

# Joint statement from voluntary and community groups in Tower Hamlets

We, as a community of voluntary and community groups, are joining together to condemn the recent racist and Islamophobic violence and rhetoric from far-right extremists.

Our staff, volunteers, service users and boards of trustees represent the rich diversity of Tower Hamlets. We all recognise the fear, anxiety and recovered trauma this is triggering, and the increased isolation and restrictions on normal life being self-imposed as a response.

We stand together with our refugee, Muslim, Black and Asian colleagues and service users, with our refugee organisations and with our mosques — together with all other people and places previously targeted by the far right including those who are Disabled, LGBTQ+, or Jewish for whom the current crisis also triggers fear and trauma.

We recognise the power of peaceful action as a deterrent but also the need for continued vigilance. We also note that there is much disinformation being spread, designed to provoke and create more fear. We urge our staff and everyone we work with to exercise caution with material spread online and always verify sources. We also urge our communities to report incidents and to ensure they act in a way that reflects our values.

We are deeply concerned about the impact this crisis is having both on all our people and the wider community, and call on the police, local authority, Mayor of London and HM Government to take all steps to call out what it is unequivocally, and bring it under control.

We welcome the mechanisms put in place by Tower Hamlets Council Community Safety, bringing together the VCS and other community representatives in partnership to build a resilient united coalition against extremism and violence. We stand ready to support this vital work.

Signed by:



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