



YEM UK Public Statement: Belgium Terror Attacks, 22nd March 2016

The Young European Movement UK wishes to express its great sadness at the news of today's attacks on the Belgian capital. We extend our most sincere sympathies to the victims and their families and friends and call upon the people of Europe to stand together in solidarity.

Though the death toll remains to be confirmed, it is clear that these attacks have been devastating not only for Brussels, but for Europe as a whole. Our thoughts are with all of those affected. We are appalled by the cowardly actions of the perpetrators and stand with the British government when we condemn the horrific events of today.

The YEM UK calls upon the people of Europe and their governments to stand in solidarity against such acts of aggression and attacks on our European values. As the European capital itself is attacked, it is more important than ever that we remain united, cooperative and prepared to defend our common principles.

We also condemn racism and xenophobic backlashes following the events of today. Populist parties will attempt to politicise and profit from this human tragedy, and sensationalist media will fan the flames of panic. This is unacceptable. One of Europe's core values is human rights, and we must not let these rights be denied to our fellow citizens on the basis of their parentage, religion or skin colour. It is important in the days that follow that we do not create imaginary divisions and that the difference between the news and propaganda is recognised.

November's attacks in Paris are still fresh in our memories, and just as was the case then, the victims of this violence are not the targets. The survivors are. It is through disrupting the everyday and causing panic amongst the people of Europe that terrorism seeks to cause weaknesses. By turning us against our governments, against the Union and against each other, they would cause us to lose much of our power. It is therefore more important than ever that we stand together as one and defend our values.

This terrorism knows no national borders, and neither will we.