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Far Right Activity and Hotel Accommodation – Client Briefing

In the UK we have seen a rise in far-right extremism and the activity of the groups that subscribe to this type of belief. Far right extremism is racist and people who believe in it do not believe in immigration to the UK.

We have seen a rise in far-right activity around accommodation housing asylum seekers and refugees, and in particular, around hotels. This has involved groups of people using different tactics to campaign outside hotels and to spread lies, hate and misinformation about refugees and asylum seekers in the UK.

We want to help you think about your safety and to give you information that will help you make decisions about you and your families safety if there is far right activity where you live or the threat of it.

Far Right Activity – What do I look for?

Far Right activists are good at hiding their behaviour. We know they use the following tactics to spread lies, hate and misinformation and to intimidate.

- Hold protests outside accommodation with banners and creating noise
- Visiting hotels that refugees and asylum seekers are living in to make films
- Attempting to gain unauthorised entry to hotels to make films and/or to talk to residents.
- Shouting racist abuse

ALL these tactics are designed to intimidate and are used to create a bad feeling about refugees and asylum seekers in local communities and to share on social media accounts.

Sometimes, far right protesters may seem friendly if they think this will help them gain access or get a good film but sometimes, they can also be aggressive and intimidating too.

What do I do if I think there is Far Right Activity where I live?

1. If you are approached by anyone who you think is involved in far right activity – do not interact with them.
2. If someone approached you with a camera or is trying to film you with a phone – walk away and do not respond or interact with them.
3. If you are in your accommodation – alert security as soon as possible and call the police on 999
4. If you are outside of your accommodation – find a safe public place and call the police on 999



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5. If you are unsure of what to do – call your Refugee Action caseworker immediately and follow their instructions.

What do I do if I am outside of my accommodation, and I have received a text alert that there is far right activity at my hotel?

1. **Do not return to your hotel until you have been told it is safe to do so**
2. Find a safe public location to wait or stay with a friend and await further information from Refugee Action
3. If you receive a text alert from the hotel or Refugee Action advising you of an incident at the hotel, text your caseworker to let them know you are outside of the hotel. Make sure they have a phone number for you.
4. Refugee Action will keep you updated with what to do next and will let you know when it is safe to return.

Things you can do to keep yourself safe:

1. Make sure Refugee Action staff have your up to date phone number and next of kin information
2. Before you leave the hotel, make sure you tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be back (this could be a friend or family member)
3. When you return to the hotel, make sure you tell someone you are back
4. Make sure your phone is charged and you have emergency numbers saved in your phone
5. Sign in and out of the hotel book at reception – this is so we know who is onsite and can ensure we are looking after everyone's safety
6. **BE ALERT & AWARE** – make sure you are aware of your surroundings when you leave the hotel and when you are out and about. If you think your safety is at threat at any time, call the police on 999

If you have any worries about far right activity or you would like more information please speak to your Refugee Action caseworker