

Stand by Me is funded by the office of the Police Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and The Isle of Wight and is based on the theme of hate crime.

Anna Carr and Catherine Wright were commissioned to work with young people from YMCA newtown youth centre in Southampton to develop a story based on their perceptions. The writers spent 6 weeks working with the young people to develop the radio script, taking full advantage of how and what they say, to relate to other young people. The drama features a Sikh family, mother and father Harjeet and Meeta. Their teenage son Jagmeet and daughter Simran.

There are two threads to the story. Firstly, Jagmeet is being bullied at school by a lad called Caine.

Secondly, Dad, is being equally harassed at his work by a female customer. The story begins in the playground at the secondary school where Jagmeet and Caine study. Jagmeet accidentally bumps into Caine, Caine is not happy, and the name calling begins.

So now listen to their story, hate crime can affect many different people and comes in many guises. Crime due to disability, religion and belief, sexual orientation, and transgender identity. If you or someone you know has had or are having similar experiences, please report them immediately.

Don't suffer in silence. Google "True Vision what is hate crime?"

Scene 0 Jagmeet and Caine in School Playground

SFX Young people playing football

Caine Why you keep pushing into me?

Jag Didn't mean to... Sorry.

Caine Do it again. I will knock you out, Tandoori.

Jag ...Whatever.

SFX playing sound in the back ground and fade

Scene 1 Jagmeet gets a text on his cell phone

SFX Bzzz! (Vibration sound of text being received on a phone)

SFX Ugly distorted voice speaks the words - it's Caine's text message speaking

Voice of text *Enjoy the video Jagmeet. Hope you enjoy watching, with your kind getting punished. Its what they deserve. It's what you deserve, Jag Jag.*

Scene 2 A school corridor

SFX SCHOOL BELL RING
SFX ECHOEY CORRIDOR

Benj Mate that was siiick, you giving it all that in Maths.

Darren Sir was well stirred up.

Benj Like you were actually adding it all up, all those symbols, quicker than Sir!

Darren And then, did you see how Sir tripped up!

Darren,
Benj BOOM! (laughing)

Darren flat on his face, just for a moment

Benj a sweet moment

Darren His face was PIINK

Benj *(starts rapping the words)* Pink he couldn't think he needed a drink or a sink
to fall in to or diive down

Darren *(joins in)* Down under the ground and the sounds of all the formulas he
thought he knew until there was you

Darren,
Benj You you you!

Darren Yes Jagz. *(They High 5 each other)*

Darren I know, let's record that rap for Robbie later at Boysie.
He'll love it! Get your phone out.

Benj Why's it called Boysie anyway?

Darren Used to be Hillside Wood Boys Club innit? My dad went there when he was a
kid.

Benj *(interrupting)* Oh no! I don't believe it. Not again!

Darren What?

Jagmeet You lost your phone again didn't you?

Darren Benj...

Benj I think I left it on the table.

Darren Mate, you always do this! Come on then, let's go back quick before it gets nicked or picked up by the wrong hands.

Benj You not coming Jagz?

Jagmeet Nah, I'll catch you guys up. I need to go see Sir and ask about this college form

Darren Ok, see you at Boysie. You can put some beats to my amazing rhymes!

SFX *FOOTSTEPS WALK away. Then we hear Caine approaching.*

Caine Oi oi, Rag head

Jagmeet Leave it out Caine, just let me go

Caine All on your own. Saved you a seat next to me in Maths.
Too scared to sit next to me were you?

Jagmeet ...No. No I wasn't.

Caine You better watch out. Next time it'll be chewing gum on your turban.
You hiding a curry in there? Or something more explosive?
Did you like that video I sent you? Have you watched it yet?

Jagmeet No, I haven't watched it. I blocked your number. How did you send it anyway?

Caine I got a new one - clever aren't I? You can't get away from me Jag Jag.
So - you watched it?

Jagmeet Err, No and I've got to go now. I've gotta see sir, Alright? I'm late.

Caine Hah! Wrong answer! I know, let's watch the video together.
It'll be fun! Gimme your phone!

he grabs Jagz phone out of his hand

Jagmeet Give it back! Give back my phone, NOW!

