



NBPA President's New Year's Day Message 2018

'All it takes for evil to prevail is that good men do nothing' is a variation of a quote attributed to Edmund Burke. In a modern sense we should say 'people' to be inclusive, but what is the nature of evil and who are the good? And will evil prevail?

Faced with the racist murder of a white, female protester in Charlottesville, Virginia last year, the US President initially faltered and failed to identify evil. We should not fail that test when we clearly see it. Evil defies natural justice and we know it, but do we face up to it? Do we call it out? Do we challenge it?

Another American finally got called out his sex crimes. It took a brave actress to speak out to finally halt an evil that has long prevailed in Hollywood. Homophobia, sexism, racism - they all defy natural justice, let's call them out as evil.

The Public Sector Equality Duty calls us to eliminate the injustice of discrimination. In policing that applies both internally and to the Great British public we serve. The latter half of 2017 was full of reports on race and policing - Lammy, Young, Angiolini, the Race Disparity Audit, Stop & Search, HMICFRS PEEL Inspections, the Home Office workforce figures. Racial disparity, disproportionality or discrimination was identified in each report. That's injustice to black and brown person, to people with foreign sounding names and tongues. My responsibility as the President of the National Black Police Association in its 20th year is to sound a call and to lead the charge.

I draw your attention to 95 year old comic-book writer, editor, producer, and publisher, Stan Lee. His Marvel superhero movies can be seen as allegories, portrayals of the struggle between good and evil. Fifty years ago in 1968 he wrote of bigots and racists...

"...unlike a team of costumed super-villains, they can't be halted with a punch in the snoot, or a zap from a ray gun. The only way to destroy them is to expose them — to reveal them for the insidious evils they really are."

We should *"...judge each other on our own merits"* and *"fill out hearts with tolerance."*

In 2018 I will be taking on the injustice of racism in policing with more than a punch on the snoot. Where there is racial injustice I will be identifying it as an evil and seeking to eliminate it. And I call on others to step out of the shadows and join me in doing that good. Let's make this a year of progress against bigotry, prejudice, hatred, ignorance and intolerance.

Don't falter, keep your ears, eyes and voices open and join me.

Happy New Year!

Tola Munro, NBPA President