

ECONOMIC (IN)JUSTICE

FACTSHEET - TACTIC

Name	Lela Kogbara
Details, area of experience	Anti-apartheid movement
Interview date	December 2020
Issues addressed	Anti-apartheid movement
Injustice category (linked to economic injustice)	ability <input type="checkbox"/> age <input type="checkbox"/> class <input 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, Southwalk; Woolworth Road
Campaigns, movements, protests	Sporting and cultural boycott; MP involvement; national days of action.
Historical context	1980s sporting and cultural boycott between UK and South Africa; anti-apartheid movement
Tactics	Campaign locally; hand out leaflets; boycott products; cause non-violent disruption; letters to MPs; campaign for divestment; build links; national days of action; ask MPs to sign motions
Key words	Anti-apartheid Boycott Equal rights local and national campaign
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cause non-violent disruption • Use boycotting and divestment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain support and build links
Stand-out quotations	<p>“Cause disruption to draw attention to the issue.”</p> <p>“Make the activities fun so people want to participate.”</p> <p>“Different professional groups organised themselves into parts where they could play a particular role.”</p>
Summary	<p>Lela Kogbara talks about some of the tactics used by the anti-apartheid movement in her local area in the 1980s, handing out leaflets, encouraging people to boycott South African goods, organising benefits and building networks with churches and trade unions.</p> <hr/> <p>Lela volunteers with Black Thrive Lambeth and founded Black Thrive Global; both organisations seek systemic change to the factors that cause disproportionate mental ill health among Black people. I was her participation in the anti-apartheid movement that influenced her approach to thinking about race and structural racism and taking action.</p> <p>The anti-apartheid movement challenged the laws in South African that discriminated against Black people, meaning that they were not afforded rights to be educated, receive healthcare or gain employment. Lela joined the huge movement in 1986, at a time when it was gaining traction and became the Co-secretary of the Southwalk anti-apartheid group. Using hyper-local activity, such as boycotting goods from South Africa in your local area, meant that people had a specific action to do. This action could be a simple way to challenge a huge issue. Wider tactics included boycotting Barclays Bank, Shell garages, sporting and music events that included South African stars, writing letters and asking for meetings with MPs. There were successes such as Barclays disinvesting in South Africa.</p> <p>The action was taken before the invention of social media and so word of actions taking place were cascaded using a phone tree, where people call each other to pass on information. Communicating in person added a physical connection between networks.</p> <p>Lela and the wider movement organised for Nelson Mandela to meet with Stephen Lawrence’s family, which helped raise the profile of the campaign. His release also increased the visibility and sense of common purpose amongst Black activists in the UK.</p> <p>The movements arranged local and nation days of action, which helped to consolidate the campaign. It put on benefits for fun, such as comedy events, and built friendships so people wanted to participate. Also getting trade unions and churches onboard opened up a network of committed campaigners.</p>

	<p>The anti-apartheid movement has been looked at for present-day campaigns.</p>
<p>Main themes for learners</p>	<p>Contact MPs and make local government a key ally for your campaign</p> <p>Make benefits fun and build friendships so people want to participate</p> <p>Campaign locally and nationally and coordinate days of action</p> <p>How to increase visibility and the common purpose of a campaign</p> <p>The importance of creating a campaign out of specific (big and small) aims and celebrating small victories along the way</p> <p>Creating justice is not just for Saturdays! The skills you learn in campaigning and the principles you hold can be used in your place of work</p>

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