



**LEGAL ACTION  
FOR PEACE**

Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan  
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Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Kaya Comer-Schwartz  
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Copied to:  
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Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025

Dear Mr Khan and Ms Comer-Schwartz,

**Re: Formal Complaint Regarding the Metropolitan Police's Handling of the 'Unite the Kingdom' Protest on or around 13 September 2025**

We are Legal Action for Peace, an organisation of lawyers and human rights advocates with a commitment to ensuring the proper application of the Equality Act as well as challenging anti-Muslim hatred and anti-Arab discrimination.

We are writing to file a formal complaint regarding the actions and decisions of the Metropolitan Police Service ("MPS") under the leadership of Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley, in relation to the far-right protest "*Unite the Kingdom*" which took place in central London on 13 September 2025.

Our complaint centres on the MPS's failure to take adequate steps to prevent a breach of the peace and to protect the public from racially and religiously aggravated hate speech, thereby violating its duty of care to London's Muslim and ethnic minority communities.

## 1. Background of the Event

As widely reported, the *"Unite the Kingdom"* protest, organised by Stephen Yaxley-Lennon (known as Tommy Robinson), attracted a crowd of approximately 110,000 people. The event and associated propaganda were widely promoted by Elon Musk's X. The event featured speeches that, according to reports, amplified *"racist conspiracy theories and anti-Muslim hate speech"*. Specifically, speakers are reported to have made statements promoting the *"Great Replacement"* conspiracy theory<sup>1</sup>, a racist and Islamophobic narrative alleging the "colonisation" of European people by those from "Muslim culture". Such language is intrinsically threatening and creates an atmosphere of hostility and fear.

We set these out for you as follows:

### Tommy Robinson<sup>2</sup>

- *"Every single Western nation faces the same problem: An orchestrated organised invasion and REPLACEMENT of European citizens is happening!"*

Delivered in his main speech, dedicating it to victims like "Charlie Kirk, Iryna, and Liana". He framed it as a "cultural revolution" against globalist forces. His speech echoes the "Great Replacement" conspiracy theory, widely criticised as white supremacist rhetoric that fuels anti-immigrant violence and xenophobia. It implies a deliberate plot to erase European identities, unsubstantiated by evidence but linked to far-right extremism.

- *"People don't understand why we're allowing mass, uncontrolled immigration into all Western nations, do you believe that there are powerful forces, outside of elected officials, someone controlling governments, that are trying to control the flow of information?"*

Tommy Robinson promoted baseless antisemitic conspiracy theories of shadowy elites (this is often coded as Jewish or globalist cabals in far-right circles) manipulating migration and media, which dehumanises immigrants and erodes trust in democratic institutions.

- *"I've seen the loss of freedom, I've seen the hostility, I've seen the rapes, I've seen the violence. Now it's all over the whole country... children can't go to school without being grabbed and attempts to rape them."*

From an exclusive interview clip played at the rally, reflecting on his upbringing and calling for standing "for British culture" over "Islam." He generalised sexual abuse crimes to all Muslims or migrants, ignoring data showing diverse perpetrators and fuelling anti-Muslim hatred. Critics, including anti-racism groups, call it fearmongering that endangers communities.

- *"Britain has finally awoken" and "this is never going away" which was followed by: "We want our country back! Britain is awake, we are no longer afraid, you will not take our right to free speech @Keir\_Starmmer".*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/sep/17/tommy-robinson-rally-whitehall-racist-far-right>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&si=m7ggaKNty4\\_9i8xm&v=5Pv0sHiTW1E&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&si=m7ggaKNty4_9i8xm&v=5Pv0sHiTW1E&feature=youtu.be)

Robinson's closing remarks after a performance tearing flags of Palestine, amid chants against the UK government which is a permanent mobilisation against perceived threats (immigration, Labour policies), interpreted as a dog-whistle for ongoing unrest. The flag-tearing act amplified anti-Muslim and anti-Palestinian hate.

Elon Musk (via video link, interviewed by Robinson)

- *"If the fight comes to you, you don't have a choice, you have to have to rally. All of the people of Britain to fight for the future, and if this does not happen, you won't have a future."* Tommy Robinson replied to say – *"Let me ask the people of Britain, are we ready to fight for our future Britain?"*<sup>3</sup>
- *"The left is the party of murder."* (expanded: Urged protesters to "fight back" against "massive uncontrolled migration" contributing to "the destruction of Britain," calling for "dissolution of Parliament" and "revolutionary government change").

