# Lucy Connolly appeals 31-month sentence over incendiary asylum seeker tweet amid Southport stabbing fallout



Lucy Connolly, the wife of a former Conservative councillor, is preparing to appeal her 31-month prison sentence following a contentious social media post that incited racial hatred. This bid for appeal is set to be heard at the Court of Appeal in London, and it comes after Connolly was jailed for her inflammatory remarks made on the day of the tragic Southport stabbings in July 2024, which resulted in the deaths of three young girls.

On July 29, 2024, Connolly took to X (formerly Twitter) to express her violent sentiments towards asylum seekers, posting, "Mass deportation now, set fire to all the f***\**\* hotels full of the b\*** for all I care... if that makes me racist so be it." This post not only drew widespread condemnation but was also seen as particularly dangerous in the wake of the elevated tensions surrounding the Southport incident. Within a mere three-and-a-half hours, her message garnered over 310,000 views before it was hastily deleted, but not before being widely shared and commented upon.

Judge Melbourne Inman KC, presiding over her case at Birmingham Crown Court, highlighted the volatility of the situation during sentencing. His remarks emphasized Connolly's awareness of the charged atmosphere that had emerged following the attack, which had unleashed a wave of unrest across various communities, including serious violence in Rotherham. The judge remarked that Connolly’s words had played a pivotal role in inciting further disorder by encouraging actions that could endanger lives.

The catalyst for Connolly's outburst was the brutal Southport stabbings, where 17-year-old Axel Muganwa Rudakubana attacked a group of children, leading to a national outcry and increased scrutiny over the treatment of migrants. The public's response to the stabbings included a backlash that manifested itself in protests against immigration policy across the country, particularly focusing on hotels housing asylum seekers. As the outrage surged, Connolly’s statements further inflamed the situation, which authorities condemned as both irresponsible and inflammatory.

Connolly's husband, Raymond Connolly, who served as a Tory councillor until losing his seat earlier in the year, has expressed his belief that the severity of her sentence is disproportionate and politically motivated, stating that it reflects a troubling example of two-tier justice in modern Britain. His remarks echo those of former Prime Minister Liz Truss, who has called for Connolly’s release, arguing that the punishment is unwarranted and indicative of a wider societal issue regarding free speech and the judicial system’s response to it.

Despite these claims, Connolly’s social media history has come under scrutiny, revealing a pattern of racist remarks, including a tweet that suggested a connection between asylum seekers and violent crime. Her supporters argue that her current incarceration highlights a punitive approach to free speech, raising questions about the balance between protecting public order and maintaining civil liberties.

As Connolly awaits her appeal, tensions remain high surrounding not just her case but also the broader conversation about immigration and public sentiment in the UK. In the backdrop of her legal battle, concern lingers regarding the impact of such inflammatory rhetoric on community relations and public safety, especially following an incident that has already deeply scarred the nation.

While Lucy Connolly's case continues to unfold in the courts, it serves as a reminder of the fragile lines between free expression and incitement, and how social media can be a double-edged sword in a climate of heightened emotions and societal divisions.

### Reference Map

1. Articles (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14703385/Lucy-Connolly-fight-jail-term-Southport-attack.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2024-10-17/childminder-behind-burn-down-migrant-hotels-post-is-jailed> - Lucy Connolly, a 41-year-old childminder from Northampton, was sentenced to two years and seven months in prison after pleading guilty to inciting racial hatred. She had posted a message on X (formerly Twitter) calling for attacks on hotels housing asylum seekers, following the Southport stabbings that resulted in the deaths of three young girls. The post was viewed 310,000 times and shared 940 times. Judge Melbourne Inman KC stated that Connolly was 'well aware of how volatile the situation was' when she published the message, which led to 'serious disorder where mindless violence was used.'
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/oct/17/wife-tory-councillor-jailed-lucy-connolly-racial-hatred-southport-attack> - Lucy Connolly, wife of Conservative councillor Raymond Connolly, was sentenced to 31 months in prison after pleading guilty to inciting racial hatred. She had posted a message on X calling for mass deportation and attacks on hotels housing asylum seekers, following the Southport stabbings that killed three young girls. The post was viewed 310,000 times and shared 940 times. Judge Melbourne Inman KC noted that Connolly was 'well aware of how volatile the situation was' when she published the message, which led to 'serious disorder where mindless violence was used.'
4. <https://www.wired-gov.net/wg/news.nsf/articles/Childminder+admits+inciting+racial+hatred+over+social+media+post+03092024142000> - Lucy Connolly, a 41-year-old childminder from Northampton, admitted to inciting racial hatred after posting a message on X (formerly Twitter) calling for attacks on hotels housing asylum seekers. The post was made on the day of the Southport stabbings, which resulted in the deaths of three young girls. Connolly's message was viewed 310,000 times and shared 940 times. She was sentenced to 31 months in prison at Birmingham Crown Court. The Crown Prosecution Service emphasized that using threatening, abusive, or insulting language to incite racism online is unacceptable and against the law.
5. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/birmingham-crown-court-conservative-southport-mailonline-birmingham-b1188887.html> - Lucy Connolly, wife of Conservative councillor Raymond Connolly, was sentenced to 31 months in prison after pleading guilty to inciting racial hatred. She had posted a message on X (formerly Twitter) calling for mass deportation and attacks on hotels housing asylum seekers, following the Southport stabbings that killed three young girls. The post was viewed 310,000 times and shared 940 times. Connolly's husband stated that she plans to appeal against the sentence, which he believes was political.
6. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/tory-councillors-wife-admits-making-33584277> - Lucy Connolly, wife of Conservative councillor Raymond Connolly, admitted to sending a social media message stirring up racial hatred against asylum seekers on the day of the Southport attacks. She pleaded guilty at Northampton Crown Court to a charge of inciting racial hatred by publishing and distributing 'threatening or abusive' written material on X (formerly Twitter). The post was viewed 310,000 times and shared 940 times. Connolly was remanded in custody, with sentencing scheduled for October 17 at Birmingham Crown Court.
7. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2024_Southport_stabbings> - The 2024 Southport stabbings occurred on July 29, 2024, when a 17-year-old male, Axel Muganwa Rudakubana, attacked a group of children attending a Taylor Swift-themed dance class in Southport, Merseyside. The attack resulted in the deaths of three young girls and injuries to eight other children and two adults. Rudakubana was charged with multiple counts, including murder and attempted murder. In January 2025, he pleaded guilty to all charges and was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 52 years. The case led to widespread public concern and discussions about online incitement and racial hatred.