

# Press Release

# Carter-Ruck

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## Daily Mail and MailOnline apologise and pay £25,000 in damages to University of Cambridge professor over false racism allegations in Amanda Platell column

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The publisher of the Daily Mail and MailOnline has published a full [apology](#) to University of Cambridge Professor Priyamvada Gopal over an article which falsely alleged that she was attempting to incite an aggressive and potentially violent race war, and that she supports and endorses the subjugation and persecution of white people. The Mail has also agreed to pay Professor Gopal £25,000 in libel damages, as well as her legal costs.

The allegations, made by Amanda Platell in her Mail column on 27 June 2020, purported to quote from a tweet by Professor Gopal a few days earlier. However, that tweet had been sent from a fake account, had nothing to do with Professor Gopal and did not reflect her views. The fact that the tweet was fake had already become clear on Twitter by the time the article was published (and indeed Sarah Vine, another well-known Mail columnist, had tweeted that fact), yet apparently the Mail did not carry out even the most basic of checks – still less approach Professor Gopal for comment.

The article was rendered even more misleading, and defamatory, by the fact that it contained a partial quote from a *genuine* tweet by Professor Gopal's that "White Lives Don't Matter.", but, crucially, chose not to complete the quote, which went on to state "As White Lives." As Professor Gopal has made clear publicly, this statement was a response to the White Lives Matter banner flown over Burnley FC's stadium on 22 June 2020, which caused widespread outrage. As the Mail now accepts, the tweet simply reflected Professor Gopal's belief that a life should be valued irrespective of its "whiteness", and was not motivated in any way by racial hatred. It did not in any way justify the false and defamatory imputations published by the Mail.

In addition to publishing full apologies in the Daily Mail and on the MailOnline website, Associated Newspapers have also agreed to pay Professor Gopal substantial damages and her legal costs.

Speaking today, Professor Gopal said:

*"I am pleased that the Mail has apologised for what it accepts were completely unfounded allegations. I have suffered appalling racist abuse myself, which made the publication of these allegations (and the increased abuse that followed) even more distressing. I am vigorously opposed to all forms of racism, and will continue to advocate and campaign for equal rights for everyone."*

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