

MAYOR OF LONDON

Len Duvall OBE AM

Chair of the London Assembly
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Our ref: MGLA250924-1674

Date: 19 January 2026

Dear Len,

London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting 5 September 2024 – Motions

Thank you for the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 5 September 2024. Please accept my apologies for the delay in my reply to Motion 3.9 below.

Motion 3.9 – Far-right Riots

The violent and racist disorder seen across the country during summer 2024, and the attempted far right unrest in London last year, are unacceptable. I stand with the Assembly in making clear that violence, racism, antisemitism, and Islamophobia have no place in our society.

I was proud that in the wake of the disorder, Londoners sent a clear message that London is for everyone. The peaceful shows of unity on our streets in response to the riots were inspiring and reassuring for many. I am also grateful for the dedication of our police officers and other blue-light services who work tirelessly across London to keep our communities safe, day in and day out.

However, I know that the violence and disorder that we saw across the country and, since then, the further attempts to bring that unrest to London, left many Londoners feeling afraid. There is no room for complacency. Our institutions must redouble their efforts to condemn and act against Islamophobia, antisemitism and other forms of racism and anti-migrant hate. We will never let those who seek to divide us win, and the strong show of support of Londoners uniting against hatred demonstrated this.

Hence, I have taken forward action across the Greater London Authority (GLA), which includes:

I am committed to ensuring that Londoners' voices are at the heart of decision-making in City Hall. GLA teams, especially the Community Engagement team, maintain relationships across London's diverse communities and work with them to ensure that they can participate in creating solutions for the most pressing issues that affect them. The work of equity-led and migrant-led organisations has been invaluable in empowering affected communities within decision-making and supporting community cohesion. I also recognise the vital work that London's community organisations have done to shed light on the wider causes and context of the events.

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Since August 2024, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, has been hosting roundtables with impacted communities to continue dialogue on their needs. Since then, GLA and Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) officers have facilitated a training offer for frontline community organisations, in partnership with the Community Security Trust, in response to concerns raised by partners about their safety. The London Strategic Migration Partnership Board considered the implications of the riots at its October 2024 meeting, and active conversations are ongoing with partners about the next steps.

In February 2025, I launched the Loved and Wanted campaign sending a clear message that all Londoners, irrespective of their background, are welcome and valued in London, and that we stand united against fear and hate. The message has resonated with communities across London, so I have also launched a £900,000 Loved and Wanted fund. In February 2026, I look forward to announcing Loved and Wanted Spaces who will ensure that Londoners can come together to celebrate our shared values, have access to advice and support, GLA programmes and any local offers. These spaces will be part of a wider network and coalition that will continue to send a clear message that we believe our diversity is our biggest strength, and we will continue to support and further social cohesion in London.

In September 2025, my officers convened a meeting of London Boroughs and civil society representatives to reflect on the response to, and impact of, the far-right protest activity that has taken place and seek updates on the actions identified at previous meetings. My officers will continue to work with London stakeholders to address the issues that were raised at these meetings, which include improved information sharing and partnership working, and speeding up the response to dis and misinformation. My officers have convened a meeting of London Local Authority Chief Executives to follow up on actions that can be progressed at a senior level.

In August 2024, the Metropolitan Police Service and London Resilience Unit brought together partners from across the capital, from emergency services to local authorities to voluntary, community and faith representatives. The London Resilience Unit supports community organisations in enhancing resilience, improving collaboration with statutory agencies, and ensuring preparedness for future challenges. The London Communities Emergencies Partnership (LCEP) coordinated support to VCFS groups in the summer of 2024, provided intelligence about community concerns and needs to partners, and pulled together resources and guidance in response to the violent public disorder and need for social cohesion and community resilience. The LCEP coordinates the voluntary, faith, and community partners for resilience in preparedness, response and recovery to emergencies and crises. It is a new partnership between London Plus and the national VCS Emergencies Partnership.

