

MNM/45

Sandra Edwards

Recording of an interview with Sandra Edwards conducted as part of the Bernie Grant Trust project 'Marginalised No More', (2019).

Name: Sandra Edwards

Interviewer: Naomi Tobias

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Location: Unknown

Recording Length: 00:40:06

Transcript: None available

Summary: Edwards describes growing up, living and working in Tottenham, especially during the years 1983-1993; her role at the child clinic for newborns; working at the Black Women's Centre in Tottenham, including the origins of the Centre; racial profiling from the police, including stop and search and police brutality; her experiences of the Broadwater Farm riots; meeting Bernie Grant

Note: digital material is stored in the digital drive and can be consulted in the researcher's area.

APPLY TO ARCHIVIST

0:02 - Naomi (Interviewer)

Okay, so my name is Naomi Tobias. I'm with the Bernie Grant archive, Marginalized No More Project. Today is the 31st of July, 2019 and I'm here with.

Sandra (Interviewee)

Sandra Edwards. I'm a social worker for a charity in London. Yeah.

0:27 - Naomi (Interviewer)

Lovely. Thank you. Sandra. Well, while I do this interview, I probably won't speak a lot, because I really want to hear your voice. So if I don't, I will be listening and I'll be nodding. But if you don't hear me say much. It's just because I really want to make sure we capture your voice and not me speaking over you. Okay, so my first question is, and it's been my first question to everybody is, what are your memories of Tottenham? General memories of Tottenham between 1983 and 1993?

0:59 - Sandra (Interviewee)

Well, I mean, I lived in Tottenham at that time, and I suppose I grew up there. And so it is the place where I know very well, got lots of friends there at the time. So, yeah, it's just it was the place that I know and I grew up in. So yeah, that was my memories of it. Obviously, I used to work in Tottenham. I worked several jobs in Tottenham, really. I worked at Park Lane in the Children's Clinic. I worked at black woman's center in on Lordship Lane. Yeah, I think I can't remember. There's probably other jobs I've done there, but main, those are the two kind of main jobs that I worked at. So, yeah,

1:57 - Naomi (Interviewer)

Lovely, and you said you worked at The Children's Center. Can you describe what that was like for for that period of time?

2:06 - Sandra (Interviewee)

What the Children's?

Naomi (Interviewer)

The Children's Clinic sorry.

Sandra (Interviewee)

Ah right, that was just the clinic where I worked. It was just a baby clinic. So obviously, when you had your baby, and you came to way, do all the checks I worked in that clinic. So you know, when your new mom, you have your baby, you come to get it weighed, you could speak to health visitor. And I organized making sure that you had your six week check. So you know that the baby would have a health visit, visitor, visit them in six weeks to check that they're developing fine and meeting all their milestones. So yeah, that's what I did. I worked in there for a little while, and it was really interesting, meeting lots of people. Some you knew, some you didn't know. Some you met along the way. I mean, I still see some of the mums who kind of moved out of the area, and you know, you've seen the children who are now grandchildren, the the mothers who came with the babies and our grandparents. So, yeah.

3:08 - Naomi (Interviewer)

Lovely. Thank you and the black women's center. You worked in the Black Women's Center.

Sandra (Interviewee)

Yeah, I did a bit of work in there.

3:14 - Naomi (Interviewer)

Okay. Can you tell me, like, why was there a black women center in Tottenham? Do you know the history of?

3:20 - Sandra (Interviewee)

I think initially the black woman center was set up. It was set up for the women of the community. At that particular time when I kind of worked there, we it was just after the Tottenham riots. So the Tottenham riots happened in about 85 during that time, there was a lot

of difficulty, a lot of unrest. Families were just all over the place. You know, after the riots, most people, well, I would say most black men or young black boys were just picked up by the police for various different reasons, especially after the riot they you know, everybody was a suspect, you know, whether you were there or not. So it was kind of a trying time. And I suppose what the black woman center was set up to support women at those times because there was a lot of mothers, girlfriends, wives at that time that were running around trying to support their partners, their children, who were either being arrested, were being targeted, you know, it was a difficult time. You know, I even remember a situation where, because, obviously it was part of Broadwater Farm. And, you know, young boys, whether they were in a car that belonged to them or it wasn't theirs.

