

OPEN LETTER URGING SCOTTISH COUNCILS TO ADOPT THE APPG DEFINITION OF ISLAMOPHOBIA

23 February 2022

We, the undersigned, are calling on all city councils in Scotland to adopt the APPG definition of Islamophobia and the [accompanying guidelines](#) put forward by the Coalition Against Islamophobia.

The APPG definition states that:

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

This definition has been [adopted](#) by all political parties in the Scottish Parliament.

The 2021 [report](#), “Scotland’s Islamophobia”, by the Scottish Parliament’s Cross-Party Group (CPG) on Tackling Islamophobia found that 83.4% of Scottish Muslim respondents have experienced Islamophobia directly. Islamophobic attacks in Scotland are becoming increasingly common and serious; for example, in December of last year, a neo-Nazi was [imprisoned](#) on charges of terrorism for threatening to burn down Fife Islamic Centre.

As per the Public Sector Equality Duty enshrined in the 2010 Equality Act, public bodies such as councils have a duty to advance equality of opportunity for members of communities with a protected characteristic. This includes Muslims, who should be able to participate in society on an equal footing with their non-Muslim counterparts.

Sadly, Islamophobia is one of the principal barriers to Muslim participation in public, economic, political, and social spheres of life and it must be urgently addressed. Without a definition of Islamophobia, policy-makers cannot identify how Islamophobia manifests itself and functions, and thus, they cannot devise meaningful strategies to address it. As such, a definition is essential.

We therefore call on all councils in Scotland to adopt the APPG definition of Islamophobia with accompanying guidelines. We firmly believe that this is a fundamental first step all councils must take to tackle the critical issue of Islamophobia in a targeted and effective manner.

SIGNED:

MEND (Muslim Engagement and Development)

Edinburgh Central Mosque, The Mosque of The Custodian of The Two Holy Mosques and Islamic Centre Of Edinburgh

Blackhall Mosque

Amal Charity (Dar Al-Arqam) Edinburgh

Masjid Salah-Aldin

Annandale Mosque

Ahl Al Bait Society Scotland

Iqra Academy Edinburgh

Idara Taleem Ul Quran Trust

Dundee Al-Makhtoum Mosque

Portobello Islamic Education Centre & Mosque

Church of Scotland

AMINA Muslim Women's Resource Centre

Colourful Heritage

CEMVO Scotland

Interfaith Scotland

Interfaith Edinburgh

West of Scotland Regional Equality Council

Central Scotland Regional Equality Council

Edinburgh and Lothian Regional Equality Council

Central Scotland Islamic Centre

Gilded Lily

Al Masaar

My Online School

8th Braid Salaam Scouts

Scottish Muslim Media

Radio Ramadan Edinburgh

Vibrant Scottish Mosques

North Lanarkshire Muslim Women and Family Alliance

Active Life Club