

David Isaac CBE  
Chair, Equality and Human Rights Commission  
Fleetbank House  
2-6 Salisbury Square  
London  
EC4Y 8JX

**5 March 2020**

Dear Mr Isaac,

I am writing on behalf of the Muslim Council of Britain – the largest umbrella body of Muslim organisations in the UK – to once again request the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) to launch an investigation into the Conservative Party over a potential breach in its obligations under the Equality Act 2010.

As you may recall, I previously wrote to you on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019 with this request and a dossier of evidence. Regrettably, no action has been taken by yourselves to date, the Conservative Party has reneged on its promise to launch an independent inquiry into Islamophobia and there have been hundreds more instances of prejudice and discrimination against Muslims in the party and by the party. Whilst we initially estimated that these incidents were occurring on a weekly basis, it appears that in actual fact, it much more often than this. This submission alone contains details of over 300 individuals, either elected representatives and members of the Conservative Party, or its advisers, who have engaged with, made or endorsed Islamophobic, anti-Muslim or anti-Islam comments directly.

Islamophobic attitudes of intolerance and hatred towards Muslims and Islam have no place in our society, and particularly in our political parties. The prevalence of these views in the Party is unacceptable, but it is important to recognise that these attitudes do not exist in isolation, and actually have a tangible impact. For example, the scale of Islamophobia and anti-Islam remarks create a culture of intolerance and unacceptance of Muslims in the Party, which leads to, as documented later in the appendix, Muslim members of the Party choosing to resign their membership. This not only robs the Party of its potentially rich diversity, but also hinders the prospect of more Muslims taking up elected positions. Muslims are already underrepresented in the House of Commons, and with a number of Muslims with aspirations of being elected to councils or the House of Commons leaving the Party over its failure to act on Islamophobia and anti-Islam attitudes, this stops British political life from being more representative of the communities it serves.

Whilst there is no universal definition of Islamophobia which can be used to determine whether the incidents outlined later in this submission are Islamophobic, significant work has been done by parliamentarians, civil society and communities to develop a definition. In 2018, the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims carried out a year-long consultation across the UK, and concluded on the following definition of Islamophobia:

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

This definition has now been endorsed by the Labour Party, Liberal Democrats, Scottish National Party, Plaid Cymru, Scottish Greens and even the Scottish Conservative. Regrettably, it has not been adopted by the Conservative Party, despite widespread community, civil society and academic endorsement. This decision by the Conservative Party to reject the way in which Muslims define the racism they are subject to indicates an unwillingness to understand the complexity of the issue of Islamophobia, and to recognise the part it has played in condoning this specific type of racism.

A number of the incidents recorded in the appendix are anti-Islam, with this intolerance found in seeming abundance in the Party further contributing to the creation of a toxic culture that makes Muslims feel unwelcome. As the Conservative Party has confirmed anti-Islam comments “have no place in society”, it is important to include these incidents which demonstrate that despite the Party’s stance, such comments which stoke anti-Islam sentiments are prevalent.

During the Conservative Party leadership election in 2019, all leadership contenders, including the now Prime Minister, committed to holding an independent inquiry specifically into Islamophobia.<sup>1</sup> This commitment was welcomed across the board as the necessary first step to tackling the scourge of Islamophobia in politics. Unfortunately, this was then scaled back to look at prejudice and discrimination more broadly,<sup>2</sup> which is of course necessary, but would not have tackled the acute problem the party has with Islamophobia and hateful comments about the faith of Islam. Furthermore, the investigation announced in December 2019 is short in transparency with no public terms of reference and appears to be solely into the party’s internal complaints process,<sup>3</sup> once again demonstrating a reluctance to address the broader issues of Islamophobia in the Party.

The Conservative Party also appointed Professor Swaran Singh as the Chair – a person about whom many, including the MCB, have expressed their deep reservations. Last year, Singh wrote for Spiked magazine, a publication well-known for its hostile views on Muslims, downplaying the Srebrenica genocide,<sup>4</sup> calling Islamophobia a myth<sup>5</sup> and even undermining the fight against hate crime.<sup>6</sup> Crucially, and despite his former role at the EHRC, he is not an individual who commands the confidence of the very communities who are being discriminated against, arguably the most important stakeholders for this inquiry.

