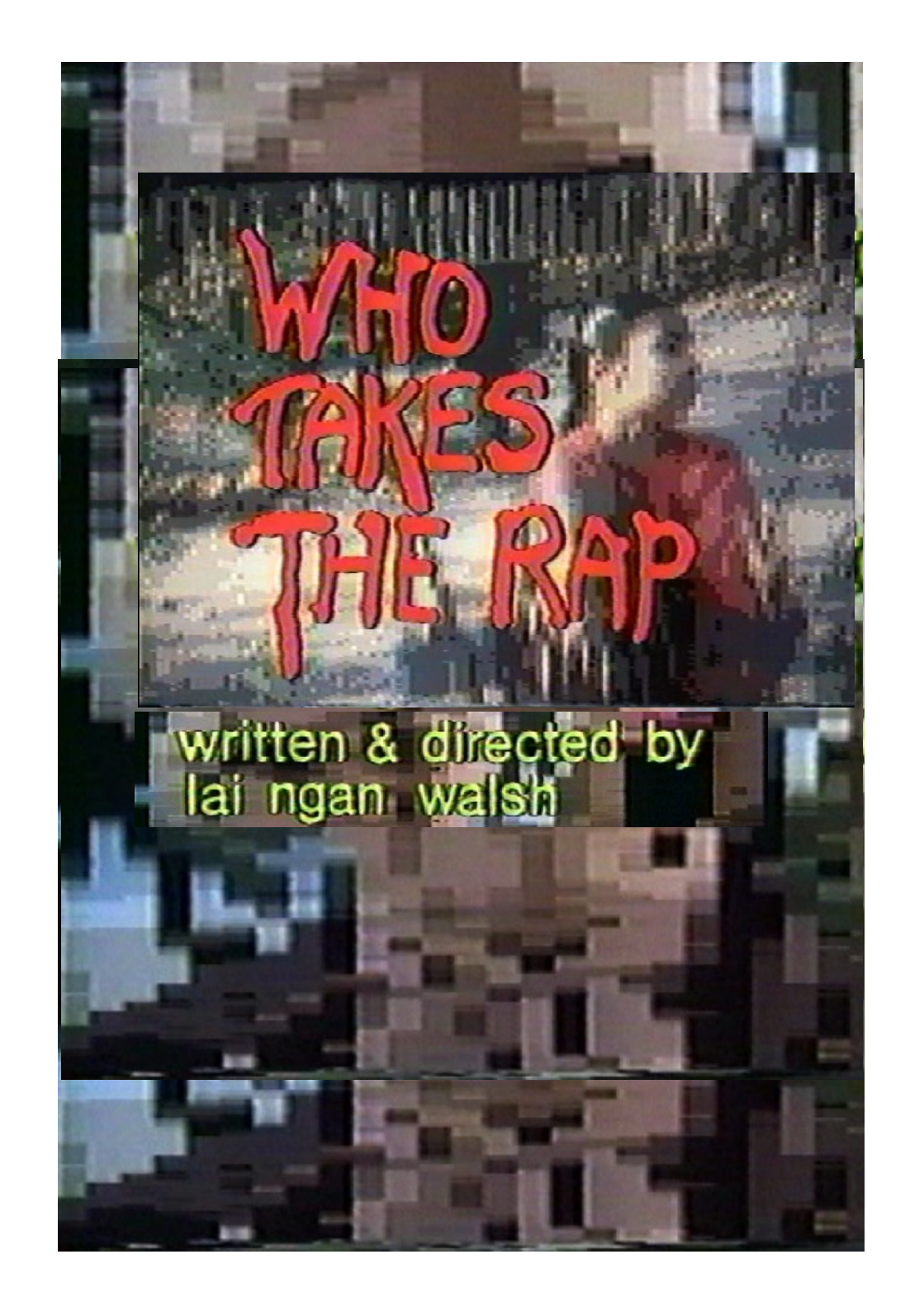
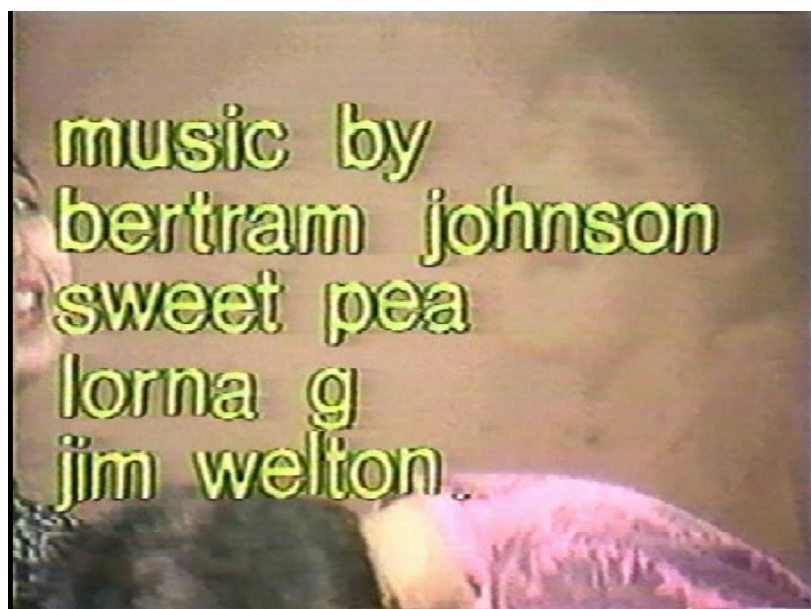


A person wearing a red jacket is standing in a city street at night. The background is a blurred cityscape with lights from buildings and streetlights. The overall image has a grainy, low-resolution quality.

