

Caribbean Labour Solidarity
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His Excellency Mr Zakri Jaafar
High Commissioner for Malaysia
The High Commission of Malaysia
45-46 Belgrave Square
London SW1X 8QT

Email: mwlon@btconnect.com

2024 03 17

Your Excellency,

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 a United Kingdom Member of Parliament.

It has come to light 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.

In the light of statements made by others in defence of Hester, namely that he does business in Jamaica and Malaysia, so "... cannot be racist..." This we find difficult to be used as a defence.

Further, it is alleged that, in addition to his odious remarks, Mr Hester is reported as saying: -

"...I'm looking forward to going to Malaysia, so that I can make new jokes - I don't know any jokes about Malaysian people but I'm sure we'll find them. I'm sure we'll find them. There have got to be some, haven't there?..."

We ask you to convey our concern about this person to your government for them to consider whether his presence in Malaysia would be conducive to the public good and if any entry document should be issued to him.

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 faithfully

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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>.