

Smith, M. *et al.* (2011) More division over multiculturalism, Letter, The Guardian, 9<sup>th</sup> February  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/feb/09/more-division-over-multiculturalism>

## More division over multiculturalism

The Guardian, Wednesday 9 February 2011

We believe David Cameron's statement that multiculturalism has failed was a dangerous declaration of intent (Blaming the victims, Editorial, 7 February). His speech was reminiscent of Margaret Thatcher's infamous 1978 statement that Britain was "being swamped by alien cultures". He has branded Britain's Muslims as the new "enemy within" in the same way as Thatcher attacked the miners and trade unions.

David Cameron is attempting to drive a wedge between different communities by linking Britain's multicultural society with terrorism and national security. His speech was made on the same day as the English Defence League brought its bigotry and violence to the streets of Luton. Mr Cameron's aim is simple as it is crude – to deflect the anger against his government's cuts from the bankers and on to the Muslim community. The prime minister is aping attacks by other European leaders like France's Nicolas Sarkozy, who passed legislation banning the veil, and Angela Merkel, who has also made statements denouncing multiculturalism in Germany. We believe our multicultural society and the respect and solidarity it is built on is a cause for pride, and reject any moves by this government to undermine and destroy it.

We must not allow this coalition government to turn the tide back to the days when it was acceptable, through ignorance and fear, for people with a different religion, culture or skin colour to be scapegoated and treated as inferior or outsiders.

Martin Smith . Love Music Hate Racism

Peter Hain MP

Jeremy Corbyn MP

Ken Livingstone

Salma Yaqoob . Respect

Bob Crow . National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers

Billy Hayes . Communication Workers Union

Mark Serwotka . Public and Commercial Services Union

Zita Holbourne . TUC

Dr Rob Berkeley . Runnymede Trust

Ziauddin Sardar . writer

Farooq Murad . Muslim Council of Britain

Dr Rob Berkeley . Director, Runnymede Trust

Professor Tariq Modood, University of Bristol  
Mohammed Sawalha, British Muslim Initiative  
Dr Chris Shannahan  
Benjamin Zephaniah, poet  
Lauren Booth, broadcaster and journalist  
Michael Rosen, author  
China Miéville, author  
Dr Avaes Mohammad poet, playwright, performer, analytical chemist  
Sabrina Mahfouz, poet and playwright  
Tulisa Contostavlos, Dino Contostavlos and Richard Rawson, N-Dubz,  
Drew McConnell, Babysambles  
Lowkey, musician  
Itch, The King Blues  
Daniel Stephens, musician  
David Peter Meads, musician  
Blaine Harrison Mystery Jets  
Adio Merchant, Simeon McLean Kid British  
Jeff Mirza, comic/actor  
Sabby Dhalu, Unite Against Fascism and One Society Many Cultures  
Lindsey German, Stop the War Coalition  
Hassan Mahamdallie  
Weyman Bennett, Unite Against Fascism  
Gary McFarlane, NUJ and Expose the BNP  
Kanja Ibrahim Sesay, NUS  
Frances Rifkin, Equity  
Dr Jonathan Githens-Mazer, European Muslim Research Centre  
Shemiza Rashid, Creative Muslim Network  
Laura Miles, University and College Union  
Gargi Bhattacharyya, University and College Union  
Sean Vernell, University and College Union  
Sue Bond, Public and Commercial Services Union  
Revd Ray Gaston  
Madani Younis, Freedom Studios, Bradford, and the Artists of Freedom Studios  
Mohammed Ali, Aerosolarabic  
Luqman Ali  
Kinsi Abdulleh  
Sarah Pickthall  
Ayaan Aden  
Tristan McConnell  
Rabbi Lee Wax, Chairperson, Inter religious Conference for European Women  
Theologians  
Musleh Faradhi, Islamic Forum Europe  
Bruce Kent, Pax Christi  
Professor Danny Dorling, Sheffield University