

Islamophobia

As with antisemitism, there is no one agreed definition of Islamophobia. In 2018 the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims (APPG) developed a definition which states: *“Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness.”*

At around the same time, the Runnymede Trust arrived at a longer-form definition: *“Islamophobia is any distinction, exclusion, or restriction towards, or preference against, Muslims (or those perceived to be Muslims) that has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.”*

Examples of Islamophobia include but are not limited to:

Inferred involvement in terrorism

- Expressing mendacious, dehumanising, demonising allegations about Muslims – such as propagating the myth about Islam as an anti-Western and oppressive faith rooted in extremism which supports terrorism and acts of violence against non-Muslims
- The assumption or accusation that a Muslim would support an act of terrorism or extremism
- Holding the Islamic faith or Muslims collectively responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Muslim person or group

Muslims as the Other

- Suggesting that Muslims are a monolithic group with static views, beliefs and practices
- Inferring directly or indirectly that Muslim citizens, by reason of their faith, are less loyal to Britain or that the Islamic faith is incompatible with British society and identity.
- Expressing the view that Muslims, collectively or individually, by reason of their Islamic faith are assumed to be inferior, uncivilised, irrational, barbaric, sexist or racist

- Expressing a view based on the assumption that Muslims are oppressed and lack free will, for example in relation to religious garments or the observance of the month of Ramadhan

Violence, threat of violence and bullying

- Unwanted remarks, bullying or micro-aggressions directed at individuals who pray at work or observe Islamic practices such as abstinence from alcohol or non-halal foods
- Unwanted remarks, verbal or physical abuse directed at individuals because they are Muslim and/or wearing distinctly Islamic garments, or garments which appear Islamic
- Having one's hijab or headscarf forcibly pulled down or interfered with

The Exclusion of freedom of Worship

- Not having an available space to observe prayer and quiet reflection.
- Not being allowed to use available spaces for prayer.
- Muslims having to compromise their religious beliefs due to no available space in study space to observe prayer.

The Exclusion of Diet

- Muslims having a lack of options to buy and eat halal food on campus.

We will continue to actively engage our community to build awareness of Islamophobia as a form of religious and racial intolerance.