

The Hate U Give

Connecting to the topic

1. All police in the UK should carry guns.

I don't think it's necessary for all police to carry guns. I think overall there is a good relationship between the general public and the police. If you start arming the police, then there could be a nervousness from the public regarding the power the police would then have with a firearm. There are few examples of excessive force used by the police, but you are unlikely to be shot! Most people call the police to protect them or to keep them safe not to invite them to potentially cause violence. Most would know they couldn't survive a shootout with a fully trained armed police officer! I can only see that this would evoke fear rather than reassurance. Furthermore training, arming and providing enough safe facilities would incur an enormous cost to the central government, which is money best spent elsewhere, not to mention the legal costs should a fire-arm incident be brought into question.

Connecting to the story

1. From the point of view of another police officer watching on.

I was on patrol with officer One-Fifteen that night. We'd started our watch at 1900 hours around the streets near Carnation, most of them were abandoned and all appeared quiet. We then turned down Carnation Street where we came upon a lone vehicle driving suspiciously with its taillight broken. We signalled for the car to pull over and we pulled up behind. Officer One-Fifteen approached the car and gave the usual instructions. I got out of the patrol car and stood a few feet away as to support my colleague. The driver was not very forthcoming to officer One-Fifteen's instructions and it took a while for the driver to wind his window down. Officer One-Fifteen asked for the usual; licence, registration and proof of insurance. Instantly the driver had attitude, asking Officer One-Fifteen why we pulled them over. It was obvious we were only doing our job and this guy was constantly challenging us! The driver was asked again to show the relevant documents and again he questioned why. This guy was trying to incite my colleague! Eventually the driver passed over

the documents. Officer One-Fifteen looked over the paperwork and asked the couple where they were coming from. I heard the driver's response, he was hostile, he refused to answer the questions and was becoming increasingly more aggressive. That's when officer One-Fifteen asked the driver to "get out the car! Hands up, where I can see them". Officer One-Fifteen then carried out a routine search of the driver against the vehicle. All the while the driver displayed confrontational behaviour. Immediately after, officer One-Fifteen instructed the driver to stay still as he headed back to our patrol car to collect the relevant forms to fill out. Both myself and officer One-Fifteen were at the patrol car when the driver made a move to his vehicle. He opened the driver's door and it was clear that he intended to get a weapon and use it on us. Officer One-Fifteen showed quick and precise actions by firing at the driver to disable him. It was necessary for my colleague to fire again because the driver showed signs that he still intended to use force against us. I stand by officer One-Fifteen, he saved my life. This driver had every intention of using a weapon on us!

2. From the point of view of a passer-by who saw the whole thing.

My name is Candice Lupoe and I was on my way home after a long night out with a group friend's. It was not until I turned the corner of a forsaken street where all the houses are abandoned that I saw a blue Chevrolet parked on the opposite side of the road. The only thing illuminating the car itself was a grubby old streetlamp positioned next to the driver's side. I thought it best to stay in the shadows to keep myself from being seen or in other cases safe from any harm. It was not until my eyes became adjusted to the dark, that I saw a police car parked next to the Chevrolet and two police officers walking towards the people inside. Moments later, I heard what seemed like a young kid's voice arguing why he had been pulled over. After hearing the same question a few times, it was obvious to me that the police were not going to respond to the kid. Consequently, I then saw the police officer drag the kid out from the car, yank him by the arm and pin him against the back door. The police officer then body searched the kid and said, "let's see what we can find on you today" at which point the kid responded with "you ain't gon find nothing". I could tell by

the police officer's demeanour that things were getting very tense and it scared the living daylight out of me. It then occurred to me that this was going to end badly. I knew the best thing for me to do was to stay hidden. After a few cross words between the two parties, the police officer then appeared to instruct the kid to stand still and he walked back to his vehicle. I'm not so sure what happened next, it all happened rather quickly. I don't know why but the kid moved from the back of the car to the driver's door. It looked like he was checking on his passenger, I think it was a girl. She must have been terrified. It was then that I heard a gunshot, it made me jump out of my skin and take a sharp intake of breath. In quick succession another two shots were fired. I saw the young kid's body slump to the ground. Momentarily I heard an ear-splitting scream coming from the car which appeared to last for an eternity. That's when I saw the girl, she jumped out from the car and threw herself onto the lifeless body. Within minutes the police officer stood over her and screamed at her to put her hands up. I stood in the shadows, shaking uncontrollably, surely this police officer was not going to kill her too? It took all the strength I had to run out from the darkness and go for help. Yet another situation that escalated resulting in disastrous consequences and a meaningless death!

