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VVIDY's Statement on the Rise of Fascist Attacks on Asylum Seekers

Unfortunately, VVIDY is not surprised by the violent nature of the right-wing protests witnessed across Britain.

This outcome was predictable, predicted and preventable.

We strongly denounce the barbaric, vicious and racially motivated acts of terrorism against marginalised freedom seekers.

We also express deep concern over the inhumane treatment that vulnerable individuals seeking refuge are facing in this country.

More than twenty years after the McPherson Report identified systematic and problematic failures in institutions like the Metropolitan Police, to address structural racism, the same divisive populist political discourse persists unchallenged, pitting communities against each other along racial lines.

The government's knee-jerk reaction of resorting to criminalisation instead of enacting a thorough political and educational initiative to tackle the underlying historical issues of racism in British society is not only incendiary but also detrimental.

By explicitly condemning violence and discrimination, VVIDY reaffirms its commitment to being the voice of the voiceless in upholding the basic rights and dignity of all, regardless of perceived differences and backgrounds.

The vicious nature of racism, disguised as protests, is evident in the blatant display of hatred and aggression towards freedom seekers.

These vulnerable individuals, already dealing with the trauma of displacement and seeking safety in a new hostile environment, should not be subjected to additional distress and intimidating practices such as Home Office reporting regimes.

Although we, as part of a collective of migrant welfare advocates and the wider population of Britain, were shocked by the barbarism, we are unfortunately not surprised by the rise in fascist disturbances and attacks on asylum seekers.

This reflects a growing and concerning trend of intolerance and xenophobia within Britain that we have warned about and campaigned against for many years.

These acts perpetuate fear and insecurity amongst vulnerable freedom seekers and erode societal cohesion.

These violent actions targeting individuals based on their precarious immigration



Status, skin colour or nationality, perpetuate divisiveness and animosity, jeopardising the values of inclusivity and diversity that Britain claims to hold dear.

Moreover, the hostile immigration environment was created by a mainstream political party, and these physical attacks on freedom seekers echo the narratives used by previous Home Office ministers, leading political figures and the mainstream media to demonise and delegitimise the fundamental right to claim asylum.

This "fortress Britain" mentality has serious consequences.

The political discourse has legitimised the scapegoating of already dehumanised and disadvantaged individuals. As a result, they face increased risks of physical harm and psychological trauma due to prevalent discriminatory legislation and ostracism. The psychological toll of living in constant fear of violence, detention, and persecution can have serious and lasting effects on the physical and mental health of individuals who are criminalised by public opinion, the media, the political establishment, and now by fascists.

A concerted and effective response is essential to address the issue of fascist disturbances and attacks on asylum seekers. It is vital for all stakeholders, including government authorities, civil society organisations, and community leaders, to take a firm stand against such acts of violence and intolerance.

This can be achieved by acknowledging the diverse contributions that migration has made and continues to make to Britain.

By promoting a meaningful and honest dialogue, collective efforts can help uncover the root political causes of migration, combat the threat of fascism, and uphold the rights of freedom seekers to safety, protection, dignity, and respect.

On behalf of VVIDY

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