

**Action Group – Anti-Racism
Meeting Date: 26.04.24****Present**

Dean Turner, Welfare and Community Officer **(DT) (Allocated Officer)**

Scott Dawson, Student Voice and Representation Manager **(SD) (Note Taker)**

Harry Brooks, Activities and Employability Officer **(HB)**

Fern Warwick, Welfare and Liberation Committee Member, Student Attendee **(FW)**

Imaan Iqbal, Student Attendee **(II)**

Apologies:

Robin Hayward, Trans and Non-Binary Officer, Student Attendee **(RH)**

Natasha Spungin, Jewish Society Student Attendee **(NS)**

Idea for Discussion:**Current Policy (This was the original Anti-Racism, Anti-Fascism policy prior to being split)**

The Guild believes in an active opposition to fascism, racism, antisemitism and Islamophobia and so should use its resources to build a strong anti-racism/fascism campaign on campus and in the wider community.

Amended Policy (Anti-Racism section only. Anti-Fascism has gone to All Student Vote)

The Guild recognises the rise of and believes in active opposition to racism and associated behaviour and actions at the University and in the wider community. The Guild will support anti-racist campaigns and activity (within the limits of UK law).

The Guild should use its resources to support student groups and student led campaigns in this area, through educational and financial support where relevant.

Minutes from meeting 26.04.24

- **DT:** Welcomed attendees to the meeting.
- **SD:** Provided updates on queries from previous meeting. The action group does not have the power to create by themselves a draft Islamophobia policy. Action group has progressed quite far from the original Belief and Commitment, it would need to go to a demonstration of interest.
- **SD:** Also reviewed any Guild obligations towards Prevent and any impact this would have on policies like this and ones in the future on topics such as islamophobia. From speaking with

other Guild colleagues, impact on the Guild is minimal and will mostly be driven by University. Policies on these areas can be developed without too much worry for the moment. This also applies in the context of freedom of speech.

- **HB:** Also noted Islamophobia is noted in the Zero Tolerance Policy for future considerations.
- **DT:** Thanked HB and SD for this information.
- **DT:** Noted review of the provisional new policy, however conscious that we have not heard from many of the groups we have asked to participate in the action group, so will want to keep actions minimal.
- **DT:** Requested group feedback on the revised policy, are we happy with this?
- **II:** Yes, but removal of associated behaviours/actions – applicability and monitoring of this would be unclear.

The Action Group Agreed with this amendment.

- **DT:** Discussed how to take this activity forward.
- **SD:** Highlighted it would need to be considered in the context of final All Student Vote of the year, which is scheduled for early June 2024.
- **DT:** We could take the policy as it is amended to various student groups and societies for input? As well as contacting key groups through Instagram and social media.

The Action Group agreed that feedback on the revised policy will be sought from a collection of student groups with a deadline of 31st May. Reminders will be sent on the 29th April and the 20th May.

Agreed Actions

- SD will circulate the amended policy to the list of student groups as noted.
- HB will contact societies they are engaged with to participate via Instagram.
- The Action Group will now operate via e-mail only unless significant feedback is brought to the group regarding changes to the policy.
- Pending the above, the Policy will move forward to the June All Student Vote.
- DT will reach out to I-Soc regarding beginning a new Islamophobia policy

The List of Student Societies and Individuals to contact is as follows:

Black and Ethnic Minority Scientists

Black Law Students

ABACUS

African and Caribbean

Arab

Bengali

Burmese

Caribbean Union

Chinese

East African

Filipino

Ghanaian

Hong Kong Cultural

Hong Kong PASS

Indian

Indonesian

Israel

Japan

Kazakh

Korean

Malayalee

Malaysian

Nepalese

Nigerians in UoB

North African

Pakistan

Saudi

Singapore

Somali

Sri-Lankan

Sudanese

Taiwanese

African and Caribbean Medical

Islamic Medical

Jewish Medical

Ahlul Bayt

Islamic

Jewish

Including the Guild President, Black Voices Campaign, Guild International Officer, BEAMS.

Any questions regarding approval, next steps or requests for further information can be submitted to: studentvoice@guild.bham.ac.uk