

Dear Friend,

"All of us at YMCA are shocked and saddened at the scenes of mindless violence that we have witnessed on the streets of our communities over the past few days. To see sections of our communities targeted on the grounds of their race or refugee status is appalling and those responsible must be apprehended and held accountable for their actions.

"Our communities are for all. They welcome all, and in times of turmoil and division it is imperative that communities come together and embrace the strength of our diversity and inclusion. Violence is never the answer, and discrimination is never the solution. Both only breed more violence and perpetuate a cycle of pain and suffering. We must always prioritise building communities where every person feels welcomed, valued and respected.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have been affected by recent events. YMCA in its 180-year history has always been a place where all have been welcomed and we will continue to work steadfastly to create spaces that bring communities and people together to establish a society where unity prevails over violence and where everybody has the opportunity to reach their full potential."

Denise Hatton,
Chief Executive, YMCA England & Wales

This statement has been made public across YMCA England & Wales social media channels.



YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.

SUPPORT & ADVICE

ACCOMMODATION

FAMILY WORK

HEALTH & WELLBEING

TRAINING & EDUCATION