



Media Release

International Association of Women Police – Community Service Award, 2021 Constable Tara Duffy, Metropolitan Police, UK

Constable Tara Duffy joined the Metropolitan Police in 2009. She is a recognised Hate Crime subject matter expert and performs two distinct roles within the Southeast Basic Command Unit (BCU), Faith Engagement Officer and Hate Crime Coordination Officer. These are usually performed by separate officers within other BCUs.

Constable Duffy has been instrumental in improving her BCUs performance in Hate Crime Matters and over the past year she has delivered training to all officers on the BCU, producing several well received training packages and PowerPoint presentations to do this. She has helped in advising a Sgt in his roll-out of 'Safe Haven Super Hubs', delivering training to over 50 youth workers and is championing these hubs within the community – showing her ongoing commitment to BAME communities on the BCU. Constable Duffy was also instrumental in the Stop Hate UK Hate Crime Hotline roll-out in Lewisham Borough in partnership with the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust, which as PC Duffy says, 'is a big deal in the hate crime world' and a first for London.

The Black Lives Matter movement in 2020 had a significant impact on the communities Constable Duffy works with, but also many of her colleagues. She completed a course in Equality and Inclusion to complement her growing knowledge of problems faced by different groups of people across London. Using this knowledge, she began to look at what support was currently offered to Black, Asian, and ethnic minority officers on her BCU. Joining a working group, Constable Duffy conducted research and a local network was created to assist in continued support for officers.

This has been a difficult year for engagement with communities as London became gripped by Covid-19 and lockdown. Constable Duffy has managed to continue maintaining existing links with faith groups and in forging new relationships, particularly with black majority Christian churches, local Islamic centres, Hindu temples, Sikh Gurdwaras and Jewish synagogues on all three boroughs. She understands the importance of maintaining these relationships particularly in times of crisis. Constable Duffy has been a key figure in the SE BCUs approach to ensuring local communities had the knowledge of what was required for the various lockdowns and restriction changes. Working with places of worship, she ensured that no place of worship was subject to a closure order or breach of guidance fine, working with faith leaders to get messages out within the faith networks and the wider community. Constable Duffy has gone out of her way over the past year to maintain these relationships by holding regular Zoom meetings with local faith Leaders and local authority representatives (such as with the Lewisham Inter Faith Forum - LIF) as well as continuing socially distanced visiting to faith venues when able.

IAWP President Deborah Friedl, "The IAWP is so pleased to recognize the outstanding work of our colleagues in law enforcement. Their stories exemplify that with the right tools, training and opportunity, women excel in policing and keep our communities safer."

The **Mission** of the IAWP is: To strengthen, unite and raise the capacity of women in policing internationally. The **Vision**: IAWP envisions a world where police reflect the diversity of the communities they serve and where human rights are protected.

For more information about IAWP visit www.iawp.org

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