WHO TAKES THE RAP

written & directed by
lai ngan walsh



Transcript of Film - DRAFT
Who Takes The Rap - Immigration
Lai Ngan Walsh and Women & the Law Collective
38mins, UK, 1986

Produced for
UNITY SISTERS
fundraising screening at Kinning Park Complex
Glasgow, 2014



MANADANA HENDRESSI (MIGRANT SERVICES GROUP) :

"migrants and refugees both groups as people come from different parts of the world, and some of them come from asian countries like the phillipines, like malaysia, some from middle eastern countries like Iran, Turkey, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon. Some come from Latin America, from Columbia, from Chile, from Mexico. Some are from Mediterranean countries like Malta, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and also quite a lot of them come from Cyprus. There are also people who come from Africa, from Southern Africa, from East Africa like Somalia, and Ethiopia and North Africa like the Moroccans and the Egyptians. "

1:50



AYSE HASSAN (UNION OF TURKISH WORKERS) :

"The reason why Britain is chosen as the country to migrate to is because of Cyprus' colonial relationship to Britain.

"



1:57

TERESA BURKE :

" Immigrants from the British colonies come to work here in this country as they were recruited by the British government. "



2:02

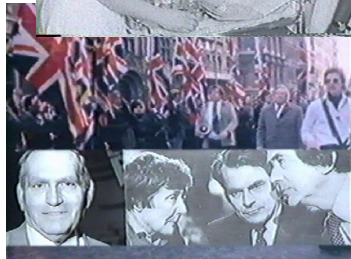
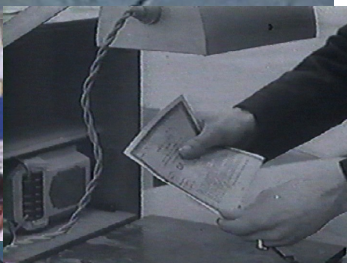
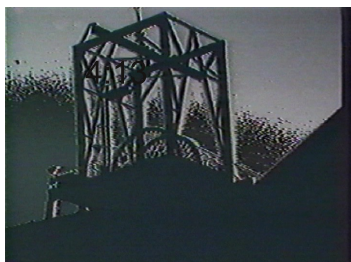
ROSEMARY FRANKLIN :

"A lot of Irish came over to England at that particular time. It was a means of cheap labor for England because the jobs that they were prepared to work at were not the jobs that the English people themselves were prepared to do. "



2:20

" What they have in common, quite a lot of them, migrants particularly, is that they came over to this country to find jobs and many of them were actually told that there are jobs for them that they could come to and perhaps find a better life for themselves. But the reality was that when they came over they find that the better life that they were promised was not there. Simply because the laws that different governments in this country passed were aimed to restrict the movements of migrant workers and their families. "



And listen to me people beg ya listen to me
keen
what me goin tell ya is the eye on the scene
important information we are bring
of the dirty mix the world we're living in
hey prime minister
and me say hey Tory party
hey great western democracy
labor, liberal, SDP
we, the immigrants
we, the dispossessed
have something to say to you
we have something to say to you
we work in your factories, altars and your
trains
serving your poor and cleaning your drains
serving your wealthy nursing ya healthy
and you tell us to come ova
tell us that everyting will be fine
and then you go and you change your law
now you tellin me this country's not mine
you see your laws are for the working class
money knows no state boundaries
waiting for your international pass
so don't expect my loyalties



" I come from Iran myself, so I'm in the same situation and I just can't return to my country, I would like to, but I can't because I will face execution if I return to my country. "

4:27



" So he said, oh yes, he says you're very much into this Irish business, aren't you, I said what do you mean, so he said, oh, he says you attend the labor conference on Ireland , he says you've attended in Camden Town, he says you have been on parades and different things. I says yes, I says, I've also gone to the French class but no one says that I'm anything subversive in France do they? "

5:07



And one time when I was homeless, I went down to my local council and behind the counter was the secretary and when I asked her, like for assistance with my situation she said to me: "Oh yous black people, you just show up in here expecting to be housed" I told her I was from this country.

5:07



"There are many illegal workers, Turkish illegal workers in this country. The reason is because of the racist, sexist, immigration laws that force people to become illegal workers.

5:17

RAP

The Jews were the first target
of 20th century immigration law
persecution in Europe so they fled
to Great Britain

only to face anti-semitic hate

The 1905 Alien Act was your last
measure

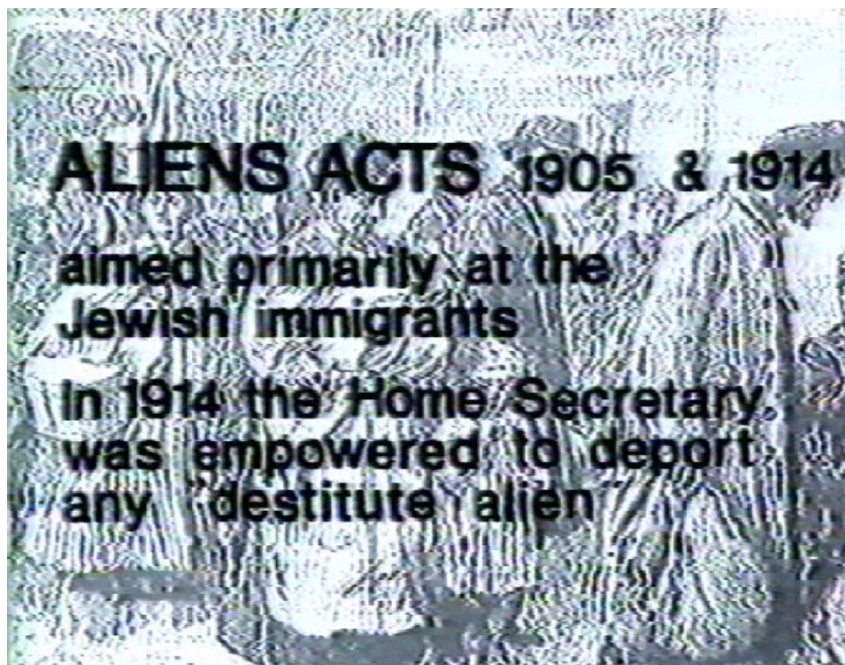
used to put the Jewish people
under pressure

each law you made after 1905
was to give you more power to
control our lives

In 1914 the Home Secretary could
give us the boot

for the so-called public good
whenever it would suit





SMITA BHIDE (SOUTHALL BLACK SISTERS):

