

Assistant Commissioner, Matt Twist
New Scotland Yard
Victoria Embankment,
London,
SW1A 2JL

By email only: Matthew.Twist@met.police.uk

26th September 2025

Dear Assistant Commissioner, Matt Twist,

Re: Urgent Formal Complaint against Metropolitan Police

Breach of Statutory Duties under the Terrorism Act 2000, Terrorism Act 2006, Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, Serious Crime Act 2007, and Equality Act 2010

We are writing to file a formal and urgent complaint against the Metropolitan Police regarding their failure to discharge their statutory duties in relation to the Defend Our Juries' 'Lift the Ban' campaign.

Factual Background

Defend Our Juries Website

As the Metropolitan police are aware, Defend Our Juries ('DoJ') has launched a campaign called, 'Lift the Ban' which seeks to call for the de-proscription of Palestine Action as a terrorist organisation by encouraging the mass arrests of people by holding a placard stating, "*I oppose genocide. I support Palestine Action.*" DoJ promotes this as lawful action in its Action Briefing Documents¹. Despite this call to break terrorism laws, the police have not sort to permanently remove the website, nor the Action Briefing Documents from the internet, despite having the ability to do so².

Such statements include:

"Campaigning to lift the ban is lawful

Campaigning to change the law is not unlawful. If it were, the laws banning women from voting, making it a crime to be gay, and permitting slavery could never have been changed. Our campaign aims to reverse Yvette Cooper's crazy proscription, and that's a perfectly lawful thing to do."

¹ <https://defundgenocide.co.uk/documents-resources/>

² <https://www.thecanary.co/uk/news/2025/08/07/amnesty-defend-our-juries/>

“We know that in exposing the absurdity of the ban with our cardboard signs, we are acting lawfully, in accordance with our rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, exposing the government’s violations of the Genocide Convention.”

(Please see: **Annex 2:** Action Briefing doc – Saturday 9 August – London;

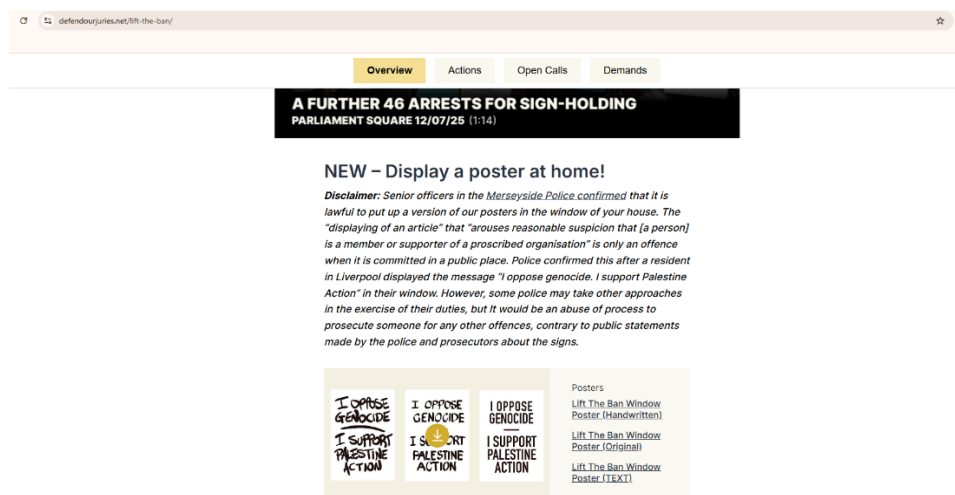
Annex 3: Action Briefing doc – Saturday 6 September - London;

Annex 3: Action Briefing doc – Saturday 4 October – London).