SFX *Phone tones.*

Jagmeet NO. I DON'T WANT TO WATCH IT! GIVE BACK MY PHONE!

Caine WATCH IT! GO ON! (He is holding the phone up close to Jagmeet's face)

SFX *Footsteps down corridor (heels)*

SFX Playing some sort of terrorist video, stops abruptly when Mr Hobbs starts speaking

MR Hobbs Boys? Jagmeet I've been waiting for you. What's that you're watching?

Caine STOP MAKING ME WATCH IT! JAGMEET! STOP!

MR Hobbs Show me that phone, Jagmeet.

Jagmeet No sir! It's not what it looks like!

MR Hobbs This is entirely inappropriate. Do you realise how serious this is?
But I didn't! I promise!

Jagmeet
I saw you, clearly - looking at a video with Caine.
Jagmeet - I'm very surprised at you. You know the school can't tolerate this.
I'm going to have to contact your parents. And yours Caine.

MR Hobbs Now give me your phones. Both of you.

the boys hand over their phones silently

Mr Hobbs
(as he
walks away) You can come and get them at the end of the day.

Shoes walking away down the corridor

SFX

Scene 3 At home

Sfx *key in the door. Meeta comes in from work. Door closes.
Meeta comes into kitchen where Harjeet is on phone*

Harjeet (to caller) OK - Wednesday at 3.30. I'll have to check with my wife but I think that should be ok. OK see you then. Bye bye.

Meeta Who am I seeing at 3.30 on Wednesday? You never take me out dinner any more so we must be doing our wills or something equally romantic..... And why aren't you at work AGAIN? That bank is making people redundant all over the place. You can't afford to be off.

Harjeet It was school. Jagmeet's in trouble.
They said it was serious - wouldnt talk about it on the phone.
They want us to go to a meeting.

Meeta Jagmeet? If you'd told me Simran I might have believed you.
She's always scrapping. Where's Jagmeet now?

Harjeet It's Monday - He'll be at youth club

Meeta I've got enough on my plate with you and your mystery illness without that boy causing trouble. Just wait till he gets in....

Scene 3 Youth Group

SFX *Music and beats*

SFX *Everyone chatting - it's a noisy, happy environment.*

ROBBIE Right guys listen up! Now as much as I enjoy a bit of a laugh and a joke and I love when you come down here and give me your music, we've got to take it back to seriousness. There's a lot of bad stuff going down right now, on our doorstep and in the world.

Darren (starts singing, messing about) "If there's any justice in the world, I would be your man, and you would be my girl"

Emma Life aint fair, Darren.

Benj (sings) "People killin' people dying, children hurt and you hear them cryin"

SFX *the group find this funny. Robbie has to get their attention again*

ROBBIE And together, WE are artists. We create, and we reflect what's happening in our world. So - Let's reflect what we want to see, the good stuff - the only way we know how, with our voices, with our beats, with our hearts.

Benj What - so we're gonna record a track together? to stop all the hating?
Like a kind of "where is the love?"

Benj But better! Jagz can put some rippin beats underneath it! We could go viral!!

Jagmeet (distracted, looking at his phone) Wait, what?

Robbie Who you textin? Is it Sabina?

Darren Oh yeah! I got a perfect rap that will fit. You're gonna love it!

Robbie Yo, you alright Jagz? You don't look alright

SFX *PHONE VIBRATES*

SFX *(text message speaks) When you gonna kill yourself Jag Jag?
Terrorists don't deserve to live.hah. Think you can stop me?
Only you can stop it, Jag Jag.*

Jagmeet I... I just remembered, I gotta get home early. So I'll see you guys later, okay?

Darren What? You never go home early. We walk home together bro!
Unless... You ARE seeing Sabina, aren't you!

Jagmeet No... What? No, it was a text from my Mum. I gotta get out of here. I'll
See you guys later, alright?

Darren (shouts after him) Fine, then. Have your secret girlfriend.
I'll find out sooner or later!!

