



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2020

Prime Minister and Home Secretary

[The Independent](#), [The Observer](#) (print and online), [The Guardian](#), [MSN](#), [Yahoo News](#) - The UK home secretary, Priti Patel, is under fresh pressure after it emerged that she appeared to have dismissed intelligence briefings from counter- terrorism police to the Home Office over an alleged far-right terror attack.

Officers from S015, the Metropolitan police counter terrorism command (CTC), notified the Home Office in mid-September that it was suspected that a far-right extremist had attempted to carry out a terror attack at a solicitors' firm in London.

Previously, the *Observer* has revealed that Patel [ignored warnings](#) from senior colleagues including the lord chancellor and attorney general as well as officials from the **Bar Council** and Law Society to stop targeting immigration lawyers following the incident.

The Independent reports that more than 800 retired [judges](#), barristers and senior legal figures have accused [Boris Johnson](#) and [Priti Patel](#) of endangering the personal safety of [lawyers](#).

Earlier this month the president of the Law Society said that the home secretary's comments had undermined the legal system while the **chair of the Bar Council** said that Ms Patel was seeking to "demonise" people carrying out a vital public service.

Diversity

[LegalFutures](#) - Young barristers from ethnic minorities should not be afraid to be who they are – including maintaining their hair in its natural look – as they look to progress, pioneering QCs have advised.

The six Black women barristers who became QCs this year – an unprecedented number – also urged them to build career-long relationships with solicitors and take control of their practices.

They were: Krista Lee, a construction law specialist at Keating Chambers; Barbara Mills, a family lawyer at 4PB and Co-Chair of the **Bar Council's Race Working Group**; Melanie Simpson, a criminal defence barrister at 25 Bedford Row; Katharine Newton, an employment specialist at Old Square Chambers; her chambers colleague, Ijeoma Omambala, an employment, public procurement and health care law specialist; and Allison Munroe, who has a mixed practice at Garden Court Chambers and whose prominent work has included both the Hillsborough inquest and Grenfell Tower inquiry.

Ms Newton recommended that young barristers facing unequal treatment when compared to their colleagues should in the first instance contact the equality and diversity hotline operated by the **Bar Council**.

BAR COUNCIL TWEETS <https://twitter.com/thebarcouncil>





The Bar Council  @thebarcouncil · Oct 26 ⋮

Amanda Pinto QC: "Barristers follow the cab rank rule - like a black cab, if someone flags them down, they have to take that person where they need to go, even if it's not in a direction that will get them home from work on time."

 **The Bar Council**  @thebarcouncil · Oct 26

Chair of the Bar Council, Amanda Pinto QC will be on @TimesRadio at 1020 this morning discussing comments made by the government and dangers to the legal profession. [twitter.com/guardian/statu...](https://twitter.com/guardian/status...)

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The Bar Council  @thebarcouncil · Oct 27 ⋮

PUPILS: We are running a new spin-off series from our #IAmTheBar campaign, focusing on the experience of pupil barristers from 'non-traditional' backgrounds.

Please email Campaigns@BarCouncil.org.uk by the end of the week if you are interested in participating.

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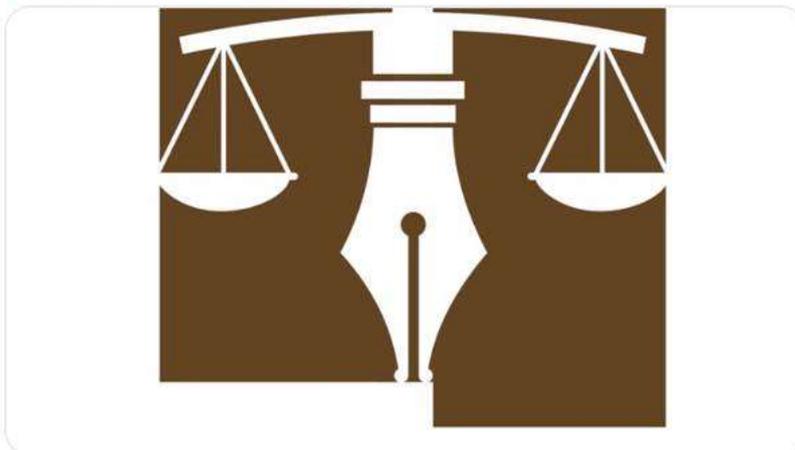


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