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Committee on Standards in Public Life

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Ian Lavery MP, Chair, Labour Party
Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP, Chair, Conservative Party
Gordon Nardell QC, Executive Director of Legal Affairs, Labour Party
Kirsten Oswald, Business Convener, SNP
Amelia Womack, Deputy Leader, Green Party of England and Wales

21 May 2019

JOINT STATEMENT ON INTIMIDATORY BEHAVIOUR

I am writing further to the meeting that was held on 27 March 2019 to discuss the Committee on Standards in Public Life's (CSPL) recommendation that political parties should 'work together to develop a joint code of conduct on intimidatory behaviour during election campaigns'. This built on the consensus emerging from the first meeting held on 20 November 2018.

Following the March meeting, the Committee issued a press statement on 10 April, recognising that there was good will and commitment from the parties to make further joint progress; and that CSPL would agree a source of independent support to help take the next step towards committing to a common approach.

I'm delighted to confirm that The Jo Cox Foundation has now agreed that they would be pleased to act as independent support to this work. CSPL and The Foundation will work together with the political parties that hold seats in Westminster to draw up a common statement of principle on intimidatory behaviour to encourage cross-party consensus to recognise and address this worrying issue. We will invite other parties to sign up to the statement once agreed.

CSPL and The Jo Cox Foundation intend to issue a joint press statement shortly to announce this and will write to you again shortly outlining next steps and a proposed work plan.

I am copying this letter to: the Rt Hon Theresa May MP, Prime Minister; Jacqui Smith, Chair, The Jo Cox Foundation; Catherine Anderson, Chief Executive, The Jo Cox Foundation; Rt Hon Sir Vince Cable MP, Leader of Liberal Democrats; Adam Price AM, Leader, Plaid Cymru; Hywel Williams MP, Plaid Cymru; Gareth Clubb, Chief Executive, Plaid Cymru; Rt

Hon Arlene Foster, Leader of the Democratic Unionist Party; Jonathan Bartley, Co-Leader, Green Party; Siân Berry AM, Co-leader, Green Party; Heidi Allen MP, Interim Leader, Change UK, The Independent Group; Gavin Shuker MP, Group Convener, Change UK, The Independent Group; Jane Ramsey, Independent Member, CSPL.

Yours sincerely

(approved by Lord Evans and signed in his absence)

Lord Evans KCB DL
Chair, Committee on Standards in Public Life