Benj **Something's up with Jagz man, he doesn't look right.
He loves laying a beat but just now he couldn't give a...**

Robbie **(interrupts) People! listen to this!**

Scene 4 at home
**Remove footsteps sound. Make preparing sounds quieter, and bring them into
Meeta's speech**

Sfx *In the kitchen - Meeta is cooking*

Sfx *Sound of front door opening*

Meeta Jagmeet, get in here! Simran - go in the front room and make
a start on your homework. Tea will be ready in a minute

Jagmeet (annoyed) What is it mum? Can't it wait? I've got loads of homework to do

Meeta **Just do what I say and get in here!**

Jagmeet **(enters kitchen) Well?**

Meeta Why have we been called to a meeting by school?
About you and another boy. He said it was serious.

Jagmeet It's nothing. Stop getting so stressed about it!

Meeta Well it's obviously not nothing.

Jagmeet Well they got it wrong, alright? It was a misunderstanding.

Meeta What do you mean, just a misunderstanding? Your attitude has been getting pretty bad recently and if you are speaking back to teachers I'm not surprised you're attracting the wrong kind of friends!
Does he go to youth club this boy? Does he live round here?

SFX *text noise Bzzzzz*

*Look at what your kind do Jag Jag. That's what terrorists do.
You're a terrorist aren't you, Jagmeet? You need to kill yourself, Jag Jag.*

Meeta's voice fades back in

Meeta ...And don't read text messages when I am talking to you!
Now listen. I want you to avoid this lad from now on, ok?
If he starts saying stupid things just ignore him.
What doesn't kill you makes you stronger.
You'll meet worse than him in your life, I promise you

Simran (coming in) Mum can I have a biscuit? I'm starving

Meeta Yes, you can have a biscuit and don't interrupt me when I'm talking to your brother.

Sound of cupboard opening as she gets her a biscuit

Jagmeet takes the chance to leave the room

Meeta (Calls after him) Jagmeet come back here!
We haven't finished talking about this.

Simran Can I have another one?

Meeta No, it's nearly tea time. Get some plates out for me.

Sfx *Sound of plates as he gets them out of the cupboard and puts them on the table*

Simran Mum?

Meeta Yes, love? (impatiently)

Simran Is Jag becoming a terrorist?

Meeta What on earth do you mean?

Simran He was watching one of those videos about people being battered.
He said he wasn't, but he was.
Terrorists are mad people, coz that is not us and we're Sikh, innit?

Meeta Simran! Not all people are terrorist!
It 's not witten on their face. Well, some people who call themselves terrorist
groups but most are ordinary people like you and me.
He's just being silly watching sick videos!
I'll have a word with him. Go get Dad- dinner is ready.

sfx *Bzzzz (text buzz)*
text voice *See you tomorrow, terrorist.*

Scene 5

SFX *Front door slams as kids leave for school*

Meeta (Calls after them) See you later! And don't be late back!

 I'm really worried about Jagmeet, Harj. I couldn't sleep at all last night.
Should we be monitoring his phone? He's 15.
What if he is getting ideas in his head. I don't know. (sigh)
Anyway I've got to get going. We've got that trainer coming in today and
I said I'd be in to help set the room up.

Harjeet yeah, you said

Meeta And what about you? You need to get dressed!
You should have left 10 minutes ago.

Harjeet You weren't the only one who slept badly last night.
It's my neck again. I decided I can't go in today.

Meeta Again? That's five days off you have had this month.
We can't afford the mortgage on just my income, Harj!
You've got to do something!

Harjeet I thought I could try and fix that cupboard. You keep saying it needs doing.

Meeta The cupboard!?! Is that all you can think about? And have you got nothing to
say about our son might be a terrorist?

Harjeet I'm sorry. I know you're upset. I am too.

Meeta I'm booking you an emergency appointment to see the doctor. Today.
This afternoon. And this time, no cancelling. You're not backing out of it.
I'll pick you up myself and drop you off. Honestly sometimes it's like living
with 3 children and not 2. Now - I have to go.

she leaves

Harjeet (Talking to no one - sounding very low) I'm sorry love

Scene 6 It's the end of Harjeet's consultation with the GP in the surgery

SFX Sound of printing prescription

Doctor Ok, That will help you with the pain. If you're not feeling any better Do pop back. Is there nothing else I can help with?