"As far as the state is concerned, if the color of your skin, or your accent, or your name proves you to be in some way foreign, then that gives them the right to subject you to very humiliating treatment. "

CHRISTIANA SARBAH challenges Home Office decision to refuse entry to her British-born son



CHRISTIANA SARBAH:

The immigration, you know, told me that they are holding my son because in the first place his passport is not him. It's not his photo in the passport. Secondly, he's too young to be 13. And thirdly, he's not my son. I was confused and I didn't know what to say. (sighs) and um, anyway, they didn't allow me to bring him home. He stayed there 'til the next day and I went back and they started interviewing me again and they were going to put him on the next plane back to Ghana.

7:18

RAP

British people migrated and
immigrants arrived

All through history

The Irish arrived in 1851& there was
famine in Ireland

Britain controlled the work to be done





"I came to Britain in 1937 during that period there was a lot of unemployment in Ireland. During the 30s it was quite evident that there wouldn't be no expansion in Ireland. Most of the industry and agriculture paid land and duty in Britain."



7:55

" They are subject to internal immigration controls which work through a very wide range of services in this country, through the DHSS, through hospitals, through schools. And they are often, black people are often required to show passports to prove that they have a legal right to remain in this country, they have a legal right to use the services. "



" And landlady's weren't prepared even to have Irish as their tenants. You went along and in the adverts it said "No Irish Need Apply". "

RAP

From 1875 to 1914
the Jews arrived
so did Italians

There was racist reaction
though

the immigrants were only a few
So we got a report from you
The Royal Commissioner



MAN: Alien labour is chiefly employed in work for which the native workman is unsuited, or which he is unable to perform.

8:58

RAP

But in fact the migration to
England wasn't great
The English migrated at a larger
rate

From 1871 to 1951 the British
outflow was over 3 million
They didn't need visas, passport
or papers

To enslave our countries and
make us your paupers
Cuz your laws are aimed at the
working class

Money knows no morality
Wealth and bread are your
international pass
so don't expect my loyalty.



INTERVIEWER: " Did your husband in fact think that he's got better opportunities in South Africa than in England. "

WOMAN IN JACKET: "He has a much better job out there now. Twice the salary and lots of opportunities for getting along well. "



9:47

"People were especially recruited by private agencies or government agencies to come and do certain jobs in Britain."



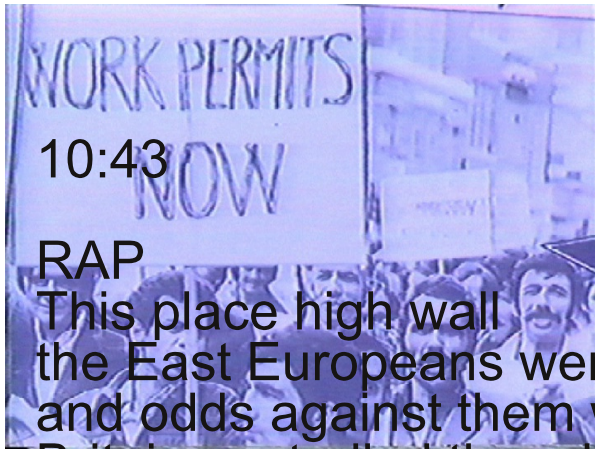
9:55

" And it was a means of getting quite a lot of cheapish labor too. And they came over to, and even pleaded with workers and in different organisations, to come to Britain – that you'd be well looked after and well cared for – and you'd definitely have jobs. But I think a lot of it was, really, that it was to overcome the Unions. "



10:26

" The work permit system only allows them to do certain jobs, especially unskilled and semi-skilled jobs like cleaning jobs or auxiliary nursing, working in the hotels as chambermaids etcetera. "



10:43

RAP

This place high wall
the East Europeans were next
and odds against them were stacked
Britain controlled them by the work
permit

Controlled their lives with a tight limit
This law was enough to make them
whine

Couldn't bring their husband, their wife
or their child

Given a work permit for a year
Elbow the employer
to put them in the fear





11:13

STRIKER: You see the employer has, is responsible for the work permit. So the people that they're working inside, most of the people that are working inside didn't come out to strike with us, they're supporting our case but they're afraid to come out, they're afraid to speak. Because, in case, they're afraid to lose their work permit, as it is in the hand of the employer.



1:37

" If the workers at any point claim their rights, the employers could sack them. And sacking workers means that the workers later would be threatened by deportation. The Home Office would deport them to the countries that they came from. "



VOICE: Even people who are working here under a work permit, which means that they pay tax and national insurance, just like people who are resident in this country, are unable to claim unemployment benefit if they lose their job. This is because the terms of their visa, which allows them to remain in this country says that they must only work in that particular job so that if they are made redundant or sacked, through no fault of their own, they are declared by the department of employment to be not available for work and therefore not eligible for benefit.





12:32

RAP

People here for dirty work
Long out/hours? with no money
Living in poverty isn't very funny
You couldn't complain or you got
sacked for that
and if you got the sack they took your
permit back
So you had to toe the line and you had
to do as you're told
Be used and abused or be out in the
cold.
The government and the employers
were like hand and glove
The interest of the wealthy was always
above



13:07

" The trade unions have had very mixed feelings about migrant workers, quite a lot of trade unions have been very reluctant to challenge the work permit system, instead they have looked at migrants workers in a very suspicious way – that these workers have come to our country and they are forcing down our wages, because migrant workers are working low paid industries. That is not obviously their choice.



FACTORY WORKER: I get 25 pence for each one.



