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SAFFRON WALDEN  
TOWN COUNCIL

## **Resolution on STRUCTURAL AND SYSTEMIC RACISM As resolved at Saffron Walden Town Council's Full Council meeting held on Monday 13 July 2020**

Saffron Walden Town Council condemns the extrajudicial killing of George Floyd by the Minneapolis police on 25 May 2020 and the excessive force and brutality by police throughout the states in quelling the demonstrations that resulted from this murder.

Council is alarmed by the disproportionate number of deaths of Black, Asian and minority ethnic people from COVID-19 both amongst NHS staff and those in essential services, among the general public and the omission of the findings of Professor Kevin Fenton in the initial release of the Public Health England report.

Council is appalled by the Windrush scandal, the wrongful detention and deportation, withholding of health care and benefits and the delays in compensation payments for those affected. The "Windrush Lessons Learned Review" an independent review by Wendy Williams concluded that the Home Office showed inexcusable "ignorance and thoughtlessness" and that what had happened was "foreseeable and avoidable".

Council is distressed by the continuing inequality and mistreatment of Black, Asian and ethnic minority and indigenous people caused by structural and systemic racism around the world including the USA and UK.

### **Council resolves:**

- To give its support to the Black Lives Matter movement and actively address the institutional, societal injustices that exists in the structures across all forms of society;
- To act in solidarity with Black and indigenous people in the USA and UK and around the world against inequality and racism;
- To take a leadership role and active steps to address the unconscious bias that pervades the social fabric of organisations, institutions and societies that creates injustice;
- To give its support to the victims of the Windrush scandal, many of whom so vitally helped rebuild our country after the war.

**To call on the Government to:**

- Implement immediately an action plan as requested by the Chair of the British Medical Association to reduce the risk to BAME NHS and care employees and to address the underlying causes, and to carry out the recommendations of the COVID-19 report;
- Implement immediately the Windrush compensation scheme, release and repatriate those wrongly detained or deported, issue passports without an additional qualifying period and end the “hostile environment” immigration policy;
- Implement without further delay the recommendations in the Lammy review into the treatment and outcome of BAME people in criminal justice system (35), the Angiolini review into deaths in police custody (110), Home Office Windrush review (30), and the McGregor-Smith review into workplace discrimination (26); as an immediate start to addressing the systemic and structural racism in the UK;
- Implement an immediate suspension of export licences of sales of arms to the USA, including small arms, rubber bullets, tear gas and riot shields; and to investigate how arms from the UK are being used in internal repression and civil rights violations worldwide.