



PRESS STATEMENT

National Black Police Association (NBPA) Response to the conviction on the murder of Henry Nowak

The National Black Police Association extends its sincere condolences to the family and loved ones of Henry Nowak following this deeply tragic loss. We also respect the wishes of the Nowak family that Henry's death is not used to fuel hatred, fear or division within our communities.

The loss of any life is wrong. Where policing has had contact with individuals prior to such incidents, it is right that lessons are identified, learned and acted upon transparently.

We recognise the fear, anxiety and apprehension being felt not only by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic officers and staff across policing, but also within many communities at the current time. Public debate around policing has become increasingly polarised, and all those in positions of influence and responsibility should carefully consider the impact their words may have on community tensions and public safety.

It is notable that some of the loudest voices now promoting narratives around "two-tier policing" are often the same voices who strongly defend policing when concerns are raised around racism, disproportionality or the use of police powers affecting Black and minority ethnic communities. The reality is that it should not matter what a person's race, faith, background or identity is — everyone deserves fair and equitable treatment. Unfortunately, despite decades of reports, reviews and recommendations, racism and disproportionality within policing and the wider criminal justice system remain real concerns for many of our members and communities.

Policing regularly develops strategies and engagement approaches to build trust and confidence with different sections of society, including young people, older people, women, rural communities and vulnerable groups. We do not see the same level of outrage when those efforts are directed towards other communities, and it is important that attempts to improve relationships with Black and minority ethnic communities are not unfairly characterised or politicised.

We are concerned that the current climate could result in commitments to race equality, inclusion and anti-racism within policing being diluted or deprioritised. That must not happen.

Policing must continue to deliver its services fairly, impartially and equitably to all communities. The NBPA will continue to work with policing leaders and partners to ensure progress towards fairness, trust and legitimacy is not lost.

We also want our members to know that they are not alone. The NBPA and local associations remain here to support, advocate and speak up for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic officers and staff across the UK.