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Ms Helen Hughes,  
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Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011

Dear Ms Hughes,

Thank you for your reply to my letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011 concerning the article by Melanie Phillips in Spectator blogs entitled "Armchair barbarism".

We have duly noted the Commission's jurisdiction and appreciate the distinction drawn between criminal law and self-regulation of the press and the competency of the Commission in these matters as outlined in the Equality Act 2006.

You state in your reply that "The Commission would only be likely to consider these sorts of issues where there is a *repeated pattern of acts which may constitute racial or religious hatred by an organisation*" (our emphasis) and enter the caveat that the article by Melanie Phillips constitutes "an incident of comments in the media by an individual rather than repeated acts by an organisation and is therefore not a situation in which our formal inquiry powers could be applied."

We could demur and argue that as a corporate entity the Spectator qualifies as an "organisation" and as such falls within the jurisdiction for which the Commission enjoys powers of inquiry.

We would further argue that there is indeed a "repeated pattern of acts which may constitute racial or religious hatred" in which the Spectator has been involved in recent years and we take the opportunity here to list these:

1. "*Benefits of a multi-cultural Britain*", Rod Liddle on Spectator blogs, 5 December 2009

This article was referred to the Press Complaints Commission which upheld the complaint (Mr Oli Bird vs Spectator, adjudicated complaints published 29/03/2010).

2. "*For Taipei exile and others...*", Rod Liddle on Spectator blogs, 1 December 2009
3. "*Muslim savages update*", Rod Liddle on Spectator blogs, 19 November 2009

In the latter two entries Mr Liddle refers to "Muslim savages" a term which is both deeply offensive and highly incendiary.

In our view Ms Phillips' article is a contribution to the Spectator's "repeated pattern of acts" and we would welcome your considered response to our complaint in light of the further information provided here.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Mohammed Asif  
Chief Executive Officer.