

## Louder than Words Focus Group Call Out

*"The use of stop-and-search powers by police in Greater Manchester has increased by 25 times the national average. More than 100 people in the region were stopped and searched by police every day last year, new figures show."*  
BBC 12 June 2024

- Are you aged 18-30 years?
- Are you based in Manchester, living in Rusholme, Moss Side, Hulme or Whalley Range local with lived experience or knowledge of Stop & Search?
- Would you be happy to share your stories in this focus group?
- Do you want to look at ways in which your lived experience can help others?

We are looking for a group up to ten people, 18-30 years with lived experience of being stopped and searched.

This group will act as a focus group working in response to artist Barbara Walker's series of work called 'Louder than Words', which draws on her son's experience of stop and search. We are looking to develop a resource from the collated stories that may be of benefit to young people and raise awareness to others.

### What will happen?

- The focus group will meet 5 times at the gallery September – December 2024
- Sessions led by a local facilitator and an artist with some experience of stop and search.
- One of the sessions is combined with another focus group exploring themes around Windrush
- You will work with the artist to shape a creative resource
- You will receive expenses for attending the sessions up to £15 per meeting

This is an intergenerational project, drawing inspiration from Barbara Walker's two series of work, 'Burden of Proof' and 'Louder than Words' exploring the impact of both 'Windrush' and 'Stop and Search' across local generations.

### Dates:

First Meeting: **Thursday 26 September 2024 6.30-8.30pm, Meeting Room**, the Whitworth, Oxford Road, Manchester M15 6ER – we hope that Barbara is able to join us at the first session and we get an early look at her exhibition.

4 other dates to be set at the first meeting taking place on Thursday evenings.

If you would like to be part of the focus group contact [denise.bowler@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:denise.bowler@manchester.ac.uk)

## Barbara Walker

The Whitworth is excited about the forthcoming Barbara Walker exhibition. You are invited to join us at the launch on Thursday 3 October 6-8pm. <https://www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk/whats-on/exhibitions/upcomingexhibitions/barbarawalker/>

Centred on concepts of visibility and erasure, the exhibition will bring together paintings, prints and drawings from across Walker's career, including her most recent Turner Prize nominated series Burden of Proof (2022-23).