



8th January 2004

Press Release

FAIR is Appalled and Outraged by Robert Kilroy-Silk's Latest Racist and Islamophobic Comments

FAIR is appalled and dismayed by the comments made by Robert Kilroy-Silk in his column ("We Owe Arabs Nothing", 4th Jan 2004) in the weekly Express on Sunday. Robert Kilroy-Silk has been permitted for far too long to make discriminating comments which are both Islamophobic and racist.

FAIR is saddened that little action has been taken against him by his employers, the Express on Sunday or the BBC. Furthermore, FAIR believes that Mr Kilroy's views do not correspond with his position as a prominent presenter for the BBC in a prime time show.

The TV presenter and columnist said of Arab countries: "Few of them make much contribution to the welfare of the rest of the world. Indeed, apart from oil - which was discovered, is produced and paid for by the West - what do they contribute?"

He went on to add: "Can you think of anything? Anything really useful? Anything really valuable? Something we really need, could not do without?"

Not only are Mr. Kilroy's comments unfounded and thus bear no truth but they have the potential to inflame the anti-Arab and Islamophobic sentiments during these sensitive times.

FAIR urge the Muslim community to write to the Express on Sunday and BBC to voice their concerns and demand an apology.

[Ends]

FAIR FUNDING APPEAL

FAIR is an independent voluntary sector organisation established for the purpose of raising awareness of and combating Islamophobia and racism, monitoring specific incidents of Islamophobia and racism, working towards eliminating religious and racial discrimination, and campaigning and lobbying on issues relevant to Muslims and other multi-ethnic communities in Britain.

We have several projects to tackle each of these areas, and we are making a significant progress.

- 1. Faith & Positive Images**
- 2. Equality Casework Monitoring**
- 3. Media & Popular Culture Watch**
- 4. Policy Research & Lobbying**

Further details on each of these projects are available on our website, www.fairuk.org

FAIR is always in need of charitable donations in order to continue our work.

Donations of any size are always valued and much appreciated. At the end of every year we will be able to give you a breakdown of exactly where the money you have donated is spent.

To make a donation, please visit our website at <http://www.fairuk.org/howtohelp.htm> or contact us on the details below

FAIR
Suite 11
Grove House
320 Kensal Road
London
W10 5BZ

t: 020 8969 7373
f: 020 8969 7358

e: fair@fairuk.org
w: www.fairuk.org
Registered Charity No. 1100985