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The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

29 September 2025

Dear Prime Minister

We are writing to you as leaders of civil society to ask you and your ministers to provide clear and consistent leadership to advance inclusion, equality and anti-racism in the face of the increasingly harmful impact of far-right activity on public and political life in the UK. If the UK is to stand against the division and hate fuelled by the far right we urge the government to take the concrete steps we recommend below.

We call on the government to:

1. Set the narrative by providing a compelling vision of the diverse and pluralist country we want to be, rooted in compassion and respect for our shared humanity and equal rights.
2. Be consistent and unflinching in rejecting all forms of racism, and proactive in standing up for the universality of human rights - for all people, including asylum seekers and other migrants, to be free from harm and treated fairly.
3. Strengthen your missions-driven approach by ensuring that any strategy to tackle disadvantage addresses the structural inequalities within communities, including by harnessing investment in growth and the green economy at scale to tackle discrimination, poverty and persistent disadvantage.
4. Commit to citizenship education - that reaches hearts not just minds - to increase political literacy and understanding of the rule of law and universal human rights as the everyday rights we all rely on. This should be embedded in the school curriculum, potentially through the forthcoming Curriculum and Assessment Review, as well as through a programme of public education. It is particularly needed now in advance of the planned extension of the vote to 16- and 17-year-olds.
5. Build resilience to hate and extremism within the communities who are being drawn in and exploited by the far right. Policy interventions should include:
 - a. reviving the national hate crime strategy that played an important part under

previous Labour governments to prevent and tackle hate crime

b. the expansion of participatory democracy and other approaches that provide spaces for people to be heard, that facilitate dialogue and connection between people across boundaries and backgrounds

c. enabling equality organisations, Local Resilience Forums, and wider civil society to play their important roles here. This should include Black and minoritised women's organisations as key stakeholders given the weaponisation by the far right of violence against women and girls

From our position within the wide range of communities we come from and serve, we are well aware of the struggles that people of all backgrounds are having in their day-to-day lives and how scapegoating certain communities is being used as a strategy for political gain. We are witnessing the significant damage to people of all backgrounds caused by the far-right's cynical spreading of division and hostility between communities, their undermining of the rule of law, and the weaponisation of violence against women and girls.

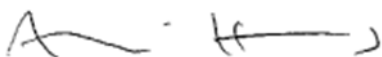
We are experiencing increasing racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia and antisemitism on the streets and in workplaces, including abuse of charity staff and charity shop volunteers. All this alongside attacks by the media and threats of violence against lawyers and civil society groups working with migrant and other marginalised communities. Like most people across the UK, we were horrified by the racially-motivated rape of a Sikh woman in the West Midlands.

We welcome that, since the march organised by the far-right in London on 13 September, you have spoken up against racist rhetoric and violence targeting people because of the colour of their skin and that you have highlighted the importance of the values of diversity and respect. As well as reacting to events and relying on the police and criminal justice system, we urge the Government to take broader and longer-term action, and to consistently defend the benefits and strengths of our diverse and pluralist society.

In addition, as civil society leaders we know all too well that if the Government cedes ground to the far right in one policy area, such as the right to family life under article 8 of the Human Rights Act, that will not be the end of it. They will simply move on to their next target.

The Civil Society Covenant which you launched earlier this summer, has a key purpose to underpin the partnership between civil society and government to work together to create a fair, just and equitable society with improvements to people's lives and protection of human rights. We urge you to put this commitment into action, and we stand ready to play our part to ensure the freedom and future of the UK.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ali Harris', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ali Harris, CEO, Equally Ours and the following organisations:

Dame Clare Moriarty, CEO, Citizens Advice
Sarah Mann, CEO, Friends, Families and Travellers
Shabna Begum, CEO, Runnymede Trust
Dr Sarah Hughes, CEO, Mind
Saskia Konynenburg, Interim CEO, National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)
Kamran Mallick, CEO, Disability Rights UK
Andrea Simon, Director, End Violence Against Women Coalition
Kunle Olulode MBE, Director, Voice4Change England
Jim Fitzgerald, Director, Equal Rights Trust
Dr Wajid Akhter, Secretary-General, Muslim Council of Britain
Debra Allcock Tyler, CEO, Directory of Social Change
Matt Whittaker, CEO, PBE
Jo McGrath, CEO, Sector 3 Stockport
Andrew Copson OBE, Chief Executive, Humanists UK
Brian Dalton, CEO, Irish in Britain
Anne Fox, CEO, Clinks
Nick Gardham, CEO, Community Organisers and Convenor of Humanity Project
Janet Thorne, CEO, Reach Volunteering
Katie Docherty, CEO, Chartered Institute of Fundraising
Robin Osterley OBE, Chief Executive, Charity Retail Association
Andrea Cleaver, CEO, Welsh Refugee Council
Rick Henderson, Chief Executive, Homeless Link
Deborah Layde, Chief Executive, The Seafarers' Charity
Maddy Desforges OBE, CEO, NAVCA
Paul Roberts OBE, Chief Executive, LGBT Consortium
Adrian Ball, CEO, Manchester Settlement
Mark Norbury, CEO, UnLtd
Paul Laffey, CEO, YMCA Burton Upon Trent
Vivienne Hayes OBE, CEO, Women's Resource Centre
Sandra Beeton, CEO, Social Benefits Consortium CIC
Anna Feuchtwang, Chief Executive, National Children's Bureau
Jackie Longworth, Chair, Fair Play South West, the women's equality network
Jess McQuail, Director, Just Fair
Louise King, Co-Lead, Just for Kids Law, including the Children's Rights Alliance for England
Emma Hutton, CEO, JustRight Scotland
Ali Fiddy, Director, Maternity Action
Roberta Fusco, Head of Influencing, Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO)
Tony Armstrong, Chief Executive, Locality
Warren Escadale, Chief Executive, Voluntary Sector North West (VSNW)
Ellie McNeil, Chief Executive, YMCA Together
Mandy Crandale, CEO, National Survivor User Network
Richard James, Chief Executive, YMCA St Paul's Group
Lindsay Cordery-Bruce, Chief Executive, Welsh Council for Voluntary Action
Paul Martin, Chief Executive, and Alex Matheson, Director of Inclusion, LGBT Foundation
John Wilson, Chief Officer, Community Matters
Anna Fowlie, Chief Executive, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
Sam Palmer, CEO, Respect for All
Mary-Ann Stephenson, Director, Women's Budget Group
Richard Williams, Chief Executive, YMCA Swansea
Yvonne MacNamara, CEO, The Traveller Movement
Alan Markey, Chair, National Association of Welfare Rights Advisers (NAWRA)
Adeela Warley, CEO, CharityComms

Matty Caine, CEO, First Person Project CIC
Claire Shelton, Director, Social Enterprise Kent CIC
Steve Butterworth, CEO, Neighbourly
Ben Whalley, CEO, Gaddum
Rose Marley, CEO, Co-operatives UK
Aliya Mohammed, CEO, Race Equality First
Harriet Michael-Phillips, Director, PSS
Catriona Sutherland, Graduate Women Scotland
Romilly Greenhill, CEO, Bond
Dr Rhidian Hughes, Chief Executive, Voluntary Organisations Disability Group (VODG)
Naomi Smith, CEO, Best for Britain
Michael Marshall, Project Director, Good Thinking Society
Nuala Toman, Head of Accessibility, Disability Action
Caroline Abrahams, Charity Director, AgeUK
Annette Lawson, OBE, Hon. Ambassador, NAWO; Chair, The Judith Trust
Billy Anderson, Head of Services, Participation & Policy, Children in Scotland
Richard Wilson, Director, Stop Funding Hate / Reliable Media
Caron Bradshaw OBE, CEO, and Sarah Lomax, Deputy CEO, Charity Finance Group
Jezerca Tigani, Director, Article 39
Liz Windsor-Welsh, CEO, Action Together CIO
Helen Altshul, CEO, Asylum Link Merseyside
Mia Hasenson-Gross, CEO, René Cassin- the Jewish voice for human rights
Claire Reindorp, CEO, Young Women's Trust
Fizza Qureshi, CEO, Migrants' Rights Network
Georgina Carr, CEO, The Neurological Alliance
Gee Manoharan and Miranda Reilly, Co-Directors, Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees (AVID)
Alison Page, Chief Executive, Salford CVS
Shoaib M Khan, Human Rights Lawyer
Leckhna Paras Chajed, National Director, Students for Global Health UK
Tessa Khan, Executive Director, Uplift
Nick Hepworth, CEO, Water Witness International
Paula Twigg, Director, Mary Ward Legal Centre
Simon Blake OBE, CEO Stonewall
Tom Brake, Director, Unlock Democracy
Simone Spray, CEO, 42nd Street
Revd. Ian Rutherford, City Centre Minister, Methodist Central Hall Manchester
Mike Wild, Chief Executive, Macc
Jo Walby, CEO, Mustard Tree
Dawn Yates-Obé, Chief Executive, Bolton CVS
Christopher Stacey, Chief Executive, Prisoners Abroad
Robert Moore, Secretary, North Wales Regional Equality Network
Atiha Chaudry, Director, Greater Manchester Ethnic Communities Network (GMECN)
Duncan Craig OBE, Chief Executive Officer, We Are Survivors
Jamie Dennis, Chief Executive Officer, Mandem Meetup
Darren Knight, Chief Executive, George House Trust
Micky Dacks, Chief Executive Officer, Innit For Young People
Alix Lewer, CEO, The Include Project
Jules Palfreyman, Chair, GM=EqAL
Carol Mack OBE, Chief Executive, Association of Charitable Foundations (ACF)
Stuart Sale, CEO, Ann Craft Trust
Octavian Starr, Chair, Gender identity Research and Education Society (GIRES)
Tania Cohen MBE, Chief Executive, 360Giving

