

Notice of Motion – 25 February 2025

Motion Title: Adopt the All Parliamentary Party Group on British Muslims working definition of Islamophobia

Proposer: Councillor Carmichael

Seconder: Councillor Muflihi

“Sandwell Council is committed to fighting hate crime. A hate crime is defined as – 'Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's race or perceived race; religion or perceived religion; sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation; disability or perceived disability and any crime motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender.' (Police bulletin).

Council recognised the concerns raised by the local Inclusive Muslim Action Network (I.M.A.N) regarding the national rise of Islamophobia in recent years across the UK and worldwide.

Council further notes and welcomes Sandwell’s proud and diverse communities, that include a substantial proportion of its residents are Muslim, who are an integral to the diversity, vibrancy and cohesion of our borough.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Adopt the working APPG (All-Party Parliamentary Group) definition of Islamophobia, including all its examples in full:

"ISLAMOPHOBIA IS ROOTED IN RACISM AND IS A TYPE OF RACISM THAT TARGETS EXPRESSIONS OF MUSLIMNESS OR PERCEIVED MUSLIMNESS."

Contemporary examples of Islamophobia in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in encounters between religions and non-religions in the public sphere could, considering the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, instigating or justifying the killing or harming of Muslims in the name of a racist/fascist ideology, or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Muslims as such, or of Muslims as a collective group, such as, especially but not exclusively, conspiracies about Muslim entryism in politics, government or other societal institutions; the myth of Muslim identity having a unique propensity for terrorism and claims of a demographic ‘threat’ posed by Muslims or of a ‘Muslim takeover’.
- Accusing Muslims as a group of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Muslim person or group of Muslim individuals, or even for acts committed by non-Muslims.
- Accusing Muslims as a group, or Muslim majority states, of inventing or exaggerating Islamophobia, ethnic cleansing or genocide perpetrated against Muslims.
- Accusing Muslim citizens of being more loyal to the ‘Ummah’ (transnational Muslim community) or to their countries of origin, or to the alleged priorities of Muslims worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.



- Denying Muslim populations, the right to self-determination e.g., by claiming that the existence of an independent Palestine or Kashmir is a terrorist endeavour.
 - Applying double standards by requiring of Muslims behaviours that are not expected or demanded of any other groups in society, eg loyalty tests.
 - Using the symbols and images associated with classic Islamophobia.
 - Holding Muslims collectively responsible for the actions of any Muslim majority state, whether secular or constitutionally Islamic.
2. Continue to prioritise tackling hate crime and Islamophobia in partnership by holding Interfaith events and taking opportunity of national awareness months to engage wider across the borough.”