5:00 - Sandra (Interviewee)

You know, they were chased by the police, and there was an incident where the police drove in such a way that they actually crashed into a wall, and that's how they got to arrest them. So it's like that was the kind of stuff that was happening at that time, where women were like told that their son is at Tottenham police station. And then when they go to Tottenham police station, they were told they were Ponder's End or they were Edmonton. So the the black woman center, in a sense, obviously, was set up to support these women and help them and give them advice about where to do, where to go, what to do in in circumstances around their loved ones that were sort of been incarcerated or being accused of or being harassed by the police. It was, it was kind of, yeah, that was the main purpose. And it was also to kind of that was one aspect of it, and also it was a way of the other part of it was to engage young people into staying off the streets, so giving them a purpose, so that it was kind of split into two, in terms of you'd have a children side of it, and you had a place where women could go and Just kind of get support, really. So that was the black women's center. And it was a social place as well. It was, it was, it was also social. We did lots of events so that, you know, it was to bring in the community, bring the community back together, do things where we could get away from what we were facing on a day to day basis, really,

6:48 - Naomi (Interviewer)

And what kind of environment was it to work in? What, how did you feel as an employee?

6:56 Sandra (Interviewee)

Well, it was, how can I say it was? It was very community led. It was hard because obviously, as a community center, you're always governed by how much money you had to spend. And at that time, a lot of the children that used to come to the center were coming from very difficult backgrounds in terms of, you know, there was very little money. So to work there, it was about providing them with, you know, some of the stuff that they wouldn't necessarily get, like a good meal, good you know, outings and places where they could go which would cost their parents a lot of money and wouldn't be able to do so in I suppose it was about introducing them to other things to keep you know, so that they you know. It wasn't just about this is my life. I live in Tottenham. Everything's dreary, but there's life outside of Tottenham that they would probably not get to know because of their financial situation.

8:05 - Naomi (Interviewer)

Thank you for that. You also mentioned to me in other conversations that you before this period of 1983 to 1993 you also worked in in Tescos, I believe, as a part time job.

8:20 Sandra (Interviewee)

Yeah. I mean, I was at school, wasn't I? Am we were, you know, everybody had a little part time job, a little gig you did when you, you know, get your extra little pocket money.

Naomi (Interviewer)

Okay.

Sandra (Interviewee)

So, yeah, I kind of, yeah, I did a little part time working in, you know, it was I worked in Edmonton, which was very, very close to, which is sort of the next borough, so to speak, to Tottenham, which was down the road, literally.

8:53 - Naomi (Interviewer)

And I think you, you spoke to me about a time in Tottenham where you were waiting for the bus. Everyone was waiting for the bus to go to work.

9:00 - Sandra (Interviewee)

Oh right, yeah. I mean, even, I mean, I suppose even before the riots, Tottenham was always the place where people thought of as, I don't know, where I don't know, probably very sort of, I don't even have to describe it, but kind of one of those places where you things go on, you know, like it was always seen as, you know, as a young black boy growing up, that you're, you're, you're going to be faced with, you're going to, this is the route that you're going to go down. You're going to be a criminal wherever. And I remember, we're always conscious of that. We're always aware. You're always aware that, you know, walking down the road, three or four black guys, you were going to get stopped. So you'd walk with women. You'd walk with your women. You You know, you'd be, you know, so we're all so as a community, you know your friends were. Just girls or girls went round with girls, or boys went round with boys. It was, it was groups, you know, you were together. So I do recall that being kind of going to work one day standing at the bus stop with my friends. We were all going to work, group of us, we'd meet up at the bus stop because we were going to the same job. And the police coming up to us one day and asking us. Were not asking me so much, but asking one of the guys that were with us, couple of the guys that were with us, saying, asking them to come and do ID parade. And I remember distinctly saying, Don't do it. Don't do it. And the police were kind of saying why they should do, you know, we can do it. We've got the suspect. We don't need we just want them to, you know, fit, you know, just come in and do the ID parade. And I'm thinking, No, because what if the person picks them? Then you're going to question them. And I just didn't want that to happen. And I said to these guys, don't do it.

