

The colour of my skin – Real stories of racism (Reihe)
Ami (Sendung)
46800775 (DVD-Signatur Medienzentren)

Filmskript: Ami**00:01**

My name's Ami. I'm from West London. I've been let down, singled out. I've been oppressed and, at thirteen. I was stopped and searched by the police.

00:12

I live with my mum and my four sisters. My family was good at celebrating, like, Eid, because I'm Muslim, so we don't really celebrate Christmas.

00:21

You really got to eat. If it's not like a barbecue, it'll be like a dinner or like a house gathering. Something. Like, you have to do something.

00:31

I got in trouble in primary school with this kid. He bit me. And he didn't get punished as he should have.

00:38

And my mum told me that I'm always going to have to work harder than him and if something happens to me it's not going to be the same type of reaction that people are going to give. I'm not equal with other people.

00:52

I was walking home from school. My head is down. I got my earphones in, you know. I'm just minding my business.

00:59

The policeman comes out and is basically like, you know 'Where have I come from?' I told him I came from high school.

01:05

He asked me where I lived. I pointed to my house. He, um, asked me like you know if I have anything sharp on me. Anything suspicious and then I said, No.

01:15

He asked me how old I am. I told him I'm thirteen and then he just started reading me like 'I have the right to search you under this act or whatever.'

01:25

I took my bag off, emptied out my pockets and then he proceeded to search me.

01:32

Like you know when you go on a rollercoaster and your heart drops. It was a bit like that.

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01:36

You know they're searching your arms, in between your legs and then, like, where your ribcage is and obviously cos I'm a girl, they kind of search your bra a bit.

01:47

It's just so humiliating. In open public. Not like in the corner or, like, literally on the pathway to my house.

01:58

After the search, there was no, like, apology. Literally turned around and went back in his car and just like drove off.

02:06

It was only a couple of years after that when I realised how violated I was.

02:12

They teach you the good touch and the bad touch. That was not a good touch, it didn't feel right.

02:18

I'm grown up to believe the police are good. They're here to serve and help me. Keep me safe.

02:23

So whatever comes out of your mouth, I have to deem it to be true. It just created a whole trust issue with me.

02:35

But anyways. So we was in DT. I never liked this teacher. He always just loved to press people's buttons.

02:43

You know we were all talking, we're all talking and then he's like 'Listen to me'. So, obviously, you know we're not really listening, we're ignoring him.

02:51

And he said we're a pack of animals at first, that's what he said. Obviously, I retaliated back and I said 'So if we're a pack of animals, then what are you?'

02:59

And then he said, 'I'm Mr So And So. And you're a monkey.' I was like 'You can't call me that. I will have you for that.' He said, 'Who's going to believe you?'

03:12

The. We used to call it 'patrol'. He came and I explained to him that teacher in there, 'he just called me a monkey.'

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03:20

And he was like, 'Whoa. You know you need to go here. And if you want to write a report about it then you can do that.'

03:27

I just told you that your colleague called me a monkey. That's your job to want the best for me. He is not the best for me or anyone else in there.

03:37

And then he's just pinpointing the things that are wrong with me like 'Oh, you know, you got your trainers on, oh, you had your phone out'

03:43

And I'm thinking like, 'Take the phone. Take the trainers. Are you going to do something about him?'

03:50

Wow, like. You guys just believe I don't exist, innit, until I do something towards you. But when you do something towards me, it's like I'm not even on your radar. It's like I'm not even here.

04:04

If I was ever in trouble, I can't come to this school. I can't. I can't ask for help from here. I can't ask from help from the police, so what do I do?

04:14

The mental health impact affected me dearly. Cos it's like nothing is fair. So he kind of just put the self destruct button on the wall and then I just, everyday I was just tempted to press it.

04:35

It caused me to wanna be seen more in a negative light that people put me in.

04:41

Every time you get angry or you retaliate, 'oh, well you already think I'm an animal anyway, so I might as well give you what you want.'

04:49

I gave teachers hell. I thought that me being badly behaved and acting out, that was showing them who's boss.

05:04

I started spiralling, hanging around with the wrong people, doing the wrong things.

05:07

And I'm gonna blame that on an encounter that I had with a police officer at thirteen for the rest of my life? That's going to be my excuse?

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05:18

After I reached my lowest point, I just said this behaviour is only detrimental to me. I'm the only one that's going to lose. Then the only way was up.