Riots to Resilience: Five ways to turn lessons into action after the racist and Islamophobic riots of August 2024









"I have never seen an issue ignite the sector so rapidly. It has been really positive; people are trying to work together and enact systemic change."

Local infrastructure organisation, North England



About this piece of work



The idea

The VCS Emergencies Partnership wanted to understand the human response to the racist riots, particularly the VCS response, and lessons we can learn for the future

Neighbourly Lab carried out this piece of work with VCS Emergencies Partnership



Deep listening and call for evidence

To gather insights and examples of responses to the riots, we conducted a series of 18 interviews with people from local and national organisations, and disseminated a Call for Evidence questionnaire with 62 responses

Breadth and depth in understanding



Consolidating the findings and co-creating the key themes

Insights and recommendations were built on and validated by local partners.

Relevant and resonant outputs



Reporting and Impact Gallery

Widely sharing a useful document and inspirational examples to support with future challenges

Dissemination and amplification of emerging lessons



Five ways to build resilience for future emergencies

1.

Know your communities

Strengthening connections across organisations of different size, scale and sector

2.

Know your leaders

Effective collaboration to lead the response and recovery

3.

Know your places

Identify the places and spaces that are open to everyone during an emergency of this type 4.

Know your sources of information

Minimising dis and misinformation through trusted communication channels **5**.

Know your history

Harnessing local memory and mobilising unofficial leaders to inspire young people and help with healing



Framework recommendations: A summary of the five ways to build resilience

1.

Know your communities

Conduct local outreach and understand who makes up your communities

Identify networks of trust with direct communication lines

Nurture and update community connections and contacts

2.

Know your leaders

Highlight the knowledge, skills and awareness necessary to lead in this type of situation and understand how it is different from other emergencies

Ensure community groups know who is leading different parts of response

Develop a network where formal resilience leaders and community leaders can collaborate 3.

Know your places

Explore a map of local spaces / business that are designated as safe for vulnerable residents, centralised to coordinate for allies/volunteers

Make a list of these spaces available to all and keep it updated

Add a list of safe places to crisis management plans

4

Know your sources of information

Support a diverse range of community groups to be connected to emergency planning teams

Help communities know who to follow for up-to-date, trusted and safe information to reduce disinformation

Support local and responsible journalism, that brings communities together

5.

Know your history

Harness lived experiences and document it to shape community preparedness

Develop outreach programmes so young people can hear these stories and experiences

Work in a place-based intercommunity way so that there is mixing across lines of difference



For further information on how to join the VCS Emergencies Partnership, please contact:

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