As a result of the Conservative Party’s failure to take direct and appropriate action on the issue and the EHRC’s decision to not take any action to date, I am reiterating my request to the EHRC to launch an independent investigation, with yet more evidence.

My argument remains the same. The Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful for the Conservative Party to discriminate against its members, prospective members or guests based on their religion or ethnicity. I believe there is now overwhelming evidence to suggest that there is a prima facie case for the Conservative Party to answer for breaching the Equality Act 2010 and thus potentially acting unlawfully.

The main pillars of the case proposed are as follows:

### **1. Islamophobia amongst Members of Parliament**

When Members of Parliament, prospective parliamentary candidates and the 2016 London mayoral candidate engaged in Islamophobia, no action was taken, demonstrating blatant acceptance of Islamophobia at the highest levels of the Party;

### **2. Atmosphere of hostility against Muslim Conservative Party members**

Islamophobia against Muslim members of the Party has been tolerated, indicating an internal atmosphere of hostility towards Muslims, where Muslims are treated differently and held in low regard to members of other faiths;

### **3. Scale of Islamophobia in the Party**

The problem of Islamophobia is widespread, institutional and systemic, starting at the very top with the Prime Minister and his Cabinet, through to MPs, councillors and Party members. This

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<sup>1</sup> [Tory leadership debate: Contenders copy Javid’s vow to rid party of Islamophobia](#), *The Times*, 19 June 2019

<sup>2</sup> [Tory Islamophobia inquiry now ‘general investigation’, says Boris Johnson](#), *The Guardian*, 27 June 2019

<sup>3</sup> [Tories accused of ignoring Islamophobia after dropping inquiry](#), *The Guardian*, 17 December 2019

<sup>4</sup> [How did Srebrenica become a morality tale?](#), *Spiked*, 3 August 2005

<sup>5</sup> [The myth of Islamophobia](#), *Spiked*, 7 July 2014

<sup>6</sup> [The myth of rising hate crime](#), *Spiked*, 17 October 2019

dossier has evidence of 300 representatives and members of the Party, who have engaged in Islamophobia, with hundreds more cases in the public domain;

**4. Failure of complaints process**

Those in charge of the process of handling complaints within the Party (Chair, Deputy Chair) have demonstrated a callous attitude to complaints, neglecting their responsibility to investigate all complaints, misleading members and the public with limited transparency, if any at all;

**5. Denial of Islamophobia**

Despite clear evidence to the contrary, prominent politicians, journalists and public figures castigating the Party over its tolerance of Islamophobia and calling for it to acknowledge this, a number of prominent representatives of the Conservative Party have denied the existence of institutional Islamophobia, or claimed it is being dealt with robustly.

Any one of these charges should be sufficient to indicate a serious problem. Taken together, this has led to the creation of an environment where members of the Party and prospective members from a Muslim background have publicly said that there is a systemic problem of Islamophobia, and where racism against Muslims is not dealt with other than where there is significant media scrutiny of the issue, although even this is, at times, not enough to encourage action.

I believe that the evidence the MCB has collated – attached in an appendix to this letter – is sufficient to support the case outlined above. I note that the EHRC has formal powers under the Equality Act 2006 to investigate whether, in this case, the party and its employees have committed unlawful acts of discrimination or failed to respond to complaints of unlawful acts in an efficient and effective manner. I also recognise that the EHRC is able to request further evidence given the lack of transparency within the Party, and request the relevant individuals within the Conservative Campaign Headquarters (CCHQ) to add further examples of potential breaches to the Equality Act 2010.

