
NATIONAL INDEPENDENT ADVISORY GROUP ON HATE CRIME FOR POLICING AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Minutes

Thursday 11th July 2024
Online meeting

Attending Members

Mike Ainsworth - Chair
Sue Sanders - Schools Out
John Azah - KREC
Dr Mark Brookes MBE - Dimensions
Julie Miller - Translucent
Mark Healey - 17-24-41
A representative of - CARG
A representative of - CST
A representative of - Stonewall
Nathan Hall - Kings College London
Dame Robina Shah
Iqbal Bhana
Mike Whine
A representative of - GALOP

In attendance

Paul Giannasi (Secretariat)

1. Introductions

Paul gave a summary of the early appointments to the new Government and some of the informal conversations that expected an early and positive response to hate crime policy.

MA welcomed new representatives from Stonewall and from Galop.

MA also shared updates on ongoing projects, including the work on intersectionality by Dr. Maya Flax and the issues surrounding the tragic death of Brianna Ghey. MA expressed his support for [Redacted], who was out of the country but he noted her outstanding contribution to national work since October 7th, despite hostility to Tell MAMA from many groups seeking to undermine their contribution

2. Priorities for the IAG arising from our manifesto paper

The team discussed the potential of Labour Party's manifesto suggestions to influence the government's actions on hate crime, with a focus on reinstating a government advisory body and improving hate incident guidance. The IAG had proposed the formation of a cross-government strategy board involving relevant ministries and criminal justice

agencies to develop and deliver an action plan. The IAG had also agreed on the need for an effective All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for hate crime and suggested reaching out to other parties to present a unified front. The IAG highlighted the importance of coordinating their message for collective impact and the potential of negotiations with administrative offices. There was optimism about the new government's interest in hate crime and a commitment to seize the opportunity for positive change.

3. UK's Role in Promoting Human Rights

PG discussed the UK's role in promoting human rights internationally, with a focus on disability and learning disabilities. MA and MW expressed concerns about the lack of attention given to these issues and agreed on the need for a stronger focus and more active UK involvement in international gatherings.

MB shared news of his success in winning a Churchill Foundation Grant to fund his plans to gather knowledge and feedback about disability hate crimes in Europe and the US, MA and others committed to assist him.

JM provided updates on the newly appointed Ministers of State for Women and Equalities and Education, and suggested exploring connections with the Home Secretary for her influence on policy.

4. European Politics, EHRC Inquiry, and Trans Guidance

IB raised concerns about the impact of right-wing shifts in European politics on their regional agenda. MW responded by discussing the lurch to the right in several European countries, including Scandinavia and Italy, and its implications for EU policy.

MW also mentioned an ongoing inquiry by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) into its future work, which he encouraged the IAG to respond to.

JM mentioned speculation that the Education Secretary was considering discontinuing the trans guidance, which she hadn't seen officially.

MA proposed reaching out to Police and Crime Commissioners to offer the group's assistance and influence.

5. National Hate Crime Awareness Week and Police Improvements

MH announced the upcoming National Hate Crime Awareness Week, with a focus on anti-LGBT hate crime this year and disability hate crime next year. He emphasised the event's inclusivity, the importance of community partnerships, and the use of social media strategies to raise awareness. MH also discussed plans for a new government-focused campaign to encourage Members of Parliament to publicly support their cause.

JM raised concerns about the use of certain colours traditionally associated with the gender-critical Suffragette movement, prompting suggestions to reach out to the Trans Youth campaign.

6. Conference Delay, Election, and Trans March

PG discussed the plan to possibly delay of the national hate crime conference to January or February once Government timetables are clear as Labour Ministers were previously keen to attend and the conference may provide an opportunity to launch or promote a new government strategy. He also talked about the availability of Mark Hamilton to speak at the event.

Paul provided an update on the work of the Gold Group overseeing community tensions, indicating that the election did not challenge in the way they feared and that they have returned to fortnightly meetings.

7. Upcoming London Rally and Safety Concerns

MA raised concerns about an upcoming rally in London led by far-right figures, it purported to be protesting about '2-tier policing' and planned to call for the resignation of MPS Commissioner. The concern is that the march takes place at the same times and the national Trans-Pride event.

Mike also discussed contact with various trans organisations for reassurance and mentioned the Met Police's advanced contingency plans. Paul expressed concerns over possible clashes between the trans pride event and the far-right group when travelling into the Capital and urged the team to reach out to the trans community for safety advice. The team also discussed the decision of a Jewish LGB group not to march due to safety concerns and suggested also had asked that the British Transport Police share safety advice on social media.

8. Re-Election of the Chair and Deputy Chair

MA said we should consider the chairing roles as both he and IB have held positions for around 9-10 years. Both announced their intention to stand for re-election. JA and RS expressed their support for the IAG's continued leadership. **It was agreed that anyone wishing to stand against MA or IB should notify PG by 7th August.** Should any member wish to be considered for either post then PG would arrange of r confidential selection process of the members.

9. Trans Community Hate Crime and Limitations

[Redacted]

The group agreed that there was a need for better online policing of hate speech, with [Redacted] adding that this was a significant issue within the Asian community. MA proposed a meeting with Ofcom to discuss their effectiveness in dealing with online harms, suggesting this as a first step towards tackling the issue.

Actions

- 1. MA to draft a short paper based on the IAG manifesto outlining key priorities and vision for the new government.**
- 2. PG to reach out to the Metropolitan Police regarding messaging and guidance for the Trans Pride march on July 27th.**
- 3. [Redacted]**
- 4. MA to draft a letter to all Police and Crime Commissioners about the IAG and its work.**
- 5. MH to continue planning for National Hate Crime Awareness Week (October 12-19) and coordinate with FL.**
- 6. [Redacted] to reach out to political contacts regarding potential government support for hate crime initiatives.**

- 7. MA to arrange a meeting with Ofcom to discuss the Online Harms Act and its implications for policing online hate.**
- 8. IAG members to help MB with contacts for his upcoming trips to Ohio, Europe, and Washington DC for his disability hate crime research.**
- 9. MA to include the issue of disability hate crime as a priority in communications with the new government.**
- 10. IAG members to assist in distributing reassurance messages to the trans community regarding the July 27th events in London.**
- 11. Any member who wishes to be considered for the post of Chair or Deputy Chair to notify PG by 7th August.**

Date of Next Meeting

4pm Thursday, 10th October 2024 - Online meeting