Harjeet Actually - I've not been sleeping well. I mean it's not a big thing but, you know. Its stupid really. I'm in bed in the middle of the night - wide awake.

Doctor And how often does it happen?

Harjeet Most nights. I just wake up - and I'm lying there with my heart racing and feeling sick in my stomach and then just...

Doctor Have you got any worries at the moment? The children?
How are things with you and your wife?

Harjeet My wife's fantastic. She deserves better. My youngest is fine.
The eldest is pretty moody, but that's just teenagers, you know?
I just need to pull myself together.

Doctor How's things at work?

Harjeet I just can't face it. I never used to be like this. Customers used to move queues just so I could serve them... Heh, yeah, that has its downside.

Doctor What do you mean?

Harjeet There's this woman that comes in to the bank every day.
She hangs around until I am free to serve her. She calls me "names".
Makes stupid comments about how I make my wife wear ethnic clothes.
I am British born Sikh! I've told her to go away, I am working!

Doctor That sounds very unpleasant. Have you told anyone?

Harjeet I tried, but they didn't take it very seriously.
Some days I feel like I'm going to be sick when she walks in – or I'll cry!
It's just ridiculous.

Doctor Have you thought about how this might be linked to your poor sleep?

Harjeet It's so stupid. She's 5 foot nothing! and look at me!

He knows the doctor is right but can't quite admit it to himself

Doc It sounds to me like this situation at work is pretty unhealthy...

sfx *SOUND OF DRAWER OPENING AND RUMMAGING PAPER*

Doc I'd like you to have this. I know it's not the best looking booklet in the world but it might help you.

Harjeet (Reading the title of the leaflet) "Helping Victims of Hate Crime?"
That's women getting their scarves pulled off in the street isn't it?

Doc Have a read and think about telling your wife what's been happening.
Now - I've got a questionnaire that will help us work out what's going on...

SCENE 7 Outside school

Marshall Oi Jagz? Where are you going?

Jagmeet To the shop

Marshall Hold up I'll come with you

Jagmeet No, I wanna go alone

Marshall Jagmeet, back there in English - I heard what Caine said.
It's not right. He shouldn't get away with saying stuff like that.
You should tell someone.

Jagmeet I'm alright. It's just words. Look I'm already in trouble so I need to just
keep my head down and ignore it.

Marshall Yeh but Jagz...

Jagmeet What doesn't kill you makes you stronger.

Marshall You could tell Robbie at Boysie? See you there later? Jag?
(he has walked away ignoring him)

Scene 8 outside the doctors

Sfx *car door opening and closing as Harjeet gets into the car with Meeta who has
been waiting outside.*

Meeta At last! You've been in that surgery ages!
I haven't been to the supermarket yet.
I've got to take Simrans trousers back to the shop and if I don't get
over to Mum's by 4.30 she...

Harjeet (interrupts her) Meeta Meeta - please. Listen. Don't start the car. I've got
something I want to talk to you about.

Scene 9 Jagmeet is walking along the busy street to the corner shop

Caine Hey Jag Jag. Going to your family corner shop?
Who asked you to come here Raghead?
What makes you think you're welcome here? Because you're not.
And the world is waking up to it now Jag Jag boy. People like you need
to go back to where you come from. We're taking our country back.
And it starts with you. If you want to live here, you need to be like me
and the Turban goes. They don't know what's under there.
So I'm going to find out.

fade music up on the attack

SFX *Bzzz (text buzz)*

Text Voice *Here's a picture of your raghead now, Jag Jag.
Show the rest of them what's waiting.*

Scene 10 **back at home - in the kitchen**

Sfx *Sounds of tea being made - pouring water, stirring etc.*

Meeta (to Harj) There you go. Do you want something to eat?

Harjeet No thanks (pause) you're great, you know? I'm sorry about all this.

Meeta Don't be silly. But why didnt you tell me? Why did you keep it to yourself?
I can't believe this has been going on since before Christmas! That's months!

Harjeet I serve hundreds of customers a day. Why am letting this one get to me?

