



The Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group
c/o Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham St
London
SW1P 4DF

19 March 2019

Dear Members of the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group

We are writing to you all as the Chair of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and also the APCC Leads on Equality, Diversity and Human Rights (EDHR), to express our dismay, anger and deep sadness following the despicable terrorist attack which took place in Christchurch, New Zealand on Friday. On behalf of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) across England and Wales, we would like to state categorically that we stand together in solidarity with the Muslim community in the face of terror and hate, as well as all other communities affected by this incident.

Terrorist attacks such as this and the media coverage surrounding them often inspire further acts of hatred, such as those which took place over the weekend - some of which are now being investigated by Counter-Terrorism Policing. As directly-elected representatives of the people responsible for the totality of policing in our areas, we are committed to reducing hate crimes and incidents: many PCCs have committed to tackling hate crime in their Police and Crime Plans, whilst many of us are driving forward a range of initiatives across policing, community safety and victims' services, to enable and increase confidence in reporting, bring perpetrators to justice and provide victims with the support they need.

In order for us to ensure that policing in our areas is meeting the needs of all the communities it serves, it is vital that we engage actively with the public that we represent. Therefore, if any members of the Working Group have concerns locally regarding community safety we would encourage you to engage with your Police and Crime Commissioner; information on finding your local PCC can be accessed on the APCC website [here](#). We have additionally written to PCC colleagues across England and Wales, underlining the need for them to discuss with their Chief Constables regarding reassurance measures being put in place, and to engage proactively with affected communities.

Additionally, if you have any broader concerns on the national level, we would like to invite you to engage with us directly: as well as being represented on a number of key national forums, including the NPCC Coordination Committee on Diversity, Equality and Inclusion, and the Home Office Hate Crime Strategy Board as the APCC Chair and also the APCC national leads on EDHR, we are well placed to discuss with and disseminate relevant information to all PCCs across England and Wales.

Meanwhile, concerns regarding suspicious behaviour or activity, should be reported to the confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline in 0800 789 321; in an emergency you should call 999. Hate Crimes and incidents should be reported to your local police.

We would like to close this letter by reemphasising that as PCCs, we stand together with all communities against terror and hate. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you believe we could be of assistance.

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The APCC provides support to all
Police and Crime Commissioners
and policing governance bodies in
England and Wales

Yours sincerely,



Mark Burns-Williamson OBE
APCC Chair



David Munro
APCC Lead on Equality, Diversity and Human Rights
PCC for Surrey



Hardyal Dhindsa
APCC Deputy Lead on Equality, Diversity and Human Rights
APCC Lead on Hate Crime
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