I also commissioned Protection Approaches to deliver a Social Cohesion and Resilience insights and engagement project. The researchers received more than 100 good practice examples of cohesion initiatives that strengthen London's resilience. My teams will look to incorporate its recommendations into their work plans to build on the good practice already established in community resilience.

I commissioned Groundwork South (Communities Prepared) and Groundwork London to produce a London Community Resilience Toolkit for community-led organisations. The Toolkit will include guidance and templates for communities to help them with emergency planning, community volunteering, community hubs, and other topics.

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In addition, the London Resilience Unit has commissioned the British Red Cross, Groundwork London and Groundwork South (Communities Prepared) to pilot Community Resilience Hubs in London, building on international best practice.

You have also highlighted the good work of the Multi-Faith Network in my Violence Reduction Unit, which brings together faith leaders and organisations to support the sector in tackling violence in the communities they serve. This is in addition to funding the London Boroughs Faiths Network to deliver resilience training designed for faith leaders. The four-week course includes training on hate crime, building security, first aid, climate risk, and more. So far, cohorts in five London boroughs have received training, and more were planned for the new year.

I have also invested £16m in tackling hate crime. This investment includes awareness and outreach work with targeted communities and the provision of specialist support for victims of hate crime. In 2020, I established my Shared Endeavour Fund. This fund provides grants to civic society organisations to deliver projects in schools, colleges and communities that directly tackle hatred, intolerance and extremism. Now in its sixth round, the fund has disbursed £3.9m to support 115 community-based projects. These projects have been independently evaluated, with those evaluations displayed on the City Hall website for full transparency, and it is estimated that 190,000 Londoners have been directly impacted or benefited from them. Call six of the Shared Endeavour Fund will invest a further £875,000 to 21 projects.

Organisations receiving funding in Call Six include:

- The West Ham United Foundation will deliver anti-racism training alongside critical thinking workshops in schools, giving young Londoners aged 11-16 the skills to safely intervene when they spot hate or prejudice.
- The Anne Frank Trust UK will continue to deliver awareness raising sessions focussing on the impact of antisemitism and Islamophobia, helping young people understand how this prejudice can manifest and the harm it can cause.
- Tech Against Terrorism will deliver schools-based workshops helping students to recognise harmful and radicalising content online.

London's diverse communities are our city's greatest strength, and working to build greater integration and community cohesion is of vital importance to me.

You can see that work to strengthen social cohesion remains a priority that is embedded in our work, as well as in our updated Equality Objectives published in 2022.

Much of the work I have led at the GLA builds on and seeks to progress objectives set out in the 2022 Equality Objectives. For example, the work of WIN progresses Objective 9 of the Objectives: To ensure London's workforce reflects its population at all levels and sectors.

The work of my Civil Society and Volunteering team supports Objective 14: To ensure London's diverse communities have the knowledge, networks, and volunteering opportunities they need to thrive. The team also provides volunteering opportunities through my Team London volunteering programme. The programme brings together volunteers from different communities, ages and backgrounds to provide welcome, wayfinding and support for visitors at major events and in times of crisis. I also provide wider support for the sector, including a volunteer brokerage site connecting volunteer opportunities and volunteers and my Equitable Volunteering Forum, which provides volunteer managers across London with a space to connect, share best practices, and enhance their organisations' capacity for inclusivity and diversity.

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The work of the GLA Migration Team seeks to overcome barriers to social integration for migrant Londoners. This includes the Migrant Londoners Hub, which provides information to support migrant Londoners with information about their rights, and the London Hong Kong Welcome Programme, which includes a grant programme designed to support the social integration of newcomers from Hong Kong.

In London, I recognise that there is continuing collective work to be done to further strengthen our communities that have experienced and felt the deep impact of this violence and to address the wider context within which this violence occurs. Working in partnership with the Government and a broad range of stakeholders, including private and public stakeholders, as well as communities, is crucial to this and has informed the approach my officers have been taking.

I remain committed to ensuring that all Londoners, regardless of their backgrounds, can feel safe and welcome in the city they call home.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small '2' written below the name.

Sir Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London