

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Taking A Stand - Gus John Speaks on education, race, social action and civil unrest 1980 -2005**

**This important new book by one of the most powerful and consistent social analysts and practitioners in British education and community affairs tackles a number of issues that are of serious concern to Government and civil society in Britain.**

Who and what is education for? Can the society afford to have more British born black people going into custody annually than into Higher Education? What is the relationship between school exclusion, social exclusion and youth offending, especially among African Caribbean school students? Is it simply to do with the absence of black teachers in our schools? What is the role of parents and of communities in supporting children's education and challenging school practices? Does the Blairite schooling reform agenda have any hope of making a difference to the life chances of those students? How has it come about that in October 2005, for the very first time in Britain, Asian and African communities were in open conflict with each other on the streets of Birmingham? Why are young people themselves systematically excluded from the debate within Government circles and within communities about these crucial issues?

The catastrophic events of 9/11 in New York, 7/7 in London and the US/UK invasion and occupation of Iraq have exposed what some identify as 'the enemy within'. A fierce debate has ensued about Islamic extremism, the identity which British Muslims claim or should be allowed to claim, about the rights and wrongs of multiculturalism and Tony Blair's concept of the 'One Nation' state.

Gus John addresses all of those questions and points towards solutions in a timely fashion, applying a historical and sharply analytical perspective in so doing from inside his vast experience as education manager, political activist and academic. Formerly the Director of Education and Leisure Services in Hackney, he is currently an international management consultant and Visiting Professor of Education at the University of Strathclyde.

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