

Shabana Mahmood
Home Secretary
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Subject: Failure to Respond to Islamophobic nature of the “Unite the Kingdom” Rally

Dear Home Secretary,

I am writing to formally register our grave concerns regarding both the openly Islamophobic nature of the recent “Unite the Kingdom” rally in London and the Government’s subsequent failure to respond with the seriousness the situation demanded.

Prior to the rally, the Metropolitan Police publicly acknowledged that previous demonstrations associated with this movement had involved “anti-Muslim chanting” and had caused “fear and distress within Muslim communities”. The force further stated that organisers and speakers would face consequences where unlawful extremism, hate speech, or breaches of protest conditions occurred.

The Prime Minister himself has previously described Tommy Robinson as someone who “peddles hatred and division”.

Against that backdrop, the events witnessed in central London on 16 May were deeply alarming.

Extensive footage and reporting from the rally show repeated rhetoric portraying Muslims and Islam as threats to Britain and to British society. The atmosphere created was plainly hostile towards Muslims, and many within our communities have since expressed genuine fear and anxiety about what they witnessed and lack of the Government’s response.

The concerns raised in this letter are not speculative or exaggerated. They are supported by publicly available reporting, official police statements, and extensive video footage from the event itself.

Relevant reporting and evidence includes:

- [Met Police statements on protest conditions and warnings](#)
- [The Guardian reporting on the rally and the speeches delivered](#)
- [The Guardian coverage of Tommy Robinson’s speech](#)
- [Middle East Eye reporting on the rally and arrests](#)
- [5Pillars report and analysis of rally messaging](#)
- [Video evidence 1](#)
- [Video evidence 2](#)
- [Video evidence 3](#)

Despite the scale and visibility of the Islamophobic rhetoric on display, there was no clear public condemnation from the Home Office, no visible engagement with affected Muslim communities, and no indication that the Government regarded the matter as requiring urgent national attention.

That absence has been noticed. Many British Muslims are now asking whether Islamophobia is being treated with the same seriousness as hatred directed towards other faith and minority communities.

Had similarly inflammatory rhetoric been directed towards another religious community in central London, it is difficult to imagine that the political response would have been so muted. There would rightly have been immediate statements of condemnation, urgent engagement with community representatives, and clear demonstrations of solidarity from the Government.

No comparable level of urgency or engagement was visible here in response to the targeting of Muslim communities.

This matters because public confidence in the Government, policing, and the consistent application of standards relating to hate and extremism depends upon communities believing that all forms of hatred will be treated equally seriously. Where that confidence begins to erode, the consequences for social cohesion and trust in public institutions are significant.

The issue therefore extends beyond the conduct of individuals at a single rally. It concerns whether organised Islamophobia is now being normalised in public discourse without attracting the level of political and institutional response that such activity plainly warrants.

In light of the above, I would welcome clear answers to the following:

1. Whether the Government accepts that Islamophobia and extremist mobilisation must be treated with the same urgency and seriousness as hatred directed towards any other faith or minority community.
2. Whether the Government intends to review the policing and prosecutorial response to the "Unite the Kingdom" rally.
3. Why no public statement was issued by the Home Office condemning the Islamophobic rhetoric witnessed at the event.
4. Whether you intend to meet with Muslim community representatives to address the concerns arising from both the rally itself and the Government's response to it.
5. Whether the Government considered discussions at the highest level regarding the implications of the rally for public safety and community cohesion and, if not, why not.

British Muslims are entitled to expect equal protection, equal concern, and equal solidarity from their Government. The perception that Islamophobia does not generate the same degree of political urgency as other forms of hatred is deeply damaging and cannot be allowed to continue.

The Government now has a responsibility to demonstrate clearly, publicly, and unequivocally that organised hostility towards Muslims will be treated with the seriousness that any form of extremism or fascism demands.

I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully,

Ismail Patel
Chair, Friends of Al-Aqsa