DoJ’s Window Poster Campaign

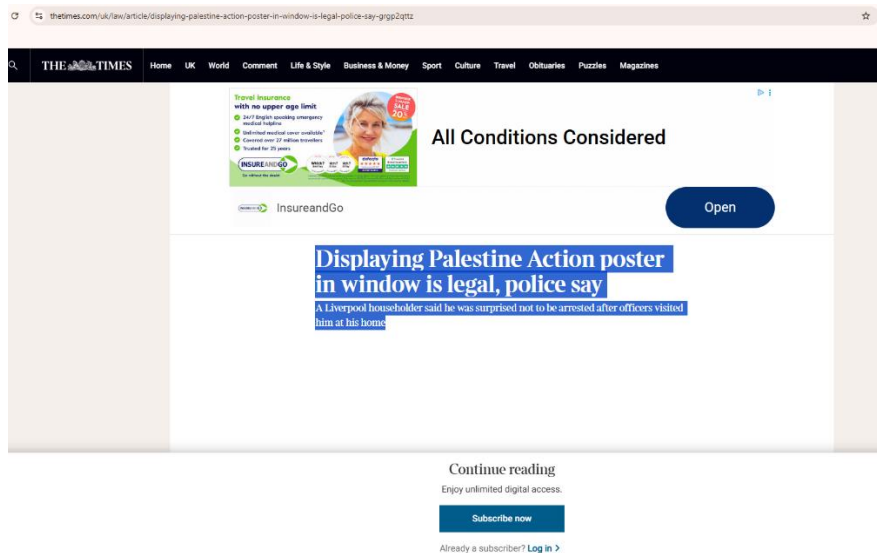
On **12 September 2025**, DoJ began a ‘NEW – Display a poster at home!’ campaign³ which encourages people to download DoJ’s posters which state *“I oppose genocide. I support Palestine Action”* and display them in their windows. The DoJ state on their website that this is lawful, and that Merseyside police has confirmed this to be the case. The website provides a link to a Times article⁴ whose headline claims the same. However, the article itself is behind a paywall, meaning everyone without a subscription to the publication is prevented from reading it.

The screenshot of the website and the screenshot of the paywalled Times article are reproduced below for you:



³ <https://defendourjuries.net/lift-the-ban/>

⁴ <https://www.thetimes.com/uk/law/article/displaying-palestine-action-poster-in-window-is-legal-police-say-grgp2qttz>



The Metropolitan Police are fully aware that it is not lawful to display an article in support of a proscribed organisation in a public place, and arrests have been made for displaying a poster in a window of a home accessible to the public⁵.

As you will of course be aware, the Metropolitan police regularly monitor the Defend Our Juries' website. The police have statutory powers under **sections 3 and 4 of the Terrorism Act 2006** to request that the site should be taken down, and for it to be investigated. The Metropolitan Police has not only previously taken the site down⁶, but the Met's CTIRU have intervened⁷ to prevent Zoom meetings⁸ advertised on the site from taking place, and subsequently arrested those involved in organising these meetings⁹ under s.12 Terrorism Act. As such, their current failure to remove the website is a clear abdication of their statutory, legal duties – which is extremely alarming.

Failure to Act on Police Reports

This matter has been reported to the Metropolitan Police on several occasions recently by law-abiding individuals, including through the official online crime reporting system, including by Right to Protest Ltd on **23 September 2025** reference number: ROC-19528-25-0101-IR. Despite this, no substantive action has been taken and a formal reply has yet to be received. The website remains online.

Alarminglly, in one instance on **24 September 2025**, a member of the public attempted to raise a complaint via the Metropolitan Police's online chat system. The chat was closed abruptly

⁵ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn0qn8vz00no>

⁶ <https://www.thecanary.co.uk/news/2025/08/07/amnesty-defend-our-juries/>

⁷ <https://x.com/DefendourJuries/status/1953543431990718609>

⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/aug/07/three-charged-with-supporting-palestine-action-at-london-rally>

⁹ <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/palestine-action-protests-zoom-court-charged-defend-our-juries-b1246044.html>

while the complainant was still trying to report the Defend Our Juries website. Screenshots of this exchange are enclosed at **Annex 1**.

As the evidence at **Annex 1** makes clear, police officers refused to take the complaint seriously, and in doing so misrepresented their statutory responsibilities and powers under terrorism legislation. They incorrectly suggested that they had no authority to act, when in fact **sections 3 and 4 of the Terrorism Act 2006** confer on a constable, the power to serve a notice requiring service providers to remove or modify material contrary to terrorism legislation including the encouraging of terrorism offences. Should a service provider refuse to act, within 2 working days, they will be held to have given their endorsement to the terrorist material, exposing the provider to prosecution for the underlying offence of encouragement or dissemination of terrorist publications under terrorism legislation.

We also refer you to **s.38B of the Terrorism Act 2000** which imposes a clear statutory duty on the police to act on information about terrorism offences. Once officers are provided with information which they know or believe might be material assistance in preventing such an offence, they are under a legal duty to act. Failure to do so – including by refusing to take a complaint or misrepresenting their statutory powers – is not only a breach of their statutory duty, but also exposes the police to liability for committing an offence under section 38B and/or misconduct in public office.

Active Complicity, Not Passive Failure

The failure of the police to act is not passive, and these omissions amount to actions in law.

