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Without Justice there can be no Peace

Justice for the Lawrence family welcomed

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'Me and my family were put through 18 years of grief and uncertainty, not knowing if or when we would ever get justice. Had the police done their job properly, I would have spent the last 18 years grieving for my son rather than fighting to get his killers to court.'

Doreen Lawrence, 3 January 2012

We applaud the quiet dignity and determination of the Lawrence family in their long fight for justice for their son Stephen, which culminated yesterday in a murder conviction for two of his killers.

Their campaigning has helped ensure that criminals are brought to justice through improved investigations, and that bereaved families are kept informed of the investigation and prosecution, including through the introduction of the Family Liaison Officer. Progress has been made on tackling racism and institutional failings in the police. Much has been improved but our members know that even more remains to be done.

Stephen Lawrence was murdered in April 1993. His family's outrage at the complacency of the police towards his death and the insensitive treatment of the family resonated strongly with Brigitte Chaudhry, who had officially launched RoadPeace just two weeks before, after the justice system had failed to respond effectively or compassionately to the death of her son in a road collision. At that time, few police forces had specialist collision investigators (the Metropolitan Police did not) and no information was provided to bereaved families.

And as the Lawrence family are not yet at the end of their fight for justice, we too continue our campaign to improve the way road crash victims are treated. It took 17 years of campaigning to get death mentioned in the careless driving charge. We are still calling for the Ministry of Justice to monitor the number of deaths and injuries caused by law breaking drivers and ensure they are included in crime statistics and victim strategies.

We salute the courage of the Lawrence family and thank them for their inspiration to others.

For further information contact:

RoadPeace	020 7733 1603	during office hours
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Notes for journalists:

RoadPeace

RoadPeace is an independent national charity, providing practical information, emotional support and advocacy to those affected by road crashes; as well as campaigning for justice for road crash victims and for road danger reduction policies.

RoadPeace was a winner of the Guardian Charity Award in 2008:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/video/2008/dec/04/guardian-charity-awards-roadpeace>

Road Danger Reduction

RoadPeace was founded in 1992 on the principle of road danger reduction (RDR) which places a greater duty of care on those that pose the greater threat, and argues for danger to be controlled at source through reducing the speed, volume and dominance of motorised traffic. RDR differs from traditional road safety by adopting a wider approach that considers not only the quantity of death and injury by crashes but also the other negative consequences of inappropriate and excessive motor vehicle use such as fear and intimidation, environmental impact and public health issues.

Crash not Accident

RoadPeace is calling for an end to a language of neglect and denial and for policy makers and the media to stop using the word 'accident' when referring to road crashes, and to adopt an appropriate, constructive and accurate terminology such as crash or collision:

http://www.roadpeace.org/resources/Crash_not_Accident_May_11_2011.pdf