

7 August 2024

Elon Musk Chief Technology Office X Corp. 1355 Market Street San Francisco, CA 94103

## Subject: Urgent Appeal for Responsibility in Face of UK Unrest

Dear Mr. Musk,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you during a critical moment in the United Kingdom, where misinformation has fueled violent outbreaks targeting immigrants and ethnic minorities. Violent thugs have rampaged through British towns and cities including Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Bristol, Belfast, Sunderland, Plymouth, Hull, Rotherham, Middlesbrough, Hartlepool, Tamworth, and Aldershot, targeting "Mosques, asylum seekers, and anyone not white".<sup>1, 2</sup>

Platforms play an undeniably critical role in modern society as channels of information, community building, and activism. The recent far-right race riots in the UK, spurred by false claims about the Southport stabbings, highlight the moral duty of each individual using these platforms, especially those with hundreds of millions of followers like yourself, to act responsibly.<sup>3</sup>

You have an influential position in tech and media, and control X, a mainstream social media platform where nearly 200 million users follow your commentary. You therefore carry a heightened responsibility not to personally amplify content that will provoke violence, the destruction of property, and the possible loss of human life. Sadly, you have failed to meet that bar.

Since the anti-immigrant attack began, you have parroted far-right talking points,<sup>4</sup> minimised the gravity of the harm,<sup>5</sup> mocked the UK's policing efforts in response to these

<sup>4</sup>Sky News, Elon Musk brands Starmer 'two-tier Keir'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Mirror, Why are far right thugs rioting in UK and where has been attacked?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Independent, <u>Tommy Robinson stokes far-right riots on social media from outside UK</u> <sup>3</sup>Foreign Policy, <u>A Far-Right Elite Stirred Britain's Race Riots</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Musk, <u>on X</u>



riots,<sup>6</sup> and driven further division.<sup>7</sup> Your comments that "civil war is inevitable" run dangerously close to attempted justification for further violence and destruction.

I urge you to consider the impact your words are having on the immigrants and minorities who are currently living in fear, or facing prejudice, whether in the UK or abroad. Many of these individuals have been integral to the growth of the tech industry that we know today. Immigrants have worked hard to benefit not only the broader economy, but also contributed to the success of companies like X, Tesla, and SpaceX.

Please consider the impact of your words and act more responsibly in the future. If you wish to continue amplifying divisive, racist voices, and promoting irresponsible rhetoric, I urge you to resign from your position of leadership at X and allow more responsible leadership to remove the impression of bias that your speech has created.

Sincerely,

Kaywan Hozewi Jebelli

Kayvan Hazemi-Jebelli Senior Director, Europe Chamber of Progress <u>progresschamber.org</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Musk, <u>on X</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Musk, <u>on X</u>