Given the Conservative Party's investigation is not focused on tackling the root cause of Islamophobia, I hope the EHRC recognises the importance of launching a formal investigation into this presumed breach of the Equality Act, the impact the behaviour of the Conservative Party has had and continues to have on British Muslim communities, and works to identify ways to ensure to rectify this serious issue within our party of government.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,



Harun Rashid Khan  
Secretary General

**Appendix**

This appendix provides the prima facie evidence outlined in the letter in each of the five areas of the case proposed. Given the unwillingness of the Conservative Party to engage constructively in these discussions, the evidence provided is of two types:

- Views of those with direct and first-hand knowledge about the issue within the Conservative Party e.g. those with current/former positions in the Party, representatives of the Party and members of the Party who have been at specific events.
- Public information about incidents that have taken place within the Party or statements made by Party representatives or members.

The evidence provided is collated in each of the five sections highlighted in the letter:

- 1. Islamophobia amongst MPs, MEPs and prospective parliamentary candidates**  
When Members of the UK or European Parliament engaged in Islamophobia or anti-Islam sentiments or the London Mayoral campaign engaged in Islamophobia, no action was taken, demonstrating a tolerance for this at the highest levels of the Party;
- 2. Atmosphere of hostility against Muslim Conservative Party members**  
Where Islamophobia has also been tolerated towards Muslim members of the Party, indicating an atmosphere of hostility towards Muslims in the Party;
- 3. Scale of Islamophobia in the Party**  
The problem of Islamophobia run deep into the Party with a large number of elected representatives and members of the Party of the Party who have engaged in Islamophobia, and made or shared anti-Islam remarks;
- 4. Failure of complaints process**  
Those in charge of the process of handling complaints within the Party (Chair, Deputy Chair) have demonstrated a callous attitude to complaints, misleading members and the public with limited (if any) transparency;
- 5. Denial of Islamophobia**  
The Party and its representatives have denied there is even a major problem of Islamophobia in the Party.

## I. Islamophobia amongst MPs, MEPs and Prospective Parliamentary Candidates

This section provides examples of Islamophobia and anti-Islam remarks at the very top of the Party, even used as an election tactic, which demonstrates an acceptance of Islamophobia. There are three sections to this part of the appendix:

- A. Campaign for Mayor of London in 2016
- B. Comments by and behaviour of other Members of Parliament and Members of the European Parliament
- C. Choice of Prospective Parliamentary Candidates (PPCs) during the 2019 General Election

### A. Campaign for Mayor of London in 2016

The campaign for the Mayor of London against Sadiq Khan by Zac Goldsmith has been widely described as worse than “dog whistle” racism targeting Muslims, including by Andrew Boff, the Conservative group leader on the Greater London Assembly.<sup>7</sup>

Mohammed Amin, former chair of the Conservative Muslim Forum, said: “Zac began to paint Sadiq Khan as a closet extremist... Every Muslim member of the Conservative Party who has discussed the campaign with me has understood the messages in this way, as have many, probably most, non-Muslim commentators. I concluded that Zac had abandoned any attempt to appeal to Muslim voters”.<sup>8</sup>

During this campaign, there appeared to be a co-ordinated strategy to employ the Islamophobic tropes that Muslims are extremists or linked to extremists, all the way to the top of the Party:

- Then-Prime Minister David Cameron falsely accused an Imam associated with Sadiq Khan of supporting Islamic State. The claim was later retracted;<sup>9</sup>
- Then-Home Secretary Theresa May declared Sadiq Khan unsafe to run London because of an alleged history of defending extremists;<sup>10</sup>
- Then-Defence Secretary, Michael Fallon, similarly falsely accused the same Imam. Michael Fallon had to pay damages.<sup>11</sup>

Zac Goldsmith refused to apologise and doubled down on his position throughout the mayoral campaign. Zac Goldsmith was not subject to any internal investigation. Instead, he was promoted to Cabinet as the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment and International Development in Boris Johnson’s Government in July 2019.<sup>12</sup> In the 2019 General Election, Zac Goldsmith lost his seat to the Liberal Democrats’ Sarah Olney, but was still elevated to the House of Lords, retaining his position as a Minister of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for International Development.<sup>13</sup>

### B. Members of Parliament and Members of the European Parliament

Further to the above, there are a number of serious examples of Islamophobia and the promotion of anti-Islam attitudes within the Party at the highest levels where no action has been taken. Given these MPs and MEPs are not satirists or ordinary members of the public in a private setting but representatives of a diverse nation, they have the responsibility to set the tone for the UK.

