



**PRESS RELEASE** Issued by the National Black Police Association

# **NBPA Response to Comments by Home Secretary Sajid Javid**

**By Police Sergeant Tola Munro, Gwent Police, President of the National Black Police Association**

“The Home Secretary's 'muscular liberal' tweet about the ethnicity of the paedophile gang from Huddersfield is unhelpful and divisive especially given his commitment to tackling race issues in the Criminal Justice System as expressed in his video address at our National Conference in Belfast last week. We note that this is a UK wide malady with the media emotively classifying some suspects as a white paedophile ring and others as Asian grooming gangs. It is horrific however documented.

“The NBPA applauds the very real bravery of the young victims and their families of this heinous crime, in reporting these horrific offences and staying with the prosecution process, regardless of their race.

“The NBPA recognises that the impact of the Home Secretary's tweet will not be lost on the bigoted extreme right, and in particular they could be perceived to vilify the actions and antics of their self-appointed leaders, Robinson, Fransen and Goulding.

“Our President Tola Munro who spoke with the Home Secretary this week at the Prime Minister's Race Disparity Audit roundtable comments,

*“Home Secretary I would draw your attention to the hate crime figures your own department released this week. These revealed a 14% increase in race hate crime between the period 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 and a 40% increase in religious hate crime over the same period. Those statistics also show a clear link between national incidents and spikes in Race Hate Crime. Your words will be used against Asian members of British communities who would equally condemn paedophile of grooming gangs regardless of their race. And you have made targets of BAME police officers and staff which form 7% of your own English & Welsh police force's.”*

“The Home Secretary must acknowledge these facts and recognise that his populist, divisive and unhelpful 'tweets' will have real consequences, and community cohesion is one of them. A point which should not be lost on him given his previous portfolio as Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

“We advise the Home Secretary to focus his attention on how the Government can protect and support vulnerable young people from such crimes, instead of pandering to the far right. He would do better to consider the comments of the former CPS lead on Child Sexual Exploitation, Nazir Afzal who brings a more balanced narrative. Don't forget this country's worst paedophile Jimmy Savile was white, and there are parallels with similar abuse scandals such as the mostly white Catholic church and care homes charged with looking after vulnerable people. Otherwise, our Home



Secretary runs the great risk of putting the racist cat amongst the pigeons.

“The NBPA would welcome a more reasoned, less emotive or knee-jerk response which looks into the intricacies and complexities of what we deal with on a daily basis, Child Sexual Exploitation.””

Tola Munro, President of the National Black Police Association

Note to Editors:

Press Queries to 07432 629060 (by text)

For more information on the National Black Police Association visit: <http://www.nbpa.co.uk/>

- Sajid Javid lambasted for 'Asian paedophiles' tweet - The Guardian, Saturday 20 October 2018 - [https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/oct/20/sajid-javid-lambasted-for-asian-paedophiles-tweet-huddersfield?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/oct/20/sajid-javid-lambasted-for-asian-paedophiles-tweet-huddersfield?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other)
- Sajid Javid slams grooming gang convicted of 120 offences against 15 girls as 'sick Asian paedophiles' - The Mail Online, Saturday 20 October 2018 - <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6298749/Sajid-Javid-slams-grooming-gang-sick-Asian-paedophiles.html>
- Huddersfield grooming gang 'not about race or ethnicity' (Nazir Afzal) - BBC News, Friday 19 October - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-45922201/huddersfield-grooming-gang-not-about-race-or-ethnicity>