



## **INDEPENDENT COMMISSION FOR EQUITY IN CRICKET (ICEC) STATEMENT ON AZEEM RAFIQ CASE**

ICEC Chair Cindy Butts said:

"We commend Azeem Rafiq for the bravery he has shown in speaking up and shining a light on the racism he said he experienced as a Yorkshire Cricketer. We note with concern that the Independent Panel, chaired by Dr. Samir Pathak, concluded that several of the allegations made by Azeem were upheld and that he was the victim of inappropriate behaviour. We await a copy of the report but recognise both the pain and the distress of participating in an investigation into these matters. It is critical that Azeem, and others who gave evidence, receive appropriate support and we are seeking assurances that this is the case.

"The Commission aims to conduct a thorough examination of how ECB-governed cricketing organisations approach complaints of racism and wider discrimination, and will consider the panel's report and its implications. We will be reaching out to Azeem and others to speak to us as part of our work to build the body of evidence needed to promote meaningful and sustainable changes to the game.

"Our call for evidence launches in the Autumn 2021 and we are keen to hear from anyone who has experienced discrimination in cricket. We encourage all to take this opportunity to share their experiences and will provide opportunities to individuals to disclose both confidentially and anonymously to the Commission. Our work will conclude in the Summer 2022 wherein we will publish our final report with recommendations designed to make cricket a genuinely equal and inclusive sport."

See website for more info: <https://theicec.com>

ICEC Terms of Reference: <https://theicec.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ICEC-Terms-of-Reference.pdf>