Elon Musk appeared remotely where he praised Tommy Robinson and US conservatives like Trump and Vance for *"saving the West,"* amid the rally's anti-immigration theme. Musk labelled political opponents as murderers, inciting division; the *"fight back"* line was seen as endorsing violence. He even went as far as stating that there is *"genuine risk of rape and murder, of dissolution of the country."* We note that our Prime Minister, Keir Starmer called it *"disgusting and inappropriate."*

- *"Whether you choose violence or not, violence is coming to you. You either fight back or you die. You either fight back or you die. And that's the truth."*

Musk explicitly incited the crowd and those that were listening in to the live feed of inevitable violence and demands retaliation. His statement was condemned by MPs and watchdogs as inflammatory rhetoric that could inspire attacks, especially post-recent US incidents like Charlie Kirk's shooting.

Éric Zemmour, French far-right politician:

- *"We are both subject to the same process of the Great Replacement of our European peoples by peoples coming from the south and of Muslim culture. You and we are being colonised by our former colonies."*<sup>4</sup>

This speaker reinforced the reprehensible *"Great Replacement"* narrative with colonial reversal framing, criticized as racist and Islamophobic; Zemmour's history of Holocaust minimisation added to the toxicity.

Belgian far-right politician, Philip Dewinter:

- *"It has to be clear that Islam is our real enemy, we have to get rid of Islam. Islam does not belong in Europe and Islam does not belong in the UK."*<sup>5 6</sup>

Brian Tamaki, Destiny Church leader from New Zealand:

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<sup>3</sup> [https://x.com/Jakub\\_AI\\_Art/status/1966908286449709238/video/1](https://x.com/Jakub_AI_Art/status/1966908286449709238/video/1)

<sup>4</sup> <https://hopenothate.org.uk/2025/09/13/britains-biggest-far-right-protest-more-than-100000-attend-tommy-robinsons-unite-the-kingdom-rally/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://hopenothate.org.uk/2025/09/13/britains-biggest-far-right-protest-more-than-100000-attend-tommy-robinsons-unite-the-kingdom-rally/>

<sup>6</sup> [https://x.com/FDW\\_VB/status/1966963893441556567](https://x.com/FDW_VB/status/1966963893441556567)

- *"Ban any type of public expression in our Christian nation from other religions. Ban Halal, ban Burqas. Ban mosques, ban temples, ban shrines - we don't want those in our countries."*

He preceded a haka dance and song with lyrics *"Making the west look like the Middle East,"* followed by tearing Islamic and Palestinian flags. Tamki's speech was overt Christian nationalism calling for the suppression of non-Christian practices, seen as theocratic bigotry violating UK secular laws and human rights; directly contradicts the rally's "free speech" branding.

Valentino Gomez (far-right, anti-Muslim American congressional candidate):

- *"England belongs to the English, its either now or never because if these Rapist Muslims take over, they will not only rape your women, they will behead your sons just like they did on October 7th in Israel so we either fight now or we die and we are fighters, we are warriors of Jesus Christ."*
- *"So don't make peace, destroy it"*
- *"All these rapist Muslims and dirty rugs back to their Sharia nations. After what they did to Charlie Kirk, debate time is over so I will get to the United States Congress so we will finish what Charlie Kirk started so help me God."*<sup>7</sup>

This extraordinary level of hatred being spouted on a public platform, where she tells the protestors to *"fight now"* and send *"all these rapist Muslims and dirty rugs to their Sharia nations"* was allowed to be spouted on a platform with Tommy Robinson.

The MPS cannot deny that they were not aware of the serious levels of hostility that people from the Muslim Community and ethnic minorities would have to face before, during and after Tommy Robinson's protest. The Muslim Community are now extremely fearful of Tommy Robinson's supporters which are known to commit violence against minorities. The MPS failed to take any action against the speakers for what clearly meets the threshold for the aggravated religious and race hate crime.

## 2. Failure to Uphold the Law on Hate Crime and Public Order

The MPS has a legal duty to prevent a breach of the peace and to uphold the law. The government's own guidance states that a hate crime is *"any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's... religion or perceived religion"*. This includes hostility demonstrated by language that is threatening, abusive, or insulting.

