Twitter Thread by Simon Cox



Simon Cox
@SimonFRCox

How to avoid (successful) accusations of defamation on Twitter. A few thoughts from someone who is NOT a libel lawyer, but does say very critical things about named individuals. 1/

1. Facts are different from opinions. But stating an opinion can imply a fact. https://t.co/1PkiI4olib

2. When I tweet I aim to be sure A. I show the *facts* I am basing my *opinion* on. B. I have good reason to believe the *facts* are true. C. My opinion is reasonable based on the facts.

Here I am calling Arron Banks a racist (opinion). Pointing out this is because he called for mosques to be demolished (fact). 4/ https://t.co/mk6g7TeBzE

> Reminder: https://t.co/KpWzq0aF8C is run by Arron Banks who called for British mosques to be demolished. They\u2019ve always been openly racist. https://t.co/n8uppHUqQ5
>
> — Simon Cox (@SimonFRCox) October 9, 2019

I can prove this fact - and others - about what Banks has said. And I can justify why in my opinion that shows he's a racist. 5/

It may be different if I called [person] a racist without indicating why - because that may imply to readers I know [damaging facts] that I can't prove. 6/

3. When you tweet your facts with your opinion, you help show what you mean by your words. So "corruption" has different meanings - here I'm showing one 7/ https://t.co/jgVVtnsC5D

> Jenrick\u2019s corruption continues https://t.co/sqm7CMZjSD
>
> — Simon Cox (@SimonFRCox) November 11, 2020

4. If someone alleges defamation, take it seriously. Think "can I prove the fact I stated / based my opinion on? Is my opinion reasonable?" 8/

5. If you’re in doubt, ask someone you trust to read what you’ve said. And to ask you those same questions - “can you prove the facts? Is your opinion reasonable?” 9/

6. Just because someone says “that’s libel” doesn’t mean it is. Yaxley-Lennon *is* a racist. He hasn’t sued me yet. 10/

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Replying to @morgeo @BBCNewsnight and @AMDWaters

"Robinson" - real name Yaxley-Lennon - is a racist bent on spreading fear & hate.



Tommy Robinson is back and just as extreme as ever – HOPE
hopenothate.org.uk

73 26 43



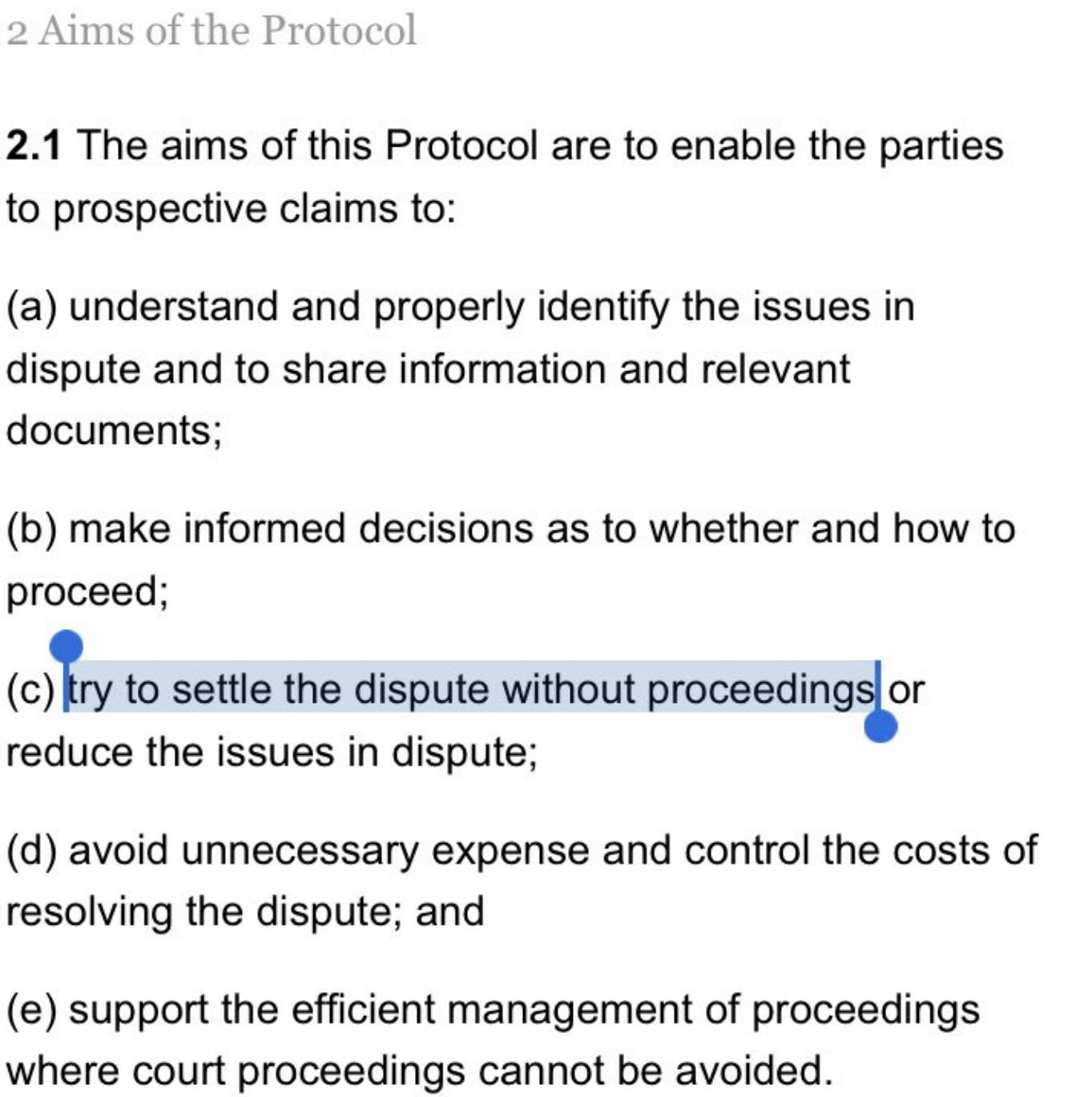
Robin H Feathers... · 05/09/2017 ···

Please quote exactly a statement by TR that supports your accusati[illegible] "racism" as a lawyer you must aware of the **libel** laws

7. If you think your tweet was wrong, or you don't think you can show the facts, I'd delete it. You can always tweet it again if you become sure enough. 11/

8. If someone tells you they think you libelled *them* (not someone else), don't ignore them. Think about how to respond, and respond. 12/

9. A person who may have been libelled is expected by the court to try to settle the dispute without proceedings. https://t.co/Jb9kDB8aT9



2 Aims of the Protocol

2.1 The aims of this Protocol are to enable the parties to prospective claims to:

(a) understand and properly identify the issues in dispute and to share information and relevant documents;

(b) make informed decisions as to whether and how to proceed;

(c) try to settle the dispute without proceedings or reduce the issues in dispute;

(d) avoid unnecessary expense and control the costs of resolving the dispute; and

(e) support the efficient management of proceedings where court proceedings cannot be avoided.

10. If someone tweets/DMs that you've libelled them but it's not clear how, you can ask them what it is that you've said they disagree with - especially *factually*.

Because you may have it wrong, or they may have misunderstood you. 14/

11. Think before you *re-tweet* and *reply* to a tweet that may be libellous. Treat RTing and agreeing replies as if the tweet was in your name. 15/

Libel law is important protection.

How our friends, colleagues, the world sees us matters to many people. The law isn’t going away.

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