

## Statement of Unity from the Muslim Community of Nottinghamshire

Nottinghamshire is celebrated as a place where people get along. Therefore, the letters inciting violence against the Muslim Community on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 are not just an attack on Muslims but an attack on the values underpinning our diverse and tolerant society. Muslim community leaders are liaising with the local Police, Councils and Community organisations across Nottinghamshire and full support will be given in relation to this issue.

PCC Paddy Tipping (Nottinghamshire Police) has stated that:

*“We need to treat everyone whatever their background, with respect and value their contribution to society.*

No letters have been distributed in Nottinghamshire. Nevertheless, the Police are engaging and liaising with colleagues nationally. There is a determination to bring the authors of the letter to justice.

I am delighted that locally we are to use April 3<sup>rd</sup> as a celebration of diversity. I anticipate it will be a positive day and certainly not out of fear.”

We unreservedly state that Islam fundamentally promotes Peace, in line with the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)

*“A true believer (mumin) is he from whom people’s lives and wealth are safe.” (Tirmidhi, Nisai)*

We appreciate the commitment already conveyed by Councillor Toby Neal (Nottingham City Council) and Superintendent Ted Antill (Nottinghamshire Police) and we echo their assurance. Any offence committed on 3<sup>rd</sup> April in relation to the letters will be treated as a Hate Crime therefore if you are a victim of, or a witness to any offence please contact the Police on 101.

We request all citizens of Nottinghamshire and beyond to make a conscious effort to counter such hate by supporting the Muslim Community on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April. The Muslim community continues to make a significant contribution to British Society; we form part of the very fabric of our neighbourhoods and we will not be perturbed by those seeking to divide and sow discord into our communities. Muslims are our working professionals, our neighbours, our colleagues, classmates and our friends down the road. An attack on any part of our community is an attack on us all.

Our vision like everyone else, is to live in a society that is compassionate, kind and committed to justice and peace. Together, we need to combat the notion of ‘them and us’ so that as UK citizens we can live and prosper in a society where solidarity is practised on a daily basis and especially in a time of crisis.

In the true spirit of community cohesion, we leave you with the words of Jo Cox:

***‘We have more in common than that which divides us’***

*The Muslim Community of Nottinghamshire.*

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The above statement is endorsed by:







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