



14th August 2024

Joint statement in response to the recent ongoing racist attacks, islamophobia and civil unrest across the UK

The Association of Surgeons in Training (ASiT) and Surgical Specialty Training Organisations (SSTOs) issue this joint statement in response to the recent wave of racist attacks, islamophobia and civil unrest across the UK. The reports from fellow colleagues and our patients, particularly those from ethnic minority backgrounds being targeted with hostility and violence, are abhorrent and we strongly condemn these.

Surgeons and all healthcare professionals dedicate their careers to saving lives and improving the well-being of patients. It is essential that they are able to perform their duties without the fear of harassment, violence, or discrimination at all times. The right to work and travel safely is fundamental, not just for us as professionals, but also for the patients who rely on our care.

We strongly urge all members of the surgical community to remain alert during these challenging times. Look after yourselves, friends, colleagues and after your patients. When travelling to and from work, we recommend taking precautions such as travelling in groups where possible, avoiding areas of known unrest, and ensuring communication devices are charged and easily accessible. We also encourage prompt reporting of any incidents to the appropriate authorities to ensure that such behaviour is addressed swiftly and effectively. We must continue to support our colleagues, patients and members of the community in these turbulent times.

ASiT and the SSTOs stand in solidarity against racism, discrimination and violence in any form, and we remain committed to fostering an environment where all healthcare professionals can work with the dignity and respect they deserve.

Yours faithfully,

Roberta Garau, ASiT President on behalf of ASiT Council

Eleanor Crossley, President of the Association of Otolaryngologists in Training (AOT)

Karen Chui, President of the British Orthopaedics Trainee Association (BOTA)
Tony Tien, Chair of the BAUS Section of Trainees (BSoT)
Lillian Reza, President of the Duke's Club
Emily Thompson, President of The Herrick Society
Kellie Bateman, President of The Moynihan Academy (MA)
Adam Holden, President of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Fellows in Training (OMFS FIT)
Katerina Kyprianou, President of the Plastic Surgery Trainees Association (PLASTA)
Benjamin Chan, President of the Roux Group
Chloe Roy, ASiT Representative of Trainees in Paediatric Surgery (TriPS)