Meeta She's a bigot. A racist! I had no idea... Is that why you've been so quiet?
I couldn't work it out... I thought it was me. I'm so busy with work
and the kids and mum... I thought maybe you were seeing someone else...

Harjeet It's just on my mind all the time - I can't concentrate on anything.
I think about her stupid face-- Sometimes other customers laugh.
I can't.. I can't face going in, but I know I have to. It's my job!

Meeta I had no idea...

Sfx *Front door opening*

Simran (voice from other room - interrupting) Hi Mum - is Jagmeet here?

(comes into the room) Oh hi Dad. He wasn't at the bus stop and Marshall said he wasn't at school this afternoon.

Meeta What do you mean Marshall said he wasn't at school?

Simran He said he wasn't in English and he wasn't answering his phone.

Harjeet I'll try him now

Scene 10 at youth club

SFX Noise, music, laughing, chatting

Robbie Hey Jag man, you're late! You alright? What happened to your face?

Jagmeet Nothing. Don't worry. I'm fine.

Darren Jagz you so do not look fine.

Robbie That's a pretty deep cut, Jagmeet

Benj Yo... You look like you've been knocked

Robbie (cutting in) Alright everyone, today we've got to lay down some rhythms and rhymes. Get into your groups for the verses. Enough of the freestyle. Don't be lazy, be precise. I want to hear it sounding brilliant in 5 minutes. Jag, come with me.

Scene 11 Back at home

Meeta (to
Simran) Did Marshall say anything else?

Simran Marshall said Jagmeet went to the shop at lunchtime. That kid Caine was annoying him during the lesson. Said he called him a terrorist.

Harjeet He's still not answering. I'll text him

Meeta Who's Caine?

Simran He is bully, loud, he say he watches a lot of videos on internet and his dad and his mates talk about terrorists. The one that Jagmeet watched the video with the other day.

Meeta WHAT?

Sfx picking up car keys

Meeta You stay here with Simran. If he's not there, we're calling the police...

scene 12 Back at Youth club - Robbie is talking to Jagmeet in a quiet room

Sfx Door closing

Robbie Look, bro... Who's done this?

Jagmeet No-one.

Robbie You don't need to protect anyone, you can talk to me. Confidentially. Is there anyone at school?

Jagmeet No.

Robbie Do you know the person who did this?

Jagmeet No.

Robbie Look, your friends care about you. Do you know that? They know something's not right.

Jagmeet Alright, I'm dealing with it, okay?

Robbie How? I think that your face needs looking at. It might need stitches.

Jagmeet Ow - don't touch it!

Robbie Jagz - you know we speak in confidence, but the rules say there are some things I just have to report. I'm gonna have to talk to Sharleine about this... We might need to call the police.

Jagmeet No! I told you, I'm handling it alright! I've got to go. I can't be here.

SFX he pushes past Robbie and leaves in a hurry

Scene 13 *Meeta is driving to youth club in her car.
Car slows down and electric window opens*

Meeta Jag? Jag is that you? What are you doing? What's going on?

Jag Hi Mum (weary tone)

Meeta What's happened to your face?

Jag I couldnt stop him, Mum. I just couldn't stop him. I tried to be strong...

Meeta Get in the car, love. Just get in the car. We need to get you home.

Scene 14 Back at home

Meeta He's here....Simran go upstairs and play in your room

Simran leaves the room

Jagmeet I'm sorry Dad! I tried not to let it get to me.
He went for my pagh... I put my hands up to push him away
and he cut my face. He was kicking me and kicking me...
I was on the ground...

Harjeet Who? Who did this?

Jagmeet A boy at my school. Caine Matthews. He started off just saying stuff
like it was a joke - but then he got my number off someone.
He then sends me these texts... and photos.

Meeta Photos?

Jagmeet Pictures of suicide bombers and stuff. He says they are my brothers.
Photos of battered people. He made me feel so guilty, like it was my fault.
He said that he is taking his country back. But we're British, aren't we?

Harjeet (exasperated) But... but why on earth you didn't say anything?

Meeta That's surprising coming from *you* Harj!

Jagmeet I didn't want to upset you guys. I mean Mums busy all of the time and
you're ill all of the time and I thought it would go away if I
kept my head down, you know, try not to let it get to me?
But he wouldn't stop. He wouldn't leave me alone.

