



Date: 27 June 2024

Redbridge Matters strongly condemns the attacks on the Bangladeshi community in the UK.

Redbridge Matters (RM) is deeply concerned by the offensive remarks about the Bangladeshi community made by Labour Leader Keir Starmer in an interview recently. Starmer singled out Bangladesh when specifically talking about people who come to the UK illegally. His comments were backed up by shadow cabinet minister Jon Ashworth, who said the Labour government would send migrants “from countries like Bangladesh” back to their countries of origin. Again, he singled out Bangladesh.

This is not a mistake but a coordinated Labour campaign, attacking the Bangladeshi community in the UK, with the aim to appeal to the anti-migrant voters. It is a political choice. Labour's attempts at scapegoating the Bangladeshi community in the UK with the aim of political gain is grossly irresponsible, unjustified and manifestly wrong.

RM strongly condemns the attacks on the Bangladeshi community in the UK.

In Redbridge we are proud of our diversity. Bangladeshi communities in Redbridge and across the country are rightly disappointed and angered by the insulting comments made by the Labour Leader Keir Starmer.

The Bangladeshi community in the UK are involved in many industries and professions, they make a tremendous contribution worth billions of pounds to the UK economy. They should be praised for their amazing contribution - not insulted.

If this is allowed to continue, then other minority communities in the UK from different countries will also be singled out in the future. That's why unjustly targeting one minority community is tantamount of targeting them all, which cannot be accepted and must be condemned.

This is why RM have already stated that the mainstream parties especially Labour no longer represent us. We have therefore decided to endorse only independent candidates in Redbridge for the General Election on 4th July.

Finally, we emphasise that all those who are trusted for political office must be held accountable for their irresponsible comments because unguarded generalised comments targeting a single ethnic minority with the aim of political scoring is dangerous and likely to undermine community cohesion.

We promote peace and do not weaponise differences.

Executive Committee,

Redbridge Matters

REDBRIDGE MATTERS (RM) IS A COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP

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