

# Unmesh Desai AM

London Assembly Member for City and East



Baroness Karren Brady  
West Ham United PLC  
London Stadium  
Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park  
London  
E20 2ST

**City Hall  
More London Estate  
London  
SE1 2AA**

Dear Karren,

I hope you are well.

I write following recent press coverage of the vile, racist and Islamophobic abuse directed at one of Liverpool FC's players at the London Stadium at the last home game.

I commend the club's instant condemnation of the incidents along with your pledge to work with the police to track down those responsible and bring them to justice.

Whilst one appreciates the difficulties of controlling the actions of individuals, the widespread sharing of footage on social media has the effect of magnifying this abhorrent behaviour across the globe. The potential impact of such incidents on younger fans who may be witness to it, and to the family image of the club, are of grave concern to myself.

This incident comes following a number of reports, which have, rightly or wrongly, linked the club and individuals involved with it to the Democratic Football Lads Alliance (DFLA). In my view the time has now come for West Ham to reiterate in no uncertain terms that the DFLA, who patently promote a hate fuelled rhetoric which no doubt encourages behaviour such as that witnessed on Monday night, is not and never will be a part of the West Ham family.

I feel that it is of great importance that a statement is released to this effect in the run-up to the upcoming Community Game against Everton. This would go a long way to reassure my constituents, many of whom have been in touch with me about the latest incident, on where the club stands with regards to the DFLA.

I give my full support to your stated determination to ensure incidents such as these are not repeated in the future. There are other measures I and others, such as your Club Ambassador, Leader of Barking and Dagenham Council, Darren Rodwell, would like to suggest to help you achieve this. It would be welcome if you or an appropriate board representative were available to meet to discuss these.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge that this is by no means an issue unique to the club, and that there must be work done nationally, by the government, local authorities and the third sector, to make sure football grounds across the country are open and inclusive for all, regardless of gender, race, religion, sexuality or disability.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Unmesh Desai". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Unmesh Desai AM**  
**Assembly Member for City & East London**