



Alan Mak MP
1 Hermitage Park
Harts Farm Way
Havant
PO9 1FA

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Dear Alan,

I write to you in a spirit of sincere unity and hope we can agree to put party political affiliations aside in this matter. Whilst we may not agree about many things, I am certain neither of us would want to see another human treated differently because of ethnicity.

You, I know, are proud to be the first MP of British-Chinese heritage. And whilst you do not need any endorsement from me, in my view you are right to be proud. But I know also there are those in society who would see you deselected simply because of that heritage. You, no doubt, will have read in horror some comments from some Conservative Party supporters who took to social media the day after the General Election victory. I recall with some anger attempts to make Baroness Warsi feel she did not belong in the Conservative Party, simply because she is a Muslim woman of colour. The fact that I am not affiliated to your party did not lessen that anger. This is not, or should not be, a party issue. It is far bigger than that.

It is no surprise to hear and see these hateful voices in British politics. They have always been here, festering away beneath the surface. Global populism in recent years, both here in Britain and across the world, has simply allowed such regressive prejudices to become emboldened. It is a global phenomenon, led by the president of the most powerful nation on the planet. **Racism cannot be ignored. Racism has no place in a civilised society.** When a person of colour is murdered by the police in America and the response of the American president is to fire on peaceful protesters, when he tweets comments associated with white supremacist movements, **we must speak up.** The repercussions are global. They impact upon us here in Britain.

As I trust you will agree, **silence is violence.** A failure to speak up is a failure of both leadership and basic human decency. Those of us in politics who do this for the right reasons, as I'm sure you'd agree, have to be heard at these times or it makes a mockery of our ever entering the political environment. Why be involved if not to effect change for the better?

Please stand with me to unequivocally condemn the words and actions of Donald Trump in the wake of the murder of George Floyd. Please confirm, unequivocally, that you believe Trump to be unfit for public office and a menace to the world.

Let's stand united against racism, not divided by political stripes.

I greatly look forward to hearing back from you.

Yours,

Paul Gray
Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Havant