11:00 - Sandra (Interviewee)

And just for peace and harmony. Somehow we thought we should do it, but at the same time, it would be in our detriment to do it. That's how I always felt. And I think a lot of people felt like that. They didn't feel the police were genuine. You know, if I said to you, come and do something for you. Me, this is what I want you to do, that would be they say, Oh yeah, that's Sandra. But when the police come and ask you, it's like, what's their motive? What do they want? So it was always about being always curious about what they want. They might ask you for something that sounds okay. But in reality, was it, so I don't record them, actually, the guys doing it, because I think I intervened, and I think the police were very upset about that. They didn't like that, you know, because they're trying to say, you know, where we you know, we always used to get those kind of jokes where the police would say things like, you know, we're on your side. We understand. We know there's a difficulty with black people and the police, you know, they'd kind of make it into like it was not an issue, but it was as though, you know, I remember going to police stations for friends who'd been arrested. I mean, they, they arrested people on the streets of busses of, do you know what I mean, and the way they did it, I remember being in Wood Green and seeing a guy basically with his face in the ground, and the police basically on top of him. And, you know, they thought that was okay, you know, to draw a crowd so everybody could see, this is how we treat you. You don't abide by the law. So it's like, this is how they do but then they'll turn around and say things like, we know you're upset with the police, but it's not our fault. It's not this, you know, there's a and, you know, kind of pacifying it off as it as though it wasn't an issue, but it was, and making us, making us think that, you know, we're not here to hurt you. We're not here to get get you. But you knew that they were you knew you were always fearful of that.

13:11 - Naomi (Interviewer)

Thank you. Thank you for that. Just want to go back a little bit to what you said that you you'd visited police stations for friends. Do you think that was a quite a common experience for black women or black people in in Tottenham at the time?

13:30 - Sandra (Interviewee)

Yeah. You go to a police station and you'll see many mothers sitting outside waiting to go in. They sit there for ages and ages, sometimes even when they did sit there for hours and hours waiting to see their son or whoever it was, that they'd eventually be told, Oh, he's not here. He's at the other station. And they did that just to, you know, get you running around. So you'd go to this one and that one, and they say, No, he's not here. He's at that one. So they used to do that, and they they'll make it as if it was a mistake, or as though, but they knew what they were doing. They were playing to hold on to the child lot longer. Sometimes they wouldn't even call the parents. Even if they had a child that was under age, they didn't call the parents straight away. They would wait, you know, so that child would be in the cells for like, 3, 4, 5, hours before a parents called. So, and then they'll tell that child, or that young person, we've called your parents, and they know they haven't, so, yeah, it is a common and, you know, you'd, you'd go with people because you'd support other mothers, because you knew that they were going through it. It was a difficult, difficult experience. Some, you know, most of the parents, they would stay clear of the law. They weren't involved in, you know, they've no form of criminal behavior, but they. That having a son or a daughter, mainly a son that may be in a group, they,

you know, the police love that they see them as a target always. You know, they'd go up to a group of kids and, you know, it's almost like you'd antagonize them to create a situation. So yeah, it was difficult for a lot of mothers around that time.

15:23 - Naomi (Interviewer)

We've spoken a little bit before this about trauma and deep and and and how living in Tottenham at the time there was a level of anxiety that you kind of lived with. Do you think that? Do you think that you still carry that to some extent? Do you? Do you think there is some?