13:50

" The majority of the Turkish women once again, like the Turkish community as a whole, work in factories. In these factories there are appalling working conditions, low wages, 99% of the health and safety regulations are not complied with. "

14:07

RAP

British employers ??? and
government agencies
next seek workers from the colonies
People check from East Africa to the
West Indies

They all came to work here in 1950s
From the late 50s they said the labor
was down

which meant they didn't really want
no more niggas around

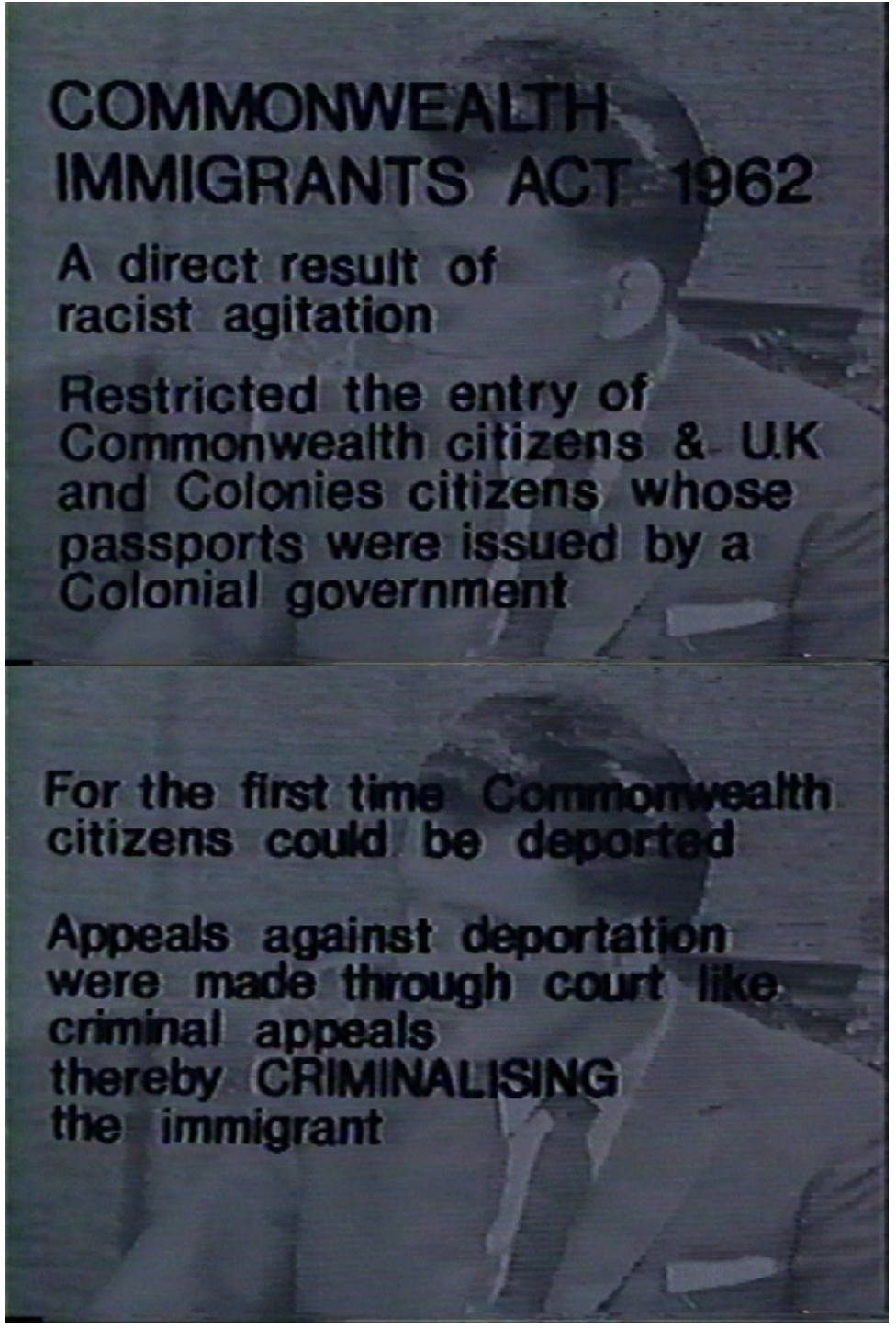
Cuz now your Empires' whack you
bring your racism back
with the skinheads on the streets
and the police on our back

And Tory ??? Osborne was blue in
the face

When he ran with the fascists to put
down our race

They'd lobbied the government, sure
to succeed

Tories in power, moving profit to
greed



COMMONWEALTH IMMIGRANTS ACT 1962

**A direct result of
racist agitation**

**Restricted the entry of
Commonwealth citizens & U.K
and Colonies citizens whose
passports were issued by a
Colonial government**

**For the first time Commonwealth
citizens could be deported**

**Appeals against deportation
were made through court like
criminal appeals
thereby CRIMINALISING
the immigrant**

RAP

A Tory Peter Griffiths won
in 1964
with this racist slogan that
was shoved through your
door:
"For a nigger for your
neighbor, vote labour"



Peter Griffiths:

" Those of us who have studied this question at close
quarters, are increasingly fearful that an intractable
'racial problem' may be introduced into Britain and
may become , if we are not careful, endemic. "

