

Carl Sargeant AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gymunedau a Phlant
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Wales Race Forum
Faith Communities Forum
Hate Crime Criminal Justice Board
Community Cohesion Co-ordinators

5th July 2016

Dear all,

I know many communities are concerned about an increase in racial and religious hate crime since the EU referendum. My message is simple and clear – hate crime in any form will not be tolerated. The vote to leave does not in any way legitimise hatred towards ethnic minority people and non-British nationals. The First Minister has set out this Government's position on this matter, following an emergency Cabinet meeting.

<http://gov.wales/newsroom/firstminister/2016/160627cabinetstatement/?lang=en>

My message to communities is to be supportive of one another and that any form of hatred or discrimination experienced should be reported to the Police. Alternatively, people can also contact the National Hate Crime Report and Support Centre on 0300 30 31 982 or race equality organisations across Wales, such as one of our Welsh Equality Group members. If incidents or crimes go unchallenged then this will have a cumulative negative impact.

I am continuing to work with Police and Crime Commissioners and I attended the All Wales Policing Group at which I raised the issue of increased hate crime and the importance of responding appropriately. This follows a letter from the First Minister to Commissioners to ensure we are working collectively to be alive to the ongoing situation. I have asked my officials to meet with Wales Race Forum members to discuss responding effectively and ensure that we can all work together to provide clear messages and support.

Wales has always been a welcoming country and this will not change. Nothing has changed in the status of foreign nationals living and working in Wales. They remain welcome as they always have been. The first Minister has visited the Polish Welsh Association in Llanelli and the Ethnic Youth Support Team in Swansea last week to send out a clear message that migrant communities are welcome. I fully endorse this message.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I would be grateful if you could share this Government's strong message on tackling racism and hate crime, and building a cohesive Wales with your networks, friends and families. The Welsh Government remains committed to a more equal, fair and cohesive Wales.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl', written in a cursive style.

Carl Sargeant AC/AM

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