



AC Statement against the racist, xenophobic and Islamophobic riots and attacks in the UK

We, the undersigned members of the Civil Society Action Committee, **condemn the violent racist, xenophobic and Islamophobic riots and attacks that have endangered minority and marginalised communities across the United Kingdom** over the past weeks.

Whilst we are heartened to see the display of solidarity and inclusivity from mobilising anti-racist protestors, we remain **concerned around the sharp increase in targeted hate speech and crime against migrants, diaspora and people of colour**, and the lack of government protection for the organisations and individuals being targeted for providing crucial services for migrants and vulnerable people.

We also **deplore the language used by major news sources labelling the perpetrators and riots as ‘protestors’ and ‘anti-immigration protests’**, as well as alluding to a ‘two sides’ aspect to the violence when referring to communities defending themselves. This practice, whilst remaining reluctant to call out the rampant racism and xenophobia, contributes towards legitimising these attacks, the narratives driving them, and the underlying issues of economic insecurities.

This emboldened racism and Islamophobia have not surfaced in a vacuum but is due to the **continued legitimisation of xenophobic narratives by the media and government, including pandering to and platforming extremist far-right figures, the normalisation of Islamophobia, racism, and anti-migrant, anti-refugee sentiments**. Sadly, this is a trend not only in the United Kingdom, but across the West and in the United States. Truly recovering from these riots must therefore go beyond the arrests of violent perpetrators, and to changing these narratives that will ultimately hurt everyone- from British citizens and residents to the most vulnerable seeking safety.

We call on government leaders, local authorities and the media for the following:

1. Clearly **name and refuse to legitimise the racism, Islamophobia and xenophobia that is driving this violence**.
2. Offer **protection and support** to mosques, community centres, immigration lawyers, and others at-risk of being targeted due to serving migrant, refugee and asylum seeker communities.
3. **Work with countries of origin to offer protection and support to their diaspora** at-risk of being targeted, and who must now live their lives in fear.

See the list endorsers [online here](#).