Attacks on Islam or Muslims create an atmosphere of hostility towards the Muslim members of the Party, and a number of examples that would likely prove highly problematic for many Muslims, are set out below:

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<sup>7</sup> [Zac Goldsmith attacked by senior Tory over London mayoral election tactics](#), *The Guardian*, 6 May 2016

<sup>8</sup> [Mohammed Amin: I’m a Conservative, and voted for Zac. But I was disgusted by his repeated, risible attempts to smear Khan](#), *Conservative Home*, 7 May 2016

<sup>9</sup> [David Cameron apologises after saying ex-imam 'supported Islamic State'](#), *The Guardian*, 11 May 2016

<sup>10</sup> [Sadiq Khan 'isn't fit to be Mayor of London because of his links to extremists', declares Theresa May as a string of senior Tories turn up heat on Labour candidate](#), *Mail Online*, 10 April 2016

<sup>11</sup> [Michael Fallon pays damages to imam at centre of Sadiq Khan storm](#), *The Guardian*, 23 June 2016

<sup>12</sup> [Liz Truss given ministerial role covering equalities and women’s issues](#), *BBC*, 10 September 2019

<sup>13</sup> [Zac Goldsmith handed peerage after losing seat so he can stay on as Cabinet minister](#), *Politics Home*, 19 December 2019

## I. Boris Johnson, Prime Minister

- Since becoming Prime Minister, Boris Johnson has made a number of strong statements against Islamophobia and against the tolerance of Islamophobia in the Conservative Party when questioned on the issue in the media. He claimed: “whenever we have an incident of anti-Semitism or Islamophobia or whatever in the Conservative Party we take a zero tolerance approach... we have a one bounce and we deal with it approach to this.”<sup>14</sup> This statement is inconsistent not only with the actions of his Party, but his own actions too.
- Prior to becoming Prime Minister, Boris Johnson had made a number of statements about Islam, none of which appeared to be of concern to the Conservative Party during the Conservative leadership election.
- Wrote that “Islam is the problem” and wrote in defence of Islamophobia as a “natural reaction”.<sup>15</sup>
- Made dehumanising and offensive comments about Muslim women who wear the niqab, referring to them as “letter boxes” and “bank robbers”, peddling the language of the far-right.<sup>16</sup>

This had real-world consequences for Muslim women, with Tell MAMA reporting a 375% spike in hate crime against Muslims in the week that followed the article.<sup>17</sup> In addition, Muslim women were mocked as letterboxes in a range of different situations,<sup>18</sup> including people echoing niqab comments at doctor’s surgery,<sup>19</sup> and Muslim women wearing niqab facing more abuse generally.<sup>20</sup>

These were comments that the EHRC called “inflammatory and divisive” and risked “vilifying Muslim women”<sup>21</sup> – he has refused to apologise on a number of occasions<sup>22</sup> (see section four on the process that cleared him).

- Held secret meetings with Steve Bannon, who as the former executive Chairman of far-right publication Breitbart, provided a platform for falsified information about Muslims; and as the former Chief Strategist and Senior Counselor for President Donald Trump, had a key role in writing the Executive Order banning immigration from seven Muslim-majority countries that many have called a “Muslim Ban”.<sup>23</sup>
- During the 2019 General Election and following his re-election as Prime Minister with a majority government, Boris Johnson won endorsements from prominent far-right figures including Tommy Robinson, the former leader of the English Defence League,<sup>24</sup> Britain First, the extremist group whose leaders were jailed in 2018,<sup>25</sup> and Viktor Orbán, who believes Europe is “under attack” from Muslim migrants. Viktor Orbán also said Boris Johnson and Donald Trump are “the most courageous” of all the politicians in the world today.<sup>26</sup>
- Conservative philosopher, Sir Roger Scruton, was also revered by Boris Johnson, hailed upon his passing as “the greatest modern conservative thinker – who not only had the guts to say what he thought but said it beautifully.”<sup>27</sup> This is despite Roger Scruton having

