

A statement from the chair teams of the following networks Approved Mental Health Professional leads, Social Work NHS leads, Principal Occupational Therapists, Adults Principal Social Workers and Children & Families Principal Social Workers.

We want to acknowledge the growing unease and distress many are feeling in light of recent events, including the rise in anti-immigration protests and the deeply disturbing attack on the Manchester synagogue. These incidents are not isolated – they reflect a wider climate of racism, antisemitism, and discrimination that is causing real harm to individuals, communities, and the values we hold as a service.

As a group of leaders in social care, we are united in our condemnation of all forms of hate and abuse. We are deeply saddened and angered by the divisive rhetoric and violence that threaten the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of our colleagues and the people we support.

Let us be absolutely clear:

- **Racism, antisemitism, discrimination, and abuse have no place in our society, our services, or our workforce.**
- **We stand in full solidarity with all colleagues affected—whether through personal experience, community ties, or the impact on those they support.**
- **We are committed to taking every step necessary to ensure our workplace remains a space of safety, inclusion, and respect.**

Social work and occupational therapy are rooted in values of **respect, dignity, equality, and justice**. These values are not optional – they are the foundation of our practice and our shared responsibility. Every person, regardless of background, ethnicity, faith, or nationality, deserves to feel safe, valued, and supported.

We especially want to recognise and honour our colleagues from global majority backgrounds and our Jewish colleagues. Your presence, your perspectives, and your contributions are vital to the strength, richness, and sustainability of our service. We know that recent events may have caused pain, fear, and anger – and we want you to know that you are not alone. We see you, we stand with you, and we will act to protect and support you.

If you experience or witness racism, antisemitism, or any form of abuse or discrimination, please report it. We are determined to uphold a culture where everyone is treated with dignity and respect – and where harm is never ignored or tolerated.

Thank you for your continued professionalism, compassion, and care. Together, we will continue to uphold the highest values of occupational therapy and social work and ensure that our workforce and our communities are places of safety, belonging, and justice.