

Grassroot Interceptors

Protecting the Public - When they feel safe, we all feel safe



Image supplied by Candice Dione

Passing the Baton

BRING CITIZENS & STATE TOGETHER

THINKING SMARTER WORKING TOGETHER

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Passing the Baton

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Immediately

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Passing the Baton.

Assaults on Police Officers are increasing in both incidence and intensity, is it time for the bodycam to help build trust in *England and Wales*

In 2018/19 There were over **30,000** assaults on police officers in England and Wales (including British Transport Police).

Of which, **20,578** were crimes of “assault **without injury** on a constable” recorded across all forces (including the British Transport Police)

An increase of 13% compared with 18,138 in the previous year.

10,399 crimes of “assault **with injury** on a constable” recorded across all forces (including British Transport Police).

An increase of 27% compared with 8,157 in the previous year (Government, 2019).

Our Summary.

1. Assault intensity is increasing at twice the rate of incidence.
2. Figures represent a growing discourse between **Citizen** (*community*) and **State** (*Police*)

Bringing Citizens and state together with policymakers to make changes happen.

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Brixton, London:

Grassroot Interceptors, Booted and Rooted has launched, **Passing the Baton**, a new initiative that meets the needs of today's major issue concerning the **Police and use of force** (college.police.uk, n.d.).

In light of the George Floyd incident, (BBC, 2020) and more recently the disturbances in Brixton (Standard, 2020), public debating is calling for tougher measures, tougher laws, tougher attitudes (CNN, 2020), we believe it's time to be thinking smarter, and Passing the Baton offers a new way for both parties, Citizen and State in the communities to be connected and, while at the same time, the community can gain insight into the procedure of the Police Use of Force, as we refer to the training manuals published by the Ministry of Justice, (Justice, 2020) and Police UK College (college.police.uk, n.d.), as we also question, "**How the cameras can be used in police training, management, and internal investigations to improve police performance, accountability, and legitimacy in the community,**" (Lockhart, 2019).

Booted and Rooted Believe that Passing the Baton will, they envisage, mobilise the community, of which, they want to **Increase understanding about the Police use of force** (HMIC, n.d.), **build trust between authorities and community** (Police, 2020), and **reduce assaults against Police**. By thinking smarter and working together, our public participation with the community will involve, fact sheets and packs, and when permitted, workshops, public meetings, and open houses. (Government, 2019),

Michael Groce, Poet, co-founder and Operations Manager at Booted and Rooted.

The figures clearly shows that the situation between community and authority is fractured, unacceptable and inhumane, it's no longer about colour anymore, it's about conduct, and this project is a good chance of getting to know firstly how the Police works, and what is expected from the public when engagement happens when in contact with Police. I think the poem says it all why we are doing this, the poem has driven this project, and gathered together a great team of people who also see the value of this project, and all of us can't wait to get it on its way, I am excited by the prospects of it all. Passing the Baton will train ambassadors, mobilise a community and put into practice a solid theory of change.

Phil Davies, Community Activist, co-founder and Business Development Manager at Booted and Rooted.

Quotes Alice Bailey,

"It must never be forgotten that this fourth ray of conflict is the ray whose energies, rightly applied and understood, bring about harmony and at-one-ment. The result of this harmonising activity is beauty; but it is beauty that is achieved through struggle. This produces a livingness through death, a harmony through strife, a Union through diversity and adversity. (Lucistrust, n.d.)

Note: Passing the Baton will start immediately. For more information on Passing the Baton, visit www.bootedandrooted.com

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About Booted and Rooted.

The story of Booted and Rooted Ltd, started out in 2010 when founders Michael Groce, and Philip Davies, met at a mutual friends house, having known each other in passing, over a period of years since this chance meeting, a concerned observation of the current issues of the day, manifested quite rapidly in to action, leading them both on a journey that would eventually ignite the development of award winning, social enterprise, Booted and Rooted and what it is today. (Rooted, 2020)

Note: We offer facilitation solutions that connect Communities with authorities. (Ltd, 2020)

About Michael Groce.