By allowing a platform for speeches that openly targeted Muslims and promoted racist ideologies, the MPS failed in its duty to:

- Identify and intervene against hate crime:** The content of the speeches, as reported, demonstrated clear hostility towards a religious group. The police's inaction sends a message that such rhetoric is tolerated, contradicting the CPS's policy on prosecuting hate crime.
- Prevent a Breach of the Peace:** The event resulted in "tense and at times violent clashes" with 26 officers injured. This indicates that a breach of the peace was foreseeable. The police's common law duty is to prevent such violence from occurring, which includes taking proactive measures against inciteful speech that is *"likely to incite or produce such action"*.

## 3. Impact on the Community

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<sup>7</sup> <https://x.com/5Pillarsuk/status/1967541209234014615>

The decision to permit this event to go ahead, with its platforming of international figures known for extremist views, has severe consequences as it:

- a) undermines the safety and security of Muslim, migrant, and minority ethnic communities in London.
- b) sends a message that the police are not willing to protect all communities equally, eroding public trust.
- c) legitimises hate speech and provides a platform for ideologies that are fundamentally at odds with a cohesive, multi-faith society. This is particularly alarming given the recent 25% increase in religious hate crimes recorded nationally.

#### **4. Failure of Duty and Leadership**

This incident is not isolated but must be seen in the context of ongoing scrutiny of the Metropolitan Police's culture and accountability especially following the Panorama investigation which was shown yesterday. The previous Home Secretary has previously emphasised to Commissioner Rowley, the need to *"learn from the appalling mistakes of the past and move [the Met's] culture away from the organisational defensiveness that has hindered progress and so damaged public trust"*. The decision to allow this event to proceed with its vile speakers who committing hate crime offences is a failure of the Metropolitan Police's leadership.

The MPS's operational planning seemingly underestimated the scale and nature of the event, leading to a situation where the crowds could not be contained and violence erupted. This failure in risk assessment directly impacted public safety.

We are of the view that the MPS's failure under Sir Mark Rowley's leadership has left our ethnic minority communities at serious risk of harm. There have been a number of violent incidents across London, yet, Sir Mark Rowley has failed to speak out against the attacks on the Muslim Community or the refugee community. The MPS has also failed to ensure that they carried out their public duty appropriately in light of Tommy Robinson's incredibly racist protest. Videos have shown that protestors admitted carrying knives in their belongings so that they could attack Black people<sup>8</sup> and being chased down the street for being an ethnic minority<sup>9</sup>. However, despite the predicted level of racism being espoused during his protest, the MPS considered appropriate to issue a statement where they asked the Muslim Community to go about their day as normal.

We see the distinct difference in treatment where the MPS used live facial recording during pro-Palestinian protests but decided not to use the live recording during Tommy Robinson's protests despite knowing that a significant number of people will hold criminal records for violence. The MPS appears to have chosen not to take these violent offenders off our streets much in the same way as the MPS's failure to charge due to a legal technicality (of their own making) during the Remembrance Day commemorations where the Far Right were physically violent and attacked several MPS officers.

The Muslim Community raised concerns about Sir Mark Rowley's appointment as Commissioner when he was first appointed in 2022 due to his associations with anti-Muslim organisations<sup>10</sup> such as the Henry Jackson Society. He is closely associated with Douglas Murray who wrote the book "The Strange

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<sup>8</sup> <https://x.com/NikoOmilana/status/1971990182955307177>

<sup>9</sup> <https://x.com/5Pillarsuk/status/1967880263398289820>

<sup>10</sup> <https://islamchannel.tv/backlash-over-new-met-police-commissioners-prejudicial-comments-about-muslims/>

Death of Europe” which is “overtly a Great Replacement book”<sup>11</sup> so it is not surprising that the Commissioner failed to clamp down on the racist speech against Tommy Robinson and his speakers. It is clear that at the very least, the MPS failed to carry out any due diligence as to the content of these speeches.

We have seen the stark difference between the manner in which the Commissioner has conducted himself when it involves the Jewish Community and the treatment of the Muslim Community. When our community has felt deeply concerned and worried about the violence which includes the express statements from Tommy Robinson’s extremist supporters who actively make statements inciting violence against our community, we see that the MPS has failed to take any action which only emboldens the racists that follow Tommy Robinson. This leads us to the belief that the Metropolitan Police is still an institutionally racist organisation.

