

Concerns about disinformation, discrimination and violence: support and resources

Support Staffordshire and VAST are building a list of resources to support the voluntary, community and faith sector due to concerns around recent far-right racist and Islamophobic violence, hate and spreading of disinformation. Thank you to our colleagues at the [VCS Emergencies Partnership](#) for sharing many of these resources.

If there are any resources missing that would be useful for us to include, please email info@supportstaffordshire.org.uk. Please include: the name of the organisation, weblink (if applicable), email/contact number, and a brief description of what services the organisation offers.

*Please note this list is a working document and not yet complete. **Last updated: 4th September 2024***

Disclaimer

This document has been collated by the Resilience team at Support Staffordshire and our partners. Whilst we have systems in place to ensure that as much as possible, we are sharing trusted and legitimate organisations, they have not been officially verified or approved by ourselves. This document is for signposting and information only.

All contact details in this document are being shared in order to facilitate connections to join up Staffordshire's response to the emerging concerns about far-right violence, disinformation and discrimination. The UK GDPR and DPA 2018 do not prevent the sharing of personal data where it is appropriate to do so. We've taken into account the relevant ICO guidance and the risk involved in not sharing the information. We have deemed this level of information, sharing appropriate. Information is being shared under the specific category 'supporting vulnerable adults and children'.

Where can I find support and information?

Risks and things to consider

Groups who have been most at risk: Refugees, asylum seekers – particularly those in hotel accommodation – and Muslim communities.

Risk of further riots and violence: Sharing of locations comes with its own risk, but all areas should continue to be vigilant, particularly those with a significant population of refugees or Muslim communities.

Opportunity: Efforts to connect with formal and informal community or faith leaders is where partners are experiencing the greatest leverage/influence.

Things to consider during times of heightened risk

Prioritise your people: The safety and security of your staff, volunteers and the people you support is paramount. The EP have pulled together a few basic suggestions that partners may want to consider:

1. Communicate with them, raise their awareness and make sure you give them up to date guidance on how to keep themselves and others safe
2. Consider travel times and routes
3. Be careful about your brand and how that brand identity may put your people at risk
4. Review your policies, contact details and emergency plans

Protect your properties:

1. Review your business continuity plans
2. Consider guidance on what makes your buildings safer - recognising some are quick fixes, but many may take longer to implement (more details below)
3. Don't forget the vacant buildings - these can be easy targets

Communications

Muslim Council of Britain [community advice on how to stay safe](#).

British Future provide a practical guide to messaging to [combat hatred and prejudice](#).

NAVCA has developed a [public statement](#). This can be adapted locally as required if it is useful as a starting point.

NCVO recent webinar recordings on [responding to opposition](#) and [communicating in a crisis](#).

Migrants Rights Network - [Words matter campaign](#), [Islamophobia and Migration blog](#)

The VOICES network is a collective of refugees and people seeking asylum. Together, they speak out about issues that affect them.

Community cohesion

Belong Network have blogged on preventing tension and conflict in communities: [preventing tension and conflict in communities](#) and [good practice on building shared ground and addressing community tensions](#).

Involve share a framework on [building community cohesion](#).

Misinformation

Misinformation is rife across social media, NCVO advise against sharing any content without ensuring it's from an official or verified resource. Instead, please seek guidance and support from local emergency services and your Local Resilience Forum. [Watch this really useful video created specifically for the current situation for advice.](#)

Tell Mama UK is an active support service to report hate crime, particularly supporting Muslim communities. They have also shared [how misinformation and disinformation about Southport spread.](#)

Property safety (inc. places of worship)

Gov.UK funding for [protective Security Schemes for places of worship.](#)

Muslim Council of Britain have a range of [resources on mosque safety.](#)

Tell Mama provide advice on [Mosque security.](#)

ProtectUK's full [guide to risk management.](#)

Hate crime

Victim Support provide [information for victims of hate crime.](#) They have [responded to the violence and racist attacks](#) by offering services to those impacted. Get support through their free Support line on 08 08 16 89 111, start a [live chat](#) or access [My Support Space](#) a free, online resource to help you cope following crime.

Hope Not Hate have an extensive range of publicly available resources to support community engagement, community events and changing the local narrative:
<https://hopenohate.org.uk/communities/community-resources/>

Stop Hate UK is a leading national organisation working to challenge all forms of Hate Crime and discrimination, based on any aspect of an individual's identity.

Protection approaches offer [hate crime awareness sessions](#) for community and faith organisations.

Migrant Help is offering support. Partners can contact the First Response Centre on 08088 010 503 or via their website: [Contact | Migrant Help \(migranthelpuk.org\).](#)

Muslim Council of Britain guide to [identifying and reporting hate crime](#) published by.

