

1 November 2022

---



Home Secretary Suella Braverman's derogatory language and inflammatory narrative run a high risk of galvanising further hate towards migrants. If such violence as the firebombs attack on the Dover immigration centre is not clearly condemned, it will be seen by some as justifying the attacks.

The Home Secretary has failed to show any empathy to those held inside the centre, for whom this is a terrifying ordeal. She is blaming their very presence here for the attacker's act of violence. Blaming them for her and her predecessors' failures of policy, planning and action.

The Home Secretary's words will incite further hate towards innocent individuals. More people will now feel justified to use the same language. Worse, some may feel emboldened to carry out further attacks.

Her toxic statement, comparing the current situation with an "invasion", is just the tip of the iceberg. What used to be a far-right narrative sits now comfortably at the top level of government. This shifts us towards a dangerous territory: one of racism, hate and violence.

A minority in this country will welcome this, but far more of us are appalled. We want the government to change course in language and action.

**Nazek Ramadan**  
**Director, Migrant Voice**

---