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The Right Honourable Sir Keir Starmer
Office of Leader of the Opposition
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Email: keir.starmer.mp@parliament.uk

2024 03 17

Dear Sir Keir Starmer,

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 fear that it creates for non-white persons in the UK.

You have been reported as stating, the Independent - <https://bit.ly/3lyia7R>.

"...Those comments about Diane Abbott are just abhorrent. Diane has been a trailblazer, she has paved the way for others...She has probably faced more abuse than any other politician over the years on a sustained basis..."

We welcome these remarks and call on you and your comrades to ensure that Ms Abbott receives the physical and emotional support that she needs in these circumstances. The situation is worsened by the withdrawal of the Whip and her suspension from the Party. The exercise of your power to see that she is readmitted to the Party and the Whip restored will go a long way to show support.

Furthermore, we ask you to ensure that her personal security is of the highest level. We believe that the vile comments made about her by the media and others including by Labour Party persons, it is regrettably reported, have painted a target on her back.

Right minded persons across the political divide need to be assured that no harm befalls her following Hester's vile comments or as a result of any future threats.

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.

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

Yours sincerely

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Luke Daniels
President - Caribbean Labour Solidarity

Who are we

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>.