Staffordshire Police have a dedicated [support for victims and witnesses](#) of a crime page that can guide you through what happens if you experience or witness crime.

Staffordshire Fire safety guidance

If you have concerns about fire safety and the risk of arson in your home, place of work, community hub or place of worship, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service have tools and advice to help.

Advice for reducing [arson risks at home](#) and reducing [arson risks outside](#) that includes simple steps such as removing rubbish and having working fire detection.

Their website also contains [useful advice about fire safety for businesses](#).

There is also further advice for businesses on [Fire as a weapon | NPSA](#) and [A guidance document](#) has been developed in collaboration with the Home Office, National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) and the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC).

If there are any further questions or concerns, you can contact Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service on <https://www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk/contact-us/>

Supporting staff and colleagues

British Islamic Medical Association [statement on far right extremism](#) includes recommendations on how to support staff in the workplace. They also run a [Support Service](#) open to BIMA members and allies, including non-clinicians in the health system. It provides legal and pastoral help to those facing threats at work relating to their Muslim identity or supporting causes such as Palestine and standing up against Islamophobia. You can email the service in confidence at support@britishima.org or call 0203 551 2497.

Health and Safety Executive have guidance on [violence and aggression in the workplace](#).

CIPD's advice on [supporting your workforce through a crisis](#).

VCS Organisational support

[Charity Commission statement and guidance for charities](#).

Organisations that may be at risk, where they have directors listed online have been advised to get the personal details of those directors removed. In circumstances such as these, Companies House may be prepared to demonstrate more discretion and flexibility in hiding personal information from public view. Companies House suggested to send an email to enquiries@companieshouse.gov.uk detailing: (i) the information (i.e. the relevant directors' correspondence addresses and company registered address) of the companies to be made private (incl. company numbers for each relevant company); and (ii) the reasoning and background to the request. It would be best to include as much detail as possible given such requests would be for Companies House to exercise their discretionary powers.

Training

[Protection Approaches](#) offer relevant training, including active bystander training, hate crime awareness and community builder training.

Mental health support

Mental health includes:

[Bayo](#), hosted by the Ubele Initiative CIC, is a digital directory that hosts Black-led initiatives, community groups and mental health services.

[The Black, African and Asian Therapy Network \(BAATN\)](#) is the largest community of Counsellors and Psychotherapists of Black, African, Asian and Caribbean Heritage.

There is also support and help from the following listening and online services:

[Samaritans](#) are here to listen at any time of the day or night, call 116 123.

[Mind's support line](#) is open 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, call 0300 102 1234.

[Rethink Mental Illness](#) give advice and information helpline is open from 9.30am to 4pm, Monday to Friday excluding bank holidays, call 0808 801 0525.

Children and young people

UK Trauma Council have published a range of relevant resources for those working with children and young people affected by trauma and bereavement. Some key pages are:

- <https://uktraumacouncil.org/resources>
- [Critical Incidents in Educational Communities - UK Trauma Council](#)
- [Guidance on creating the best environment for recovery - UK Trauma Council](#)
- [Traumatic Bereavement for children & young people - UK Trauma Council](#)

British Red Cross offer [workshops on Empathy and Migration and Coping With Challenges for young people](#). More information can be found on their web page including resources about how to talk to children about conflict:

- [Talking to children about recent events](#)
- [Talking to children and young people about race and racism](#)
- [Understanding people's experience of migration](#)
- [Positive images - a toolkit to teach young people about migration and development](#)
- [Dealing with emotional and physical distress](#)

Open source [guidance for young people on how to spot 'fake news'](#) and [understanding hate crime for children](#).

[The Muslim Youth Helpline](#) is contactable any day of the week between 4pm and 10pm, call 0808 808 2008.

[Bee the difference report](#) a research project by and for young Manchester survivors.

[Young minds](#) give information and advice for young people and parents, to resources and training for professionals, to campaigning and activism across the country.

Safe Events

There's a [wealth of advice](#) available to event organisers and security staff to ensure that everyone can enjoy themselves.

Longer term

[The NaCTSO Counter Terrorism Crime Prevention Toolkit](#) is aimed at small organisations. It contains helpful, low-cost solutions to deter crime and counter terrorism e.g. making it difficult to gain access to premises, increasing chance of detection and reducing access to contents and victims.

[A 5-step process for risk management is outlined here](#) - including guidance around CCTV, doors and locks, windows, shutters and grilles – as well as how to develop a security culture.

[The E-Learning package](#) is a good place to start with developing understanding and practice in this area. They have also provided [Run Hide Tell](#) guidance.