Michael Groce is a poet, community worker and former criminal. His mother, Cherry Groce, was shot by police during a dawn raid on her home, starting the 1985 Brixton riot in London, England. He is now a published poet, having won the Cheltenham Poetry Prize, and actively engages with the Lambeth community to inform and empower the community (wikipedia, 2020)

Early biography

Michael Groce was brought up in Tinworth House, on a rough housing estate in Vauxhall, and Brixton Frontline, London. Much of his life from age six was spent in residential care. He was involved with street gangs and had been exposed to guns during his childhood. He spent time in and out of prison; throughout his life, he accrued 50 convictions and 15 different spells in prison.

Role in the riots

A few days before the riots, Michael Groce was involved in a domestic dispute with his girlfriend during which he fired a gun. Shortly afterwards, he heard a knocking on the door, and went down to answer it, believing it to be a neighbour complaining about the gunshot. Instead, he found a police officer, enquiring if he was Michael Groce. Michael Groce attempted to close the door, but the police officer would not let him, and only left after Groce put the gun into the officer's mouth. (wikipedia, 2020)

Following this incident, Michael Groce fled the house, and took up residence with his sister. After three days of hiding, when he turned on the television, he was presented with a picture of his mother accompanying a news story about her shooting and subsequent paralysis from the waist down. She had been shot in a police raid in search of him ((Inquest, 2014)

- Her shooting triggered the riots. Groce handed himself in to the police shortly afterwards (BBC, 1985)
- Michael has a long running connection with the Police and Prison Service, Criminal Justice System, and its procedure spanning 50 years ((wikipedia, 2020))

Social Enterprise and community work

Following the riots, Michael Groce attempted to help the community recover - he ran an DWP award winning youth project called Unlock, an alternative motivational opportunity to crime prevention in partnership with Job Centre Plus and Southwark Police.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GnNzkEfxJA>

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He now runs social enterprise, Booted and Rooted, supplying Educational Resources, Restorative Practices, underpinned by The Theory of Change, and Dialogue by Design, Non-Violent Communication and Restorative Justice all over the country. Partners include: Ministry of Justice, Lambeth Council, Lambeth Probation and Greenman Skills Zone. (wikipedia, 2020)

Political activity

In May 2018, Groce ran as the Green Party candidate in the Lambeth Council Elections where he stood in the Coldharbour ward. He polled 761 votes finishing the runner up in fourth place out of twelve candidates. Later that year, Groce was again selected as the Green candidate for the Brixton Coldharbour ward (Which includes Angel Town) by-election where he again finished in second place with 30.5% of the vote (912 votes), an increase of 15%. (wikipedia, 2020)

Poetry

Michael Groce is also a poet. He wrote poetry in prison, often at the request of other inmates to send in letters to partners or family. He won the Cheltenham Festivals, and runs his own performance open mic night, Doing the Lambeth Walk Open Mic@ Brixton Kitchen café, Black Prince Road, LondonSE11 6AA, Every Fridays, 7pm til 10pm ((Eventbrite, 2020))

Info: doingthelambethwalkopenmic@gmail.com

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/doing-the-lambeth-walk-open-mic-tickets-91571024399>

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Poem

Decades In and Decades On by Michael Groce
"Restored Justice does breathe"

Decades in and Decades On
"Restored Justice does breathe"
By the characters of the community
Not based on the colour of our skin

Decades In ...

Same feeders singing the same sad and broken song
Same feeders repeating to the same converted throng
Same feeders preaching the same decades on of wrongs
Same feeders, same march, same beatings of the drum

The blame feeders of anger continue to hold court
The blame feeders of rhetoric continue to still quote
Placards, banners, and slogans the blame feeders' moots
The blame feeders loophole the laws and lasso the statues

Decades in and Decades On
"Restored Justice does breathe"
By the characters of the community
Not based on the colour of our skin

Decades On ...

We need to educate new leaders armed with new songs
New leaders to recruit, and convert to a newer throng
New teachings that reduce any of the newer wrongs
New leaders, fewer marches and beat, as one tight drum

Let *Dialogue by Design* open, so that community's throng
Nonviolent communication the tool, to getting things done
Restorative Justice restored and does not decay, decades on
New themes, **The Theory of Change** is the beating of the drum

Decades in and decades on
Decades of poverty and prospects decaying
Decades in and decades on
Decades of fighting and moods decaying
Decades in and decades on
Decades of death and "The State" decaying
Decades in and decades on
Decades of injustice and rights decaying

Decades in and Decades On
"Restored Justice does breathe"
By the characters of the community
Not based on the colour of our skin

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