

Motion by Councillors P Barrett and I Massie

All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Definition of Islamophobia

Motion to adopt the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on British Muslims' definition of Islamophobia - *"Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness"* - together with the [explanatory guidelines](#) put forward by the Coalition Against Islamophobia.

This Council notes that:

- Islamophobia is a growing issue in Scotland as a public inquiry by the Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group (CPG) on Tackling Islamophobia found that approximately 80% of Muslims in Scotland have experienced Islamophobia directly.
- As per the Public Sector Equality Duty enshrined in the 2010 Equality Act, the council must give due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and advance equality of opportunity for members of communities with a protected characteristic, including Muslims, such that they are able to participate in society on an equal footing with their non-Muslim counterparts.
- Islamophobia is one of the principal barriers to the participation of Muslims in public, economic, political, and social spheres of life and must urgently be addressed.

This Council believes that:

- Adopting a definition of Islamophobia is essential to tackling Islamophobia in a targeted and effective manner.
- Without a definition of Islamophobia, one cannot identify how Islamophobia manifests itself and functions and therefore, cannot devise meaningful strategies to address it.
- The APPG definition should be accompanied by the Coalition Against Islamophobia's [explanatory guidelines](#) to provide a more holistic understanding of Islamophobia.

This Council will commit to:

- Work with schools, transport companies, the police force, and other public, third sector and private bodies to tackle Islamophobia at a local level.
- Collaborate with the local Muslim community to challenge Islamophobia and to meet their needs such that they are encouraged to participate in public life.
- Take further steps to tackle and raise awareness of Islamophobia, such as organising Islamophobia training or holding local events on the issue
- Work with other local stakeholders including local parliamentarians to raise awareness of Islamophobia in parliament