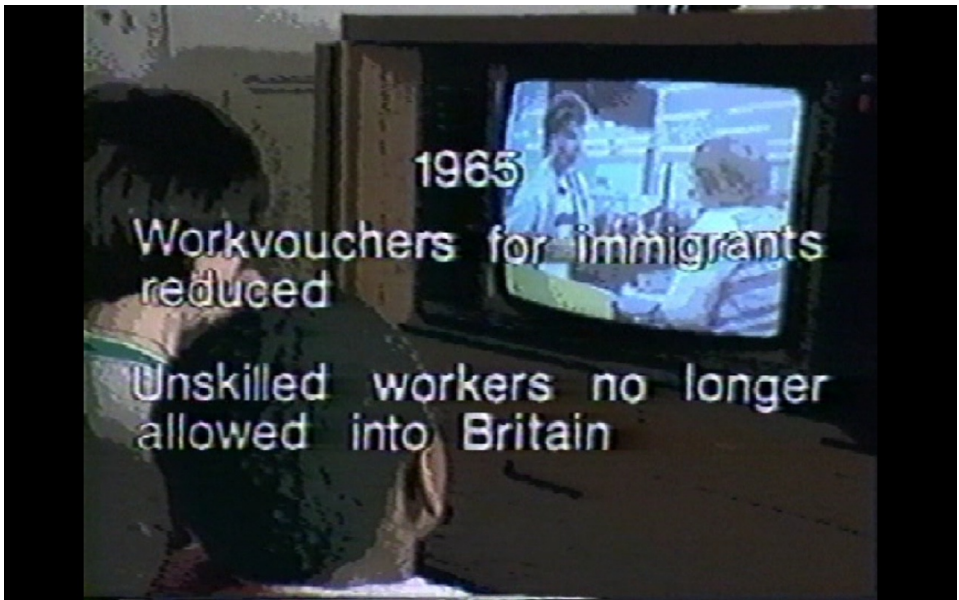


15:38

BARCLAY CARD MAN 2: These proposals we have been testing for the past three years. Give the British government the power to say, exactly how many immigrants, if any, are to be allowed into our country at any time, or into any area.



Enoch Powell ("River of Blood" Speech 1968): We must be mad, literally mad, as a nation to be permitting the annual inflow of some 50,000 dependants, who are for the most part the material of the future growth of the immigrant descended population. It is like watching a nation busily engaged in heaping up its own funeral pyre.



RAP

The victories of the Tories ???
crucial

Labour started bowing to the
race issue

In 1965 the two parties were
the same

Where black people were
affected they blamed the
numbers game

The few us of the better, was
their claim

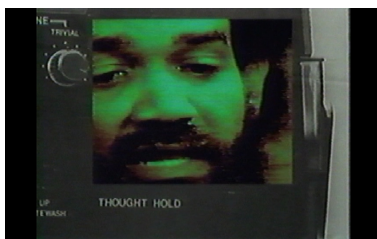
Labour made more such laws
just to add to their shame



5: The media's racist. As they portray a man like Enoch Powell as being an eccentric intellectual, when to us black people he's just known as a bloody stupid racist.



17:25



Interviewer:

" Well if we do get racial trouble in this country, will it be people like you who sort it out then? "

" I get completely confused whenever a white man talks to me and asks me if we do get race trouble in this country because as you know, there are race troubles in this country now. Black people in this country have been oppressed, and have been suffering oppression for the past hundreds of years. And in this country it isn't strange to see black men have things done to them, like being taken to the police station, and having their heads put in the toilet, and restraints put and they say 'you niggers should go' "

RAP

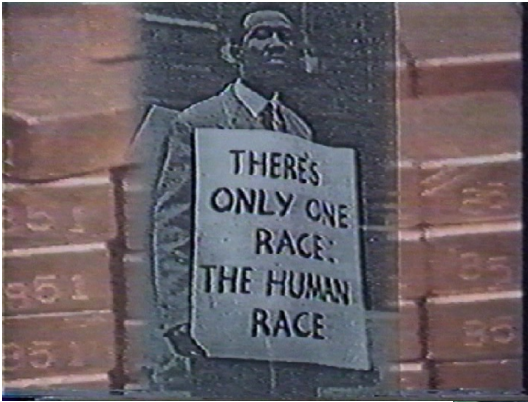
In 1968 a new act was in creation to take away the right of the East African and Asian though they had a British passport they were not allowed to stay and their rights as British citizen was taken away

Common citizens now had to pass through immigration or be called illegal and suffer persecution

COMMONWEALTH IMMIGRANTS ACT 1968

Aimed at the East African Asian U.K citizens who were not excluded by the 1962 ACT

Restricted entry of British subjects whose passports were issued on behalf of the British government



18:36

RAP

Now your laws are aimed at the working
class

The right wealth right birth and
international pass

With your money-oney-oney you still
alright but don't look surprised if we start
to fight

In 1969 seven years from '62
labour passed an act of law to prove that
they were still true

but the act was just for sake it was only
more take

two more things they had to do to keep
our numbers few



LABOUR

1969

Entry clearance certificate
now required of immigrants
at port of departure

Also the Home Secretary
could now deport immigrants
at his own discretion

19:10

RAP

As men we suffered the same
for the race hatred to try to make
us ashamed
but still as women you pull us
down even more
for what you call women was a
special law

THE DEPORTATION ORDER

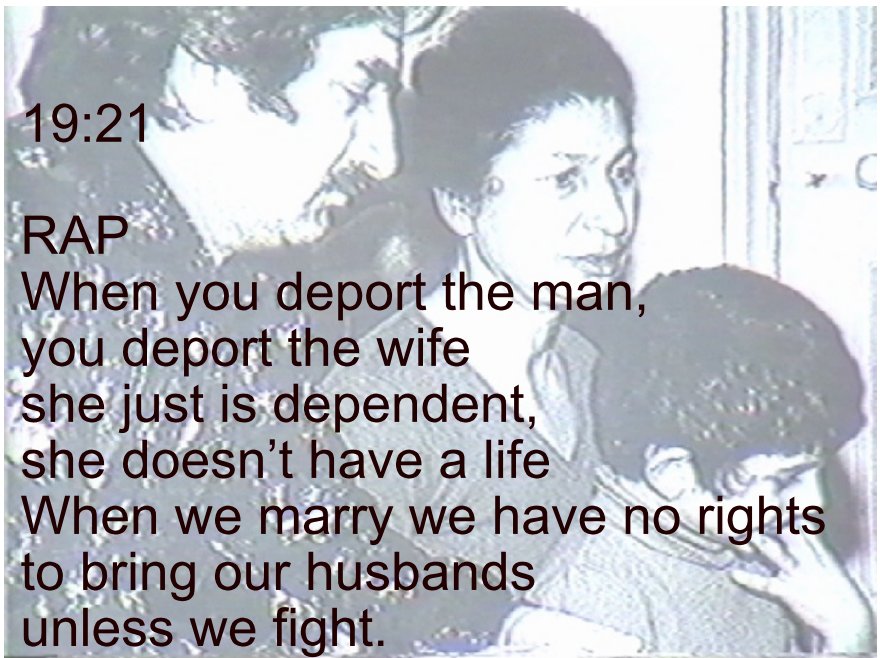
Metropolitan Police
Aliens Registration Office
10 Lambs Conduit Street
London WC1N 3NX