<sup>14</sup> [Tory MP candidate calls on Boris Johnson to apologise for Islamophobic comments](#), *The Independent*, 28 November 2019

<sup>15</sup> [Boris Johnson wrote that 'Islam is the problem' and defended Islamophobia as a 'natural reaction'](#), *Business Insider*, 6 August 2018

<sup>16</sup> [Boris Johnson accused of 'pandering to the far right' and making 'inflammatory and divisive comments' about Muslims](#), *The Independent*, 7 August 2018

<sup>17</sup> [Anti-Muslim incidents 'spiked by 375%' after Boris Johnson mocked Muslim women](#), *The Mirror*, 2 September 2019

<sup>18</sup> E.g. woman on LBC (via [Twitter](#)); *LBC*, 9 August 2018; [The Boris Johnson veil debate ignores the women at the centre of it](#), *The Independent*, 12 August 2018; Amanda Fleiss (via [Twitter](#)), 10 August 2018; other examples on [Twitter](#), *Miqdaad Versi*, 12 August 2018; [Boris Johnson's burqa comments fuel violent crime against Muslim women](#), *The Guardian*, 9 August 2018

<sup>19</sup> [Pensioners loudly echo Boris Johnson's niqab comments in doctor's surgery](#), *Tell MAMA*, 9 August 2018

<sup>20</sup> ['She might blow up the bus': Muslim mother, 20, says she was left 'humiliated' when British bus driver told her to remove her veil because he 'didn't know what she was capable of' if he couldn't see her face](#), *Mail Online*, 10 August 2018

<sup>21</sup> [Boris Johnson's burka comments inflammatory and divisive - equalities watchdog](#), *BBC*, 10 August

<sup>22</sup> [Labour MP demands Boris Johnson apologise for comparing veiled Muslim women to letterboxes](#), *The Telegraph*, 4 September 2019

<sup>23</sup> [Factsheet: Steve Bannon](#), *Bridge Initiative*, 16 September 2016

<sup>24</sup> [Tommy Robinson endorses Boris Johnson to be prime minister](#), *Metro*, 15 November 2019

<sup>25</sup> [Britain First urges supporters to join Conservative Party 'to make Boris Johnson's leadership more secure'](#), *The Independent*, 18 December 2019

<sup>26</sup> [Hungary for Brexit: Orbán praises Johnson and Trump](#), *The Guardian*, 9 January 2020

<sup>27</sup> Via [Twitter](#), *Boris Johnson*, 13 January 2020

described Islamophobia as “a propaganda word”<sup>28</sup> and spoken of an “invasion of huge tribes of Muslims”.<sup>29</sup>

## 2. Bob Blackman, MP for Harrow East

- Shared an anti-Muslim post by Tommy Robinson,<sup>30</sup> and then retweeted accounts defending him even though they had a history of hurling abuse at Muslims.<sup>31</sup>
- Hosted an anti-Muslim extremist (Tapan Ghosh) in Parliament<sup>32</sup> – a man who called on the UN to “control the Muslim birth rate world over”, propagated fake anti-Muslim stories like “one million white English children may have been the victims of Muslim rape gangs” and that “Islam has massacred over 669+ million non-Muslims since 622AD” and who appears to be a friend of Tommy Robinson.<sup>33</sup> He later retweeted comments asking why there was such a fuss over this individual.<sup>34</sup>
- Shared a story titled “Muslim Somali sex gang say raping white British children ‘part of their culture’” from the anti-Muslim website Hardcore News USA.<sup>35</sup>
- Shared a fake story about a Hindu woman being stabbed to death by her Muslim driver for rejecting a marriage proposal from an anti-Muslim website, which has been repeatedly accused of publishing false stories designed to cause community tensions between Hindus and Muslims.<sup>36</sup>
- Was a member of several far-right and Islamophobic Facebook groups – he was a member of “Britain for the British”, “For Britain Political Party” and “Pendragons Fight Back”.<sup>37</sup>
- It is notable that the then-Prime Minister, Theresa May, campaigned with Bob Blackman after many of these incidents.<sup>38</sup>

