

## Racism bites

The debate around migration in Britain became ever more toxic in the lead-up to the June referendum on leaving the European Union (EU). The vote left a divided country in its wake, with resurgent racism. In the three months since a small majority opted to exit the EU, racist and xenophobic attacks have soared; migrant-owned businesses and community centres for minority groups have received threats or had their buildings attacked, and reports of hate crime went up by 42 per cent.

In response, activists have stepped up anti-racism efforts. These range from 'stand together' solidarity events with European migrants to Black Lives Matter demonstrations against police brutality.

One initiative, [istreetwatch.co.uk](http://istreetwatch.co.uk),

tracks incidents of racism and xenophobia, which can be uploaded anonymously onto a national map. A platform led by people of colour, its reports include a bus passenger in Manchester who was told to 'go back to Africa' while men threw beer at him, and a Romanian couple told: 'we voted out – go home', in a Cornish supermarket.

Importantly, [istreetwatch](http://istreetwatch.co.uk) also records whether anyone intervened or supported the people targeted. Another effort to bring people together after Brexit is Hope Not Hate's #MoreInCommon campaign, which has held over 100 local meetings since the referendum.

'There are so many things that a community can do to overcome the hatred and fear that is being fuelled by the media and some political parties,' says Tatiana Garavito, a Colombian activist with Hope Not Hate. She will

live in eight cities over the next two years, working to encourage people who are not normally at the forefront of movements – migrants, refugees and communities of colour – to organize on their own terms. ■

**Amy Hall**