

General Election 2019 and Muslims

COMPARING MANIFESTO COMMITMENTS

Here are the policies in the Conservative Party, Labour Party and Liberal Democrat 2019 General Election manifestos on key issues affecting British Muslims. The parties' policies are compared with the Muslim Council of Britain's Ten Key Pledges to Support Muslim Communities. To view these pledges, and to read the Muslim Council of Britain's election policy platform, visit mcb.org.uk/muslimsvote



Tackle Racism and Islamophobia

Adopt the APPG on British Muslims definition of Islamophobia across the UK, defining Islamophobia as being rooted in racism and as a type of racism that targets Muslimness or perceived Muslimness.

Tackle prejudice, racism and discrimination, and protect people from physical attack or harassment for their ethnicity or religion.

The Conservative Party has not internally adopted the APPG definition of Islamophobia.



Build a society free from all forms of racism including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia and commission an independent review into the threat of far-right extremism and how to tackle it. Using social media platforms to combat the rise of racism, including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, and extremism expressed on social media. Work with partners across Europe to challenge all three issues.

The Labour Party has internally adopted the definition of Islamophobia.



PASS

Tackle the rise in hate crimes by making them aggravated offences and condemn Islamophobic and anti-Semitic rhetoric by those with public platforms. Educate all generations in tackling the impact of fake news, and proceed with Part Two of the Leveson Inquiry.

The Liberal Democrats have internally adopted the definition of Islamophobia.



PROGRESS

Religious Liberty

Defend the right of Muslims – and people of all faiths – to express their faith, be that in religious clothing, food and reasonable accommodation of religious observance.

Champion freedom of expression and tolerance, both in the UK and abroad. Update the Human Rights Act to create a balance between the rights of individuals, national security and effective government.



Strengthen communities' rights to practice their religion free from persecution. Defend the right to wear religious and other dress and symbols, and protect the practices which are crucial for many, such as the production of kosher and halal meat.



PASS

Stand up for human rights by championing the Human Rights act.



PASS

Engagement with Muslim Communities

Commit to proactively engage with a broad and representative spectrum of British Muslim communities to ensure a plurality of views are being considered.

The Conservative Party does not currently engage with the MCB.



Ensure the views of communities with or without faith are respected and protected across society.

The Labour Party currently engages with the MCB.



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The Liberal Democrats currently engage with the MCB.



PROGRESS

Safety at Places of Worship

Safeguard visitors at places of worship, by providing support and funding for any Muslim institution to implement safety measures, in line with other faith groups.

Expand funding for and protect places of worship.



Review current levels of funding for and access to the Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme to ensure it is proportionate to risk and consult on giving it statutory protection to ensure that religious communities have the support they need. Amend the law to include attacks on places of worship as a specific aggravated offence.



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Provide funding for protective security measures to places of worship, schools and community centres that are vulnerable to hate crime and other terrorist attacks.



PROGRESS

Effective Health and Elderly Care Services

Focus policymaking on ensuring equity for all sections of society, recognising the gap in health and wellbeing standards, particularly between older and elderly Muslims and the general population.

No information.



Work across government to end the race disparities in our health care system and develop a strategy to address race inequalities in mental health services.



PASS

Require that a fair proportion of funding for health research focuses on research into the mental health needs of different communities, including BAME communities.



PROGRESS

Refugees

Encourage the resettlement of refugees across the UK, working with communities to address and tackle issues faced by refugees resettling in Britain.

Continue to grant asylum and support to refugees fleeing persecution, with the ultimate aim of helping them to return home if it is safe to do so.



Continue to grant asylum and support to refugees fleeing persecution, with the ultimate aim of helping them to return home if it is safe to do so. Uphold international legal commitments to refugees and allow people to exercise their rights to seek asylum.



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Provide safe and legal routes to sanctuary in the UK by resettling 10,000 vulnerable refugees each year, and fund community-sponsorship projects for refugees.



PASS

Full Economic, Social and Public Participation in British Life

Enhance democracy by enabling increased participation of minorities and women in politics and public life, addressing the underlying socio-economic challenges in place.

engaging in politics or standing in an election by threats, harassment or abuse.



End the under-representation of BAME communities in all aspects of public life and review the implementation of all BAME shortlists. Consider how to ensure increased diversity at all levels, including the judiciary and elected Mayors.



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Improve diversity in public appointments so women and ethnic minority groups, among others, are properly represented. *Allow all BAME shortlists.*



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Criminal Justice

Address the disparity of treatment and outcomes for BAME people within the criminal justice system. Rebuild trust with Muslim communities by ensuring all counter-terrorism legislation is evidence-led, non-discriminatory, and open to evaluation.

A review of the Prevent strategy, as committed to by the 2017-19 Conservative Government, is currently underway.



Conduct a wholesale review of Prevent. Tackle racial discrimination in the criminal justice system and review the recommendations in the Lammy review along with investigating the disproportionate number of young Muslim men in the prison population.



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Replace Prevent with a scheme that prioritises community engagement and supports communities in developing their own approach to tackling the dangers of violent extremism.* Reduce the overrepresentation of people from BAME backgrounds throughout the criminal justice system. **As per 2017 manifesto*



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Equality in Education

Ensure a fair approach to educational provision for all children, with a syllabus that reflects the diversity of communities, with appropriate parent involvement.

Include mandatory Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) in schools.



Support religious education about all faiths in all schools. Review the curriculum to ensure that it enriches students and covers subjects such as racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, xenophobia and black history and continues to teach issues like the Holocaust. Fund schools to deliver mandatory RSE.



PROGRESS

Introduce a 'curriculum for life' in all state-funded schools, which will include Personal, Social and Health Education, citizenship, and age-appropriate RSE.



PROGRESS

Ethical Foreign Policy

Support a binding recognition of Palestine as an independent and sovereign state, and address human rights abuses abroad, including in Kashmir, Xinjiang and Myanmar.

Maintain support for a two-state solution in Israel and Palestine. Ban public bodies from imposing their own direct or indirect boycotts, disinvestment or sanctions campaigns against foreign countries.



Recognise the state of Palestine and call for an immediate return to meaningful negotiations. Press for reform internationally to secure justice and accountability for breaches of human rights, including in Syria, the Gaza Strip, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Yemen.



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Recognise the state of Palestine, condemn violence on all sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and support Israel's right to security. Remain committed to a negotiated peace settlement, which includes a two-state solution.



PASS