## 3. Nadine Dorries, MP for Mid Bedfordshire and Health Minister

- Shared a tweet from Stephen Yaxley-Lennon (popularly known as Tommy Robinson),<sup>39</sup> who has been described by Hope Not Hate as a “far-right Islamophobic extremist”<sup>40</sup>.
- Shared a false story about Muslims claiming benefits for several wives from an Anne-Marie Waters supporter who considers Tommy Robinson to be a “truth teller”.<sup>41</sup>
- Questioned Sadiq Khan about grooming gangs after his statement on hate crime, playing into Islamophobic tropes about Muslims (particularly given the specific and real issue of grooming gangs have been most prevalent in other areas of the UK where Sadiq Khan is not Mayor).<sup>42</sup>
- Said that she was disappointed that Boris' de-humanising comments about Muslim women who wear the burqa being “bank robbers” and “letterboxes”, “didn't go further”.<sup>43</sup>
- Claimed that Muslim women choose modest clothing to “hide...her bruises”, accusing (without evidence) the Muslims in the families of those wearing a niqab, of domestic violence.<sup>44</sup> Additionally, she linked Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), without any evidence, to Muslim women wearing a burqa.<sup>45</sup>
- Despite voting against same-sex marriage, she weaponised gay rights (specifically “gay marriage”) as a means of attacking Muslim women wearing a burqa who she claimed were “forced to cover up”.<sup>46</sup>

<sup>28</sup> [Academic Sir Roger Scruton sacked from housing role](#), BBC, 10 April 2019

<sup>29</sup> [Government sacks Roger Scruton after remarks about Soros and Islamophobia](#), *The Guardian*, 10 April 2019

<sup>30</sup> [Anti-Muslim post retweeted by Tory MP Bob Blackman](#), *The Times*, 28 October 2017

<sup>31</sup> Via [Twitter](#), *Miqdaad Versi*, 31 October 2017

<sup>32</sup> [Tory MP Bob Blackman hosts anti-Muslim nationalist Tapan Ghosh](#), *The Times*, 26 October 2017

<sup>33</sup> Evidence available on [Twitter](#), *Miqdaad Versi*, 25 October 2017

<sup>34</sup> Via [Twitter](#), *Miqdaad Versi*, 28 October 2017,

<sup>35</sup> [Tory MP Bob Blackman attacked for anti-Muslim Facebook post](#), *The Times*, 27 March 2018

<sup>36</sup> [Muslims want Tory 'Islamophobia' test case following Bob Blackman tweet](#), *The Times*, 1 June 2018

<sup>37</sup> [Tory MP with History of Islamophobia Was a Member of Racist Facebook Groups](#), *Vice News*, 30 May 2018,

<sup>38</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Miqdaad Versi*, 14 March 2018

<sup>39</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Miqdaad Versi*, 8 January 2019

<sup>40</sup> [Tommy Robinson is a far-right, Islamophobic extremist. Here's why](#), *Hope Not Hate*, Accessed 28 February 2020

<sup>41</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Miqdaad Versi*, 17 September 2018

<sup>42</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Miqdaad Versi*, 17 September 2018

<sup>43</sup> Via [Twitter](#), *talkRADIO*, 8 August 2018

<sup>44</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Miqdaad Versi*, 17 September 2018

<sup>45</sup> Via [Twitter](#), *Red Roar*, 8 August 2018

<sup>46</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Miqdaad Versi*, 17 September 2018

