



13th January 2025

MEDIA STATEMENT

Statement in Support of Jess Phillips MP

Muslim Women's Network UK (MWN UK) stands in full solidarity with Jess Phillips MP, Home Office Safeguarding Minister. We strongly condemn the recent threatening and inflammatory remarks made against her, which risk compromising her safety and perpetuate a culture of silencing women through harassment and intimidation, particularly in online spaces.

MWN UK CEO Baroness Shaista Gohir said: *"We have worked closely with Jess Phillips since 2012, when she was first elected as a local councillor in Birmingham. Over the years, she has consistently demonstrated unwavering commitment to safeguarding victims of abuse and advocating for their rights. Since her election to Parliament in 2015, she has continued to be a powerful voice challenging violence against women and girls."*

Victims of sexual abuse must never be used for opportunistic purposes and should remain at the heart of all efforts and policies. We urge all public figures and commentators to engage in responsible and informed dialogue, especially on matters as sensitive as child sexual abuse and safeguarding. Misinformation and personal attacks serve only to distract from the essential work of protecting vulnerable girls and women and delivering justice for survivors. We must all now work together to implement the recommendations made in a number of reports already written on sexual exploitation and grooming.

Anyone affected by sexual exploitation and grooming can contact the Muslim Women's Network Helpline on 0800 999 5786 / info@mwnhelpline.co.uk or send a message via the Amal Safety Mobile Phone App.

Additional Information

- Media enquiries can be directed to: contact@mwnuk.co.uk or 0121 2369000
- Muslim Women's Network UK is a national charity and more information can be found on its website: <https://www.mwnuk.co.uk>
- MWN Helpline (national specialist faith and culturally sensitive helpline) can be contacted on: TEL: 0800 999 5786 / Email: info@mwnhelpline.co.uk / Text: 07415 206 936 and further Information can be found here: <https://www.mwnhelpline.co.uk>