15:48 - Sandra (Interviewee)

I don't think it's gone. No, I know we're in 2019 and I suppose as parent, as a young person, growing up in the 80s and 90s, and experiencing that, you carry that into your adulthood, and you will always be cautious about when you see the police, why are they stopping that young person? And it's really hard to separate that that young person's done a crime, to that young person being black. Because if you know, I'm not saying at the end of the day, there are kids out there, they are committing crimes. There's no doubt about it, you know. But they're not all black. First and foremost, and secondly, the penalty for the for black kids, or the treatment, how we're treated, in respect of that is very different. Um, most parents fear their children's life. You do if, if you're, if you even now, if you're, you hear that your son's been arrested, your immediate thoughts are negative.

17:00 - Sandra (Interviewee)

Their immediate thoughts is, oh, my God, you know, am I going to be burying my son? We're in 2019 and not even a I think year ago, it went round on social media how a boy was in a supermarket and the police were went in there. They thought he had drugs. They choked him to death. And he's never here to tell he started the story, but their story is that they were he had taken some drugs, and everybody knew that every It's been said that he had only paracetamol or something of that nature. So that's the kind of fear you have every time your son leaves the house. You can't lock them up, but that is what you're up against every single day, and it's my son going to come home? Is he going to be dead or alive? You know, parents should not be living like that. You know, you're always cautious. A lot of parents that when my son was going to school, it's almost like we wanted to pick them up and drop them every single place they went on, or, you know, so that that we they weren't exposed. Nobody could say, well, your son was there, or your son was there, because you're so fearful that even when your son isn't there or whatever, that that, that, you know that is the situation. So, yeah, even, you know a lot was going on at that time, but it's, it's still the same now, and I don't know, I mean, that's how way of protecting ourself, but I don't know if that is the right way, really, it's just how we've kind of believed that we should be because we we're always fearful that when our children go and get into this, that they're going to be treating lot worse.

18:54 - Naomi (Interviewer)

Yeah, no. Thank you for that. That's That's brilliant. The next question I'd like to ask, and again, it's all been very difficult to talk

Sandra (Interviewee)

It is.

this heavy conversation that we're having, but I believe you were there the night of the riots, on board I was would you? Could you describe?,

19:14 - Sandra (Interviewee)

Wow. Wow. I suppose it's one of those experience that you never, ever think you would be in at the time of the riots.

19:28 - Naomi (Interviewer)

And we're talking about the 1985?

19:31 - Sandra (Interviewee)

1985 riots, Tottenham riots, at that particular time. I mean, I can tell you, my friend lived on the farm at the time. She lived on Broadwater Farm. I had a really, really close friend who's now deceased. She lived on the farm at that time, and so as you do, you're going to your friend's house. Yes, that day we did hear on the news, as we always do, when something drastic happens to of our people. And that particular day, we heard that a woman had died because the police had trampled into her house. Basically she was having a heart attack, and they basically stepped over her body, disrespected her anyway, and went in her house and wanted to search for what they thought was her son who was a criminal. So she died, which people obviously was upset, because the guy who they went into, he's obviously who they were looking for. He's got friends in the community who knew his mum and were very upset by what had happened, very aggrieved, very aggrieved, very didn't know how else to express their emotions. So they, they sort of went outside the police station and said, you know, we want answers. What is this about? And this is, this is on the stem of a long history of people being arrested, people being treated in certain ways.

21:00 - Sandra (Interviewee)

Do you know what I mean? It's, it's, it's, it's, it's like, this is the icing on the cake for them. This is enough. Is enough. So they went and protested outside the police station with basically, you know, people were upset and still didn't get any answers. So they took matters into their hand, I suppose at the time, oh, gosh, you kind of think, really, is this happening? Really? Because we're so how can I say I feel a lot of our people are very law abiding. They want to keep on the right side of the law. They don't want any trouble. They just want to do live their life and do the best they can for their children. They don't, they're not into creating problems. So when you see something like that on the news, you know we're creating a riot. It sounds worse than it is. But it wasn't about that. It was about people actually saying, Enough is enough. People were actually saying, You need to listen to us. We're upset. We're angry. How long are you going to treat our people this way? You know we meant to just lock up in our house and not come out. What is it that you want from us? Are we not meant to we don't feel the same emotions as everybody else. You know, a woman's dying and you treat her like it's nothing, you know. So I think that was the message that was coming across. However, you know, you got media, you got police, you got

