

'Riot Busters' Commission Formed to Address Community Tensions and Prevent Future Unrest

A new independent task force has been launched to examine the causes of recent unrest in parts of the UK and explore ways to ease growing community tensions. The initiative, formally titled the Independent Commission on Community Cohesion and Disorder, brings together 21 public figures and is co-chaired by former Conservative Home Secretary Sir Sajid Javid and former Labour MP Jon Cruddas.

The commission was formed in response to disturbances last year in towns such as Southport and Sunderland, which prompted concern about rising division, frustration, and alienation in communities across the country. Rather than treating these incidents as isolated or spontaneous, the task force will investigate underlying causes, including social inequality, mistrust in institutions, and the impact of online misinformation.

Sir Sajid Javid described the move as long overdue, suggesting that successive governments have failed to give serious attention to the deeper social issues that contribute to disorder. He argued that a more focused, long-term approach is needed to prevent tensions from escalating. Jon Cruddas echoed that view, emphasising the commission's aim to listen directly to communities and develop practical recommendations based on real-world experience.

Among those joining the taskforce are faith leaders, business figures, academics, and commentators from a range of political and social backgrounds. The group includes Dame Sara Khan, Lord Bilimoria, and writer Tim Montgomerie. Their role will involve evidence-gathering, community visits, and public discussions over the next year to produce a final report outlining proposals to strengthen cohesion and public trust.

The initiative has received support from across the political spectrum. Prime Minister Keir Starmer welcomed the commission, stating that it reflects a shared recognition that communities are under pressure and that preventative work is essential.

While the commission itself is independent, its findings are expected to inform wider policy thinking. The first meeting is due this week, beginning what its organisers hope will be a constructive and open process. As the commission sets out its work, it aims to offer a practical, evidence-based approach to building stronger community ties and reducing the risk of further unrest.