



DURHAM UNIVERSITY UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION

## STATEMENT

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### On Racist and Xenophobic Violence

In response to the recent Southport stabbings and given the announcement of further riots and protests, Durham University United Nations Association (DUUNA) sincerely expresses its deepest condolences to all victims, their families, friends, and all those affected. We strongly condemn all racist and xenophobic violence that has occurred as completely abhorrent and hereby demand that the targeting of individuals on account of their ethnic origin cease immediately.

**“Wherever we see racism, we must condemn it without reservation, without hesitation, without qualification.”** - António Guterres, UN Secretary-General

It is the core mission of our Association to support the values of the United Nations. Since 1965, 182 states across the globe, including the United Kingdom, have remained unwaveringly committed to the elimination of racial discrimination through being parties of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). Given the United Kingdom’s status as a signatory, it is a great shame to see such events occur within its borders. In this light, DUUNA calls on relevant authorities to take proportionate action in response to the abhorrent acts observed and to take appropriate measures to prevent further incidents.

As a group committed to the promotion of international mindedness and co-operation, DUUNA reaffirms that racist and xenophobic attitudes have no place in our community of global citizens. We actively seek to promote an inclusive and safe environment for all members, regardless of their ethnic origin, through our Friendly Spaces Policy. We would therefore like to take this occasion to reemphasise that we do not tolerate any form of harassment within our community.

We are deeply concerned for the safety of our members. If you need support or observe an incident, please follow the University’s official advice and use the SafeZone app, which enables you to send an emergency alert to University security staff (when on campus) / emergency services (when off campus), to report them immediately. We also strongly encourage that all criminal matters be reported promptly to the Police. Please take care and remain vigilant during these challenging times.

With deepest concern,

The Executive Committee