

NASUWT Statement on Far-Right Violence

8 August 2024

NASUWT sends its heartfelt condolences to the victims and loved ones of the horrific attack in Southport last week. The local community needs the support and space to heal and come together after these tragic events.

Regrettably, far-right elements have exploited this tragedy to incite racist and Islamophobic violence across England and Northern Ireland. We extend our solidarity to all those under attack.

These are not protests or expressions of free speech. They are acts of violence perpetrated by thugs attempting to fan the flames of racial hatred and Islamophobia.

Amidst the violence, we have seen the very best of our society too. People from all backgrounds and walks of life volunteering their time and coming together to help one another. From helping clean up to providing comfort or handing out refreshments, this is the true expression of our country's values.

The racism we have witnessed did not occur in isolation. The riots of recent days are the culmination of years of marginalisation of many communities across the UK combined with anti-migrant sentiments pushed by some politicians and media outlets.

There will be many families of all faiths and backgrounds who will be especially anxious for their children's safety both at this time and as they prepare for the return to school. We believe that action by governments and other agencies should be taken to ensure that parents and children, teachers and support staff across all of our communities are provided with reassurance and support.

We stand in solidarity with migrants and offer our continued hand of friendship. Our country owes a huge debt of gratitude to those who have chosen to live in the UK, both recently and across past generations.

NASUWT has a long and proud tradition of defending communities threatened by the far right. That work continues today and into the future.