Mr. Hasbudak,
Home Office have again
instructed that you and
your family must leave the
United Kingdom as soon as

19:21

RAP

When you deport the man,
you deport the wife
she just is dependent,
she doesn't have a life
When we marry we have no rights
to bring our husbands
unless we fight.





19:32

" To give women independent immigration status because at the moment married women's immigration status is tied to their husbands. If, for any reason, they want to leave their husbands, say they have been battered by their husband, or they want to separate their husbands, divorce them for whatever – they may be faced with the threat of deportation. "



20:00

SHEENA YORK (HAMMERSMITH LAW CENTRE)

After the European court ruling, which declared that the immigration rules discriminated against women who wished to marry a man from overseas, what the British government did, was to make the rules even more severe for men, rather than making the rules less restrictive for women.



20:18

: What's also happening is that women who wanted to bring their children into this country also have the children subjected to the same kind of medical tests to prove that the children really are their own children. Black people are also x-rayed to make sure they're not suffering from any kinds of diseases, and also to prove that the age which they give to the authorities is the correct age, and in many cases it happens that pregnant women are being x-rayed – which obviously affects the health of the child.



20:52

CS: And, they wouldn't accept anything. They keep on saying he's not my son. I have to prove it. I sent his photo to Ghana where he was attending school, for the headmaster to identify him, he did, and the photo was sent back. The immigration still wouldn't admit it. Now, we went, another suggestion, we went for a blood test, myself and Andrew, three times, and each time – each blood test we go to court, and they said, "Oh, my sister can have Andrew".

21: 45

RAP

By 1971, most of us who had a ???
come to join our parents, our
husbands, or wife
but the law called us 'non-patrial'
which means non-white
and to join our family was not our
right

Official racism is now the fashion
they say we're the problem for the
integration
cuz this is how the politics talk,
they say that we are the problem,
their race hatred is not.



IMMIGRATION ACT 1971

Divided immigrants into PATRIAL and NON-PATRIAL

PATRIALS were free of immigration control

They were born in the U.K or had U.K born parent
So they tended to be WHITE

U.K and Colonies who were settled and had resided 5 years in the U.K before 1971 were also PATRIAL

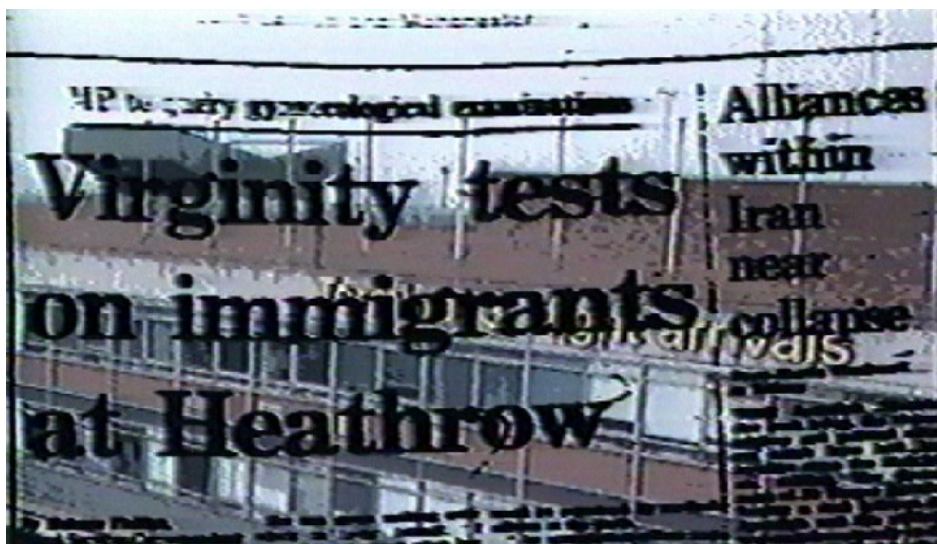
Obviously their children and relatives still in their countries of origin were NON-PATRIAL

BLACK IMMIGRATION WAS
THUS HALTED



22:54

MAN: But we have to be careful indeed that the rules make sure that we keep those out, who basically haven't got a particular reason to be here...



RAP

23:08

As man and woman we suffer the shame
from the race hatred you make us
ashamed.

