

Statement from Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz OBE

The horrifying attack at the Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation Synagogue in Manchester this morning is simply an appalling outrage. My thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who have been murdered and injured in this heinous act, and for the Jewish community everywhere who are gathering for prayer and celebration on this sacred day of Yom Kippur.

The unimaginable horror which unfolded in Manchester today will cause significant shock and fear for our Jewish community in Newham and for us all. I have been in contact with our Metropolitan Police Northeast Borough Command team who have a robust policing plan in place for the period of the Jewish High Holy Days, including increased presence at synagogues. The Council will also be working closely with our local police teams to ensure that there is enhanced reassurance patrols across the borough's places of worship, as well as faith and community centres.

As further details emerge of this suspected terrorist attack, I know that this will be a deeply distressing time for many of our communities in Newham. That is why on this day and in the weeks ahead, the safety and security of all Newham residents will remain paramount as we take a united stand against this outrage and hatred in all its forms.