everybody who took it completely different way. So at the time of the riots, I didn't feel scared or upset. I probably felt that those people doing it were very brave. I felt that it because it takes a lot of guts. It takes a lot of because you don't know where that's going to go, and we kind of didn't know where it was going to go, but we did it anyway. And I have to say, I supported those people who are brave enough to stand up to the police and say, Come on, enough is enough. We are not having this anymore. How it turned out was very different, because, again, people don't listen to us. They see the actions as negative, and never saw it as what it was. So in a sense, you kind of take that away as well, because you think, Oh, God, our people have done wrong. You do feel that. You think everybody's saying it was out of order. A policeman died, but no mention that this black woman died. The police, the police just mentioned that this, this, this, this police officer died. How he was hacked to death.

24:00 - Sandra (Interviewee)

So what happens then is, it's all about this man. It's nothing to do about this woman. It's nothing to do with how the police treated us. It's nothing to do with, you know, justice and what was going on. It becomes, you know, almost as though these animals were let out of the cage and decided to run riot, so in that they treated us as such. You know, they went round, banging on people's doors, dragging people out of their houses, arresting anybody that was black. They didn't even know who they were looking for. They were taking people into custody in their underwear. People were appearing in court with a blanket over them, with no clothes on. They would, you know, these are the this is the way they treated us. They treated us back as though we were animals, and the theory. Is that if we retaliated this, we this is this would continue. So in a sense, we kind of went into our shell, because we've now said, Stop treating us like that. But what happened was the they took it and they treated us even worse. So to tell us, you ain't fighting us right when there's no justice, here, you do as you're told, and this is how people felt. So we kind of went back into our shell and be those law abiding and accept the stop and search, and that increased. So it wasn't the best. It was. It was kind of a lot of people weren't able to say how they really feel. And people to this day, I don't believe, understand what it is, what the racism, it really means, or what it really what it what, what what people are doing to each other they just see as a black and white thing. And it's not. It's about human it's about how you treat human beings.

26:00 - Sandra (Interviewee)

Yes, it is about black people, but it is about human beings. You don't just because we're black, we're not inhuman, we are human beings and so, but, you know, it's almost like we don't have a say. We do as we're told. Yes, Master, too, Master. You know, it's that kind of culture keep us in our place, and so a lot of us kind of wanted to, you know, confide to that, because it's easier to live that kind of way, rather than to get into fighting the system. Because it's almost like there's one of you and 20 of them. Is that real fair fight? So, yeah, it was a traumatic time, and I that's one of the reasons I believe. But people don't talk about it because it's almost as though we've internalized that it was our fault when it wasn't. So if some it's your fault, you're not going to talk about it. You're going to try and forget it, and try and move on and and then and say, right, we're going to do better, or whatever. But you don't talk about something that is so painful, where people can treat you the same way they've always treated you. And you know, we're talking 83

which is what, 30 odd years later, and people think, Well, what's really changed? You know, what? What has changed since then? You know, we're still fighting that same battle, even in a different way, but we're still fighting it. You know, people think, oh, you know, at that time unemployment was high, obviously, we were the top of the scale in terms of unemployed, most of our people out of work, but we think, you know, we're a little bit better because maybe we've got a job, but it is still the same. If we look at the scale of how, you know, who's out of work and who's got less, it's still the same. It is. You know, some of us might have a job, but you know, we're not being paid for our worth. So, yeah, yeah, that's why I believe people have kind of decided that it's better not to talk about because it's hurtful. It's just, it's a painful experience. It's, it's an experience where people basically felt they could do whatever they wanted to us, and we had to just humble and take it.

28:31 - Naomi (Interviewer)

Thank you for that. It sounds like a very difficult time. Can I, can I move maybe something slightly lighter, or your memories, we sort of talked about your general memories of Tottenham. Can I ask how old you would have been in sort of 1990 How old would you have roughly been in?

