



03 February 2016

Karen Bradley MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Dear Karen

I am writing to you urgently regarding the group 'Return of Kings' and the group's founder, Daryush Valizadeh.

Return of the Kings is a militant anti-feminist group that has expressed abhorrently misogynistic views. The group have called for women to be banned from voting, described a woman's value as dependent on her "fertility and beauty", and claimed that women with eating disorders make the best girlfriends. Articles posted on the group's website have included "5 Reasons to Date a Girl With an Eating Disorder," "Don't Work for a Female Boss" and "Biology Says People on Welfare Should Die." The group's founder has publically advocated legalised rape.

I am sure you would agree that such views are grotesque and have no place in any civilised society. The recently released police crime statistics show rape has increased by 41% in the last year, giving a platform to a group that has actively encouraged this despicable crime is totally unacceptable.

Is the Home Office aware that the group intends to hold a number of "events" in Britain on 6th February 2016, as part of an 'International Meet-up Day'? I understand they are to take place in a number of cities, including London, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Newcastle and Leeds.

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These 'events' involve meetings of Return of the Kings members, with the groups following a 'tribe leader' in an attempt to 'pick up' women. I am deeply concerned that this represents a serious threat to public order and that the consequences of allowing them to go ahead as planned could be severe.

I wish to ask, therefore, if an order is in place against the group's founder, Daryush Valizadeh, to prevent his travelling to the UK? If no such order is in place, has or will the Home Office consider one?

Similarly, is a banning order in place for the "events" this weekend and again, if not, has this been given consideration?

Have police forces been made aware of these "events", and if so, what advice has the Home Office issued on the matter?

Has the Home Office considered classifying 'Return of Kings' as a proscribed group, as has been the case with other hate groups, such as the Westboro Baptist Church? Furthermore, do you believe that the group meets the criteria for such an action and will the Home Office consider pursuing it?

These issues will be debated in Westminster Hall on 4th February and I would welcome your urgent comments on the matter.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S' followed by a flourish.

Sarah Champion MP
Shadow Minister for Preventing Abuse and Domestic Violence

CC. Home Secretary