

CONSULAR CORPS/ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN IRELAND (CA-NI)

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CA-NI STATEMENT

The Consular Corps/Association of Northern Ireland (CA-NI), which has official representation of 35 Countries and 1 International Organisation expressed at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) the deep concern with the continual and recent escalation of racial attacks on the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) migrant communities within Northern Ireland. This is an intolerable situation that must be stopped as quickly as possible.

Northern Ireland has gone through constructive changes over the past 15 years from its troubled past, so it is very disappointing that we are seeing a rise and continual problems of racism attacks within certain parts of Northern Ireland.

The BME communities as a whole have brought positive influence and are making a significant net contribution to the economy of Northern Ireland with their skills and work ethics. Everyone wishes nothing more than to work hard, earn money and lead a happy life in peace and harmony with their families and friends, actively participating in wider society.

Lord Diljit Rana MBE – CA-NI President said: "CA-NI calls on all stakeholders, especially central and local government to provide decisive leadership at this critical time with support and encouragement to all communities within these affected areas to bring these attacks to an end once and for all. We all wish to move forward in creating a shared prosperous society for all and this can be best accomplished through mutual respect and tolerance for one another."

We look forward to ongoing dialogue specifically with the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMdFM) Minsters, Department of Justice (DoJ) Minister and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), providing our support to the Chief Constable and the senior command team in their efforts to bring those individuals responsible to justice.

ENDS

Cc: Rt. Hon. Peter Robinson MLA - First Minister & Martin McGuinness MLA - deputy First Minister; David Ford MLA - Justice Minister; George Hamilton - Chief Constable

For more information: www.ca-ni.org