28:52 - Sandra (Interviewee)

In 1990s probably late 20s.

28:56 - Naomi (Interviewer)

Is there? Can you remember?

28:58 - Sandra (Interviewee)

In 1990 I would have been i Yeah, 26, 27, something like that.

29:08 - Naomi (Interviewer)

Okay was there, what about sort of socially and Tottenham, or the sort of community socially-

29:14 - Sandra (Interviewee)

Socially? What was happening socially?

29:16 - Naomi (Interviewer)

What was happening socially, what was happening in the community, you know, in a?

29:19 - Sandra (Interviewee)

What you mean, like parties or?

Naomi (Interviewer)

Yeah, yeah.

Sandra (Interviewee)

Yeah, there was always, I think that was our little thing, isn't it? If you went to a dance or a party very I think that was very important. Yeah, I do feel that was an important part of our growing up, having somewhere to go on a Saturday night, whether it was a house party, a dance, some venue where there was music playing and stuff, I think that was our thing. You know, everybody wanted to be out on a Saturday night, unlike now, and I don't think that's to do with age. On. Think, I think that's more to do with, you know, there was difficulties with that in terms of, you know, we still had our parties, but, you know, it did have its little thing, but we managed to keep it going. And it was positive, because most house parties, or, you know, whatever was going on. It was always good. There wasn't people always thought, when we get together, it's got to be negative. But it actually was positive to the point where other people wanted to come and join in, because they, you know, they loved it. But I just think the law talks about noise pollution, and we like our music loud, so that's the difficulty of having parties nowadays is, you know, even if we do have it early, people used to rave right up and into the early hours in the morning.

30:58 - Naomi (Interviewer)

Can you for someone who is maybe listening who's growing up in this age and sort of didn't, doesn't know what a house party used to be like. Can you describe what that might have been?

31:11 - Sandra (Interviewee)

Oh. I don't know it was, obviously, you know, there was certain sound systems that used to play. They all had their little name.

31:22 - Naomi (Interviewer)

Can you, can you give us some of the names? Okay.

Sandra (Interviewee)

They all had their, you know, there was loads of different sounds. I remember, alright, you know you'd go to, like a gemmy magic dance, where you go to, oh, God, there's so many. I can't remember all of them, but, you know, you'd go to, there was different names, different sound system that play, and people used to go to the one they liked the best, who played the best music, or whatever. But regardless of when you went, you know, you still get similar people go to the same thing, and everybody loved the music. There was different. I can't remember all the names of them. They got out my head, really, but, yeah, they were nice. You know, it was exciting time.

32:09 - Naomi (Interviewer)

And this was in the days where, unlike today, they had to travel with their records. They only had the records that they had with them today. Today you'd have to, you could download any record that you wanted, or, you know, playing.

32:20 - Sandra (Interviewee)

Yeah they carried everything, you know, you play the music. They would get the latest music and, or, you know, and so they would have that, you know, there was even what they would call sound clashes and things like that, where you'd have three or four sounds playing in one one

hall, and everybody would see which one's the best, you know. So there's all that was going on. It was exciting. It was good. And those things weren't like what people think. They were lovely. They were, they were they were everybody was there to enjoy themselves, have a good time. No one was in there to fight or, you know, because that was the theme, isn't it, that if we had a party, he would end up in some sort of brawl night, didn't.

33:03 - Naomi (Interviewer)

Thank you. Is there anything that I haven't asked you about that you'd like to add to the end of this interview? Is there any memory that you have or anything you haven't said that you'd like to explore?