Meeta Oh love, I can't believe this has been happening and you didn't say...

Harjeet I suppose no one finds it easy to talk about this stuff, huh?

Meeta First thing, we need to look at that face. Go up to the bathroom and I'll
come up in a second. I just need to talk to your dad for a minute.

Jagmeet O-Ok

jagmeet leaves

Meeta Oh my god, Harj... Our beautiful boy

Harjeet I know love, I know

they hug eachother

Meeta I'm going to call the police.

Harjeet Let's just hang on a minute. Maybe you are not the best person to call.
Go and sort his face out and then we can decide what to do.

Meeta Okay...

sfx *Harjeet dials 101*

Harjeet Hi, yes. Police? I suppose I'm reporting a hate crime...
Harjeet Singh. 26 Cambridge Rd, Treeford TE26 9RQ...
Yes... Well, I think I am being racially harassed at work.

Scene 15

Sfx *Music fades as we hear Harjeet finish his phone call*

Harjeet Thanks. I'll wait for his call. Thanks very much. Bye.

He ends the call on his phone. He notices Jagmeet standing in the doorway.

Harjeet
(talking to
Jag) How long have you been here?

Jagmeet Mum asked me to get Simran a drink. She's putting a movie on

Harjeet You look like a pirate with that plaster on your face... How much did you hear?

Jagmeet I don't know... Pretty much all of it I guess.

Harjeet OK

Short silence as the two look at each other, not knowing what to say

Harjeet It hurts, doesn't it?

Jagmeet What?

Harjeet The words. I used to get called a few names at school but you just gave them
mouthful and it was over for the most part. But that was nothing
like this... How was it for you?

Jagmeet I tried to ignore it but you know... "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger",
That's what Mum says, innit?

Harjeet (Laughs to himself) yeah right

Jagmeet But... I don't know. I felt like I was getting weaker every time that he said
something. Like he had this power over me. He kept saying all this stuff

and texting me these pictures and I was the one getting in trouble for it.

Harjeet Did you tell your friends about what's happening?

Jagmeet I mean... I told my IT teacher. I thought she could help me prove where the texts were coming from. She said I should just go to the police, but I'm not a snitch. The police wouldn't do anything anyway.

Silence

Jagmeet Who did you call just now?

Harjeet The police, actually. (smiling) Don't look at me like that! Someone gave me a booklet about Hate Crime today and it really made me think. I just told them what's been happening. They were really helpful. Told me that what that woman is doing is an offence.

Jagmeet Are they going to arrest her?

Harjeet They're not going to do anything tonight. An officer is going to call me tomorrow. The woman was nice though. Said thanks for reporting it. Might stop it happening to someone else. That feels good.

Silence

Harjeet Would you like to tell someone what's been happening to you? With this Caine, kid?

Jagmeet I don't... I don't know.

Harjeet Look, here's that booklet. You don't have to call the police. You can report it Online. I think it says you can do it anonymously if you want to. If you don't want to be a "snitch"

Sfx bzzz phone

Jagmeet That's him.

Harjeet How about we turn that phone off tonight? Use my tablet if you want to go onto YouTube or something. We'll get a brand new phone tomorrow. There's no rush to decide what you want to do. Let's go and watch the movie. We'll talk some more tomorrow. Whatever you decide, me and mum are here for you. You're not alone or on your own.

Meeta (calls) are you coming, you two?

Harjeet Come on. Movie time!

They exit

Fade in theme music

In Stand By Me,
Jagmeet was played by Matin Zoormand
Harjeet was Amol Kamkar
Meeta, Gloria Kamkar
the part of Simran was Emma Kazimi
Benj was Marshall Taylor
And Darren, Linus Harrington
Caine was played by Zulfir Snober Ali
Robbie Kalwin Kalgrave
The GP was Kamla Sharma
And Mr Hobbs was played by Anwar

Other parts were played by members of the cast

Stand By Me was written, produced and directed by Anna Carr and Catherine Wright

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Stand By Me was edited by Divya Singh

This has been a Unity 101 radio production