

Remembering the 1970s

Rev. Alope Biswas



The Reverend Biswas started his career as a social worker in the borough of Hackney in 1972. In the 1970s he was involved with the struggle against racism and he is still working as a social worker on a part time basis.

..... Altab Ali got murdered [and] Ishaq Ali in Hackney. We saw the situation in the name of 'Paki bashing'; the Asian community was under attack and we could not have stayed at home doing nothing. We had to come forward and take it up and have some analysis and try to organise the trade union movement and various progressive community organisations.

..... There was an overall awakening. People were awakening up to the fact that we are here and we can't run away and we got to defend ourselves.

..... And we accepted that and there was the time when we said, "Right, if you can't defend us, we will have to defend ourselves".