33:16 - Sandra (Interviewee)

I think I've said quite a lot in terms of this was it was an error. I suppose that helped formed people and formed their choices. Sadly, a lot of people have moved on from Tottenham. We all kind of, and I suppose that is the part what kind of saddens everybody, is that we all, at some point in the 90s, moved on. We all, like got our own places and moved out of Tottenham, leaving our parents, some who's still alive, some who's not behind, thinking that we've moved on to something better, and we'll escape all of the stuff that we thought we were experiencing, because we all grew up in an area where we're all coming from similar backgrounds. Our parents were coming, you know, our parents all came over from the Caribbean, various different locations, and kind of we all lived here, and we're trying to make a better life for ourselves. And what happened is that we grew up in Tottenham, where we were, felt that we had to move out, because if we were going to make something of ourselves or better ourselves, that we couldn't do it in Tottenham. And so that's why we kind of moved out, and which is sad really, because the you know, it's, it's it's, it's got its history that we're all kind of forgetting, in a sense that we now made lives in different different areas. But what is happened is that we've all scattered

35:00 - Sandra (Interviewee)

and nobody comes together anymore like we used to. So those things like parties, you know, like even the fact that I was on the farm the day that the riots started, that was just because we were friends, going to each other's houses. And we don't do that anymore, you know, we were just going to have a good time, have a laugh, you know, just, you know, we were young, we were we were, you know, we were going to go to work the next day, but we still try to make the most of our weekend. And yet we feel like those kind of times have gone, those kind of, you know, we're all scattered. It's like all those people that used to be around at that time. If you see them once a year, you're lucky. You don't, you don't see people the same way you did, whereas we made the most of those times. I think it wasn't, you know, we didn't have much, we made the best of what we had. But you know, we still, you know, it was a community more so than than it is now. And I think, you know, it's almost like we decided that it's better to be separate than it is to be together, which is sad, I think, because that was the point of a lot of the stuff that happened, it did help bring us together. In some sense, we knew what we were up against, and we worked together all together. But as soon as the hit the fan, so to speak, we all scattered, and we all went different ways. And so, you know, not not intentionally. That wasn't ever the intention. But I think that happened because it was all about safeguarding ourself as people

trying to make our life a little bit better than what it was. We didn't want to be targets of police brutality. You know, we wanted to have the job, or we wanted to have something, so we did what we had to do. But it for me, I think that's the sad bit, is that it's scattered us and we're not together as we should be.

37:06 - Naomi (Interviewer)

Thank you very much. Actually, I have one last question I forgot about. Sorry, one last question. Bernie Grant was the MP during this period, first black MP for Britain, first, black, black. MP, yeah, Britain, at the time, he was quite a controversial figure, and lots of different people have lots of different memories of him. Do you have any memories of him? Or do you have anything that you'd like to discuss?

37:39 - Sandra (Interviewee)

Not really. I mean, I only I might, I probably met him twice. I think there was a meeting, there was a count, or some meeting at the black woman center. And I, I was there when he came to that meeting. And also part of the after the riots. You know, they had the inquiry into the riots, and they held one of the, some of the meetings that the black woman sent. And obviously he was part of the inquiry, and I probably saw him then never really spoke to him. So I never really had any dealings. You knew he was an MP, the only time I thought he, when he when the when the riots happened, he made a comment and got slaughtered for it. And everybody cheered when he said that. He said the police got a bloody good hiding. And everybody cheered. Black people thought, right, somebody's standing for us, somebody's saying something. Somebody in power is saying something. And he then had to retract that so for him to retract that state, having to retract that statement, then put us back out in in almost, sort of like put us back in our place, and said, Look, you know, you can't you, you know, it's almost like telling us off, where, who do we think we are? We, you know, put you back in your place. So I feel that, yes, he did something positive, but at the same time, I didn't feel 100% because he allowed them to tell, you know, that he had to, you know, retract what he said. And I think at the time, I mean, you can never retract, you once you've said it, you've said it. Do you know what I mean? But what it is is that they weren't accepting what he said, and so that's why he had to retract. And he did. And I thought, you know, that's the thing, if you said it, you said it, there's no really retracting, because that's what's what, that's how you felt. So, yeah, but that was my only kind of dealings. I didn't have any more.

40:00 - Naomi (Interviewer)

Thank you very much. Sandra, that's a great interview. Thanks so, so much for your time.