

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ddiwylliant a Chyfiawnder
Cymdeithasol, y Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice, Trefnydd and
Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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15 August 2024

Dear partners

Welsh Ministers and Welsh Government officials have spoken to a number of third sector organisations recently, and I wanted to write to you to acknowledge that this has been an extremely difficult couple of weeks for communities across the UK. We continue to express our condolences in solidarity with the victims and families affected by the horrendous and senseless attack in Southport.

Recent racist and Islamophobic violent disorder and abuse has been appalling. I remain committed to strongly supporting ethnic minority people and communities. Welsh Police Forces and Police and Crime Commissioners have also made clear their ongoing commitment to working closely with communities to offer advice and support.

We want Wales to continue to be a warm and welcoming nation and our relationships across our communities needs to reflect this. The Welsh Government stands firmly behind those seeking to unite, rather than divide, our nation.

The spreading of misinformation and hateful narratives over the last week has been disgraceful. We know the threat of potential disorder has had a real impact on many people in Wales and highlighted the unacceptable experiences of hate and racism people often face in their daily lives.

I have been heartened by shows of solidarity in Wales. The racist and Islamophobic violence we have seen does not represent who we are as a nation. But we are not complacent.

On Friday 9 August, the First Minister and I met with policing, local government and third sector partners to share information and learning. These meetings were an opportunity to hear the concerns of communities, including from those from and supporting Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic and refugee and asylum-seeking communities. I want to reassure you that we are taking steps to ensure everyone is safe and supported. We are working closely with police to prevent disorder, monitor tensions and protect communities from harm. The First Minister issued a written statement on Friday here: <https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-supporting-safety-people-and-communities-wales-following-incident-southport>

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I want to thank the third sector in Wales for their rejection of the hate expressed during the recent violent protests. I know you are working tirelessly to support unity for everyone in our communities. I note that Lindsay Cordery-Bruce, Chief Executive of WCVA was a signatory to the statement published by the [Civil Society Group](#) condemning the violence. The Charity Commission has published [guidance](#) that may be useful to you in protecting staff, volunteers and clients.

Our [Hate Hurts Wales campaign](#) will help victims to report hate crime and access support, as well as encourage witnesses and bystanders to step forward where appropriate. If you experience or witness a hate crime or incident, we encourage you to report these by contacting the police or the Wales Hate Support Centre. Please share the resources available for this campaign through your networks as it is important that these messages get through to the people and communities affected.

I encourage people to continue to follow advice and guidance shared by policing partners through their official channels over the coming days and weeks. Together, we can stand against hate and ensure all people in Wales can feel safe and secure in the communities where they live.

I want to be clear there is no place in Wales for hate. Let's stand up to hate together.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line above the first name.

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