



Diaspora Special Interest Group Support Statement

It has been a month now since the recent rise in racist, anti-religious, and anti-immigrant acts across many communities in the United Kingdom. We, the social workers from the diaspora community, are deeply saddened and still affected by the violence and destruction that occurred. As we reflect on these tragic events, we have among us, Social Workers who have come to the UK, fleeing war, escaping violence, grave human rights violations, and seeking better employment opportunities. We came for safety, refuge and a place where we could live and work in a welcoming community which embraces diversity. These riots have shaken us and many of us are now afraid to go to work, attend our places of worship, or send our children to school, fearing further retaliation and attacks in some of the areas we work.

Our children have been traumatized as well and we are left with grieving the loss of belonging, safety and stability that we hoped to find here in the UK. Some feel less valued and are struggling to overcome these violent acts while we are trying to rebuild our lives. It is our hope to heal from this experience and work to build better communities where there is a better understanding, acceptance, and unity among all communities.

As a Diaspora Special Interest Group, we value principles of equality, inclusion, and respect for all individuals regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or background. As a special interest group, we represent broader racial and ethnic communities, and we play a critical role in advocating for both local and national policies that promote human rights, equality, and inclusion. It is our commitment to ensure that disenfranchised and underrepresented communities are given a voice, and we are actively involved in supporting our diaspora.

We call upon our communities to recognize the severity of these traumatic situations and encourage all members of our community to come together in solidarity to reject hate and violence in any form. Let's work together to build a positive society that embraces the principles of equality, inclusion, and mutual respect.

We would encourage open and honest dialogue and feedback to address the needs of migrants and locals who are of black, ethnic, and minority communities. The Diaspora Special Interest Group remains committed to creating a safe space where all voices are heard and where we develop solutions that respect and honor the culturally sensitive and inclusive values that define us and the British Association of Social Workers.

We would like to encourage social workers from Diaspora communities to join us by contacting us at basw.diaspora.sig@gmail.com and our Diaspora SIG page on BASW website.

Sincerely,

Diaspora Special Interest Group