

Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood MP,
Home Secretary,
Home Office,
2 Marsham Street,
London, SW1P 4DF

15th September 2025

Dear Home Secretary,

Re: Minority communities under attack while the government stays silent

Congratulations on being appointed as the Home Secretary – I wish you well in your new role. I am writing to express deep concern over the alarming rise in racially and religiously motivated abuse directed at minority communities across the UK. Women in particular are vulnerable - they are being abused, attacked, and terrorised while simply going about their daily lives.

In recent days:

- A Sikh woman was raped by two white men in a racially aggravated attack in the West Midlands.
- A Muslim schoolgirl in Scotland was racially abused and attacked by a man while walking home from school.
- An NHS nurse of Filipino descent was subjected to a verbal and physical racial attack by a white couple, captured in a shocking video that circulated widely on social media.

Muslim women have also shared their experiences with me of being verbally abused and harassed which has included being photographed or filmed by passers-by, drivers, or while using public transport. The levels of hatred and hostility are chilling and many more examples can be found on social media. These stories also make it clear that the hostility we are witnessing is not simply about illegal immigration — it is about a growing hatred towards people of colour, where skin tone or appearance is being used to decide who is seen as 'belonging' in Britain. As most incidents go unreported, the scale of the problem is likely much larger.

Perhaps most shocking is the silence from those in power. Despite these horrifying attacks, neither the Prime Minister nor the Home Office, responsible for public safety, has offered reassurance or concrete action to show minority communities that their safety matters — a concern that predates your tenure. This silence is both deafening and dangerous, especially given the size of minority communities, which make up 18% of the population, with four million Muslims representing the largest group at 6.5%. Why has the government at the very least not bothered to reassure the large numbers of minority ethnic staff who are integral to our public services - working in the NHS, civil service and other public bodies?

The ongoing immigration debate can be informed and constructive without compromising the safety of individuals whether they are British born, long-established citizens, recent migrants, or awaiting immigration decisions. A government can be both firm on immigration policy and firm in its stance against racism and anti-Muslim hatred. Police officers were left with broken noses, teeth, and head

injuries during Tommy Robinson's London march over the weekend. If our law enforcement faces such brutal attacks, what chance do ordinary minority ethnic citizens have? Must people die before the government takes robust action?

I have also previously asked in the House of Lords chamber how Muslim women and girls will be protected against anti-Muslim hatred. The response I have received is that millions of pounds have been provided for mosque security. While places of worship must of course be safe, this does not address my question. The issue of women's safety in public spaces cannot continue to be sidestepped. I therefore hope you will tell me specifically what action you will take to protect women and girls.

Frustrated by the government's slow response, Muslim Women's Network UK is launching **Muslim Safety Net** in early October. The project will help Muslim women and girls report anti-Muslim hatred and discrimination, understand their legal rights, and use the law to protect themselves. The launch will be amplified with a billboard campaign.

I urge you to:

- Publicly condemn all racially and religiously motivated violence and abuse and reassure minority communities and Muslims their safety matters.
- Reform hate crime legislation by adopting the Law Commission's recommendation to consolidate existing provisions into a single Hate Crime Act and ensuring equal protection against all forms of hatred. This should include aligning the offence of inciting religious hatred with that of inciting racial hatred, removing the higher threshold that currently requires the conduct to be threatening in addition to being abusive or insulting.
- Significantly expand funding for reporting and safety services to match the needs of the Muslim communities given their size and diversity. Multiple trusted organisations in different regions must be available, ensuring that those most at risk—particularly Muslim women—can safely and confidently come forward.

Home Secretary, you have only just begun your role, but this is a moment to set a clear tone. Strong leadership on this issue will demonstrate that the Government is committed to protecting all who live here, regardless of background, and to upholding the principles of the British values of fairness, equality and justice.

I urge you to act now.

Yours sincerely,



Baroness Shaista Gohir OBE
Chief Executive Officer
Muslim Women's Network UK

CC Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer