



Katie Hopkins & the need for an independent media complaints commission

We were absolutely horrified by the racist rant written by Katie Hopkins but published in the Sun. This article should never have been published. A responsible media would not have published [an article likening migrants to cockroaches and referring to them as a "plague of feral humans"](#)*. Frankly, a responsible media wouldn't publish most of the stories on migrants in the mainstream media (including the Daily Mail, BBC, and those supposed liberal papers: the Guardian and the Independent), which are always short on fact and large on hyperbolic myths and derogatory statements about migrants.

We understand that Hopkins has been reported to the police for hate crimes. We would hope that any hate crime investigation would include not only Hopkins but her editors and other high-level management who would have given the ok to such a piece. Hopkins only had a platform to spew such vile hatred of migrants because of senior management at the Sun. They too should be held accountable.

This is also why we need an independent press complaints commission with actual power to hold media accountable for perpetrating hate crimes. Free speech does not include the right to publish racist statements exhorting the deaths of millions of migrant workers who are leaving their homes because of the destruction caused by unfettered capitalism. Poverty is rife throughout much of Africa as a direct result of ongoing colonialist, white-supremacist practises perpetrated by our governments and multi-national corporations.

Katie Hopkin's article was vile, but it isn't the only racist screed published in the UK media on a daily basis. We need to stop consuming these media outlets, but ignoring them isn't a useful tactic. We must hold them accountable in the criminal courts and via a press commission that has the authority to penalise media.

*The link is to an article in the Independent, not the Sun.