Jamie Agombar, Executive Director, Students Organising for Sustainability (SOS-UK)
Julie Bishop, Director, Law Centres Network
Sian Summers-Rees, Chief Officer, City of Sanctuary UK
Nik Hartley OBE, Chief Executive, Spinal Injuries Association
Mary Watt, CEO, Live! Cheshire
Helen Close, Researcher, Omega Research Foundation
Kate Ashbrook, General Secretary, Open Spaces Society
Phillip Vincent, Chief Executive and Sam Ross, Chair of Trustees, West of England Rural Network (WERN)
Zoe Bantleman, Legal Director, Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (ILPA)
Naz Ghodrati, Chief Executive Officer, Warrington Voluntary Action
Bejal Shah, CEO, Hackney CVS
Stephen Craker, CEO, Communities 1st
Paul Townsley, CEO, Waythrough
Jamila Duncan-Bosu, Acting Director, Anti Trafficking and Labour Exploitation Unit (ATLEU)
Tracey Lazard, CEO, Inclusion London
Jattinder Rai, CEO, Bexley Voluntary Service Council
Dr Karen Bateson, Oxford Parent-Infant Project
Gail Heath, CEO, The Pankhurst Trust (Incorporating Manchester Women's Aid)
Sayed Alkadiri, Executive Director, Mlegal
Claire Bent, CEO, Our Room Manchester
Sarah Cook, CEO, Home-Start HOST
Annie Emery, Chief Executive, MASH (Manchester Action on Street Health)
James Taylor, Executive Director Strategy Impact & Social Change, Scope
Ben Gilchrist, CEO, Caritas Shrewsbury
Dr Rebecca Don Kennedy, Chief Executive Officer, Equality Network
Denise McDowell, CEO, Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit
Yvonne Hope, CEO, Barnabus Manchester
John Ryan, Strategic Lead, Shelter Greater Manchester
Paul Newcombe, CEO, Booth Centre
Revd Michael Kane, Lead Pastor, Brooklands Church of the Nazarene
Liz Moore, Chief Executive and Helen Blachford, Chair of Trustees, Association for Citizenship Teaching
Tracy Harris, CEO, Castle Point CVS
Nicki Redhead, Chair, Discrimination Law Association
Rebecca Gill, CEO, Rosa - the UK Fund for Women and Girls
James Watson-O'Neill, CEO, Sense
Jon Sparkes OBE, CEO, Mencap
Lucy Hughes, CEO, Mankind UK
Sabi Stafford, Convener, Male Survivors Partnership
Christine Blythe, CEO Of Burnley Pendle & Rossendale C V S
Kim Harper, CEO Community Action Derby
Anna Martin, CEO Voluntary Action Leeds
Naz Zaman, CEO Inclusive North
Andrea Thompson, CEO Home-Start Knowsley
Sara Dowling, CEO, Why me?, Transforming lives through Restorative Justice
Robyn Knox, Director, VCS Emergencies Partnership
Robert Kurn, CEO, Southampton Voluntary Services
Yak Patel, CEO, Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Asma Aziz, CEO, Slough Council for Voluntary Services
Vanessa Morris, CEO Mind in the City, Hackney and Waltham Forest
Navinder Kaur, CEO, Voluntary Action Islington (VAI)
Rachel Spencer, CEO, Reading Voluntary Action RVA

Mark Freeman, CEO, Cambridge CVS
Martin Brookes, CEO, VONNE
David Bailey, CEO, Wessex Community Action
Sara Redmond, Chief Officer of Development, Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)
Carol Willis, CEO, Voluntary Action Swindon
Chris Hailey-Norris, Chief Exec, Up For Yorkshire
Andria Birch MBE, CEO Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service
Gareth Prytherch, Chief Executive, Wirral CVS
Paola Uccellari, Chief Executive, Young Roots
Steve Cooke, Chair, Derbyshire Refugee Solidarity
Theo Gavrielides, Founder and Director of the Restorative Justice for All (RJ4All) International Institute
Mark Tebbs, CEO, Thurrock CVS