

Citizen Journalism Educational Trust and The-Latest.Com present

Media and the Riots Conference

The Big Debate

Saturday November 26 (10am-3pm)

London College of Communication
Elephant and Castle, London SE1

A unique one-day conference that brings together young people from riot areas and media practitioners in a long-overdue and much needed dialogue. The event will be informative, educative and practical with plenary sessions and youth-focused breakout workshops. Afterwards, the plan is to produce a report, perhaps in multi-media format, that will have a positive impact on future media coverage of our communities.

Supporters: Media luminaries at the BBC's College of Journalism, London College of Communication, South Bank University, Goldsmith's, Brunel, Durham University, City University, University of Lincoln, University of Leicester, University of Kingston, University of Roehampton, The Guardian, The Big Issue, The Voice and Gleaner newspapers, GV Media, visionOntv, Chronicle.Org, Engage Enterprise, The Afia Trust, Kids Company, Voices That Shake, The Platform, Tottenham Defence Campaign, Birmingham Racial Attack Monitoring Unit, citizen journalists, scholars and bloggers, young people and community activists.

What's been said:

"Martin Luther King once said that riots gave a voice to the voiceless; but the voices of those who felt moved to take to the streets in August are still very much unheard. The lessons from the 1980s should tell us that ignoring them will come at a cost." - Stafford Scott, Tottenham community activist

"We need to reflect and have a deeper level of inquiry into the issues raised by the riots and the immediate media coverage. Without that sort of analysis there's an increased likelihood it will happen again."
- Dr Marie Stewart, psychologist and diversity consultant

"Calls by leading right-wing politicians for social media, like Facebook and BlackBerry messaging, to be shut down during times of public disorder like the riots were a blatant attack on free speech. This conference is about people marginalised and ignored by big media getting heard."
- Marc Wadsworth, founder and editor, The-Latest.Com

"At times like these, one gets a very real sense of two things: one is how encapsulated these journalists (especially broadcast) are within their own narrow, little and incestuous bubbles without any grasp of social realities in the polity. And two, how banal, hysterical and downright reactionary the editorial slant they give to their news packages is."
- Professor Gus John, academic, community activist and government advisor

"Would love to be involved." - Paul Lewis, Guardian, head of special projects

"I think the idea of having a conference, looking at the coverage of the riots from the point of view of citizen journalists and the mainstream media is incredibly valuable. It's exactly the sort of debate that we should be part of."
- David Hayward, Journalism Programme, BBC College of Journalism

Delegates from organisations £15 (£12 advance). Individuals £10 (£8 advance). Concessions £5 (£4 advance).
Cheques payable to: Citizen Journalism Educational Trust. 195 Hollydale Road, London SE15 2TG.
Or PayPal on The-Latest.Com