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Dear Friends,

We are all aware of the shocking and tragic attacks in Paris; first and foremost I would like to express our heartfelt prayers and wishes to all those involved and to the nation of France.

We are still in the early stages of learning about what took place but I would like to reassure you that we acted very quickly during Friday night and have implemented a policing plan that will see more visible policing in many parts of London. I would like to stress that this is NOT in response to any specific intelligence relating to London or any specific community, rather our concern about how communities may be feeling.

I am writing to you today, to personally ask for your support, as I recognize that communities may naturally feel a sense of unease and I hope you can pass on my message to help reassure them. I would be grateful if you could use your networks and messaging systems to reach as many of your community members as possible to convey the following message;

Officers and uniformed police staff will be out and about as part of London's community life. They welcome members of the community approaching them and will do their best to help reassure them.

If any members of the community spots anything unusual that they do not feel happy about then please report this to the police dialling 101, or the Anti-Terrorist Hotline 0800 789 321. If it is urgent please dial 999.

It is with regret, but something that we have come to realize through experience, that hate crime can increase in these difficult times and I would ask that any hate crime is immediately reported. I assure you that it will receive a fast response and be dealt with by specialist officers.

On a final note, and I know I speak for all of us in saying that #westandtogether with Paris, with France and as communities together we can send out a strong message of defiance against those who seek to terrorise us.

Please can I ask you to encourage all of our communities to simply send the message that "we will always stand together" on twitter and other social media.

Thank you for your continued support and friendship,

With my best wishes.

Mak CHISHTY
Commander, Community Engagement, Metropolitan Police Service

Regards,

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