Written Submission from Andrew Garcarz

This submission is sent in my personal capacity as a resident of the Tyburn Ward of the Birmingham Erdington Parliamentary Constituency.

Personal Summary:

1. I was born in Birmingham England in 1956, the only son of a Birmingham Woman and a British naturalised Polish Citizen [Wladyslaw Garncarz] who came to the UK during the Second World War to fight against racism, fascism, European domination and aggression.

2. I was raised, educated, worked and live in the area that I have called my home for almost all my 60 years, and regard this as MY community. My Father taught me two important life lessons; one, in life you reap what you sow, and two, no one owes you a living and that you have to work for what you want.

3. I am submitting evidence because this topic of Race Hate Crime is without doubt political scaremongering which is being exploited by the Remain ‘establishment’ to further alienate UKIP, by insinuating that it and Brexit is somehow responsible for the perpetuation of racially motivated abuse that has existed in this country for decades.

Executive Summary:

4. I have been subjected to verbal abuse, physical violence, damage to my property and race related comments by members of the eastern European and British community.

5. My home and property have been subject to criminal damage and I have received several abusive and threatening letters through the post, some of the contents of the letters expressed the wish that they hoped I would die of cancer, and/or go back home to Poland.

6. As a child I can vividly recall being referred to as a ‘Polac’ by a science teacher at school when I was eleven or twelve years old. I was also taunted and verbally abused by my school peers, because my surname ‘Garcarz’, was bastardised into things like Garc-arse, and so on.

Written Submission:

1. As a UKIP Party activist, campaigner, prospective parliamentary and council candidate, I was highly visible in my constituency during the 2015 local and general elections and in the 2016 local elections, by actively canvassing and campaigning in my locality.
2. During both these periods I was subject to threats and verbal abuse, physical violence, damage to my property and race-related comments, owing to my polish heritage, my name and the political party I chose to represent.

3. Whilst canvassing in Erdington High Street in April 2015, [Erdington is a Birmingham suburb with a fast growing eastern European population] for the local and parliamentary elections, I was verbally abused and non-violently threatened by a group of Albanian or Serbian teenagers [about 6 or 7 in number] on several occasions. They told me in the foulest language possible, that I was not welcome in their area. I was shouted at from very close quarters and threatened with violence if I did not leave the high street immediately.

4. Having being born less than two miles from that spot and having lived and worked in the locality all my life, and having reasoned that it was my democratic right to campaign, I chose not to move.

5. After one such verbal encounter, the group returned, this time with additional members, and proceeded to destroy my literature stand and my publicity material and physically assault me, knocking me to the floor, kicking me, until a passer-by, a former army soldier as it transpired, intervened and chased them away.

6. I received minor cuts and significant bruising and obviously felt extremely disgusted that this should have happened to me and also extremely grateful that a bystander had chosen to get involved, fearful that I could have suffered much greater injuries.

7. The incident was reported to the local Police who tried to review CCTV, but unfortunately the recordings had not been kept. Needless to say from that point on, I took to canvassing and campaigning with several other party members in close support.

8. During the same period I watched from my house window as a large 8’ x 4’ VOTE UKIP corex board was ripped from my perimeter fence and destroyed by two white youths in a red Ford car. I was unable to prevent their act of vandalism due to the speed at which they pulled up ripped down and destroyed the corex board and departed.

9. When I participated in parliamentary election hustings in 2015, two aggressive white young English men told me that I should not support UKIP because I was of Polish decent, they accosted me and threatened me ‘with a kicking’ after one lively hustings. I recognised one of the men as a member of Jack Dromey’s Labour campaign group.

10. During the same period I received several abusive and threatening letters through the post, because as you will be very much aware, the legal requirement is for an imprint to be included on all material produced for
election purposes, which must contain the name and address of the originator.

11. Some of the contents of the letters expressed the wish that they hoped I would die of cancer, and/or go back home to Poland.

