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The Rt. Hon. Keith Vaz MP,
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA.

Friday 11th February 2011

Dear Mr Vaz,

I am writing to commend you on your letter printed in The Guardian on Thursday 10th Feb, 2011 regarding the speech given by the Prime Minister at the Munich Security Conference.

You rightly point out our illustrious history on multiculturalism and the enormous strides we have taken in advancing the equality agenda. It is indeed important to remind detractors that our record on race equality and anti-discrimination, particularly on grounds of religion and belief, surpasses that of our European colleagues.

While much work remains to be done in this area, and the recent rise of the EDL is testimony to how much remains to be done on enabling inter-cultural harmony, we should not overlook our past achievements or the recommendations raised by the Commission on the Future of Multi-Ethnic Britain and the National Equality Panel on addressing the causes of ethnic minority exclusion and marginalisation.

I would like to commend you also for highlighting a gravely important point and one that the Prime Minister would do well to heed. That is that our counter-terrorism efforts stand a greater chance of success when driven by a “communities-led approach.”

Thank you for reiterating this.

Yours sincerely,

Mohammed Asif
CEO