

To Commissioner Cressida Dick

On 2 November 2018 you were quoted in the Evening Standard as saying that, "There's never been a fag paper between us on this...I'm with Sara." This was referring to Chief Constable Sara Thornton when she said that the Met. Police should, "...bear down on violence before we make more records of incidents that are not crimes." This was relating to the debate on recording and investigating misogyny and misandry as hate crimes.

Whilst we appreciate the strain on police resources, and support calls for additional investment in policing, we are concerned that these remarks could be misconstrued. Already one commentator has spoken about 'so called hate crime'. Indeed, many people have the impression that hate crime is not "real crime" and involves "name calling" and "minor incidents". The reality is hate crime can be physical and sexual assaults, violence, fraud, deprivation of liberty and homicide, as well as verbal insults. These are all "real crimes" that need to be investigated thoroughly.

Hate crime may start with 'minor incidents' but can quickly escalate into serious incidents and ultimately murder. Indeed, the report, "Getting Away with Murder" provides graphic details of how a Disabled person can be initially targeted to be taken advantage of, which then changes into

something very sinister and serious. It is a crime motivated by hostility towards the very identity of the victim and as such has a disproportionate impact on the victim and on the wider community, which also impacts on social cohesion. At a time when hate crime reports are rising and extremist groups are promoting hate, we the undersigned, are working together to encourage victims to feel confident to come toward; so the MPS needs to be focusing both on preventing escalation and on taking robust action against perpetrators.

The Law Commission Report and subsequent review on hate crime is an opportunity to improve victims experience of justice, not create more work for over-stretched services.

We ask you to reaffirm your commitment to tackle hate crime across London, whatever form it takes, and to support your officers to ensure effective recording and robust investigations of hate crime as well as appropriate responses to those affected by hate crime.

We ask you to ensure that all hate crime is treated with the seriousness and thoroughness it deserves. We support any calls for additional resources to tackle serious crime, which includes hate crime.

Signed by: -

[Name, Organisation]