



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

10 November 2025

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Ali,

Thank you and your co-signatories for your recent letter regarding advancing inclusion and equality in the UK.

Firstly, let me thank you, as leaders of civil society, for the work you do to strengthen cohesion up and down the UK. As set out in the Civil Society Covenant, I firmly believe that we can only tackle the challenges we face as a nation by working in partnership with you and the communities we all serve. Thank you also for taking the time to write and set out so many policy proposals, which have been shared with the relevant departments.

Last month, I clearly set out my vision of a Britain built for all. I spoke about being at a fork in the road: we face a choice between decency and division. Being English or British is not tied to the colour of one's skin. People of many different backgrounds are contributing every day to national renewal by working across our communities, public services and businesses. To suggest that people who have lived here for generations, raised their children here and built lives in their communities, no longer have a place in our country is racist and divisive.

No one should ever be a victim of hatred or live in fear for their race, religion, beliefs, or the way they choose to live their lives. I abhor all forms of racism, xenophobia, anti-Muslim hatred and antisemitism and am deeply concerned to hear of the impact that far-right rhetoric is having on civil society. While we are actively working with the police and a range of organisations to tackle hatred and extremism, proactively building social cohesion and resilience is also a priority for this Government.

To this end, I recently launched a landmark £5 billion Pride in Place programme, backing those who build up their communities, choosing unity over division. This programme puts local people across 339 neighbourhoods in the driving seat of national renewal. New powers will also let residents reclaim beloved assets and drive patriotic renewal, street by street.

I know that civil society organisations across the country are supporting cohesion and championing the voice of communities. We want to amplify this work, strengthen partnership working with communities at both a local and national level, and ensure communities have the support to lead on issues that matter to them. We know that communities are able to make the most of funding, such as the Pride in Place Programme, when they have the skills and confidence to drive locally-led change and unlock their full potential. To facilitate this, MHCLG is establishing a Network for Neighbourhoods to build connections, convene partners and share learning and best practice across the Pride in Place areas and beyond.

We take empowering and equipping young people with the knowledge and skills they need very seriously, particularly in relation to introducing votes at 16. Teaching about democracy and elections already forms a central part of the national curriculum for citizenship at key stages 3 and 4, and can be taught as a non-statutory topic in primary schools. The independent Curriculum and Assessment Review is considering citizenship education as part of its work. We will also work with the Electoral Commission, the devolved governments and civil society to consider what additional measures can support schools, colleges, and youth groups to roll out practical civic education.

Thank you, once again, for writing to me. I have outlined some of the work we are doing to build stronger communities across the country but am aware we need to make sure we are using every tool at our disposal to build cohesion and resilience, combat division and tackle hatred. I would be grateful if you could share this letter with your co-signatories and I look forward to continuing to work together.

All best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ali Harris', with a horizontal line underneath.

Ms Ali Harris