

Caribbean Labour Solidarity  
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Kishwer, Baroness Falkner of Margravine - Chair and  
Cath Denholm - Interim Chief Executive  
The Equality and Human Rights Commission  
Correspondence Unit  
Third floor  
Windsor House  
50 Victoria Street  
London SW1H 0TL

Email: [correspondence@equalityhumanrights.com](mailto:correspondence@equalityhumanrights.com)

2024 03 17

Dear Baroness Falkner and Cath Denholm,

**Re: Ms Diane Abbott MP**

I am writing this open letter to you on behalf of our organisation Caribbean Labour Solidarity (CLS) regarding information that we have received in respect of Diane Abbott MP.

It has been reported in the press, radio, television and on social media that Frank Hester, a business person and significant Conservative Party donor, has made remarks about Diane Abbott that are most derogatory to her, women in general and black women in particular. He is quoted as saying: -

*"...you just want to hate all black women because she's there..."*

It has further been reported that he also remarked, at a 2019 meeting of his company, The Phoenix Partnership, that he wishes for her to be shot. This comment was made subsequent to the assassination of Jo Cox MP for Batley and Spen.

We are extremely concerned about these remarks; their effect on Ms Abbott and the mood that it creates for non-white persons in the UK.

We are aware that the Commission's role is to: -

*"...make the country a fairer place by enforcing and upholding the laws that safeguard everyone's right to fairness, dignity and respect.*

*We enforce the Equality Act 2010, which makes it unlawful to discriminate against or harass individuals based on the nine protected characteristics..."*

With the above in mind we wish the Commission to investigate, as a matter of urgency, the words used by Mr Hester and in so doing consider whether they invoke the Commission's role.

Should you wish to contact us further about our position on this matter we can be contacted on +44 07401 625 276, +44 7921 816101 or 07598 282 834.

Yours sincerely

pp  
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Luke Daniels  
President - Caribbean Labour Solidarity

**Who are we**

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**President** Luke Daniels    **General Secretary** Cauline Braithwaite    **Secretary** Frank Murray  
**Treasurer** Raphael Andrews    **Cutlass Editor** Steve Cushion

CLS is a well respected organisation, established in the UK in 1974 as the Jamaica Trade Union Solidarity Campaign by prominent Caribbean activists and persons of standing in the settled community. We subsequently adopted the name Caribbean Labour Solidarity and have so existed for over 50 years. Details about our activities and ourselves and can be found at <https://cls-uk.org.uk>.