

Councillor Sarah Hayward
Leader of the Council

3 February 2017

King's Cross ward
London Borough of Camden
Camden Town Hall
Town Hall
Judd Street
London WC1H 9JE

Dear community and faith groups,

It is with some regret that I am writing to you again about those who are sowing division and hate in our communities. More alarmingly, this time it is about the actions of the new President of the United States whose recent actions have potentially negative consequences for our residents and our communities.

On Monday night Camden's full council unanimously passed a motion condemning Trump's *Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States*, which bans certain people from entering the United States. Camden, like the country, has a proud tradition of welcoming people from all corners of the globe, whether they are fleeing persecution and violence or simply seeking a better life. Our diversity is our strength.

I was also concerned at the slowness of the government to recognise the impact for British citizens and other legal residents, as well as the wider impact on our communities. Their stance and the silence of the Prime Minister continue to be a source of concern.

I am concerned that this executive order could have a lasting impact on our communities. People in Camden who came from one of those seven countries, or whose family came from there, must feel dismayed to have been labelled as a terrorist risk because of their religion. Those within our communities who are less comfortable with difference are now a little more suspicious of their neighbour. We have seen before the consequences that this type of rhetoric can have on communities.

I want to reassure you that while others find it easier to sow division and hate, I will continue to work with you and others across our borough to build consensus, co-operation and community, and to build a borough where everyone is welcome regardless of their background. We will not tolerate hate and division in Camden.

Councillors and officers remain on hand to assist in any way we can to preserve and strengthen the diversity we hold so dear in Camden. If there is anything we can do to assist, please do not hesitate to contact me, sarah.hayward@camden.gov.uk, Councillor Abdul Hai, the Cabinet member for Communities abdul.hai@camden.gov.uk or the Director of Community Services, Jessica Gibbons, Jessica.gibbons@camden.gov.uk.

Finally, I want to restate my thanks for everything that you do to help foster strong communities in Camden.

Yours, in solidarity,



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