

Communiqué agreed by the Green House core group at our AGM, Redhill, Surrey, June 19 2016

Green House was not expecting to take a public position about the EU referendum. We had been exploring the issues and arguing about them among ourselves, privately; and facilitating debate about the referendum choice, publicly. But we didn't intend to speak out about it collectively, in public, with one voice.

That's changed, because we have become increasingly - and deeply - dismayed in recent days and weeks about the increasingly harmful form that the Leave campaign has taken, and about the results that this is now leading to. And we have become ever more united, as a result, in thinking that this dangerous Leave rhetoric needs to be exposed, and opposed.

The lies, vitriol, xenophobia and sometimes even racism of the lead voices of the Leave campaigns represent a new low for British politics. This hateful rhetoric has consequences - consequences which have been horrifically visible in the last week.

Such rhetoric as leading Leave campaigners (and their mouthpieces in the mainstream media) have resorted to should never be rewarded. We ask readers to reflect on how very bad it would be to have the leading Leave-rs crowing over victory on June 24th, given that *this* would be how they had achieved it.

We are not here criticising Leave voters. We recognise the validity of many of their concerns and beliefs. We are specifically objecting to the rhetoric of the main Leave campaigns: We hope and believe that Britons can and will choose better than this. That we in the UK *ARE better* than this. We believe strongly that, right now, democracy requires of us all a defence of human decency and of truthful civic discourse.

We believe that this country should recognise that it is part of the continent of Europe, and come to its peace with that. The logical conclusion of these hopes and beliefs is clear.

Vote Remain.