Your rules put women through virginity
tests,

Our words no good, your laws knows best



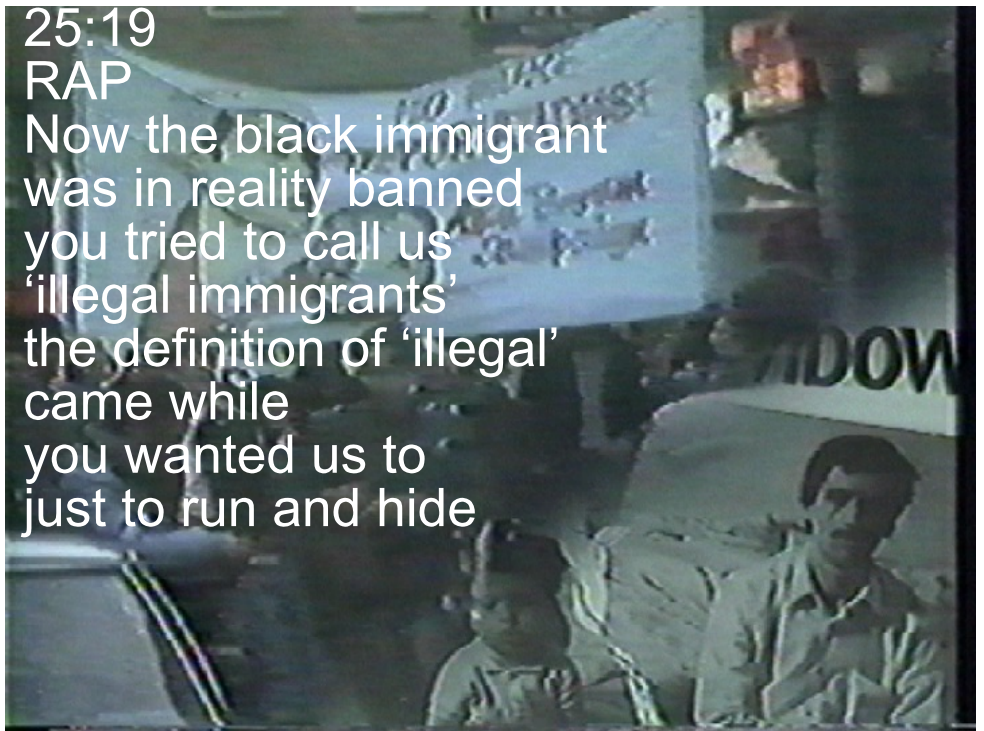
" In the late 70s, a lot of Asian women who were coming into the country to marry men already living here were subjected to what was called virginity tests. These were used as a form of immigration control, and they were very humiliating tests made on women and they involved internal vaginal examinations. This was something that women, particularly Asian women, found very humiliating and very degrading. And it was a test that was not made on white women who were coming here to marry men. All that white women needed was a letter saying they were fiancés, whereas Asian women, being black immigrants seeking entry to this country, were automatically regarded as liars, people who did not really have any status at all, and were therefore illegal before they even entered the country. "

