

[Murphy announces Assured Skills Welding Academy at South West College](#)

Economy Minister Conor Murphy today launched the latest Assured Skills Collaborative Welding Academy at South West College (SWC), with 12 training places.

[Government support for nature-friendly farming pays off says Adrian Ramsay](#)

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Reacting to a new Natural England report that found [nature-friendly farming schemes have boosted biodiversity](#), co-leader of the Green Party Adrian Ramsay MP said:

“The UK is [one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world](#) and we urgently need to address the enormous risk that habitat and biodiversity loss poses to our future.

“Most farmers want to do the right thing for nature and this report clearly shows that Government support for nature-friendly farming pays off. Now we need to see more of it.

“Farmers have told me they need reassurance, certainty, and easier access to funding for nature-friendly farming, so it is very disappointing that the Labour Government has so far [refused to commit to maintaining the current level of support payments](#).

“I urge the Government to show leadership and not only commit to maintaining the current level of funding, but to listen to the many calls, including from the RSPB, National Trust and The Wildlife Trusts, for [a massive increase in nature-friendly farming support](#).

“We do not have to have an ‘either-or’ between nature restoration and food production; with more leadership from the Government, we can achieve both.”

12 August 2024 / 12 August 2024 by [Andrew Bell](#)

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[Long condemns violence in Londonderry](#)

Justice Minister, Naomi Long utterly condemns the violence in Derry yesterday and sends her best wishes to the injured officers.

[Statement from the First Minister and deputy First Minister](#)

The First Minister and deputy First Minister have condemned a number of incidents over the weekend, including the racist attack on an Islamic centre in Newtownards on Saturday and last night's violence in Derry~Londonderry.

[Hatred will never divide us](#)

The last ten days have been immensely difficult for our country.

First, the horrific attack in Southport that claimed the lives of three innocent young girls.

Then, the far right extremists who exploited this tragedy to incite and commit appalling acts of violence. Violence that targeted Muslims, asylum seekers and communities of colour.

These thugs do not speak for Britain or our values. But how we respond does.

It is heartwarming to see so many people of all backgrounds and all walks of life standing peacefully together in solidarity against racism, Islamophobia and violence.

We are indebted to our brave police officers who put themselves in harm's way to keep our communities safe.

– Ed Davey (@EdwardJDavey) [August 8, 2024](#)

Already, we have witnessed some of the best of British values in action. Communities coming together to clean up the damage. Standing in solidarity with their neighbours and friends who have been targeted.

Making it clear that hatred will never divide us, and unity will prevail.

[View video on Facebook](#)

Racism and Islamophobia have no place in our society. We must work together to consign this hatred to the history books – and I'm proud of what Liberal Democrats are already doing to make this a reality.

Like [calling on the government](#) to adopt a formal definition of Islamophobia, and immediately appoint a new independent adviser on Islamophobia.

There is much to be done to ensure that everybody can feel safe in their communities. But there's reason to be hopeful, too.

Last night, we witnessed thousands of people standing peacefully together in solidarity against racism, Islamophobia and violence.

It was proof that **the UK is the open, tolerant and compassionate country we all know and love**. That people from all backgrounds are welcome here. And that riots and racism will never triumph.

In our own Lib Dem family, I am proud of how we work together as one team with much diversity. So please check in with your friends, colleagues, neighbours. There are many in our communities right now who feel hugely vulnerable – and need to know that our party is standing with them in love and support.

We must keep this spirit alive. So we will keep working together – to support our communities and stamp out hatred, in all its forms.

For anyone in need of mental health support, all Liberal Democrat party members have unlimited access to the Health Assured Support Helpline at 0800 028 0199. You can find out more [here](#).

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