

10 June 2026

Statement on the Violent Protests in Glasgow and Across Scotland

BEMIS Scotland strongly condemns the violence, intimidation and racist abuse witnessed during protests in Glasgow and elsewhere in Scotland last night. Reports of assaults, threats and hostility directed towards minority ethnic communities are deeply concerning and have no place in a modern, democratic Scotland.

We recognise that people may hold differing views on public policy and have the right to express those views peacefully. However, violence, racial hatred and the targeting of individuals or communities can never be justified. No person should feel unsafe because of their race, colour, ethnicity, nationality, faith, migration status or perceived background.

Scotland's strength lies in its diversity. Communities across the country have been built through the contributions of people from many different backgrounds, cultures and experiences. Attempts to sow division and fear undermine the values of equality, dignity and mutual respect that are fundamental to Scotland's future. Recent demonstrations in Glasgow were linked to wider unrest following a serious incident in Belfast and involved clashes, racist abuse and disorder in parts of the city.

We stand in solidarity with all those affected by last night's events, particularly individuals and communities who may now feel vulnerable, frightened or targeted. We also recognise the efforts of community organisations, local leaders and others working to maintain calm, provide support and promote dialogue during a period of heightened tension.

BEMIS Scotland further notes that the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 provides an important framework through which information relating to hate crime and racially motivated hate incidents can be recorded, monitored and analysed. The systematic collection of information concerning the location, timing, nature and characteristics of such incidents is essential to understanding emerging risks, identifying patterns of targeting and responding effectively to community tensions.

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This information should be utilised to inform the allocation of policing resources and operational priorities across Scotland. Where identifiable patterns of targeting, escalation or coordinated activity emerge, relevant agencies should ensure that interventions are targeted where they are most needed, providing reassurance and protection to affected communities.

Furthermore, where trends and patterns are identifiable, this intelligence should also be used to inform public health messaging, preventative communications and community engagement activity. Timely, evidence-based interventions can play a critical role in reducing harm, countering misinformation, addressing community anxieties and preventing further incidents before they occur.

BEMIS Scotland calls on political leaders, public authorities and civil society organisations to continue working together to challenge racism, address misinformation and strengthen community cohesion. We urge everyone to reject hatred and division and to reaffirm our shared commitment to a Scotland that is inclusive, welcoming and safe for all.

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