

National Black Police Association Statement 22nd June 2026

The National Black Police Association (NBPA) is deeply concerned by the reported anti-Muslim attacks in Edinburgh. Our thoughts are with the victims, their families and all those affected by this distressing incident.

We recognise that incidents of this nature extend far beyond those directly harmed. They create fear, anxiety and uncertainty throughout wider communities, particularly among those who may feel targeted because of their faith, ethnicity or identity. We understand the concern that many members of Muslim communities may be experiencing and stand in solidarity with all those affected.

The NBPA is increasingly concerned by the rise in hostility, prejudice and hateful rhetoric directed towards Muslim, Jewish and other minoritised communities. While freedom of expression is a fundamental right within a democratic society, it is important to recognise that rights come with responsibilities. Words matter. Language that stereotypes, vilifies or dehumanises individuals or groups can contribute to fear, division and mistrust within communities.

Historically, those seeking to spread hatred relied on leaflets, pamphlets and local networks to disseminate their messages. Today, social media and online platforms have amplified the speed and reach of such narratives. While the methods have changed, the potential consequences have not. Words shared online can have the same corrosive impact on community relations as the leaflets and propaganda of previous generations.

We also note that this incident has not appeared to generate the same level of public discussion and commentary as some other suspected hate-motivated attacks. While every incident is different, it is important that violence directed at individuals because of their faith, race, ethnicity or identity receives consistent attention and condemnation. Communities are reassured when hatred is challenged clearly and consistently, regardless of who the victims are.

We therefore urge all those in positions of influence, authority and public prominence to consider carefully how their words and behaviour may be interpreted by others. Responsible leadership requires not only consideration of what is intended, but also awareness of the impact that messages may have on those who are susceptible to prejudice, division or extremism.

We also believe that governments, public institutions and civic leaders share a collective responsibility to ensure that all communities are protected from hatred, intimidation and violence. Every person, regardless of their faith, race or background, should be able to live their lives free from fear.

The NBPA believes that policing has a crucial role to play in challenging hate, protecting vulnerable communities and fostering trust and confidence amongst those we serve. We must do all we can to prevent and respond to hate crime, support victims, challenge prejudice wherever it is encountered and work alongside communities to ensure that everyone feels safe and valued. At a time when tensions can easily be heightened, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to fairness, respect and the protection of all communities from hatred, intimidation and violence.