

**Hull and East Riding Interfaith (HERI) statement on recent violence in Hull and other cities.**

The wave of violence that has swept the country, including Hull, since the tragic murder of three children in Southport has truly saddened all of us. First and foremost, our hearts go out to the families and friends who have lost loved ones and to all who will be living through the trauma and grief for some time.

As a network we strive to listen and learn from each other's beliefs, values, and stories. Whilst we are mindful that as a network we cannot speak on behalf of any individual faith or religious organisation we do advocate for peace and unity as human beings seeking to make sense of this world. We therefore strongly condemn the violence that has taken place and particularly the racist and Islamophobic narratives that have become prevalent again. We stand in solidarity with our Muslim brothers and sisters and with all our ethnically and culturally diverse communities that make up the City of Hull and East Yorkshire. We affirm our belief that diversity is a cause for celebration and that our differences enrich us all when we engage in dialogue, friendship, and love.

As a network we will continue to stand for peace and love and offer a safe space to share our stories and meet as friends, neighbours and fellow pilgrims on the journey of life and discovery.

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