- Said a Muslim woman should “appreciate” everything Britain had given her.<sup>47</sup>
- 4. **Jeremy Hunt, MP for South West Surrey and former Foreign Secretary**, vociferously defended President Trump’s attack on Sadiq Khan, in which President Trump quoted far-right commentator Katie Hopkins referring to London as “Khan’s Londonistan” after the death of three men. Trump claimed Khan was “a national disgrace who is destroying the City of London”. Hunt, the then-Foreign Secretary, said that while he would not have used the same words, he “150% agrees” with the overall sentiment.<sup>48</sup>
- 5. **David Cameron, former Prime Minister**, alleged that a school (Islamic Shakhsiyah Foundation) was linked to Islamic extremism – a view dismissed by Haringey Council who found no evidence of “inappropriate influence”.<sup>49</sup> During his tenure, he made a number of speeches about Muslims and extremism,<sup>50</sup> most famously proposing that Muslim women (specifically) should learn English to help tackle extremism.<sup>51</sup> Even within the Government’s message in 2015 to Muslim communities on the celebration of Eid, he felt compelled to refer to the attacks by Daesh in Kobane and Tunisia.<sup>52</sup>
- 6. **Damien Green, MP for Ashford and former First Secretary of State**, responded to a deeply Islamophobic manifesto about “halting Muslim birth-rates” sent to him, without condemning the tropes but instead thanking them and responding as if they had made valid points.<sup>53</sup>
- 7. **Andrea Leadsom, MP for South Northamptonshire and former Leader of the House**, responded to a question by Naz Shah MP about the definition of Islamophobia by saying that it should be discussed “with foreign ministers”. As the *New Statesman* says: “Apparently, to the Leader of the House of Commons, Muslim equals foreign.”<sup>54</sup>
- 8. **Michael Gove, MP for Surrey Heath and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster**, was accused of having “extreme” views about Muslims by the former Co-Chair of the Party Baroness Sayeeda Warsi.<sup>55</sup>
- 9. **Daniel Kawczynski, MP for Shrewsbury and Atcham**, spoke at a far-right conference alongside prominent Islamophobes and anti-Semites like Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and leader of Italy’s far-right League, Matteo Salvini. At the conference, Daniel Kawczynski said he was there to “represent serious ideas and concerns, some of which are shared by many citizens of the UK”. To attend a conference while the House of Commons was sitting, he would have needed to attain permission from his Whip’s Office, indicating that his attendance was sanctioned by the Party. His attendance was met with condemnation from religious groups and anti-racist allies, which spurred the Conservative Party to reprimand him, though he was not forced to make a public apology, was not suspended pending an investigation and did not have the whip withdrawn.<sup>56</sup>
- 10. **Mike Fabricant, MP for Litchfield**
  - Shared an Islamophobic picture of Sadiq Khan as a pig, claiming that he had not seen that it was a picture of Sadiq Khan (although it is unclear what the political point of the photo without Sadiq Khan).<sup>57</sup>

<sup>47</sup> [Nadine Dorries MP says I should ‘appreciate’ everything Britain has given me. This is why that’s racist](#), *i News*, 22 May 2018

<sup>48</sup> [Jeremy Hunt defends Donald Trump’s attack on Sadiq Khan](#), *The Guardian*, 17 June 2019

<sup>49</sup> [Islamic school condemned by Cameron is cleared](#), *The Independent*, 12 December 2009

<sup>50</sup> [Speech in Munich on radicalisation and Islamic extremism: Full transcript of speech](#), 2011; [Speech in Indonesia including how Muslims must abandon “the dead-end choice of dictatorship and extremism”](#), *Daily Telegraph*, 2012; [View that multiculturalism aided extremists and call on Muslim leaders to confront extremism](#), *Daily Mail*, 2013; [Ordering an inquiry into the Muslim Brotherhood](#), *The Guardian*, 2014; [View that Muslim silent majority must tackle Islamist extremism at launch of the counter-extremism strategy](#), *Daily Telegraph*, 2015

<sup>51</sup> [Former Prime Minister Cameron’s proposal that more Muslim women should ‘learn English’ to help tackle extremism](#), *Daily Telegraph*, 2016

<sup>52</sup> [Eid 2015: David Cameron’s message](#), *Prime Minister’s Office*, 10 Downing Street, 16 July 2015

<sup>53</sup> [Via Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 27 March 2019

<sup>54</sup> [WATCH: Tory minister Andrea Leadsom thinks Muslims are a case for “foreign ministers”](#), *New Statesman*, 7 March 2019

<sup>55</sup> [Michael Gove has same ‘crazy’ anti-Muslim policies as Donald Trump, former Tory chairwoman says](#), *The Independent*, March 2017