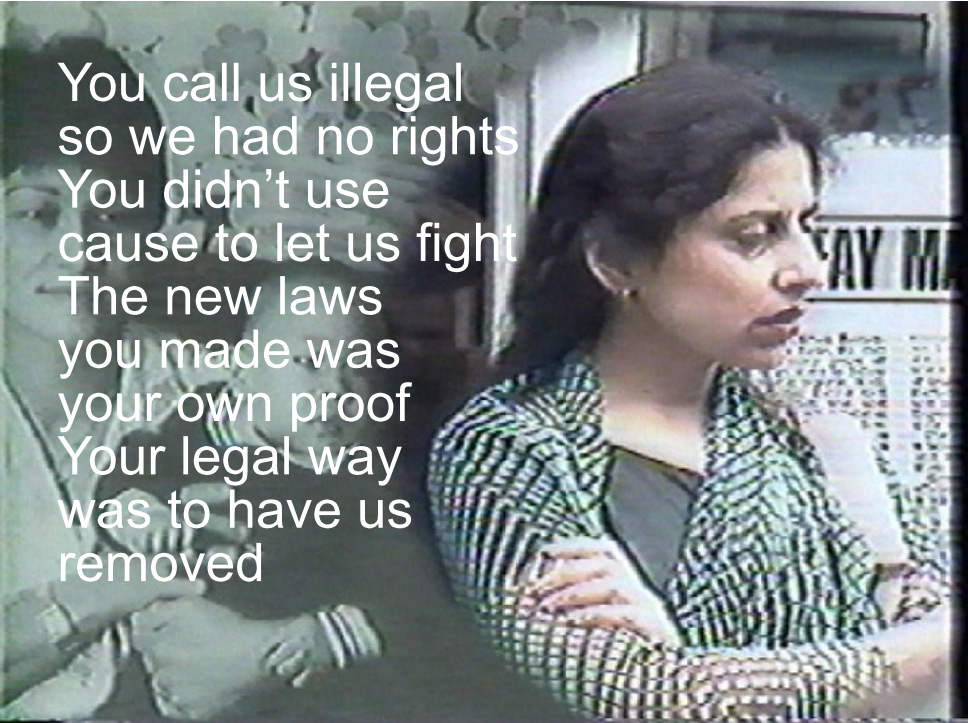


25:19

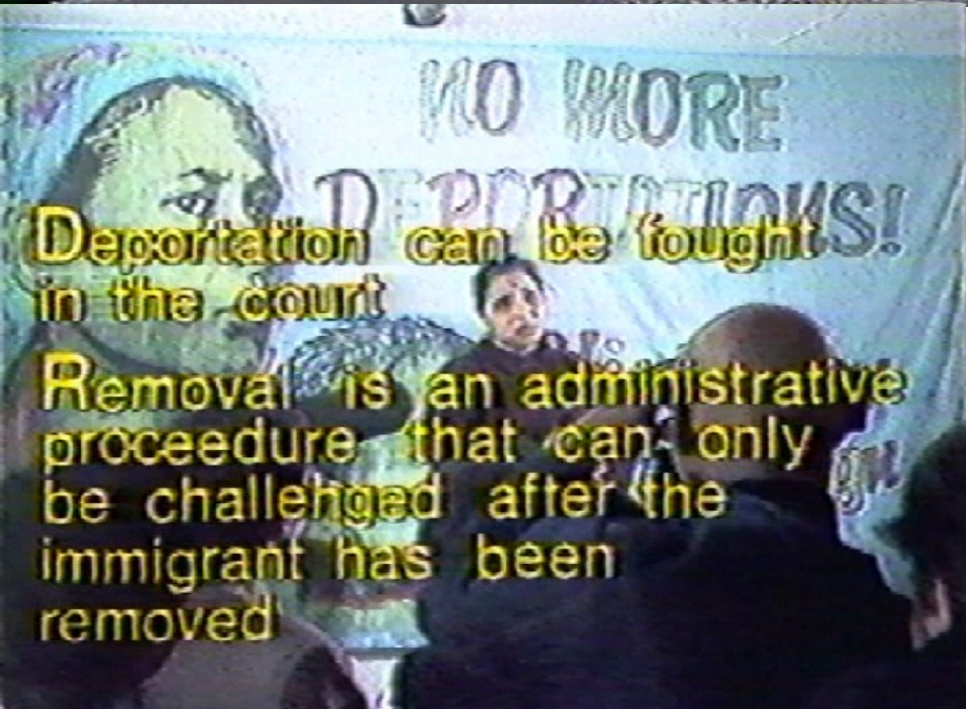
RAP

Now the black immigrant
was in reality banned
you tried to call us
'illegal immigrants'
the definition of 'illegal'
came while
you wanted us to
just to run and hide





You call us illegal
so we had no rights
You didn't use
cause to let us fight
The new laws
you made was
your own proof
Your legal way
was to have us
removed



Deportation can be fought
in the court

Removal is an administrative
procedure that can only
be challenged after the
immigrant has been
removed



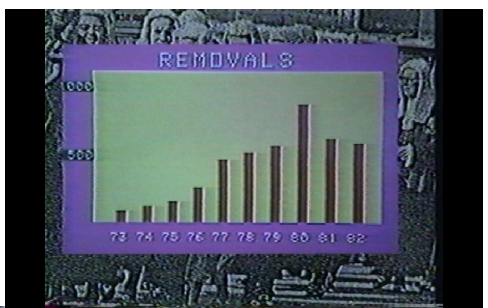
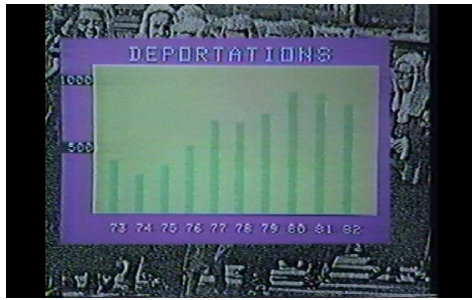
" The Turkish community constantly live in fear of police raids on homes and factories. There is a case of a family for example, who spent a fortnight living from one friend's house to another, because they were in fear of going home in case the police came to them. "

RAP

By 1980 the legal definition was absurd
In 1978 now Lord ? instated
that the immigrant was illegal
if a mistake was made by the official

The reason to remove us was called
deception

By a third party named ("Three" ????)
Who made up a legal conception to
punish when we were not guilty



("Tragic 500" – "Judge rejects Filipinos' plea to stay in this country") headlines

By 1980 we had to be mind-readers
And give you information that you didn't ask us

If we didn't (know all the facts??)

You said we were illegal and told us to pack

Each thing that we say, you say we lyin'
Each thing that we do, you're bokin' and cryin'

The new laws now...



"Would I be prepared to go for that test?" So I said, "Sheena, I could do anything, anything for the boy because he's my son. But it's very hard to prove who you are. So if that test will prove, I will take that test." They were satisfied, then, with Dr. Jeffrey's(??) test, and they said Andrew can stay and he's really my child. When they passed the judgment, you know, I fainted, because you know, the immigration were very very tough on me. "

28:06



RAP

??? in our way, the police had a large part to play

They can arrest us without a warrant if they think we are illegal immigrant

Suspicion is enough, no proof is needed
For them to harass, and arrest us



28:53

" The police have always played a very active role in working for immigration controls. They have very great powers to seek out black people, harass them, arrest them, and are very active in their deportation. "



29:07

" Although there is no immigration restrictions on the Irish coming into Britain and that, but the PTA (Prevention of Terrorism Act) laws always do make a very strong restriction on Irish people."



" I think that's a mystery, only. ??? For industry list we should be finished with the election?? We should not depend on law, because always law have two sides and people will find out the loopholes and they will take privilege of that. But if government will give power to the customer??? again here must be some loophole they find out, people they don't want to join the union, and people who are antiunionists???"



" Transnationals or multinationals as they are called, are companies that invest all over the world, seeking the cheapest form of labour. Generally they make deals with local repressive governments in third world countries to invest in free trade ?? whereby they don't have to pay the taxes they might have to in the country of their origin. One reason why they've expanded so much in the '80s is because immigrant labor which they have imported into their own countries, such as Britain, has found that this labor is not so docile as they thought they would be originally. It's now very militant and demands labor rights. "



30:50

" People saw on the picket line ??? a mass picket, a police brutality. The government will use their power against workers, to stop them, to break? them. Any power, they will use it."



RAP

??? in our way, the police had a large part to play

They can arrest us without a warrant if they think we are illegal immigrant

Suspicion is enough, no proof is needed

For them to harass, and arrest us

Every black person is a prime suspect

they pick us up with no respect

Talking about pass laws in South Africa

To pass laws are made here





**" That's why we have to
completely bring some new
change in this system, I think
so, now it's too old.
The system is too old.**



INTERVIEWEES

MANADANA HENDRESSI
(Migrant Services Group)

AYSE HASSAN
(Union of Turkish Workers)

TERESA BURKE

ROSEMARY FRANKLIN

SMITA BHIDE
(Southall Black Sisters)

CHRISTIANA SARBAH

SHEENA YORK
(Hammersmith Law Centre)

ADDITIONAL MUSIC

"DON'T CALL ME AN ENGLISH GIRL"
by SISTER AUDREY and MAD PROFESSOR

Unity Sisters is a group of women
going through the asylum and
immigration system,
in Glasgow

We aim to empower women
against the system