

09 August 2024

**Redbridge Matters urge the government to consider
the far-right group under the Terrorism Act 2000**

You will have no doubt seen the rioting across the UK and been deeply disturbed that such serious racist Islamophobic violent unrest is taking place in London.

Social media platforms have become the breeding ground for disinformation, which the far-right have used as weapons of hate against the Muslims and immigrant communities.

After a week of racist Islamophobic riots in the United Kingdom, many Muslims feel more unsafe than ever before. Vicious Islamophobic resentment that Muslims had long feared has risen to the surface and shows its evil face.

Redbridge Matters (RM) has been working with the local faith and community leaders to protect our community and prevent violence on our streets. RM will be in continuous contact with the police and our politicians to work together for the safety of our diverse communities in Redbridge.

The UK definition of terrorism is set out in the Terrorism Act 2000. It defines “**terrorism**” as *‘the use or threat of serious violence against a person or serious damage to property where that action is: designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public or a section of the public, and for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause.’*

This description clearly covers many of those in the far-right involved in these riots that have recently occurred. We are surprised the far-right terrorist taking part in activities to intimidate Muslims fall under the terrorist definition have not been given the official title of terrorist which they are. We would therefore urge the government to consider this and the media to address the far-right actions as terrorism too.

RM Chair Khaled Noor recently attended a meeting with the Police Borough Commander Stuart Bell and Council Leader Cllr. Kam Rai along with local Mosque Management/Committees and leaders of community organisations.

In the meeting on behalf of the RM it was suggested the following:

1. There should be a visible police presence on our streets and neighbourhood to reassure our communities; police SNT should visit local Mosques to build trust within our communities.
2. Despite victims of crimes, reporting crimes within Muslim communities are low because there is mistrust. Anti-Muslim hate/Islamophobic incidents are not given priority like other hate crimes. Police should encourage people to report crimes. Distributing leaflets with information on reporting crimes would be helpful.
3. There should be coordination of sharing messages to avoid misunderstanding and raising false alarms.

RM would like to address a number of issues in Redbridge generally and put this work on making our communities feel safe as a priority.

We now wish to take this work forward and welcome your help in doing so. You can either volunteer to be actively involved or provide your suggestions on areas you would like us to consider.

Please contact RM via email: info@redbridgematters.org with your preference and highlight your skills or areas of interest to you.