# AUE Statement of solidarity in the wake of resurgent fascist violence in the UK

Artists' Union England condemns the current racist riots and violence targeting Muslim, Black and Brown and migrant communities, including those seeking asylum.

We send our solidarity to all who are being impacted and the communities standing up to these attacks.

Our thoughts continue to be with the Southport community, especially the families of the three girls who were killed and those who were injured in the attack.

The attempt to manipulate these tragic losses to spread misinformation and fuel racist targeting of Muslims, Black and Brown people, migrants and those seeking asylum, is unacceptable. In the last week we have seen the burning of hotels that house migrants, and Black and Brown communities terrorised by gangs of fascists, including Muslim womens' hijabs pulled off, windows smashed in peoples' homes, businesses set on fire, and mosques being vandalised.

Through racist immigration policies including mass deportations, the Windrush Scandal, long term anti-migrant sentiment, and recent rhetoric around 'small boats', politicians and the media have fomented the hostile environment that has led to the violent, organised attacks happening now.

All communities should feel safe to walk on our streets. Going forward, the new government must take action to address the issues giving rise to these riots, and attacks. There must be urgent efforts to ensure all those responsible are brought to justice.

The contributions of Black, Brown and migrant communities are an integral part of culture, society, and the workforce in the UK, both historically and today. Against the top-down violence of colonialism and empire, and their continuing echoes within the UK, communities have stood together and organised as workers time and time again.

As a union, we stand strongly against all forms of Islamophobia, racism and xenophobia, both on the far-right and within mainstream politics and media. We stand with the wider trade union movement and communities mobilising against these attacks,

organising anti-fascist protests, defending mosques and other community spaces in the wake of these racist riots.

As a union of artists, we recognise the potential of art and culture as a space in which we can imagine and make visible a collective politics of liberation. That potential continues to be curtailed by a top-down organised sector which has not meaningfully followed through on statements made in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement in 2020. We call on arts organisations and institutions to support their artists, workers, and grassroots groups, and commit themselves as civic spaces and community resources to support our resistance against racism and fascism.

We stand in unity with our Muslim, Black and Brown, and migrant members, impacted by these events and invite members to get in touch if they need support.