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TEXT 1**England continues to reel after racist reaction to Euro 2020 loss**

By Cindy Boren, July 13, 2021

1. Marcus Rashford, one of three Black players who missed penalty kicks during England's disappointing loss to Italy in the European Championship final, said he "felt as if I'd let everyone down" in a heartfelt note to fans on social media.
2. The ugliness included the defacing of a huge mural that features Rashford in Withington. The words were quickly covered, but the sentiment was unmistakable, and police in the Manchester suburb were investigating the incident, which occurred not far from where Rashford grew up.
3. Residents quickly covered part of the mural, a photograph by Daniel Cheetham on the side of the Coffee House Café, with messages of support. "It's not right," Peter Doherty, the café's owner, told the BBC. "It's not the first time this has happened, either. It takes such guts to get up and take a penalty. We need to take a look at ourselves as England fans. You'd think after the year we've had we'd be hugging each other, not hating each other."
4. British politicians and public figures were quick to denounce the racist abuse faced by the black players following the team's loss Sunday.
5. Rashford's penalty kick struck the goal post, and Jadon Sancho also missed before the team's final attempt, by Bukayo Saka, was stopped, dashing England's hopes for its first championship in 55 years. On Monday, Rashford's statement said he had relived his kick over and over.
6. "I don't even know where to start and I don't even know how to put into words how I am feeling at this exact time," he wrote. "I've had a difficult season, I think that's been clear for everyone to see and I probably went into that final with a lack of confidence. I've always backed myself for a penalty, but something didn't feel quite right.
7. "During the long run-up I was saving myself a bit of time and unfortunately the result was not what I wanted. I felt as though I had let my teammates down. I felt

as if I'd let everyone down."

8. He went on to say he knew that as a soccer player he "expected to read things written about myself," but the racist reaction to the loss, quickly condemned by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Prince William and the Football Association, was something different.
9. Johnson said at a Monday evening news conference that those directing abuse should "crawl back under the rock which you emerged." On Tuesday night, Johnson was planning to hold talks about online abuse with companies including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at 10 Downing Street, the prime minister's office.
10. But there has been a backlash to the backlash.
11. The Johnson administration has come under fire by those who say it has aided in fueling the abuse directed at players by not doing more to condemn those booing the players taking a knee.
12. Broadcaster and historian David Olusoga tweeted that the Johnson government calling technology reps into Downing Street was "akin to an arsonist calling out the fire brigade."
13. "They had the chance to condemn racism, four weeks ago. Instead they gave a wink to the racists and misrepresented what taking the knee means," he said.
14. Home Secretary Priti Patel wrote on Twitter that the racist abuse was "vile" and said it has "no place in our country and I back the police to hold those responsible accountable."
15. Responding to her tweet, England footballer Tyrone Mings said: "You don't get to stoke the fire at the beginning of the tournament by labelling our anti-racism message as 'Gesture Politics' & then pretend to be disgusted when the very thing we're campaigning against, happens."
16. Conservative lawmaker Johnny Mercer, a former defense minister, responded to Mings's tweet saying: "The painful truth is that this guy is completely right. Very uncomfortable with the position we Conservatives are needlessly forcing ourselves into. Do I fight it or stay silent? Modern Conservatism was always so

much more to me. We must not lose our way.”

17. Opposition Labour politicians also have criticized the government. Angela Rayner, deputy Labour leader, tweeted: “Boris Johnson and Priti Patel are like arsonists complaining about a fire they poured petrol on. Total hypocrites.”
18. At the start of the Euro 2020 tournament, England players took a knee to protest racial inequality, a gesture inspired by NFL player Colin Kaepernick. Johnson initially failed to condemn those booing, but later his office said the prime minister wanted to “see everybody get behind the team to cheer them on, not boo.”
19. Last month, in an interview with GB News, Patel was asked about players kneeling before games to protest racial injustice. She said: “I just don’t support people participating in that type of gesture, gesture politics, to a certain extent, as well.” Asked if England fans were right to boo, she said, “That’s a choice for them, quite frankly.”
20. In his statement Monday, Rashford expressed appreciation for the support fans have shown. “The messages I’ve received today have been positively overwhelming and seeing the response in Withington had me on the verge of tears. The communities that always wrapped their arms around me continue to hold me up.
21. “I’m Marcus Rashford, a 23-year-old Black man from Withington and Wythenshawe, South Manchester. If I have nothing else I have that. For all the kind messages thank you. I’ll be back stronger. We’ll be back stronger.”

