

**TPHQ ACPO and Support
Command
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Dear Friends,

Brussels Attacks

We are all aware of the shocking and tragic attacks in Brussels today; first and foremost I would like to express that our heartfelt prayers and wishes are to all those involved and to the Belgian nation.

We are still in the early stages of learning about what took place but I would like to reassure you that we have increased policing presence at key locations, including transport hubs, to protect the public and provide reassurance. I would like to stress that this is NOT in response to any specific intelligence relating to London or any specific community, rather our concern about how communities may be feeling.

I am personally writing to you this morning and asking for your support through the next few days when communities may naturally be feeling a sense of uncertainty and require us to help reassure them.

I would be grateful if you can use your networks and messaging systems to reach as many of your community members as possible to convey the following messages;

Officers and uniformed police staff will be out and about as part of London's community life, they have all been briefed and would welcome members of the community approaching them and will do their best to help reassure them.

If any member of the community spots anything unusual within their community that they do not feel happy about then please report this to police using the 101 number or if its urgent 999. You can also call the confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline 0800 789 321.

It is with regret but something that we have come to realise through experience is that hate crime can increase and I would ask that any incident of hate or hate crime is immediately reported and assure you that it will receive a fast response and be dealt with by specialist officers.

I would also like to this opportunity to bring our advice on the steps to take to keep safe in the event of a firearms or weapons attack to your notice which can be found on the National Police Chiefs Council website:

www.npcc.police.uk/NPCCBusinessAreas/WeaponAttacksStaySafe.aspx

On a final note and I know I speak for all of us in saying that #westandtogether with Belgium and together we can send out a strong message of defiance against who seek to terrorise us. Please can I ask you to encourage all of our communities to simply send the message that 'we will always stand together' on twitter and other social media.

Thank you for your continued support and friendship.

With my best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mak Chishty', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mak Chishty

Commander - Community Engagement