

Rt Hon. Theresa May
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

1st December 2018

Dear Prime Minister,

As Muslim organisations representing communities from across the United Kingdom and from a broad range of backgrounds, we would like to formally request your party to adopt the definition of Islamophobia as set out by the APPG on British Muslims.

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

The definition was developed by a cross-party group of MPs including Anna Soubry, Wes Streeting, Baroness Warsi, Naz Shah and Afzal Khan, and has been endorsed by over 70 senior academics and specialists in this field (see below for further details).

For our communities, it was vital that the definition encapsulated the racialised reality of Islamophobia and its many manifestations over and above mere anti-Muslim hatred. In addition, we believed it was important that the definition provided space for criticism of Islam that did not use the language of racism to target expressions of Muslimness. This definition protects these important principles.

As a result, this definition has widespread support of Muslim communities across the UK.

For further details of the definition, case studies and references to research on the topic, please see the dedicated site www.islamophobia-definition.com. This collates the endorsements by the Muslim organisations and academics representing communities from a range of ethnic, sect and geographic backgrounds, as well as provides responses to a list of frequently asked questions.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

Muslim Council of Britain
Penny Appeal
Muslim Aid
Islamic Relief UK
Muslim Charities Forum
Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB)
UK Islamic Mission (UKIM)
Dawatul Islam, UK & Eire

Muslim Association of Britain
British Muslims for Secular Democracy
Muslim Council of Wales
Luton Sunni Council of Mosques
Luton Council of Mosques
Joint Mosque Council of Peterborough
Bolton Council of Mosques
Jamaat e Ahl e Sunnah, Nottingham
Tower Hamlets Council of Mosques
Federation of Muslim Organisations (FMO), Leicester & Leicestershire
Manchester Council of Mosques
Sheffield Federation of Mosques
Council of European Jamaats
Muslim Association of Nigeria
Belfast Islamic Centre
Ahl Al Bait Society, Scotland
Muslim Teachers Association
CUBE Network
Muslims in Rail
British Islamic Medical Association
Emerald Network
Muslim Engineers Network
Association of Muslim Schools
The Association of Muslim Lawyers
Muslim Professionals Forum
Muslim Youth Helpline
Muslim Women of Merton
Ramadan Tent Project
British Muslim TV
Lantern (Muslim Women's Voices)
Black Country Innovate
Lady Fatemah (AS) Trust
IslamWise
Bridge Institute
Friends of al-Aqsa
Ramadhan Foundation
Al-Khoei Foundation
Karimia Institute
Al Manaar, the Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre (MCHC)
Finsbury Park Mosque
Madinatul Ilm, Bradford
The KSIMC of London
Shia Ithna'ashari Community of Middlesex
Baab ul-Ilm, Leeds
Cheadle Mosque
Islamic Unity Society
York Mosque & Islamic Centre
Balham Mosque & Tooting Islamic Centre
The Islamic Foundation
Manchester Islamic Dawah Organisation (MIDO)
Memon Association UK
Green Lane Masjid
Himmah, Nottingham

