

Race

What sort of racism and racial prejudice have you come across in your life?

- People being, like, walking behind me and being, like, "Oh, what you walking like Jackie Chan for?"

(laughing)

And I got really self-conscious. I was, like, "Do I walk like Jackie Chan?" But, like, I know that they were just trying to catcall me, but the racial element will always come in. And, like, the typical one of, like, "Oh, ni hao, ni hao." If I don't answer, they'll go to, like, "Konnichiwa, innit!" like stuff like that.

- So, yeah, there's comments made like, "Oh, you people do this" or "You people are like that." My response is usually, "What makes you think I'm part of that group? You don't know me."

- If not every day, it'll be every other day. This can be out on the streets when I go shopping. I get people calling me names, calling me a terrorist, calling me a bomber. Just because when they look at me, they make assumptions that she's a Muslim.

- Incidents have happened when there's been an actual terrorist attack. For example, I think the last time I was actually physically threatened was in Glasgow a number of years back and there were actual physical gestures made in terms of someone blowing up towards my direction.

- The mentality of some people of what's happened since 9/11. They assume all the Muslim people are bad people and related to the ISIS and I find it really uncomfortable sometimes, especially when I'm on my own going into markets or travelling on my own because I feel I am looked at differently.

- I can remember going for one course or another, I was a DI, and obviously not in uniform because the special branch isn't in uniform, it never wears one, so I'm walking in there, but I should explain, you can only get in by showing a warrant card, it's heavily gated, they've got barbed wire all over the place. So, we're walking in this place and there was a woman of Asian heritage, so I'm trying to explain that race isn't orientated to one set of people, and she just happened to look around and then she clutched her bag very, very tightly next to her. Now, we're in Hendon, so anybody in there is a police officer, you cannot be in there without being so.

- Growing up in my local area in Glasgow, it is quite terrifying, I'd say, it kind of left me socially excluded.
- I went to pick up someone from the station, and she was there, quite lost and bewildered, and she let me know that someone had stolen her handbag, and I spent a good hour helping her find this handbag. I didn't find the handbag, but then sometime later, I got a visit from the local police, that she'd actually accused me of stealing her handbag, and they didn't have no evidence but I was interviewed.
- I went for a job with the local authority, and the job was, I'm not even certain what the job was about, but it wasn't what I was interviewed for. As soon as I walked in, they all turned around and looked at one another because my name looked English, and they started looking at one another and then they started asking me questions that had nothing to do with the job, and obviously I didn't get the job.