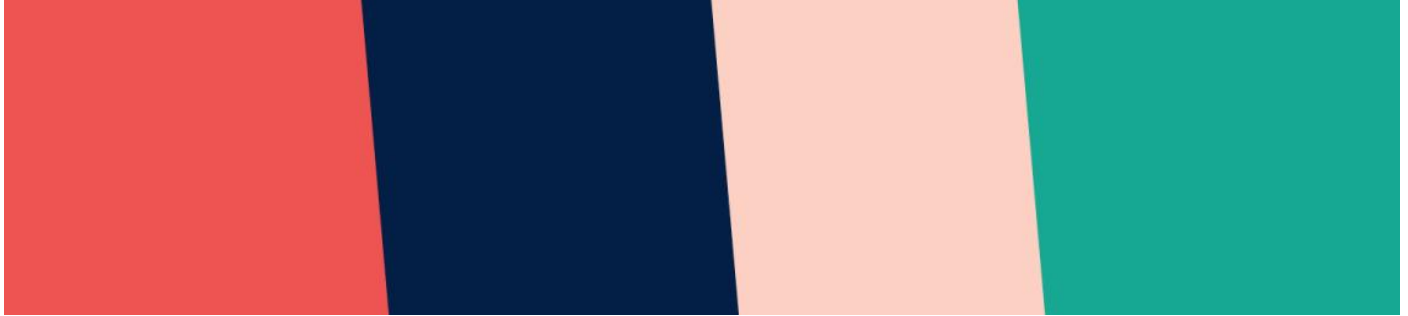




Debate Not Hate: Sign our public statement

Councillors, MPs and organisations: Add your voice to our Debate Not Hate public statement.



Cllrs and MPs sign the statement now [\[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=7uRi4U8FPEuNOXVSTKjy6buWLD9CJctlhGA595u47dFUOFM\]](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=7uRi4U8FPEuNOXVSTKjy6buWLD9CJctlhGA595u47dFUOFM)

"The intimidation and abuse of councillors, in person or otherwise, undermines democracy; it can prevent elected members from representing the communities they serve, deter individuals from standing for election, and undermine public trust in democratic processes.

Seven in 10 councillors reported experiencing abuse and intimidation over the last 12 months and councillors reported feeling that abuse is becoming more common and increasing in severity.

Debating and disagreeing with one another has always been, and will continue to be, a healthy part of democracy. However, the right engagement matters and abuse and intimidation crosses the line into dangerous territory and has no place in politics.

“ We are calling on local government leaders, the Government and relevant partners, like the police, political parties and social media companies to come together through a government convened working group to produce and implement an action plan that addresses the abuse and intimidation of elected members and candidates and ensures their safety while they fulfil their democratic roles.

Over 400 councillors have signed up to the public statement since June.

Add your voice and be part of our call for change [\[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=7uRi4U8FPEuNOXVSTKjy6buWLD9CJctlhGA595u\]](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=7uRi4U8FPEuNOXVSTKjy6buWLD9CJctlhGA595u)

Organisation and council signatures

Cllr James Jamieson, Chairman, **Local Government Association (LGA)**

Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson DBE, President, **Local Government Association (LGA)**

Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE, **Conservative Group Leader and LGA Vice-Chairman**

Cllr Shaun Davies, **Labour Group Leader and LGA Vice-Chair**

Cllr Joe Harris, **Liberal Democrat Group Leader and LGA Vice-Chair**

Cllr Marianne Overton MBE, **Independent Group Leader, LGA Vice-Chair and Co-chair of the Civility in Public Life Steering Group**

Cllr Shabir Pandor, **Co-Chair of the Civility Steering Group and Leader of Kirklees Metropolitan Group**

Cllr Bridget Smith, **Member of the Civility Steering Group and Leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council**

Cllr Keith Stevens, **Chair of the National Association of Local Councils**

Matt Hawkins, **Co-Director of Compassion in Politics**

John Austin, **Chair of the Association of Democratic Services Officers**

Frances Cleland, **Chair of the Association of Electoral Administrators**

Cllr Georgia Gould, **Chair of London Councils**

Elizabeth Taylor, **CEO of Employment Related Services Association**

Helen Edwards, **President of Lawyers in Local Government**

Jonathan Carr-West, **Chief Executive of Local Government Information Unit**

Mark Healey, **Founder/CEO of National Hate Crime Awareness Week**

Cllr Matthew Hicks, **Chair of East of England Local Government Association**

Cllr Owen Bierley, **Leader of West Lindsey District Council**

Cllr David Baines, **Leader of St. Helens Borough Council and Chair of the North West Regional Leaders Board**

Cllr Martin Carnell, **Mayor & Chairman of Chard Town Council**

Cllr James Swindlehurst, **Leader of Slough Borough Council**

Coventry City Council's Ethics Committee

Organisations and councils can add their signatures by emailing debatenohate@local.gov.uk
[\[mailto:debatenohate@local.gov.uk\]](mailto:debatenohate@local.gov.uk)

You can **sign up to receive regular updates** [\[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKLGA/subscriber/new?topic_id=UKLGA_340\]](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKLGA/subscriber/new?topic_id=UKLGA_340) on our democracy, civility and voluntary sector work through our e-bulletin.





Debate Not Hate: The impact of abuse on local democracy.

Our call for evidence of abuse and intimidation of councillors was launched in October 2021. This report sets out the findings and recommendations for the future of local democracy.

[\[publications/debate-not-hate-impact-abuse-local-democracy\]](#)