List of academics

Prof. S. Sayyid, Professor of Social Theory & Decolonial Thought, University of Leeds
Prof. Avtar Brah, Professor Emerita of Sociology, Birkbeck College, University of London
Prof. Claire Alexander, Professor of Sociology, University of Manchester
Mr Abdoolkarim Vakil, Lecturer in Contemporary Portuguese History, King's College London
Prof. Tariq Modood, Professor of Sociology, Politics and Public Policy, University of Bristol
Prof. Heidi Safia Mirza, Visiting Professor in Race, Faith and Culture, Goldsmiths College, University of London
Em. Professor Matthew Feldman, Director of the Centre for Analysis of the Radical Right
Prof. Imran Awan, Professor and Co-Director of the Centre for Applied Criminology, Birmingham City School of Social Sciences
Dr Mustapha Sheikh, Lecturer in Islamic Studies, University of Leeds
Dr Tajul Islam, Lecturer in Islamic Studies, University of Leeds
Dr Kasia Narkowicz, Lecturer in Sociology and Criminology, University of Gloucestershire
Dr Shamim Miah, Senior Lecturer, Department of Education and Community Studies, University of Huddersfield
Dr Ben Whitham, Lecturer in International Relations, De Montfort University, Leicester
Dr Nadya Ali, Lecturer in International Relations, University of Sussex
Dr James Carr, Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Limerick
Prof. Gargi Bhattacharyya, Professor of Sociology, University of East London
Prof. Peter G. Morey, Professor of 20th Century English Literature, University of Birmingham
Dr Muzammil Quraishi, Senior Lecturer in Criminology & Criminal Justice, University of Salford
Dr Jim Wolfreys, Senior Lecturer in French and European Politics, King's College London
Dr M G Khan, Tutor in Community Development and Youth Work, Ruskin College, Oxford
Robin Richardson, Co-director of the Insted consultancy, Insted
Prof David Miller, Professor of Political Sociology, University of Bristol
Dr Narzanin Massoumi, Lecturer in Sociology and Criminology, University of Exeter
Dr Sarah Marusek, Research Fellow in Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds
Dr Tom Mills, Lecturer in Sociology, Aston University
Prof. James Dickins, Professor of Arabic, University of Leeds
Dr Brian Klug, Senior Research Fellow in Philosophy, St Benet's Hall, University of Oxford
Dr Paul Bagguley, Reader in Sociology, University of Leeds
Prof. Ian Law, Academic Fellow, Racism and ethnicity studies, University of Leeds
Dr Amina Easat-Daas, Project Officer, School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds
Dr Karima Laachir, Senior Lecturer in Literary & Cultural Studies, SOAS, University of London
Prof. Nasar Meer FAcSS, Professor of Race, Identity and Citizenship, University of Edinburgh
Dr Samia Bano, Senior Lecturer, School of Law, SOAS, University of London
Dr Katy Sian, Lecturer in Sociology, University of York
Prof. Alison Scott-Baumann, Professor of Society & Belief, SOAS, University of London
Dr Sariya Cheruvallil-Contractor, Research Fellow, Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University
Dr Fauzia Ahmad, Senior Lecturer, Goldsmiths, University of London
Dr Michael Munnik, Lecturer in Social Science Theories and Methods, Cardiff University
Prof. Bridget Byrne, Professor of Sociology, Director of the Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE), University of Manchester
Dr Ajmal Hussain, Research Fellow, Department of Sociology, University of Manchester
Dr Saskia Warren, Lecturer in Human Geography and AHRC Leadership Fellow, University of Manchester
Dr Amir Saeed, Senior Lecturer in Journalism and Media, University of Huddersfield
Dr Tina Patel, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, University of Salford
Dr Waqas Tufail, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, Leeds Beckett University

Dr Chris Allen, Associate Professor in Hate Studies, University of Leicester
Prof. Rowena Arshad OBE, Co-Director of the Centre for Education for Racial Equality in Scotland, University of Edinburgh
Dr Giulia Liberatore, Leverhulme Early Career Fellow/ Lecturer in Muslims in Europe; Sociology and Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies/Alwaleed Centre, University of Edinburgh
Dr Khadijah Elshayyal, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Alwaleed Centre from the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World, University of Edinburgh
Professor Vian Bakir, Professor of Journalism & Political Communication, Bangor University
Dr T. J. Coles, Postdoctoral Researcher, Cognition Institute, Plymouth University
Dr Elizabeth Poole, Senior Lecturer in Media, Keele University
Dr Gwen Bouvier, Assistant Professor, Media department, Maynooth University
Dr Rizwaan Sabir, Lecturer in Criminology, Liverpool John Moores University
Professor Oliver Scharbrodt, Professor of Islamic Studies in the Department of Theology and Religion, University of Birmingham
Dr Irene Zempi, Lecturer in Criminology, Nottingham Trent University
Dr Arshad Isakjee, Lecturer, School of Geography and Planning, University of Liverpool
Dr Özlem Ögtem-Young, Doctoral Researcher in Department of Social Policy, Sociology and Criminology, University of Birmingham
Dr Sadek Hamid, Writer, The New Arab
Dr John E. Richardson, Reader in Critical Discourse Studies, Loughborough University
Dr Azeezat Johnson, Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Geography, Queen Mary, University of London
Dr Demelza Jones, Senior Lecturer in Sociology, University of Gloucestershire
Professor Richard Phillips, Professor in Human Geography, University of Sheffield
Mr Tufyal Choudhury, Associate Professor in Durham Law, University of Durham
Dr HA Hellyer, Senior Associate Fellow & Visiting Professor, The Royal United Services Institute & the Atlantic Council
Dr Abida Malik, Tutor in Sociology, University of Nottingham
Dr Myriam Francois, Research Associate at Centre for Islamic Studies, SOAS, London
Prof. Sophie Gilliat-Ray, Director, Centre for the Study of Islam in the UK, Cardiff University
Dr. Tarek Younis, Newton International Fellow, British Academy, University College London
Dr Salman al-Azami, Senior Lecturer in English Language, Liverpool Hope University
Prof. Gary R. Bunt, Professor in Islamic Studies, University of Wales Trinity Saint David
Prof Seán McLoughlin, Professor of the Anthropology of Islam (Muslim Diasporas), University of Leeds
Dr Stephen H. Jones, Lecturer of Sociology of Religion, University of Birmingham
Prof. Mashood Baderin, Professor of Law, SOAS University of London
Piro Rexhepi, PhD, Research Fellow, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity
Shereen Fernandez, Teaching Associate, PhD student, Queen Mary, University of London