


# Fact Check: UK woman jailed for inciting racial hatred, not posting hurtful words

 [reuters.com/fact-check/uk-woman-jailed-inciting-racial-hatred-not-posting-hurtful-words-2024-10-29](https://reuters.com/fact-check/uk-woman-jailed-inciting-racial-hatred-not-posting-hurtful-words-2024-10-29)

Reuters Fact Check

October 29, 2024



A woman's criminal conviction over an X post she published during Britain's anti-immigration riots has misleadingly been claimed online to be for writing hurtful words.

Lucy Connolly, from Northampton, [was sentenced, opens new tab](#) to two years and seven months in prison on Oct. 17, after [pleading guilty, opens new tab](#) to inciting racial hatred in her July 29 post.

Responding to the sentencing on Oct. 17, [one Facebook user wrote, opens new tab](#): "Lucy Connolly, JAILED for 30 MONTHS this afternoon. 30 months away from her kids for a few 'hurty words' on social media after 3 baby girls were brutally murdered in Southport."

Another post [on X, opens new tab](#) said the conviction was "for posting edgy words on the internet".

This lacks context. Connolly, 41, was convicted for "publishing written material that incited racial hatred", according to [police, opens new tab](#) and [the Crown Prosecution Service, opens new tab](#) (CPS).

[A screenshot, opens new tab](#) of her now deleted X post shows Connolly called for "mass deportation now" and for hotels housing immigrants to be set on fire.

She posted her comments after viewing false information online that an individual who killed three girls in a knife attack in Southport was a Muslim immigrant who arrived in the UK by boat, [according to the CPS, opens new tab](#).

[Reuters reported](#) at the time on the misinformation, which helped fuel [several nights of rioting](#).

Judge Melbourne Inman, sentencing Connolly at Birmingham Crown Court, said Connolly's post had received 310,000 views, according to [an online statement, opens new tab](#) from Northamptonshire Police. He added: "You intended to incite serious violence. What you did encouraged activity which threatened or endangered life."

Frank Ferguson, the head of the CPS's Special Crime and Counter Terrorism Division, also said in [an online statement, opens new tab](#): "Using threatening, abusive or insulting language to rile up racism online is unacceptable and is breaking the law."

"During police interview Lucy Connolly stated she had strong views on immigration, told officers she did not like illegal immigrants and claimed that children were not safe from them. It is not an offence to have strong or differing political views, but it is an offence to incite racial hatred – and that is what Connolly has admitted doing."



Northamptonshire Police and the CPS declined further comment.

## VERDICT

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Missing context. Connolly was jailed for publishing material inciting racial hatred.

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