

ECONOMIC (IN)JUSTICE

FACTSHEET - TACTIC

Name	Dr Adam Elliott-Cooper
Details, area of experience	Former youth worker, currently a research fellow in sociology at the University of Greenwich. His research interests include policing, anti-racism, colonialism and post-colonialism. His current research focuses on resistance to racist state violence in 21st century Britain. He sits on the board of The Monitoring Group which was established in Southall (West London) in the 1980s by community campaigners and lawyers who wished to challenge the growth of racism in the locality. Over the past 40 years they have helped thousands of people through casework, campaigns and research.
Interview date	December 2020
Issues addressed	Challenging police power which is demonstrated particularly in 'stop and search' and arrests. This power is disproportionately experienced by young Black and Asian people and young working class people.
Injustice category (linked to economic injustice)	ability <input type="checkbox"/> age <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> class <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> faith <input type="checkbox"/> gender <input type="checkbox"/> neuro-diversity <input type="checkbox"/> race <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sexuality <input type="checkbox"/>
Locations referenced	London
Campaigns, movements, protests	StopWatch, The Monitoring Group, Police Action Lawyers Group, Black Lives Matter
Historical context	More than 35 years after the introduction of statutory regulations governing the use of stop and search powers (following on from

	<p>the ‘sus’ laws), these powers are still used disproportionately on ethnic minorities – especially Black people.</p> <p>In 2013 Black Lives Matter (BLM) was founded, political and social movement protesting against incidents of police brutality and all racially-motivated violence against Black people. The murder of George Floyd in the USA in June 2020 saw world-wide BLM protests.</p>
Tactics	<p>Offering advice and information to support young people in challenging police power if stopped/arrested by the police, either before any police interaction occurs or immediately after a stop and search. Preparing young people for police encounters and giving them strategies to cope with police power.</p>
Key words	<p>De-escalate Stop and Search Disproportionate Criminalised</p>
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The power of the police and how to challenge it • Guidance and advice for young people when stopped and searched or arrested • Being prepared when attending a protest • Importance of representation from lawyers specialising in stop and search • Disproportionate use of stop and search. Black, Asian and people from working class communities over-represented • The violence and death caused by British arms traders and politicians is not criminalised
Stand-out quotations	<p>“Knowledge is power.”</p> <p>“Police power has far less to do with justice, safety and morality. It has everything to do with race and class.”</p> <p>“So Britain is one of the top ten sellers of weapons around the world ... has engaged in forms of violence such as invasions ... and bombing ... but we know that the police won’t be arresting politicians or arms manufacturers for this type of violence or death.”</p>
Summary	<p>Dr Adam Elliot-Cooper offers tactics to prepare people when they are approached, stopped and searched, or arrested by the police. He advises people stopped on the streets, in a vehicle, at a protest or any situation that the main priority is to de-escalate the situation and ask for representation from Police Action Lawyers if necessary.</p> <hr/>

	<p>Adam first became interested in police power and how people can challenge police discrimination, violence or misuse of power when he was a community youth worker. He went on to study it, gaining a BA, an MSc and a PhD. He also became a member of groups such as The Monitoring Group and StopWatch. His research led to a better understanding of police power and how to challenge it. He advises people stopped on the streets, in a vehicle or at a protest or any situation that the main priority is to de-escalate the situation.</p> <p>The best way to do this is to stay calm at all times, answer the questions calmly and walk away from the situation if possible. Questions asked by the police don't have to be answered if an arrest is not being made; a person stopped can ask the police questions if they wish to challenge police power. However, questioning the police is unlikely to de-escalate the situation. It's very important to ensure the necessary support and representation is there if the situation is likely to lead to an arrest. The strong advice is not to use a duty solicitor but ask for a Police Action Lawyer such as the solicitors mentioned above or contact a police monitoring group like StopWatch.</p> <p>Before going to a protest, be prepared; download a BUST card which provides key advice on what to do if stopped and searched or arrested.</p> <p>Police stopping people and asking questions is often a way of they gather intelligence based on the idea that 'Knowledge is Power'. So, perhaps try to as gain as much information as possible about the police e.g. name and badge number, if planning to challenge a stop and search. However, this can escalate the situation and is more likely to anger police and lead to arrest.</p> <p>If arrested stay close to friends and trusted people, there's safety in numbers, stay calm especially in a protest, to minimise the likelihood of being criminalised if arrested.</p> <p>Black and Asian people are more likely to be stopped and searched as well as people from working class communities. A certain type of violence in such communities is likely to be criminalised. Compare this with British arms manufacturers and politicians responsible for selling the weapons used in invasions such as in Afghanistan and Iraq and the bombing in Libya who will not be arrested by the police for this type of violence and death.</p>
Main themes for learners	<p>Why should power be challenged?</p> <p>How young people might do this.</p> <p>What are the Stop and Search powers? And links to previous laws such as the 'sus' laws?</p>

	<p>Where does police power come from and how can it be monitored?</p> <p>What role should the police play in our society?</p>
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