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/2021/07/13/marcus-rashford-euro-2020-racist-reaction/>

TEXT 2A: Euro 2020 crowds driving rise in COVID-19 infections, says WHO

Crowds at Euro 2020 football stadiums and in pubs and bars in host cities are driving the current rise in coronavirus infections in Europe, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Thursday.

A 10-week decline in new coronavirus infections across the region has come to an end and a new wave of infections is inevitable if football fans and others drop their guard, according to WHO. Last week, the number of new cases rose by 10%, driven by mixing of crowds in Euro 2020 host cities, travel and easing of social restrictions, WHO said.

"We need to look much beyond just the stadiums themselves," WHO's senior emergency officer, Catherine Smallwood, told reporters.

"We need to look at how people get there, are they travelling in large crowded convoys of buses? And when they leave the stadiums, are they going into crowded bars and pubs to watch the matches? "It is these small continuous events that are driving the spread of the virus," Smallwood said.

The rise in new COVID-19 cases is happening as the more contagious Delta virus variant spreads rapidly across Europe.

Adapted from: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/who-warns-third-coronavirus-wave-europe-2021-07-01/>

TEXT 2B: Vaccine 'obstinance' is fueling Delta variant's spread across America

Experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that Delta represents 58% of all new cases in the United States. In some places, it has almost completely overtaken other coronavirus strains in just two months.

The places being overrun by Delta share something uniquely American: Despite overflowing supply of vaccines and strong evidence that they protect against the new variant, large numbers of residents have declined to inoculate themselves or their adolescent children.

Indeed, 93% of the U.S. counties with the highest rates of new infections have

vaccination rates below 40%. Many of these counties are strongholds of the Delta variant, she added.

Early research suggested it might drive up hospitalizations, though the CDC has not found evidence to back this up. Still, Dr. Mike Ryan, who leads the World Health Organization's Health Emergencies Program, called it "faster" and "fitter" than any strain that has come before it, and it's now fueling outbreaks and deaths in at least 111 countries.

Low vaccination rates, a high rate of community transmission and the reopening of public spaces with scant protective measures "will certainly and sadly lead to more unnecessary suffering, hospitalizations and potentially death," Walensky warned.

Adapted from: <https://www.latimes.com/science/story/2021-07-16/covid-vaccine-obstinance-fuels-delta-variant-spread-in-america>

TEXT 3



TEXT 4

Donald J. Trump

“ We must reject the **perennial prophets of doom** and their predictions of the apocalypse

“ I don't think it's a **hoax**, I think there's probably a difference. But I don't know that it's manmade.

It's freezing in New York — **where the hell is global warming?**

“ The United States will join **one trillion trees** initiative

The weather has been so cold for so long that the **global warming HOAXSTERS** were forced to change the name to climate change to keep \$ flow!

The concept of global warming was **created by and for the Chinese** in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive.

“ The environment is very important to me. Someone wrote a book that **I'm an environmentalist**

The badly flawed Paris Climate Agreement protects the polluters, hurts Americans, and **cost a fortune. NOT ON MY WATCH!**

“ I want the cleanest water on the planet. **I want the cleanest air anywhere — crystal-clean water**

TEXT 5 - WRITTEN TEXT

*"I often talk to people who say, 'No, we have to be hopeful and to inspire each other, and we can't tell [people] too many negative things'... but, no — we have to tell it like it is. Because if there are no positive things to tell, then what should we do, should we spread false hope? We can't do that, we have to tell the truth. My message is that we'll be watching you. This is all wrong. I shouldn't be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean. Yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you. You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words. Yet I am one of the lucky ones. People are suffering." - **Greta Thunberg***

TEXT 6



TEXT 7

Born in jubilation, South Africa's constitution faces a test 25 years later

South Africa's brand as a beacon of democracy and an agent of change in Africa has been tarnished by the actions of a few powerful elites in a divided ruling party. The process to actually hold these accused to account is in motion but it was left too long and is progressing too slowly. How can this coterie of politicians trample on a celebrated progressive constitution and still get handled with kid-gloves? Like the long struggle for South Africa's freedom, it will take coordinated and well executed initiatives to reverse the damage that has been inflicted. The recently established Defend our Democracy Campaign is a great start. This is a coalition of individuals and entities trying to rally citizens to defend the country's constitutional values. It is a noble cause but needs to be sustained and publicized.

Source: <https://mg.co.za/opinion/2021-06-24-born-in-jubilation-south-africas-constitution-faces-a-test-25-years-later/>