

Stay safe if you feel the need to protest

The Justice Secretary, Humza Yousaf, is encouraging members of the public to keep themselves safe while making their voices heard.

Mr Yousaf has urged people planning to protest against racial injustice to do so in a way that safeguards them and the wider public from the on-going threat from coronavirus (COVID-19).

Mr Yousaf said: "In the wake of the tragic death of George Floyd, it is again clear that the scourge of racism continues to blight every nation on earth, and all of us must play our part in tackling it.

"I fully understand and feel the anger, and the sadness, that leads people to want to gather together and to show solidarity and community at this time. Unfortunately, the threat of COVID-19 is still with us and I must urge people not to attend mass gatherings, which pose a clear risk to public health, even with social distancing in place.

"The Scottish Government advice is still that no more than eight people should meet at any one time, and for those people to be from no more than two households. I would encourage people to explore alternative ways to make their voices heard on this vital issue, including for example through social media and by engaging friends, families and work colleagues.

"In Scotland, we value the considerable and important role of our diverse minority ethnic communities. We cannot, and will

not, tolerate hate crime, prejudice or discrimination of any kind. It is not enough to simply not be a racist – we must be anti-racist, by supporting our minority ethnic communities, and condemning racism, hate and injustice wherever we find it.

“I hope we will soon be able to gather together to show our solidarity. But until then we must continue to do what is necessary to protect the health of everyone, following the guidelines. That is the best and quickest way to ensure we continue along the path of easing lockdown, and meet again sooner rather than later.”



Black Lives Matter peaceful protest outside St Giles Cathedral on 3 June 2020 Photo Live Edinburgh News