped or encouraged it. Many have been given life sentences just for being nearby, knowing the person who did it, or sending a message, sometimes not even at the scene. In 2016, the Supreme Court ruled the law had been used incorrectly for 30 years. Yet people are still imprisoned unfairly.



HOW DO WE CHANGE IT THOUGH?

JENGBA have campaigned alongside artists, activists, MPS and more who agree that the harmful use of Joint Enterprise needs to end.

To support JENGBA and make this goal reality, scan the QR code at the top of the page to find an email template to write to your MP, a petition to sign, their new podcast - *In It Together* and a link to donate.

Visit jengba.co.uk to see more.

ART NOT EVIDENCE

HOW CREATIVE EXPRESSION IS USED IN COURT

In UK joint enterprise cases, rap lyrics are often used as evidence to suggest gang links or violent intent, even when the accused didn't commit the crime. This unfairly targets young Black men, treating their music as proof of guilt and reinforcing racist stereotypes.

Lyrics are often fictional or exaggerated, but are taken literally in court to imply criminal behaviour. Despite legal changes meant to stop this the practice continues, leading to biased convictions based more on identity and expression than on real evidence.

ART NOT EVIDENCE

are an organisation working to protect rap and forms of artistic expression from being used unfairly within criminal cases. They collaborate with musicians, human rights organisations and community groups to push for legal reform and the decriminalisation of rap and creative expression.

The Crime Prosecution Service does not keep full records on the use of rap in criminal proceedings. However a 2024 report found 68 cases of rap being used in court, involving 252 defendants between 2020 and 2023.

SIGN THE ART NOT EVIDENCE OPEN LETTER



OF THE 252 DEFENDANTS, THE DATA SHOWED:

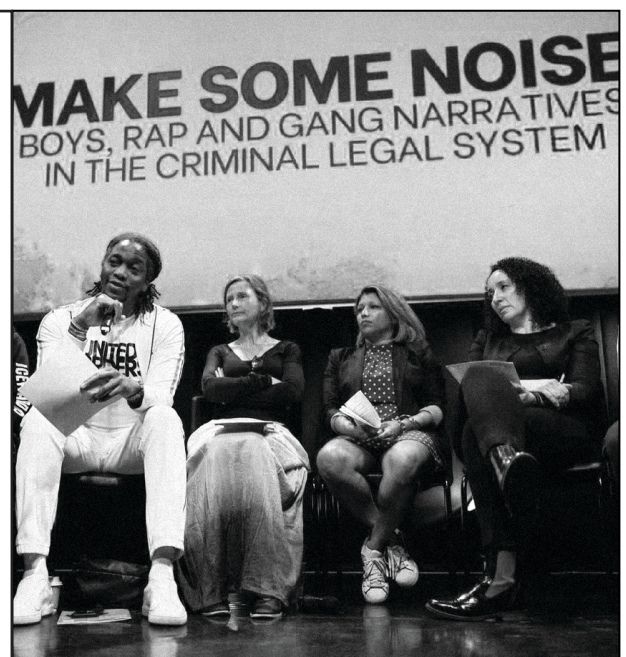
15% WERE CHILDREN

84% WERE OF AN ETHNIC MINORITY GROUP

78% WERE BLACK OR MIXED RACE INDIVIDUALS

53% WERE CONVICTED UNDER JOINT ENTERPRISE

63% OF CASES WERE RELIANT ON A GANG NARRATIVE



WITNESS STATEMENTS

FROM THE PUBLIC INTEREST CAST



KASHI

LUKAS CERVENAK

@get.atm3

“A lot of people never did anything wrong. The type of stain it leaves on their life is a big burden for them.”

Kashi is a Bradford rapper who used writing and music as therapy in his darkest times. Now, he just wants people to understand and connect with his music and his story.



BR4D

BRADLEY ESCALANTE - JUSTICE

@br4dofficial

*“Keep it simple, we won’t confuse it: locked up on Joint Enterprise that sh*t’s so abusive.”*

BR4D is a poetic artist and storytelling rapper originally from Bradford. His music is influenced by artists like Bugzy Malone, who he says inspires him to have a positive outlook on life, despite its challenges.



IFB

IBRAHIM FLAHERTY @ibbyfrombradford

“The justice system has failed the majority of youth. I hope someone higher up actually listens.”

Ibby is a producer and DJ who has been on the Bradford music scene for over 10 years. He produces and plays everything from bassline to garage and house, creates original music and performs all around the country.



KEMMI

KEMMI GILL

@kg_bdx

“So many people are wrongly convicted and we don’t have that trust with the police to tell them things are wrong.”

Kemmi is a rapper, poet, and youth worker from Bradford who has found freedom through creating music. She’s passionate about justice and improving the lives of young people in Bradford.

WITNESS STATEMENTS

FROM THE PUBLIC INTEREST CAST



EZE

@ezewashere

EZESINACHI ONWUGHALU

“You want me in the box because I was in the right place at the wrong time. You see how this ain’t as fair as it seems?”

Eze is a producer, engineer, musician and rapper known for his vivid storytelling about life’s hard-hitting realities. His discography explores topics like resilience and personal growth.



SAZ

SARAH MANNING

@s6r6h.m02

“People don’t know what Joint Enterprise is, it’s not spoken about enough. You’re already guilty to them.”

Sarah is a youth worker living in Bradford who rediscovered her love of music through a wellbeing singing group. Through Public Interest, she hopes to raise awareness about Joint Enterprise on a bigger platform.



