



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon
Minister of State for South Asia and
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Prime Minister's Special
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Caroline Lucas MP
House of Commons
London
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Our ref:
Your ref MC2021/11441

6 July 2021

Dear Caroline,

Thank you for your email of 07 May with a submission and an open letter about the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent ('Forum') to the Minister of State for Asia, Nigel Adams MP. I am replying as the Minister of State responsible for human rights.

Our officials have taken note of the documents shared and will study them closely. As you will be aware, the UK Government is currently taking part in the discussions on the modalities of the Forum, and is considering support in that context. We cannot comment further on the ongoing negotiations at this time, but instead, can offer general information about some of the issues raised in the submission and open letter.

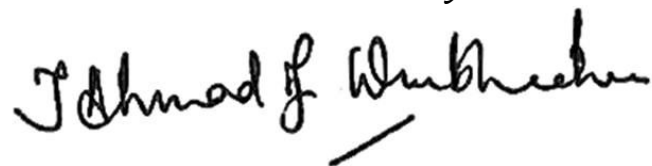
On racism, the UK is fully committed to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as to the promotion and protection of human rights for all without discrimination on any grounds. We will continue to be one of the strongest advocates for UN mechanisms that help combat racism.

In November 2020 and March 2021, we demonstrated this unwavering commitment in our national statements about racism at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly, and the 46th session of the UN Human Rights Council respectively.

In addition to engaging with the UN on mechanisms that help combat racism, I attended a Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers' Meeting in October 2020, chaired by the Foreign Secretary, where Foreign Ministers unanimously adopted a Commonwealth Statement on Racism proposed by the UK. The statement expressed our collective commitment to address the causes of racism and racial discrimination.

Please be assured that we remain committed to combatting all forms of racism, and that our representatives in New York will remain engaged in the discussions to advocate for respect among different ethnic and racial groups.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

LORD (TARIQ) AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON
Minister of State for South Asia and the Commonwealth
Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict