



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Nadhim Zahawi MP

Member of Parliament for Stratford on Avon

The President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20500
USA

29th November 2017

Dear Mr President,

I am writing to register my strong discontent over your decision to retweet three videos posted on Twitter by Jayda Fransen, a convicted racist and the deputy leader of Britain First, an extreme right-wing and hateful political organisation.

The videos you have chosen to distribute to your 43.6 million Twitter followers seek to conflate all Muslims into one skewed and twisted stereotype in the hope of inciting religious hatred toward the Islamic community. Whether the videos are valid or not, the individuals within them do not represent the overwhelming majority of those who adhere to the many forms of the Islamic faith.

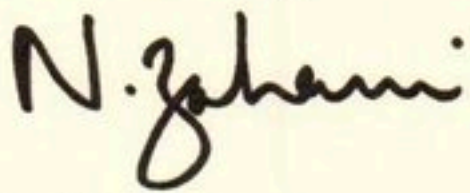
Terrorist groups like Daesh work by dehumanising those they seek to destroy, making it possible for their followers to commit the atrocities they do. Both the UK and the USA have worked tirelessly to eradicate such groups in the Middle East, and at home both our countries continue to root out domestic terrorist activity and combat the radicalisation that leads to it. I fear that your actions today have put in jeopardy some of the hard work done by our state bodies, making it easier for terrorist groups to portray our countries as their enemies and stoking the flames of radicalisation further. This is precisely what groups like Daesh want, and this makes it so much more vital that we do not allow our actions to play into their hands.

You are soon due to visit the United Kingdom. When you are here, I believe you would find enlightening the experience of visiting our beautiful cities like Coventry, Birmingham, Manchester and London. In them, you would see how our Muslim communities live peaceably alongside others, enrich their local areas and contribute so much to society. They are so far removed from the stereotypes that the videos of Britain First try to portray.

In June 2016 a British Member of Parliament, Jo Cox, was viciously murdered by a right-wing extremist as she arrived for an advice surgery she was holding for her constituents. Among other acclamations, the murderer shouted "Britain first" as he attacked Jo, words that correspond to the name of the organisation you have given a platform to on Twitter.

I know you take your role as President very seriously. I therefore urge you to delete the retweets and do all you can in future to resist courses of action that play into the hands of those who seek to destroy us and our way of life.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Zahawi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "N" and a trailing flourish.

Nadhim Zahawi
Member of Parliament for Stratford on Avon