

28 February 2019

Countries: UK

Over the past year, the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) has received 8,000 complaints—but upheld only one. In a time of increasing antisemitism, Islamophobia and overall racist and discriminatory acts across the United Kingdom, Europe and around the world, we find this lack of oversight over this kind of reporting to be both troubling, and telling.

Today, Media Diversity Institute and [Hacked Off](#) are calling on the Independent Press Standards Organisation to end this #RacismInThePress, and start taking complaints of racism and discrimination more seriously. Please circulate our letter below using the hashtag #RacismInThePress.

Is it possible to draw Serena Williams without being racist?



Half of black children do not live with their father. And we wonder why they're dying

"Two more teenagers were killed over the weekend as Sterling revealed his controversial gun tattoo"

Dear Independent Press Standards Organisation,

Racist and faith-based attacks against communities are so common in parts of the press that they have become a dangerous normality. It is clear that these attacks encourage the discrimination, harassment and violence suffered by members of minority communities every day.

"It's politically unsayable, but most of those dying on our streets signed up to vicious, black-on-black postcode wars"

"The more you learn of Islam, the more medieval it appears"

Yet you have taken no action. In respect of each of the examples cited in this letter, you have not upheld a single complaint. In one entire year, of over 8000 discrimination complaints, you upheld only one.

"Tis the season of bombers and Uber drivers who haven't eaten for 20 hours – welcome to the Midsummer madness of Ramadan"

Why did C4 have a presenter in a hijab to front coverage of Muslim terror attack?

By allowing these abuses to go on without sanction you are turning a blind eye to the continuing incitement of hatred.

We write to express our deep dismay and to ask you to address this problem urgently and publicly. While the press must be free to do its job, your implicit condoning of religious and race-based hate must stop.

"These migrants are like cockroaches"

Yours,

"What will we do about the Muslim Problem then?"

Baroness Warsi | Baroness Lister | Baroness Osamor
Kate Osamor MP | David Lammy MP | Yasmin Qureshi MP | Caroline Lucas MP
Preet Gill MP | John Barnes MBE | Marsha de Cordova MP | Clive Lewis MP
Kate Hollern MP | Clare Hepworth OBE | Cllr Hashim Bhatti
Chi Onwurah MP | Debbie Abrahams MP | John Cryer MP | Faisal Rashid MP
Tan Dhesi MP | Mohammad Yasin MP | Catherine West MP | Naz Shah MP
Virendra Sharma MP | Keith Vaz MP | Valerie Vaz MP | Shabana Mahmood MP
Karen Buck MP | Media Reform Coalition | War on Want | Global Justice Now
Ged Grubby CEO Show Racism The Red Card | Steve Turner, Unite Assistant
General Secretary | Faiza Shaheen, CLASS | Chris Frost, Chair of the NUJ Ethics
Council | Gareth Lowe, Chair of Unite's National Publishing and Media Branch
Fair Vote UK | African Women's Welfare Association | Nigerian Organisation of
Women | Faith Matters | Sikh Federation UK | Professor James Curran,
Goldsmiths University London | Professor Jonathan Hardy, University of East
London | Professor Einar Thorsen, Bournemouth University | The Media Fund
Yvonne MacNamara CEO The Traveller Movement | Dr. Shahidha Bari, Queen
Mary University of London | Fran Boait, Executive Director of Positive Money
Stand Up To Racism | Interfaith Glasgow
Media Diversity Institute | The Hacked Off Campaign

Rescue boats? I'd use gunships to stop migrants

"IMAM BEATEN TO DEATH IN SEX GROOMING TOWN"

"... so long as they blow themselves up – somewhere a decent distance from where the rest of us live. Tower Hamlets, for example."

"White majorities feel threatened in an age of mass migration – and calling them racist won't help"