Institutional racism was defined in the Macpherson Report as *“The collective failure of an organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to people because of their colour, culture or ethnic origin. It can be seen or detected in processes, attitudes and behaviour, which amount to discrimination through unwitting prejudice, ignorance, thoughtlessness and racist stereotyping which disadvantage minority ethnic people.”*<sup>12</sup>

In 2003, Baroness Casey published her report following an independent review into the standards of behaviour and internal culture of the MPS. The Report also set out four tests to further consider the existence of institutional racism which we set out as follows:

1. There are racists and people with racist attitudes within the police service;
2. Officers and staff from Black heritage and ethnically/racially minoritised backgrounds experience racism at work and it is routinely ignored, dismissed or not spoken;
3. Racism and racial bias are reinforced within;
4. The service under-protects and over-polices people of Black heritage.

We have seen the Panorama investigation which was aired last night which reaffirms our deep concerns about the direction of the MPS under the Commissioner’s leadership. The Panorama programme displayed the appalling depths of depravity with some of officers including by those in senior leadership. It is clear that the MPS has a deep problem with racism, homophobic, anti-Muslim hatred and misogyny against their own colleagues and vulnerable members of the public. It is clear that the MPS has failed to root out racist officers from within their service under the leadership of the Commissioner. Sir Mark Rowley has in fact downplayed the levels of racism within his own police service, failing to appreciate the extent of the levels of racism and misogyny. He is in complete denial that the MPS is institutionally racist despite the evidence presented by the Panorama programme.

We are aware that Black and ethnic minority police officers in the MPS find it difficult to raise concerns relating to racism and prejudice within the MPS. We have heard several accounts where MPS officers have been targeted for raising concerns. All too often, the officers have faced complaints against themselves once they raised complaints of racism and prejudice. As a result, it is not surprising that the MPS are unable to prosecute hate crime against ethnic minorities effectively, as they have failed to root out racist officers amongst their own ranks. It took an undercover reporter to expose the

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<sup>11</sup> <https://morningstaronline.co.uk/article/f/the-great-replacement-far-right-extremism-endorsed-by-the-establishment>

<sup>12</sup> <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7c2af5T0f0b645ba3c7202/4262.pdf>

significant levels of racism within Charing Cross Police Station. We have no doubt that this is not an isolated police station that is out of control.

The MPS as a public body has a public sector duty under s.149 of the Equalities Act 2010 to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation as well as other conduct. However, this has clearly not been the case. The MPS is an institutionally racist organisation and Sir Mark Rowley has failed to root out the racist officers from his own police service despite public commitments to do so. We are astounded to see that Sir Mark Rowley continues to deny that the MPS is an institutionally racist organisation which flies in the face of the ample evidence that we have seen.

The levels of racism witnessed by the public in recent months and its two-tier policing when it comes to Tommy Robinson's protests and now the explosive Panorama investigation does not give the public confidence in the MPS under the Commissioner's leadership. On behalf of the Muslim Community, we demand that Sir Mark Rowley must go. It is unacceptable that he continues to lead the Metropolitan Police Service.

## **5. Requested Action**

We request that MOPAC investigate this complaint and seek answers from the Metropolitan Police Commissioner on the following points:

1. An enquiry into the senior leadership of the MPS including Sir Mark Rowley regarding the promotion of the 'Great Replacement' theory promoted by Sir Mark Rowley's close association with Douglas Murray and now Tommy Robinson's protest on 13<sup>th</sup> September.
2. What specific risk assessment was conducted prior to the "Unite the Kingdom" protest regarding the content of the planned speeches?
3. Why did the MPS not use its powers under public order legislation to impose conditions on the event to prevent the incitement of racial and religious hatred?
4. What rationale was used to conclude that speeches promoting the "great replacement" theory and other anti-Muslim rhetoric did not meet the threshold for a potential public order offence or hate crime?
5. What steps will the MPS take to review its policy for handling protests where there is a foreseeable risk of hate speech and violence?

We look forward to your timely response and a detailed account of the actions that will be taken to ensure such a failure of public protection by the MPS does not occur again.

Yours faithfully,

**Legal Action for Peace**