

The terrorist attacks in Brussels last week remind us how important our own national security is and the seriousness with which we need to consider the threat to our own nation and its citizens. The killings in Brussels and Paris affect us, not just because of the loss of British lives but also because of their proximity to our borders and the likelihood that we may have visited and even fallen in love with those two particular cities. And although it was noticeable that there was less coverage of the terror attacks on Christians in Pakistan over Easter the devastation to lives and communities was no less significant.

I have worked in London for almost all of the last twenty years. I was in an office around the corner from Aldgate on the morning of the 7/7 bombings and I worked in the building behind where the mortar bomb was launched on John Major's Downing Street. I now work in a building that is probably one of the greatest targets in the country. And yet I refuse, like millions of others who immediately pledge solidarity to survivors, communities and cities following acts of terror, to be cowed by those who want to harm us. They want us to be frightened. It is natural to fear what might happen. But It is capitulation if we change our lives because of that fear.

Instead we must trust our security services and enforcement agencies. In the debate on Syria last year it was made clear that they had already foiled a number of potential attacks and I am in no doubt that since that parliamentary occasion they have stopped a few more. We live in uncertain and dangerous times for sure but it is up to us to remain vigilant, be strong and have faith. And in the meantime pray for those victims of Brussels and Lahore.