# Police explain refusal of permission for amplified Christian preaching at King's Cross amid wider debate on religious expression



Police have clarified the reasons for asking a Christian group to cease preaching outside London’s bustling King's Cross station, after a video circulated showing a female British Transport Police officer telling the evangelists to stop spreading their gospel. The officer cited concerns over the loudness of their message and the disruption to commuters passing through the busy concourse between King’s Cross and St Pancras International, an area handling nearly 60 million passengers annually. The officer’s comment, “I just think it’s wrong,” sparked online debate about whether her personal views were influencing the enforcement action.

British Transport Police explained that the group was asked to move on because they were using a loudspeaker without the necessary permission from Network Rail, as amplification in that private land area requires prior approval. A spokesperson emphasised the force’s respect for religious expression and confirmed that a senior officer is currently reviewing the incident. The Christian group’s leader, Mon B of Mad 4 Jesus Ministries, claimed the police officer gave an “unnecessary” opinion alongside enforcing the rule. The interaction gained further attention as videos showed a different police officer later praying with the group, suggesting some level of mutual respect.

This occurrence follows a pattern of contentious encounters between police and Christian preachers or performers in London. In early 2023, the Metropolitan Police apologised after a volunteer officer was found to have mistakenly told Christian singer Harmonie London she could not perform church songs outside church grounds—a claim that was deemed to infringe her rights to freedom of expression and religion. The Met clarified that any issue was related to unlicensed busking, not the religious content, and expressed regret for the offence caused.

Similarly, in February 2024, the Metropolitan Police in Uxbridge threatened arrest to Christian preachers following a public complaint alleging “hate crimes” under new restrictions imposed by a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). These orders, adopted by some London boroughs like Hillingdon, restrict activities such as amplification and distribution of literature in certain public spaces, sparking concerns about the suppression of religious speech. The preachers involved, including Pastor Dwayne Lopez, protested that their messages, based on Biblical scripture, were peaceful expressions of faith rather than hate speech.

The use of PSPOs to regulate public preaching is not unique to London. In April 2025, Leicester City Council introduced a similar PSPO targeting anti-social behaviour, including loud music and e-scooter use, and applied it to religious groups using loudspeakers near central landmarks. Members of Christian and Islamic organisations felt unfairly targeted for exercising their free speech rights, highlighting the broader tension between public order enforcement and religious freedoms in urban centres.

Meanwhile, Network Rail has faced related controversies over religious messaging at King's Cross. In March 2024, it removed an Islamic Hadith message displayed on the station’s main departure board following passenger complaints, stating the board should be reserved for train information. This led to an internal investigation and sparked calls from Christian groups for Bible scriptures to be displayed at Easter, further illustrating the delicate balance Network Rail must maintain in managing religious expression on its property.

London’s King's Cross station has also witnessed disruptions from other activist actions, such as protests in 2018 that briefly closed the station and halted train services. These varied incidents underline the challenges of policing a high-traffic transport hub where diverse expressions of belief and protest intersect with the need to maintain order and service efficiency.

As the review into the recent incident with the Christian preachers unfolds, the case underscores the ongoing debate in London and beyond about how best to respect freedom of religious expression while managing public spaces and maintaining safety and convenience for the millions who pass through every year.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14834877/police-Christians-preaching-London-station-review-senior-officer.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-68617438)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14834877/police-Christians-preaching-London-station-review-senior-officer.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14834877/police-Christians-preaching-London-station-review-senior-officer.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14834877/police-Christians-preaching-London-station-review-senior-officer.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 5 – [[2]](https://christianconcern.com/ccpressreleases/police-weaponise-pspo-to-threaten-arrest-and-shut-down-christian-preaching-in-london/), [[7]](https://www2.cbn.com/news/world/london-police-threaten-arrest-more-christian-street-preachers)
* Paragraph 6 – [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czjne11vmkro)
* Paragraph 7 – [[4]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-68617438), [[5]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/03/20/investigation-launched-kings-cross-station-ramadan-messages/)
* Paragraph 8 – [[6]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/03/11/manchester-piccadilly-london-kings-cross-close-protesters-tracks/)
* Paragraph 9 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14834877/police-Christians-preaching-London-station-review-senior-officer.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14834877/police-Christians-preaching-London-station-review-senior-officer.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://christianconcern.com/ccpressreleases/police-weaponise-pspo-to-threaten-arrest-and-shut-down-christian-preaching-in-london/> - In February 2024, the Metropolitan Police in Uxbridge, London, threatened to arrest Christian preachers for alleged 'hate crimes' and breaches of anti-social behaviour laws. This action followed the implementation of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) by the London Borough of Hillingdon, which restricts activities such as amplification and distribution of literature in Uxbridge Town Centre. The preachers, including Pastor Dwayne Lopez, were confronted by police after a public complaint about their preaching, leading to concerns about the suppression of religious expression. ([christianconcern.com](https://christianconcern.com/ccpressreleases/police-weaponise-pspo-to-threaten-arrest-and-shut-down-christian-preaching-in-london/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czjne11vmkro> - In April 2025, Leicester City Council introduced a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to address issues like e-scooter use, loud music, and begging in the city centre. Religious groups, including Christian and Islamic organisations, received anti-social behaviour warning notices for using loudspeakers and setting up stalls near the Clock Tower. Members of these groups felt they were being unfairly targeted for exercising their right to religious free speech. ([bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czjne11vmkro?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-68617438> - In March 2024, Network Rail removed an Islamic message displayed on the departure board at London King's Cross station after complaints from passengers. The message, a Hadith of the day, was intended to celebrate Ramadan as part of a diversity initiative. Network Rail stated that the main departure board should be reserved for train information and acknowledged that general Ramadan celebratory messages were not used, prompting an internal investigation. ([bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-68617438?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/03/20/investigation-launched-kings-cross-station-ramadan-messages/> - Following the display of an Islamic Hadith on the departure board at London King's Cross station in March 2024, Network Rail launched an investigation into the incident. The message, intended to celebrate Ramadan, sparked criticism and demands from Christians for Bible scriptures to be displayed to mark Easter. Network Rail acknowledged the issue and stated that the main departure board should be reserved for train information, leading to the removal of the message and an internal review. ([telegraph.co.uk](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/03/20/investigation-launched-kings-cross-station-ramadan-messages/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/03/11/manchester-piccadilly-london-kings-cross-close-protesters-tracks/> - In March 2018, protests disrupted train services at Manchester Piccadilly and London King's Cross stations. Activists occupied the tracks at Manchester Piccadilly, halting services, while a similar protest outside King's Cross led to the station's closure. Some trains were diverted, and services were revised until the station reopened in the evening. The protests were believed to be in opposition to Turkey's war with Syrian Kurds. ([telegraph.co.uk](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/03/11/manchester-piccadilly-london-kings-cross-close-protesters-tracks/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www2.cbn.com/news/world/london-police-threaten-arrest-more-christian-street-preachers> - In February 2024, London's Metropolitan Police threatened to arrest Christian street preachers accused of making 'homophobic' comments. The incident occurred outside a west London shopping centre after someone complained about the preachers' message. Officers explained that preaching could be a criminal offence if it caused harassment, alarm, or distress. The preachers protested their innocence, highlighting concerns over the suppression of religious expression. ([www2.cbn.com](https://www2.cbn.com/news/world/london-police-threaten-arrest-more-christian-street-preachers?utm_source=openai))