12. I reported these letters to the police who could do nothing but record the fact that they had been received, as they were sent anonymously.

13. Finally, during the 2016 EU Referendum three further EU REFERENDUM signs were forcibly and illegally removed from my property and destroyed, and stones thrown at my house, breaking a window that was displaying a Vote Leave poster.

14. With the exception of the first incident where I was physically attacked, an attack which was carried out by a group of eastern Europeans – both male and female, the other incidents [hate mail excepted] were carried out by young white males, who were in the main, supporters of local Labour MP Jack Dromey. I know this to be correct, because I saw these individuals with him at election counts and at hustings in both 2015 and 2016, and was able to confirmed with him that they were members of his team. This is doubly disgusting because Jack Dromey is one of the loudest voices in the spurious claims of post Brexit Race Hate crime.

15. This topic of Race Hate Crime is without doubt political scaremongering and is being exploited by the Remain ‘establishment’ to further alienate UKIP by insinuating that it and Brexit is somehow responsible for the perpetuation of racially motivated abuse that has existed in this country for decades.

16. Having attended almost all of the Local Neighbourhood Community Tasking Groups in my constituency, and asking the police in attendance how many race related hate crimes are being committed and reported in their areas, the answer is always the same ZERO.

17. The terribly sad case of the Polish man in Essex who was unlawfully killed, was immediately seized upon as a race hate crime, but it transpires that the perpetrators were known to be aggressive and violent to many, and the fact that the man in question was Polish it seems, was unrelated to the crime.

18. With respect to race hate crime, I can vividly recall being referred to as a ‘Polac' by a science teacher at school when I was eleven or twelve years old. I was also taunted and verbally abused by my peers and other teachers at school, because my surname Garcarz, was bastardised into things like Garcarse, and so on. There was no recognition of racially motivated or hate related crime back then, I absorbed it, ignored it and moved on. I was told sticks and stones can break my bones but words can never hurt me! Sound advice, and something that should be re-introduced into society in my humble opinion. It might go a long way towards dispelling this pathetic epidemic of social media bullying. A bit of advice kids, switch your phone off and it goes away.
19. Sadly my community is now a community that has been all but destroyed and decimated by uncontrolled immigration; by the high number of non-English speaking, mostly eastern European young adult males who intimidate and threaten shoppers and local residents; steal from shops and mug and rob pedestrians. They drink excessively, take drugs openly and publicly, urinate in public, often in view of children and pensioners. They prey on the weak and the defenceless and have destroyed a way of life and the values of a community that many hold to be decent, honest and civilised.

20. No one is crying foul because they are turning our community into third world toilet.

21. Where are the voices protesting for the British way of life, for the right to walk freely, unafraid and unhindered on our own streets? If you dare to raise the question, you are immediately vilified and condemned as a racist or a xenophobe or a fascist by those to whom we look to maintain our safety, our security and our way of life, namely our elected parliamentarians.

22. These incoming economic migrants have bitten the hand of friendship, a hand that keeps giving, in terms of social care, housing, welfare, and financial support and all the rest of the benefits that makes the UK such a magnet for them.

23. Their lack of education and skills means that they undercut already low paid employment forcing wages downwards and are directly responsible for a dramatic increase in worker exploitation.

24. We must call an immediate halt on uncontrolled immigration, although I fear it already too late, and that the lasting legacy of Tony Blair and the Labour party is the wholesale destruction of the British way of life, decency, fairness, culture and heritage.

25. I have been on the receiving end of verbal abuse because I have a foreign surname. By the same token I have been on the receiving end of verbal, written and physical abuse and criminal damage because of my political beliefs, perpetrated not by racists but by ideology driven fanatics, extreme left-wing opponents of free speech and democracy. No one seems to want to protect me from that sort of abuse.

26. So now, despite my personal experiences, if someone should get angry or annoyed and shout or swear at THEM or threaten THEM with violence, then as much as it offends me, and although I could never condone it, I really don’t care. They have brought this upon themselves.

November 2016