

The late Jason Arday

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We learned this morning that Jason Arday [died yesterday](#), appearing to have taken his own life.

I extend my sympathy to all of his family and friends. This is an immensely difficult, and possibly life-changing, event to have to come to terms with. Parts of their lives are lost, as well as his. I hope they get all the care and support they need.

I have not previously commented on this story. I did not know all the facts. Nor did those in the right-wing media who hounded him, as we now know, to his death. They published, according to newscord.org, around 249 articles on him in 22 days. The last was published minutes before his death became known.

Jason Arday might have made mistakes, but who has not? That, though, is not why he was harassed. He was subject to a pernicious public shaming because he dared to succeed and be different: he was young, black, autistic and challenging. And some could not forgive him for that.

I am shocked, but not totally surprised by his death. I am appalled, though. This is what privilege, small-mindedness, and hate do. He was their victim.

May he now rest in peace. And may we learn the lessons, including to love our neighbour as we love ourselves, which is the instruction that the right wing seems so keen to ignore. That seemingly deliberate failure summarises their crime.