The Metropolitan Police's failure is especially grave as **Section 13 of the Terrorism Act 2000** is a strict liability offence. It does not require proof of intent or belief; liability arises simply from displaying an article in circumstances arousing reasonable suspicion of support for a proscribed organisation. By failing to ensure vulnerable individuals **are informed and understand** that the campaign has misled them as well as being informed that displaying a poster in a window accessible to the public **is a terrorism offence**, as well as failing to ensure that they are aware of the acts they are being asked to commit, and failure to explain the consequence of such requested acts, the police are actively allowing these vulnerable members of the public to be misled into criminal liability regardless of their actual intentions or beliefs. These failures will of course, ensure mass arrests and convictions for the Metropolitan Police.

The central failure here lies **not only** in the Metropolitan Police actively allowing the DoJ website to remain online, thereby actively encouraging the public to commit terrorism offences, but also in the Metropolitan Police's abdication of their statutory safeguarding role.

The Metropolitan Police¹⁰ has a statutory responsibility to ensure that vulnerable people are not manipulated or exploited into terrorism offences through, confusion, coercion or duress, particularly when they are being explicitly told that the offence is lawful. However, the

¹⁰ <https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/t/prevent/prevent/>

Metropolitan Police has done nothing to prevent this false message from being removed. By refusing to intervene with the DoJ website, they have abandoned that duty and became silent facilitators of the very criminalisation they are legally bound to prevent. As such, the Metropolitan Police are themselves, recklessly encouraging the commission of terrorism, an offence under **section 12 Terrorism Act 2000**.

The Metropolitan police are fully aware of their responsibilities and duties, and they must obey the law. They are not permitted to encourage the commission of crime. **Section 45 of The Serious Crime Act 2007** states:

Encouraging or assisting an offence believing it will be committed

A person commits an offence if—

(a) he does an act capable of encouraging or assisting the commission of an offence; and

(b) he believes—

(i) that the offence will be committed; and

(ii) that his act will encourage or assist its commission.

It is clear that the Metropolitan Police believe that their actions in failure to take steps to remove the website and ensure vulnerable people are protected as per their statutory duties under **Section 29 CTSA 2015**, will lead to a terrorism offence being committed and that their actions assist and encourage its commission.

This conduct by the Metropolitan Police is deeply troubling and gives rise to a reasonable inference of deliberate misconduct. The Metropolitan Police's failure to take decisive action strongly suggests that the police are purposefully permitting vulnerable individuals to be entrapped into committing terrorism-related offences under the false belief that their actions are lawful. Such conduct appears calculated to enable mass arrests of pro-Palestinian supporters, thereby interfering with their rights under **Articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights**.

It is also a clear breach of the police's **Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010**. Pro-Palestinian supporters — who share a protected characteristic under **s.4 Equality Act 2010** — are being discriminated against where, instead of being afforded the protection of the law, the police knowingly allow DoJ to mislead individuals into believing that displaying support for Palestine Action is lawful, only for it to be later treated as criminal. By deliberately omitting to exercise their statutory duties, the police are in effect permitting the entrapment of individuals into terrorism offences — a tactic not applied to others who do not share this protected characteristic.

This is not the lawful duty of the police. On the contrary, it is a gross abuse of power: unethical, unlawful, and unconstitutional. The police are under a duty to prevent criminal exploitation, not to facilitate it.

Relevant Legislation

Terrorism Act 2000:

s.1(5) In this Act a reference to action taken for the purposes of terrorism includes a reference to action taken for the benefit of a proscribed organisation.¹¹

s.12 - Support

s.13 – Uniform and Publication of Images

s.38B - Information about acts of terrorism

Terrorism Act 2006:

s.2 – Dissemination of Terrorist Publications

s. 3 – Application of ss.1 and 2 to internet activity etc.

s. 4 – Giving of notices under s.3

Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

s. 26 – General duties on specified authorities

Serious Crime Act 2007

s.44 - Intentionally encouraging or assisting an offence

s.45 - Encouraging or assisting an offence believing it will be committed

Equality Act 2010

s.149 - Public sector equality duty

European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)

Article 10 – Freedom of expression

Article 11 – Freedom of assembly and association

¹¹ <https://www.thenational.scot/news/national/25370718.protests-palestine-action-ban-continue-until-november/> (Huda Ammori, co-founder of Palestine Action, has explicitly endorsed Defend our Juries' campaigns as 'crucial' and thus as a benefit of a proscribed organisation.)

