

20 February 2025

Andrew Boff AM
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Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your sharing the London Assembly's Motion on tackling Hinduphobia.

For ease, please find our response enclosed in the Annex.

Please accept my apologies for the delay to this reply. As a result of the London Assembly elections in May and restructuring within some MPS teams since then, it has taken us longer than we would have liked to come back to you. However, as you will see, we are taking clear action to address this important issue.

Yours sincerely,



Glen Pavelin
Commander – Frontline Policing
Metropolitan Police Service

ANNEX

Motion 3.2 - Hinduphobia

“This Assembly wishes a Happy Diwali to all Londoners that celebrate.

This Assembly notes that recent statistics from the Home Office show that in 2022/2023 there were 291 hate crimes, accounting for 3 per cent of recorded by the police in England and Wales, against Hindus. This is an increase on the previous year which saw 161 recorded hate crimes. These figures also show that the number of racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded by the police by month have increased since 2015.

This Assembly notes that there are no public statistics on the number of religiously motivated hate crime by religion on the Metropolitan Police Service Crime Dashboard.

This Assembly further notes that despite having the second lowest figure of recorded hate crimes, in 2022, Hindus formed the second most likely religion to have been victims of religiously motivated hate crime according to the Crime Survey for England and Wales. This suggests that Hindu hate crime is not being effectively recorded by police services.

This Assembly welcomes the Mayor’s leadership in celebrating London’s diverse communities and enjoyed seeing Londoners celebrating the festival of lights with Diwali on Trafalgar Square.

This Assembly calls for the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to work with local Hindu communities to encourage confidence in reporting Hindu hate crime.

The Assembly further calls for the MPS to include the breakdown of hate crime by religion on the Crime Dashboard.”

The MPS is proactive in relationship building with the Hindu community. The vast majority of our work in this space takes place at a local level – for example, through our faith officers. The MPS has dedicated faith officers in every London Borough, who work with all faith communities. In the course of their activities, they will visit relevant local sites (e.g. places of worship, community hubs etc.), fostering relationships and building trust and confidence, including with the Hindu community. In addition, they work closely with Safer Neighbourhood Teams to address any problems that may materialise.

Every fortnight, local faith officers meet with the Central Engagement Team. This is an opportunity for faith officers to review any issues, share learning and make sure relevant local matters are understood centrally.

There are also local and central 'breakfasts' where MPS officers and staff can engage directly with members of the Hindu community. Local breakfasts will be attended by the Chief Superintendent covering the local area. There is also a London-wide Commissioner's Faith Breakfast.

With specific reference to hate crime, the MPS Hate Crime Lead, Superintendent Renowden, was pleased to meet recently with Krupesh Hirani AM to discuss this important issue and plans are being developed for Superintendent Renowden to support an event for the Hindu community at City Hall in March, which will have a specific focus on how more members of the Hindu community can be encouraged to report hate crime incidents.

In addition, the MPS is examining the potential for including Hinduphobia on the Hate Crime Dashboard. This is due to be considered further at the next tasking meeting in March.