



# POWER to CHANGE



Real stories of Londoners, from loss and violence to resilience and hope.

Produced by Celebrate Life CIC

**Genre:** Documentary

**Length:** 58 mins

**BBFC Certification:** 12A

**Language:** English

**Logline:** Real stories of Londoners from violence and loss to resilience and hope

**Summary:** Power to Change follows the journey of five people: **EJ** a young man drawn into gang culture from an early age; **Lorraine** a grieving Mother who lost her son to knife-crime as he saved another boy; **Gerald**, founder of Impact Brixton, who learns to navigate one of London's most dangerous areas after emigrating from Ghana as a child; **Errol** a repeat offender with 74 previous convictions; and **Nate** a former gang-member who was brutally stabbed by a childhood friend. The stories are woven together by **Kaysen**, a teacher, who passionately believes in supporting young people.

Adding a unique perspective to this mix we hear from peace educator **Prem Rawat** whose work in prisons in the UK and around the world has had a remarkable impact.

In a time where youth violence is on the rise across the country, and with the poverty gap only increasing, this is a rare film that looks at the simplest solution: the innate goodness of a human being, who will make the right choices given the encouragement and tools to do so. Sometimes all it takes is one person, one act, one choice, to change the trajectory of a lifetime.

**Contact:** [info.celebratelife@gmail.com](mailto:info.celebratelife@gmail.com)

[www.celebrate-life.co.uk](http://www.celebrate-life.co.uk)





# IMPACT

Power to Change has been shown at a number of select screenings in London, and across the UK. The Premiere screening was held at the iconic **Ritzy Cinema** in the heart of Brixton, one of England's earliest purpose-built cinemas. The audience included the **High Sheriff of Greater London** who represented the Queen, the **Borough Commander Chief Superintendent Colin Wingrove**, Alex Murray **MET Police Violence Lead**, and **Lib Peck, head of London's Violence Reduction Unit**. There were also local councillors and representatives from a host of organisations working to prevent knife crime in Lambeth.

The screening led to further showings of the movie including **Scotland Yard** to senior officers, and **London's Violence Reduction Unit** to their Youth Ambassadors aged between 15-20 years old.

Power to Change has also been taken to the communities most affected by the themes in the film, with screenings in the **Marcus Lipton Centre** on Loughborough Estate, **Longfield Hall** in Myatt's Fields and the **Brixton Police Station**.

**The Front Line Club**, champion of independent journalism, recently screened Power to Change with a panel moderated by journalist and filmmaker Sahar Zand.

Further screenings have taken place across the UK and Ireland with more scheduled for the rest of the year.

**Community Relations Contact:** Wallee Mc Donnell

**Number:** 07776 136609

**Contact:** info.celebratelife@gmail.com





## Director - Wendy Lewis

Wendy Lewis is a visual artist, published illustrator, and singer-songwriter, with a post diploma in North Indian Classical Music.

With roots in Wales and Yorkshire her family relocated to rural Brittany as a child, where she was home-schooled, studying Hindi at the age of 11 and helping illustrate the books and magazines her family published. Being educated at home gave Wendy the freedom to pursue her skills and interests.

From a young age, Wendy was captivated by stories of transformation and the richness of the natural world. With a keen eye for beauty she took up photography and progressed to video editing.

At the age of 23 Wendy broadened her horizons by moving to London where she met a number of like-minded artists and creatives, and co-founded a group called 'Celebrate Life' focused on bringing people together from diverse backgrounds and cultures. She helped organise large multicultural music events which promoted a culture of peace.

These events put Wendy in touch with people who had fascinating stories and she started documenting them in short video interviews.

Through this work Wendy Lewis met Londoners affected by knife violence, poverty, loss, incarceration, and addiction. She followed their journeys, experiences and growth which culminated in the documentary Power to Change.

Wendy Lewis is currently building her body of work as a director and independent filmmaker, and continues to be fascinated by the capacity of the human spirit.

## Co-Director - Roni Redmond

Veronica (Roni) Redmond was born in Cyprus to Greek Armenian parents and came to the UK at seven years old to escape the political unrest in the former British colony. Music, dance and the arts are her passions, and throughout her life she has used her talents in a variety of ways. She started her working career as a personal assistant at BBC Radio, meeting an array of interesting creatives. After leaving the BBC she was self-employed working at Portobello Road and Camden markets buying and selling vinyl records and enjoying being part of a free flow dance and mime troupe, before meeting her husband and starting a family.

Having an active interest in social change she picked up her career in the 1990s collaborating with student unions, local performers and health organisations to organise free educational music festivals, raising awareness around HIV, drug abuse, racism and homelessness.

Now a Grandmother, Roni Redmond's passion only burns brighter, and she spends her time working as part of the Celebrate Life Team, organising events, facilitating workshops and producing and directing short films in collaboration with Wendy Lewis.



## Cinematographer - Rob Dunford

Rob Dunford started his career working in Post-Production at ITV, UK. From there he decided to develop his skills first in location sound, working on two short narrative films set in Spain and then as a freelance sound engineer with director Bashart Malik on several indie shorts set around the Bristol area.

It was around this time that he met Celebrate Life and took on the role of camera/sound capture for music events that Celebrate Life were organising. Since then Rob Dunford has worked exclusively for Celebrate Life on numerous short films and the documentary Power to Change.

## Celebrate Life CIC

Power to Change is produced by Celebrate Life CIC, a Community Initiative Company that runs workshops and events promoting peace and community cohesion in London.

Documenting this work through video and short film has always been an important part of what Celebrate Life does, and over time this grew into the feature length documentary Power to Change.

The budget of the film was raised through crowdfunding, and was supported by many people in the community who lent their skills, time, and talent to the project.

Celebrate life has hosted or co-hosted all of the screenings so far, but would like an agent to take the film further and submit it to festivals.



## What people say:

'I will share this film with my officers, I think more people need to see it. I want to make sure we play our part as the police so that we all work together.'

~ Chief Superintendent Colin Wingrove

'This film has taught me a lot, it's opened my eyes. One thing about this world is that it's a lifelong learning process. You learn everyday. No one is born a criminal.'

~ Mayor of Lambeth, Cllr Pauline George

'It was a beautiful documentary, from sadness and tragedy came inspiration. I felt empowered watching it, instead of hopeless.'

~ Apithanie Fraser, Bay Tree Centre (Refuge for women and girls)

'This is something that touches the heart, we already have enough things that touch the mind.'

~ Youth Ambassador at the Violence Reduction Unit

It was extremely powerful. It was a story of hope and redemption that no matter how desperate our circumstances there is a light if we are willing to see it.

I want to say that if there is a film that you watch this year, make it this one.

~ Deepak Sardiwal, Lambeth Councillor

It's one of the first times I've seen a story told about knife crime and violence from a real human perspective. It doesn't sensationalise or villainize, but really brings out the humanity.

~ Wayne James, Programme Manager & Lead Facilitator at Spiral

## Further links:

Film Freeway: <https://filmfreeway.com/PowerToChange> Please contact us for password to view film

IMDB: [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt19862408/?ref=mv\\_sr\\_srsq\\_2](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt19862408/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_2)

News and articles: <https://www.celebrate-life.co.uk/past-events>

Power to Change website: <https://www.celebrate-life.co.uk/power-to-change>

**Press and Marketing Contact:** Roni Redmond

**Number:** 07988 727573

**Contact:** [info.celebratelife@gmail.com](mailto:info.celebratelife@gmail.com)