

BLACK WOMEN AGAINST MALE VIOLENCE

On 8th March 1984 Krishna Sharma, a black women, was found hanged, after being subjected to 8 years of beatings from her husband. The night before her death, in desperation, she phoned the police for help. Her husband threatened to kill her if she talked to the police. The next morning she was discovered hanged. Even under such suspicious circumstances; the Coroner returned a verdict of suicide.

On 17th May, moved by our anger, we organised a protest outside Hammersmith Coroner's Court demanding a full inquiry into Krishna's death. Later we demonstrated in front of the Sharma's house to expose the way in which the family had treated her and to show that we will no longer tolerate this violence in silence.

Krishna's death is not an isolated incident. Violence is the daily experience of most women within the home.

We as women have to fight back, we can no longer be bound by our traditions. We are told our duty is to our homes and our men and to uphold the honour of our families.

WE AS BLACK WOMEN ASK:

What "honour" murders and beats women?

What "duty" stops us protesting?

Women in India and Pakistan have shown us a way to fight back. They have cast aside the traditions that bind them, to protest against dowry deaths and domestic violence. They have also forced the state to recognise this brand of murder.

WE ARE NOT SATISFIED.

Why was the verdict that Krishna committed suicide so easily returned and accepted even though threats were made on her life? Why did the police not respond when Krishna asked for help?

WE DO NOT ACCEPT THIS VERDICT!

WE DEMAND A FULL PUBLIC INQUIRY AND AN INVESTIGATION INTO POLICE RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

On 24th May we are organising a demonstration through Southall and picket outside the Sharma's house. ASSEMBLE: 12.00pm outside Southall Black Women's Centre, 86 Northcote Avenue Southall.

We are also organising a meeting to discuss the issues involved and to build a campaign. The meeting will take place on 9th June at 2.00pm at the above address.

NOTE TO ALL WOMEN:- If you are facing domestic violence and need help and advice please ring these numbers 843-0578 or 251-6429.

ALL WOMEN WELCOME.