



**BLACK VOICES CORNWALL**

A Voice for ALL ethnicities

blackvoicescornwall.org

NO GOING BACK SUNDAYS  
another world is possible



NEWLYN  
ART GALLERY  
& THE  
EXCHANGE

Photos: Ilya Fisher & Gav Goulder

THE  
SILENCE  
IS  
DEAFENING



**BLACK VOICES CORNWALL**

“Black Voices Cornwall exists to enable Cornwall to become an actively anti-racist County”





## Where Do I Draw The Line?

Jamaica man, mushroom head.  
Yeah that's not too bad.  
OMG. Can I touch your hair?  
Yeah, that drove me mad.  
Your hair looks so much better straight.  
Oh my god, can you twerk?  
Or they'd say a compliment and hide behind a smirk.  
What about when I spilt my chocolate milkshake all over my skin?  
And one boy said that's ok 'cos it blends in.  
Or when my peers would sing N words at parties with pride.  
Yeah, it hurt but I took it in my stride.  
I even took chemicals to my hair and killed every last curl on my head.  
That day I ensured every ounce of my blackness was dead.  
And those boys who asked if my family smoked weed all the time.  
Yeah ok, that's rude but it's not a hate crime.  
You need to stop feeling so victimised is what my teacher said.  
Is this racism or is this just in my head?  
You don't see the problem?  
Okay that's fine but can I ask where do you draw the line?  
What about the boy that called me the N word on Facebook?  
It didn't happen in school so he was off the hook.  
Or that time I got told to go back to where I came from.  
I mean I was born in Derriford but by all means carry on.  
What about the words you're black, I hate you.  
You're black. I hate you.  
I hate you.  
But racism isn't that bad anymore.  
Racism doesn't really exist in the UK.  
You're not really that black.  
This is all in the past. Those things were said when they were a child.  
I was a child.  
There is no excuse for the way I was treated.  
There is no excuse for this abuse so I will not be seated.  
There is no excuse for the lack of racial awareness that is taught in our schools.  
There is no excuse for this to carry on.  
There is no excuse for racism and I will not stop until it's gone.  
And to my beautiful black brothers and sisters who grew up in a community  
Which told them they are not wanted. Which told them they are a novelty  
That they are only a fascination, a curiosity.  
Which told them that they are not good enough, that they are not equal  
Who were told to sit down and shut up when they rose to speak their truth.  
It's okay is these moments have shaped you.  
But don't ever let them define you  
Because I see you  
I hear you and I stand with you.  
And finally to everyone.  
To those who are not aware of what happens in their own community.  
To those who contributed to our struggle,  
Who caused disunity.  
To those who were aware but stayed silent.  
To those who have fought for us every step of the way.  
You now see us.  
Fight for justice.  
Fight for equality.  
Stand with us forever.  
Not just today.

Evey Gordon. SE Cornwall. 2020.