

A MESSAGE FROM BCU COMMANDER, CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT HELEN HARPER



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**



Dear all,

I hope you are well.

Hate crime

We are aware that there has been some press coverage around hate crime, in particular how the Chinese and South East Asian countries are being affected. We wanted to provide you with further information on this so you can reassure your communities.

Hate crimes are often distressing for victims and cause great harm to communities, and the Met takes a zero-tolerance approach to discrimination in all its forms.

We have not seen a particularly significant increase in hate crime since the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We have however seen communities being targeted because of the virus and we would encourage anyone who is a victim of this to come forward and report.

These incidents have involved the use of aggressive and offensive language both in the real world and online and physical violence in a small number of cases. These types of crimes are deplorable, and we continue to monitor these incidents and direct resources accordingly.

We work closely with a range of community partners to tackle hate crime by engaging with affected communities, supporting victims, and bringing prosecutions where appropriate.

With regard to South East Asian communities, we hold a weekly community reference group call to understand how the community is feeling and being affected and provide support. There is also significant activity ongoing via our Chinese and South East Asian Staff Association, which is a staff association within the Metropolitan Police Service. For example, they have been preparing video messages about hate crime in several languages and directly contacting community groups and businesses to share crime prevention advice and offer guidance and support on reporting any issues.

We would urge anyone who has been a victim of hate crime or witnessed it happening, and who has not yet spoken to police to report it.

To report a hate crime, call police on 101, report online or tweet @MetCC. If there is an immediate risk or an emergency situation, always call 999. Information can also be reported anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or online, or via the True Vision website: <https://www.report-it.org.uk/home>.

By staying indoors, we are all protecting the NHS and saving lives.

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Harper".

Helen

BCU Commander Central West BCU and Royal Parks