- My thoughts about Khalil's behaviour. Was he justified in behaving as he did?

At the start of the chapter, Starr talks about how her father thought it was extremely important for her to know how to behave the right way around the police. "To keep your hands visible. Don't make any sudden moves. Only speak when they speak to you".

She hoped that somebody had, had the talk with Khalil. Either they did and he was determined to defy this approach, or somebody didn't have that chat and it cost him his life. Whether he was tired of being constantly hounded by the police or abused and disrespected because of the colour of his skin his arrogant behaviour was a trigger for the series of events that followed. I don't think he was justified to behave the way he did. I'm sure he was fully aware that his actions would aggravate the police officer and by doing so he was

putting his and his friend Starr's life at risk. The police officer was clearly never going to accept this arrogant attitude from a young black boy, and he was determined to show him that he was superior to him. During that time in America, white police officers could behave as they pleased, stopping black people for no apparent reason. As much as Khalil didn't want to be walked all over and disrespected in such a way, it was pointless to retaliate. I feel that he should have listened to his friend Starr and go along with the policeman, providing him with what he needed regardless of how demeaning the experience was. Khalil could then have lived to fight another day instead of becoming another shocking statistic, horrifying in its brutality and tragic in its pointlessness.

Connecting to the real world

- **My thoughts about whether or not I think the incident I have read could happen in this way in the real world.**

I discussed this question with my family and looked further into public opinions on the internet. I found the following data; in America opinions about police officers differ widely by racial and ethnic groups, with white people holding more positive opinions about police officers than black people. Further on in the article it states that, roughly 72% of white Americans say police officers treat racial and ethnic groups equally at least some of the time. Whereas just 33% of black adults say the same. This article also mentioned that whites are more likely than black Americans to express positive views of police officers.

Given that many Americans live in areas of the same ethnic groups they may not be aware of how police operate in spaces and neighbourhoods that are not dominated by white people. Likewise, white Americans may not understand how being not white in a fully white residential area may be open to not being wanted. Some interactions may not always be hostile, and the majority are not violent, but the experience may nevertheless be a negative one because the person who is stopped recognises, or at least may have reason to believe, that their specific race played a considerable role in a spontaneous police check. The article also went on to say that there is evidence to suggest that black drivers are far more likely to be pulled over for minor, non-speeding violations than white drivers.

I found an example of repeated and unwanted contact by the American police. An African-American motorist called Philando Castile was stopped [nearly 50 times for minor violations](#) before he was [shot and killed by a police officer](#) in an area of Minnesota in 2016.

My father enjoys Bruce Springsteen and is familiar with many of his songs. He made me aware of a song Bruce wrote and released back in 2014 called American Skin (41 shots). The song was inspired from an incident that took place on 04 Feb 1999, when four white New York City plainclothes police officers shot dead Amadou Diallo, a 22-year-old black West African immigrant. The four men suspected Diallo to match the profile of a rapist that had committed crimes in the Bronx area and when he tried to pull out what they later found out to be his wallet (which they presumed to be a gun), they opened fire, 41 shots, 19 of which hit the target. The officers were later tried for murder but were found innocent by the jury. The verdict was not welcomed by many people which created tension in the city. I've enclosed a copy of the song lyrics.

For most police officers to do their job, they need public cooperation in order to solve the most serious crimes. Communities that believe they are regularly targeted by police because of their race will be far less likely to cooperate with those police when major crimes occur. As a result of this, it could prevent the police from solving such serious crimes and that could lead to less safe communities and people carrying out their own policing.

I'm not so sure that much has changed today that would prevent the same thing happening to Khalil happening to another ethnic individual. If anything, life on the streets is getting harder, what with increased knife crimes and drug related offences.

Mackenzie