Article 14 – Prohibition of discrimination

Article 13 – Right to an effective remedy

Met Police: Systematic Breaches of Statutory Duties

Police Duty to Protect Vulnerable Adults

The police have clear statutory obligations under the **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015**¹² (*'CTSA 2015'*).

- **Section 26 CTSA 2015** provides:

“A specified authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.”

- Schedule 6 defines “specified authorities” to include the police.

The duty explicitly encompasses preventing conduct that could amount to support for proscribed organisations. This includes the offence of created by **Section 13 Terrorism Act 2000**.

The **Prevent Guidance**¹³, issued under **Section 29 CTSA 2015**, establishes the framework for compliance. It specifically recognises that:

- *“A person can be vulnerable if they need special care, support or protection because of age, disability, risk of abuse or neglect.”*
- *“Prevent’s second objective is to intervene early to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.”*

Counter-Terrorism Policing’s own website¹⁴ on Prevent states:

- *“Prevent: We prevent vulnerable people from being drawn into extremism”*
- *“Police have a long history of working to prevent vulnerable people being drawn into criminal behaviour. The government-led, multi-agency Prevent programme aims to stop individuals becoming terrorists and police play a key role.*

We work with local authority partners and community organisations to help find solutions and work to support and protect vulnerable people.”

Police Motive: Maximising Arrests and Convictions of Pro-Palestinian Supporters?

¹² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/6/contents>

¹³ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65e5a5bd3f69457ff1035fe2/14.258_HO_Prevent+Duty+Guidance_v5d_Final_Web_1_.pdf

¹⁴ <https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/what-we-do/prevent/>

The police's conduct suggests that this is not negligence but purposely by design: a deliberate strategy to maximise arrests and convictions. By permitting and effectively facilitating DoJ to steer vulnerable protesters towards behaviour criminalised by terrorism law, counter-terrorism officers appear to be prioritising prosecution statistics over their statutory safeguarding duties.

This is not only **unlawful** under counter-terrorism legislation; it represents a perversion of counter-terrorism policing itself. The stated purpose of Prevent is *to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism*. Here, police are facilitating the opposite: the criminalisation of the vulnerable.

This is not a minor oversight but a **fundamental and systemic breach** of your statutory responsibilities.

- By permitting DoJ to continue steering citizens towards unlawful conduct, the Met police are not simply failing to act but are effectively complicit.
- Prevent is designed to protect vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism. Yet, in this case, police inaction has done the opposite—placing vulnerable people directly into the path of criminalisation.
- The appearance is of a deliberate strategy: allowing vulnerable people to commit offences in order to then generate arrests and convictions, contrary to the stated purpose of Prevent and Parliament's intention in enacting counter-terrorism law.

Action Required

Given the seriousness of these failings, we require your force to:

1. Confirm what immediate steps are being taken to remove DoJ's website content including the promotion of the unlawful "window campaign."
2. Confirm what immediate steps are being taken to ensure all vulnerable members of the public who may have been exposed to this campaign - and encouraged to act on it – are told that the campaign is **unlawful**, and the consequences of committing any terrorism offence.
3. Set out how you will now ensure full compliance with your Prevent duty under **section 26 CTSA 2015** and your safeguarding obligations towards vulnerable adults.
4. Provide assurance that vulnerable members of the public who may already have been misled into displaying these posters will be treated as victims of coercion and misinformation, not as offenders.
5. Explain why the Met Police have failed to act in this case despite clear statutory obligations and prior precedent.
6. Explain what actions will be taken against officers who have committed offences under **sections 44-45 of the Serious Crime Act 2007**.

The evidence points to the Metropolitan Police's abdication of their duties as not an isolated error but to systemic complicity. Counter-terrorism police are failing to uphold the very duties Parliament has imposed upon them, and in doing so are exposing vulnerable citizens to strict liability offences that the law requires the Police to prevent.

Your force's present stance amounts to an unlawful abdication of counter-terrorism duties and a serious breach of safeguarding obligations. Vulnerable citizens are being criminalised not through any deliberate intent of their own, but as a direct result of police omission. By knowingly allowing nefarious actors involved in the Defend Our Juries campaign to mislead the public, the Metropolitan Police are facilitating conduct that places those individuals at risk of committing terrorism offences. Such dereliction is indefensible in law and wholly unacceptable in principle.

We place you on notice that unless urgent corrective action is taken within 5 days, we will have no option except to escalate this matter formally through the courts without further notice too.

We look forward to your urgent reply.

Yours sincerely,

Right to Protest Ltd