

## Award Summaries & Nominations

**The National Mikey Powell Memorial Family Fund (NMPMFF) Gala Dinner & Campaigners Awards was first conceived in 2021, with its inaugural event held in November 2023.**

These awards recognise the efforts of grassroots individuals, groups and organisations that have developed or led on initiatives supporting those that have been affected by state custody deaths and killings or injustices and that have also demonstrated a significant commitment to making change and raising public awareness.

The 2026 award event will be supported by 4WardEverUK, The People's Tribunal on Police Killings, Naphtali & Associates, and others to be announced.

The 2026 award event is dedicated to the renowned poet, activist and writer, Benjamin Zephaniah, who was also a cousin of Mikey Powell.

The event will take place at a London location in November 2026.  
*(exact date and location to be announced).*

## The Nomination Process

**Nominations open on 15 May and close on 20 June 2026.**

**Please ensure that you have read and understood the nomination categories and agree to any terms and conditions set out in the nomination form.**

When submitting nominations, we may need to get back to you via email or WhatsApp if any further information is required. Any information that you may give to us is strictly governed by our privacy policy.

All nominees must be UK-based and 18 years of age or over.

Only one person can be nominated for each category, and they can be an individual or from a campaign group, social enterprise, community organisation, or charity.

## The 2026 Campaign Award Categories

**Please ensure that you have read and understood the nomination categories below and agree to any terms and conditions set out in the nomination form.**

If you know of anyone that is deserving of a NMPMFF Campaigners Award, we would love to hear from you, and hopefully we'll see you on the big night!

### **Benjamin Zephaniah Literary Award**

Award Summary: For individuals that have successfully published literature chronicling the stories and actions that have shined a light on state custody deaths or injustices.

The family of Benjamin established the Benjamin Zephaniah Family Legacy Group in 2024 following his death in 2023, to ensure that in their own way, they could make their contribution to ensure that Benjamin's legacy will always be celebrated and recognised, and to work with various parties to co-organise national and international events and projects.

### **Gilly Mundy Family Advocacy Award**

Award Summary: For individuals and organisations that have steadfastly supported and advocated on behalf of affected families over-and-above what's expected of them.

Gilly died in March 2007 aged just 36-years-old. As a campaigner and activist, he managed to cram so much into his life and touch the lives of so many. As well as supporting victims of racist violence in East London at the Newham Monitoring Project, he worked for the charity INQUEST providing advice and support to affected families across the UK.

### **Joy Gardner Arts & Education Award**

Award Summary: For individuals and organisations that have used The Arts and education to keep issues of race, class, and injustice on the national agenda.

Joy was killed during a deportation attempt by police and immigration officers in 1993 and died after being restrained and her head bound with tape. After a trial, the officers involved were reinstated and not disciplined. Joy's Mother, Myrna Simpson said; *"They may want us to forget what happened. But we won't. I will fight for justice until the day I die."*

## **Mikey Powell Youth Action Award**

**Award Summary:** For programmes, support and campaigns that are significantly youth led, or that have been developed primarily for young people and children.

The Mikey Powell Campaign was established by the family of Michael Lloyd Powell, a cousin of the late Benjamin Zephaniah, following his death whilst in police custody in September 2003. He was a 38-year-old father of three children. He had suffered short episodes of psychosis from which he recovered. Several organisations are established in his memory.

## **Pauline Campbell Systems Change Award**

**Award Summary:** For campaigns, lobbying and other actions that have led to significant changes to national or local government or statutory policy and practice.

Pauline died in May 2008, following the grief of losing her only child, Sarah, who died in January 2003 in HMP Styal. Pauline was committed not just to campaigning but also to supporting other bereaved families. She was one of a number of bereaved parents who turned their own personal loss into sustained campaign action for change and protest.