

Caribbean Labour Solidarity
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The Right Honourable Sir Lindsay Hoyle
Speaker of the House of Commons
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Email: speakersoffice@parliament.uk

2024 03 17

Dear Sir Lindsay Hoyle,

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..."

As you know, 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.

It was reported on Sky News, bit.ly/49Sd2aA, that you stated, following the amendment SNP motion on Gaza, you never wants to pick up the phone: -

"...to find a friend has been murdered..."

The report went on to say that he had meetings with the police about threats posed to MPs and: -

"...I am guilty because I have a duty of care that I will carry out to protect people..."

These statements attributed to you are commendable and it is in this light that we write to request that you bring about the maximum measures to protect Diane Abbott from attacks such as that allegedly made by Mr Hester, albeit some time ago, now made current.

One has to ask do such statements made against a sitting MP amount to a contempt of privilege of Parliament and if so whether you are able to refer it to the Committee of Privileges for their consideration.

Can we please be given the assurance that measures are in place and her safety on and off the Parliamentary estate is secure.

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

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Luke Daniels
President - Caribbean Labour Solidarity

cc The Right Honourable Harriet Harman KC MP - Chair of the Committee of Privileges

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>.