



A Terrifying week for Minority Communities

The Stockport Council of Mosques expresses its deep concern and alarm at the sharp rise in Islamophobia and racism we have witnessed across communities—an escalation that is not being sufficiently acknowledged, challenged, or addressed.

Recent incidents highlight a deeply troubling pattern:

- A suspicious package being sent to Zakariyah Mosque in Bolton.
- The arson attack on the home of an Imam, where his four children were present.
- Reports of violent unrest in Belfast, where mobs targeted individuals based on their faith or ethnicity, with threats to burn down their homes.

And these are not isolated acts—they are part of a growing climate of hatred and fear.

What is equally concerning is the lack of public outrage and strong condemnation from our leaders. The silence is deafening.

We call on all political representatives, including those who seek to represent our communities, to unequivocally condemn all forms of hate-driven violence and extremism, regardless of who the victims are.

Some may believe that such hatred affects only “others.” History teaches us that this is a dangerous misconception. From Nazi Germany to the atrocities in Bosnia, hatred begins with the marginalisation of one group before spreading further. No society that tolerates hatred remains immune from its consequences.

We must ask ourselves:

- Will hatred really make our country stronger?
- Do we believe division will create opportunity?
- Will targeting minorities build a prosperous and united Britain?

The answer is clear: it will not.

The UK stands at a crossroads. We can choose to be a nation that:

- Values the contributions of all who call it home
- Develops talent and fosters inclusion
- Builds unity across faiths, cultures, and communities

Or we can allow ourselves to be drawn into a path defined by division, scapegoating, and fear, where we blame a minority rather than Governments looking at their own failings.



Those who promote such rhetoric of hate do not act in the interests of ordinary people nor in community wellbeing, but in power, influence, and self-interest. This is evident in their statements that don't match the truth and in soundbites that are full of empty promises.

The Stockport Council of Mosques calls on:

- Mosque to bolster security measures and for their congregations to be **vigilant, reporting any suspicious activity.**
- Government and local authorities to take stronger, visible action against **ALL hate crimes.**
- All communities to stand united in **rejecting racism and Islamophobia.**
- Elected leaders **to call out divisive rhetoric and propaganda** – these aren't just words, it's speech that can lead to arson, mob crimes and murder.
- Each and every one of us to speak out **against injustice wherever it occurs.**

We must reaffirm our shared values of justice, compassion, and mutual respect. Only by standing together can we ensure that our communities remain safe, strong, and united.

Issued by Stockport Mosques

Date: 13th June '26