

COUNCIL

24 NOVEMBER 2022

MOTION 2

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Ali Ahmed
SECONDED BY: Councillor Malika Kaaba

Cardiff is a cosmopolitan City. Driven by the growth of the coal industry, which made Cardiff one of the most important ports in the world, the city became home to some of the earliest immigrant communities in Britain.

With a proud history of welcome and sanctuary which continues up the present day, Cardiff celebrates the diversity of its residents, which contributes to our social and economic enrichment.

Sadly, as the work of the Race Equality Taskforce highlighted, racism continues to impact the day to day experiences of many people in the city. November is Islamophobia Awareness Month, so it is particularly appropriate to highlight the challenges faced by Muslims in Cardiff.

The city is home to a large Muslim population of over 23,000. Muslims in Wales also come from a large variety of ethnic backgrounds. Members of the Muslim Community in Cardiff are an integral part of the city's make-up, playing a huge role in all aspects of Cardiff's life including NHS, businesses, education, legal department and in politics but despite this., worryingly our Muslim community is experiencing Islamophobia from some people.

According to the Home Office's latest report into Hate Crime in England and Wales, Muslims were targeted in 50% of all religious hate crime offences recorded in 2019/20 - a figure consistent with previous years' reports - which means that they experience more religiously motivated hate crime than any other religious group.

On the 27th November 2018, the APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group) on British Muslims produced the working definition of Islamophobia following a two-year consultation.

The definition reads as the following:

"Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness."

This motion asks the Council to adopt this definition, and to support Islamophobia Awareness Month, which will focus on the positive contributions Muslims make in our city.

Motion

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.

This Council resolves to:

- Adopt the APPG definition of Islamophobia, accompanied by the Coalition Against Islamophobia's explanatory guidelines to provide a more holistic understanding of Islamophobia.
- Work with Cardiff schools, public transport companies, the South Wales police force, and other public and private bodies to tackle Islamophobia at a local level, in support of the wider work responding to the Race Equality Task Force recommendations.
- Take further steps to tackle and raise awareness of Islamophobia, such as organising Islamophobia training, holding local events on the issue of Islamophobia, during Islamophobia Awareness Month (November)
- Collaborate with the local Muslim community to challenge Islamophobia and to meet their needs such that they are encouraged to participate in public life.
- Work with other local stakeholders such as the local MPs to raise awareness of Islamophobia in parliament and urge the UK Government to adopt the APPG definition of Islamophobia