



Item 9.2(a)

Full Council – 15 September 2025

Amendment submitted by the Labour Group to the Liberal Democrats Group Motion

Proposed amendment – To add the wording underlined and delete the wording indicated:

Standing United against Racism and Xenophobia in Brent

In recent years, particularly after the Brexit referendum, there has been a disturbing rise in racist and xenophobic rhetoric in public discourse, much of it amplified by political parties and figures on the far right and reactionary elements who seek to divide our communities. These groups have used inflammatory language, scapegoating migrants and minority communities, in a calculated attempt to stoke fear and resentment for political gain.

Brent is one of the most diverse boroughs in the UK. Over many decades, people from across the globe – from South Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and beyond – have made their home here, contributing immensely to our local economy, public services, cultural life, and social fabric. Whether as NHS workers, teachers, carers, builders, artists, entrepreneurs, or community leaders, migrants have played a vital role in shaping modern Brent into the vibrant, resilient, and forward-looking borough it is today.

This Council believes:

- Racism, xenophobia, and all forms of bigotry must be challenged wherever and whenever they arise, including when they come from mainstream or elected political figures.
- The demonisation of immigrants and refugees not only undermines social cohesion but also endangers the safety and well-being of residents across Brent.
- Brent's diversity is not a challenge to be managed, but a strength to be celebrated.

Brent has always been stronger because of its diversity – not in spite of it. At a time when fear and hatred are being weaponised in national discourse, we in Brent choose a different path: one of solidarity, mutual respect.

As a result, this Council resolves to:

- (1) **Proudly reaffirm Brent's commitment to being an inclusive, anti-racist borough** through our affirmed status as a Borough of Sanctuary and a proud signatory of the Unison Anti-Racism Charter, where all residents – regardless of background, nationality, or immigration status – are welcomed, valued, and protected.
- (2) **Publicly condemn the racist and xenophobic rhetoric** being spread by Reform UK and other groups on the far/right and make clear that such divisive narratives have no place in our borough or our politics.
- (3) **Celebrate the contributions of immigrants to Brent**, through public awareness campaigns, community events, and educational initiatives that promote understanding, solidarity, and historical awareness as part of the Council's refreshed approach to EDI, and as historically celebrated during Brent's Borough of Culture status in 2020.
- (4) **Encourage all councillors and community leaders** to speak out against hate speech and misinformation targeting migrants and to work proactively to build unity across all of Brent's communities.
- (5) **Continue to support migrant and refugee communities** through council services, advocacy, and partnerships with local organisations working on inclusion, integration, and support; as well as working to close the health inequality gaps exposed in the 2020 Brent Poverty Commission through initiatives such as Brent Health Matters.

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