

The UK's institutional support for racism is now...

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Like many I watched the verdicts being delivered in the Derek Chauvin trial last night, and gasped in surprise and relief that a man so obviously guilty of murder will serve a sentence for doing so.

As was made clear, at least in the BBC News Channel's prior reporting (which was excellent), Joe Biden had been in contact with the family of George Floyd before the verdicts were announced, and stated his desire for the 'right outcome'.

The USA got that right outcome. I am relieved.

At the same time we live in a country where the Prime Minister is in denial with regard to the Black Lives Matter movement. Instead he organises reports that provide institutional support for racism. And he refers to those who care as woke, using it as a term of abuse, and ridicule.

I am under no illusion that the USA is going to see an end to the persistent pattern of killings by the police as a consequence of this verdict. It must, however, have an impact. The sight of Derek Chauvin leaving court in handcuffs cannot, and should not, have gone unnoticed.

I hope it is noticed here too. The UK's institutional support for racism is now a cause for national shame. It has to end.

Justice needs to be done.