

RACIAL INCIDENT RESPONSE GROUP

LEAFLET LAUNCH

The official launch of the R.I.R.G. Leaflet Campaign called "Racial Abuse is a Crime" took place on Saturday 18 November at the Tesco Superstore, Broadfields, Aylesbury. The campaign, which encourages victims of racial abuse to report it to the authorities, was widely supported by the County Council. Those present included Mr Stephen Kennell (County Councillor), Mr Ian Crookall (Chief Officer of the Council), Ros Vahey, Kerry Furness, David Collinson, Riffat Rehman and Geraldine White.

A wide mix of people from varying Aylesbury Communities was present at the Superstore and heard Mr Ron Gardner welcome Mrs Cherie Blair, the guest of honour. In a prepared speech Mrs Blair denounced racial abuse as a "scourge on any civilised society". Everyone should feel welcome in this country. After distributing leaflets and posing for photographs, there was a chance to mix informally over a buffet laid on by Tesco.

The Racial Incident Response Group is a multi-agency group formed in 1992 to monitor the level of racial incidents in the Aylesbury Vale area and to take appropriate actions to eliminate these offences.

The leaflet is written in several languages, including Urdu and Pashtoon and contains a list of useful numbers for victims to call.

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