



Dear Sir Alan Moses,

We are writing as members of Citizens UK to request a meeting with you, in your role as Chair of IPSO, to discuss the portrayal of migrants in the press. Citizens UK is the biggest alliance of civil society institutions across the UK, including schools, universities, faith institutions, trade unions and charities, which campaign together for social justice and the common good.

Many of our member institutions include people from migrant and refugee communities and a team of young people from our Stand Up Stand Out campaign have been researching the portrayal of migrants in the press. We would like to request a meeting with you to discuss concerns raised by our research, and to understand how IPSO might use its powers to address them among its members – who appear to us have breached the code in their coverage of immigration in the past year.

We are alarmed by a significant rise in hate crime attacks and reports from our members that they have personally been affected experiencing verbal and physical abuse due to their race or ethnicity. The recent report by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expressed concerns at the negative portrayal of immigrants in the UK and a rise of racist online abuse and made a direct link between hostile anti-immigration rhetoric and a peak in hate crime.

We are aware that IPSO considers complaints on a case-by-case basis, but that it also has the power to initiate an investigation on its own merits where the conduct is considered to be sufficiently serious. The Brooks Newmark inquiry was one such example of this approach. We believe that the immigration media coverage during and after EU referendum could qualify for such an investigation and we would like to meet with you to explain why.



The freedom of the Press is central to our democracy and the need for a credible regulator of the press to strike a balance between respect for the rights of individuals and groups, with the right for people to newspapers to express a point of view without fear of censorship. However, we hope we can work with you to ensure the press does not create a toxic atmosphere towards communities living in this country.

We would be grateful if your office could contact stephanie.leonard@citizensuk.org to offer dates for us to meet.

Best wishes,