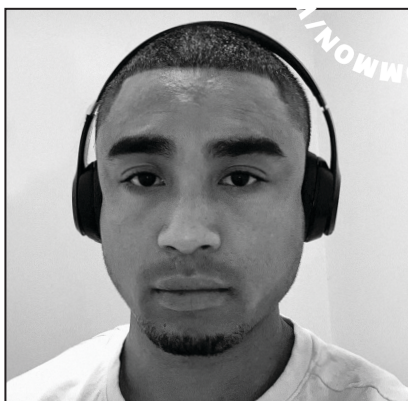
NESCIO 27

NIKKIEL PINNOCK

@nescio27

“Joint Enterprise can happen to anyone - there’s a lot of vulnerable kids. It’s good to just spread the word.”

Nikkiel is an artist from Bradford who began making music in 2019 through a youth organisation, helping young artists record, produce and write. He wants to inspire young people see that they can make a career out of their talents, no matter their background.



CLEESHAY

JOE APPIAH

@cleeshay1

“I always thought, when all the evidence comes out, they will see the light. But that’s not how it went.”

Cleeshay is a musician from London who campaigns with JENGBA. He was wrongly imprisoned for 12 years under Joint Enterprise. In prison, music became his refuge, and he channels his talent into raising awareness of his story and inspiring people to follow their passion.

ACCOMPLICES

CREATIVE

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EVIE MANNING

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
DERMOT DALY

DRAMATURG
KIRSTY HOUSLEY

VIDEO DESIGNER
CATHERINE WOODHOUSE

CHOREOGRAPHER
KLOÉ DEAN

CHOREOGRAPHER ASSISTANT
CACHE THAKE

MOVEMENT DIRECTOR
MAY MCQUADE

COMPOSER
J3

COMPOSER
WOJCIECH RUSIN

PRODUCTION DESIGNER
SASCHA GILMOUR

PRODUCTION DESIGN ASSISTANT
MADI OMATSEONE

LIGHTING DESIGNER
ANDY PURVES

CREATIVE PRODUCER
EZRA NASH

CASTING AND SUPPORTING
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SAOIRSE TEALE

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
MARIYAH KAYAT

FILMMAKER
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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
LAURA MITCHELL

COLLABORATOR
ISHY AHMED

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PRODUCTION MANAGER
TOM ROBBINS

COMPANY STAGE MANAGER
ASSEN CHAN

TECHNICAL STAGE MANAGER
MISHA BENJAMIN

SOUND ENGINEER / OPERATOR
MANON MCCOY

LIGHTING ENGINEER / OPERATOR
STEWART BARTLES

VIDEO ENGINEER / OPERATOR
JOE BUNCE

VIDEO ENGINEER / OPERATOR
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TECHNICAL PRODUCTION
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CONAL WALSH

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
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PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
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YOUNG CREATIVE PLACEMENT
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AMY HEGARTY**

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RB, HARITH, ACE,
CLEGGY, RHYS, ISA
KHIYA AND VICTOR**

FAMILY CONTRIBUTORS

MALVERN, JOANNE, ISHY AND MARY

SHOW HOSTS

**AAMINAH, TORI, ZAINAAB TILLY AND
EMERODE**

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ACCOMPLICES

SPECIAL THANKS TO

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BRADFORD
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the SHED funded
platform Necessity

COMMON WEALTH

MAKE WAY FOR THE COMMON / WEALTH MOVEMENT

Common/Wealth is a political theatre company based in both Bradford and Cardiff, UK. We make high-quality theatre and other public events and projects that centre working-class people and experience. We work locally, nationally and internationally, are positively reviewed by audiences and the media, and have won numerous awards for our work that always punches above its weight.

If you enjoyed Public Interest, keep up with our next Cardiff based show, Demand The Impossible, taking place October 2025 at The Corn Exchange, Newport, Wales. Part performance, part gig, part sensory experience, this show interrogates police infiltration of activist networks and UK police injustice, challenging audiences to question truth, trust, power and overlapping realities.

We've also written a book! DO IT YOURSELF - Making Political Theatre is a retrospective of our work, it shares our methodology, personal experiences and belief in theatre being a tool for social change. We're most proud that the largest section of the book is a practical toolkit with input from past and present collaborators. Pre order now from Manchester University Press.



See more of our previous shows, upcoming events and all the work we do at commonwealththeatre.co.uk and follow our socials!



PUBLIC INTEREST

Public Interest was created to confront the racist and classist use of Joint Enterprise, support JENGBA's campaign and challenge the narratives around working-class youth. We wanted to celebrate the music often targeted in Joint Enterprise cases, and inspire audiences through the creativity, commitment, and vulnerability of our cast and collaborators to continue to raise awareness of discrimination within in the justice system.

Photography and filming has taken place throughout the performance. We will use this in the following ways:

- To campaign and raise awareness about Joint Enterprise and the harm it creates
- As documentation of the production
- For audiences from each performance to view on a website after the performance
- For promotional purposes for this, and future versions of the show, by us, our partners and the media
- For sharing information about the production with our partners and funders.

If you no longer give your permission for us to use your image these ways, please contact us via comms@commonwealththeatre.co.uk.

We'd love to know your thoughts, feelings and feedback about tonight's performance! Please scan the code to complete our audience survey. Thank you so much for attending Public Interest.

