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Martin Heminway,  
Content Editor,  
Telegraph & Argus,  
Hall Ings,  
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Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011

Dear Sir,

Anika Bourley epitomizes armchair journalism in rehashing scurrilous accusations contained in a Sunday Telegraph story by Andrew Gilligan in her article for the Telegraph and Argus, *'Tory upset at Islamist supporter being given a Commons pass'* (Telegraph and Argus, 1st February 2011).

She repeats the claim, "iEngage ... is a group of Islamist sympathisers which has defended extremists," making no effort to substantiate the accusation of our being "Islamist sympathisers" or elaborating on the "extremists" we are alleged to have defended.

She suggests that Kris Hopkins MP (Con, Keighley and Ilkley) "resigned from a parliamentary group tackling Islamophobia after a Commons security pass was given to an Islamist sympathiser."

This is a patently false and defamatory accusation. Mr Hopkins resigned from the Group when his recommendation to remove ENGAGE as secretariat failed to win the backing of fellow parliamentarians in the Group.

A report by the Open Society Institute last year, 'Muslims in Europe: a report on 11 EU cities,' found that local media's coverage of stories relating to Muslims compared favourably to the national media which was criticized for its tendency to represent Muslims as "fundamentalists, terrorists and extremists."

How unfortunate that the Telegraph and Argus fails to reflect the more discerning judgment Muslims have come to expect from local media in the UK.

Yours sincerely,

Mohammed Asif  
CEO

Cc: Perry Austin-Clarke, The Editor, Telegraph & Argus