

The Rt Hon the Baroness Scotland QC



020-7271 2460

20 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1H 0NF

6th December 2007

Dear colleague

Hate Crime

On 12 November 2007, I addressed the European Hate Crime conference in London. I spoke about the corrosive effect that hate crime has on its victims, their families and the wider community, and of the need to build safer, more cohesive communities.

To achieve this, it is vitally important that all those who are affected by hate crimes, or who speak out publicly on their behalf, make common cause against the criminals who target them.

I therefore want Race for Justice to continue to look for ways in which we can work with those groups who condemn all hate crimes. That is why I am delighted to launch the Race for Justice Declaration. It is an opportunity for all bodies, whether governmental or community-led, to make it clear that they will not condone hate crime.

You will find a copy of the Declaration attached. It is a short but, I believe, telling statement, expressing our common intention to combat all hate crimes.

I would urge you to take this back to your organisations and to consider signing it and forwarding it to Michael Ainsworth at the Office for Criminal Justice Reform 2 Marsham Street London SW1P 4DF

I was the first to sign the declaration and I urge you to follow my lead.

I do not, of course, expect all specialist support groups to broaden their service beyond their stated remit, but I would hope that in the spirit of

The Rt Hon the Baroness Scotland QC



solidarity they will be prepared to openly condemn violence committed to others.

I will ask officials who allocate funds and resources to consider assisting only those organisations who can commit to this standard, as this is the ideal way of ensuring we form partnerships with organisations that are part of the solution and not part of the problem.

Best wishes ever

Patricia Scotland

BARONESS SCOTLAND QC



Race for Justice Declaration

Race for Justice is a cross-governmental strategy to combat Hate Crime in our society. The word race outlines one of the types of hatred we see all too often in our society but race also stresses the urgency of our cause, we wish to be part of that race.

In declaring our support for the Race for Justice we commit to;

Condemning all forms of Hate Crime

Our concentration of efforts may be aimed at protecting victims of a single group but we will actively condemn all forms of Hate Crime regardless of the motivation. It can never be justified to allow our beliefs to justify a criminal act against any other person based on their;

- Disability
- Ethnicity, including Immigration Status
- Gender Identity
- Religious beliefs
- Sexual Orientation

Working to eradicate the causes of Hate Crime

We will use our resources and influence to combat the causes of Hate Crime.

Considering the effect of our words and actions

We accept that individuals and groups hold diverse values and beliefs but we will always consider the impact of our actions and words on others. To demonstrate our commitment to Race for Justice we will not say, do or promote anything which is intended to encourage or incite Hate Crimes against any person or group.

We commit to joining the Race for Justice

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Schwand'.

Organisation

Once completed please return to
Race for Justice
Race Confidence and Justice Unit
Ground Floor Fry
2, Marsham St,
London
SW1P 4DF