

For the attention of News Editors & Forward Planning  
#Free Siyanda Press Release: Embargo 28 May 2020

## #Free Siyanda Nationwide Justice Campaign Launched by Family and Supporters



The family and supporters of Siyanda Mngaza, a young, 21 year old, black woman who was imprisoned in February this year, have launched a nationwide campaign to free her.

Siyanda was sentenced for four years and six months after being charged with GBH in an incident that took place in Brecon in Mid Wales in May last year. Her solicitors have lodged an appeal that is likely to be heard at the end of the year. The grounds of appeal are based on a number of critical failures by the police and on the fact that the jury failed to understand the directions of the trial Judge. South Wales police not only failed to investigate the assault on Siyanda that was racially motivated but also failed to produce crucial forensic evidence supporting Siyanda's testimony.

Tragically, Siyanda typifies the experience of Black & Asian communities in their interaction with Criminal Justice Agencies. The fact is that Black & Asian people are more likely to be victims of hate crimes – racially motivated hate crimes account for over 80% of all hate crimes in the UK. Both official data and research also reveals the nature of institutional racism prevalent in the Justice system: Black people are three times more likely to be arrested than white people; Black people are overwhelmingly more likely to be charged than cautioned; Black and Asian people are given longer custodial sentences for the same crimes committed by white people; and Black people in the England & Wales are proportionally more likely to be imprisoned than even in the United States.

Cammilla Mngaza, mother of Siyanda will say, *“What would you feel if your young loved one was racially abused and beaten by a group of people? Then instead of being protected by the justice system, was sentenced to prison for protecting herself. She has been failed by the system because of the colour of her skin. I need your help to get justice for Siyanda”*

Suresh Grover, Director of The Monitoring Group will say, *“Siyanda is a victim of racism and a terrible miscarriage of Justice. A young, black and talented woman has had her future snatched from her in the prime of her life. Her plight needs to be heard in every corner of this country so that she can taste freedom again”.*

For further information, please contact:

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#### Notes for Editors:

1: Siyanda Mngaza is legally represented by Ben Bansal ([BenB@ikandp.co.uk](mailto:BenB@ikandp.co.uk)) of Imran Khan & Partners, 13 Elm St, Holborn, London WC1X 0BL. T: 020 7404 3004

2: Siyanda Mngaza was sentenced on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020 after a four-day trial at Swansea Crown Court. The appeal was lodged in March 2020

Images of Siyanda Mngaza:



Siyanda Mngaza is a kind hearted, young aspiring black woman, who had a bright future ahead of her. This injustice has been devastating to her and her future.



Just some of the visible injuries Siyanda Mngaza sustained, due to the attack in Brecon last year. Other injuries were inflicted during the attack.