<sup>56</sup> [Tory MP escapes suspension for speaking at far-Right event](#), *The Telegraph*, 7 February 2020

<sup>57</sup> [Tory MP Michael Fabricant tweets Islamophobic picture depicting Sadiq Khan as a pig](#), *The Independent*, 13 July 2018

- Believed that Jewish schools face a threat from Muslim schools (without evidence)<sup>58</sup> and falsely claimed that 100 anti-Jewish attacks were committed by “intolerant Muslims” when no such claim was made in the article he cited.<sup>59</sup>

## 11. **Brandon Lewis, MP for Great Yarmouth, former Chair of the Conservative Party and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland**

- Oversaw much of the Islamophobia in the Conservative Party detailed in this report, clearly failing to take effective action as Party Chairman.
- Accused of inconsistency over Islamophobia,<sup>60</sup> and of misleading the public over his claim about incidents of Islamophobia by party members having been dealt with.<sup>61</sup>
- Retweeted support for Rod Liddle, a commentator notorious for spouting anti-Muslim bigotry and racism.<sup>62</sup> Despite this, he was given a number of Cabinet positions, most recently being promoted to Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

## 12. **Ben Bradley, MP for Mansfield and former Vice Chair of the Party**, vociferously defended a Conservative Councillor who shared Islamophobic posts, lied to a reporter about it and was later caught out.<sup>63</sup>

## 13. **Philip Hollobone, MP for Kettering**, said the burqa was “the religious equivalent of going around with a paper bag over your head with two holes for the eyes”.<sup>64</sup>

## 14. **Philip Davies, MP for Shipley**, called for the abolishment of Sharia councils but made no such request about similar Beth Din courts, indicating a clear differentiated treatment for Muslims.<sup>65</sup>

## 15. **David Davies, MP for Monmouth and Secretary of State for Wales**, claimed that Islamic headwear is “an excuse for sexual violence against women”.<sup>66</sup>

## 16. **Dehanna Davison, MP for Bishop Auckland**, faced calls to be suspended and subject to an urgent investigation after she was pictured following her election with two far-right, Islamophobic activists. One individual, a former Conservative activist, was banned from the Party after it was revealed he was behind a far-right protest and made Islamophobic comments, including discussing “aggressive muzzies” praying in public to “provoke a reaction”. Pictures have been found on Facebook thought to be of the other individual burning a Qur’an, posing with a racist message that reads “F\*CK P\*\*KS”.<sup>67</sup>

## 17. A number of MPs have been found to be part of the Conservative Debating Forum, the second largest pro-Conservative Facebook group, which can only be joined by “accepting an invitation or requesting to join”.<sup>68</sup> This group is notorious for being riddled with Islamophobia. It carries several posts a day regarding Muslims or Islam, accompanied by comments such as “send them back” and “we should ban Islam”. Others suggested that Islam represents an “threat to our country” to Britain and that only someone with a “mental illness” would convert to the religion. One member simply said, “I am Islamophobic”. He was later also found to be a member of a group supporting the far-right leader Tommy Robinson. The Times noted that you can’t be added “without accepting an invitation...or requesting to join”. Members of this group include **Jacob Rees-Mogg, MP for North East Somerset, Andrew Rosindell, MP for Romford, Stuart Andrew, MP for Pudsey, Ben Bradley, MP for Mansfield, Julian Sturdy, MP for York Outer, James Duddridge, MP for Rochford and Southend East, George Freeman, MP for Mid Norfolk, Vicky Ford, MP for Chelmsford, Kevin Hollinrake, MP for Thirsk and Malton and Glyn Davies, former**

<sup>58</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Miqdaad Versi*, 12 July 2018,

<sup>59</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Miqdaad Versi*, 12 July 2018

<sup>60</sup> [Tory chairman accused of inconsistency over Islamophobia](#), *The Guardian*, 11 March 2019

<sup>61</sup> [Tory chairman Brandon Lewis asked if he misled public over Islamophobia complaints](#), *Evening Standard*, 18 March 2019

<sup>62</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Miqdaad Versi*, 27 September 2018

<sup>63</sup> [A Tory Party Vice-Chair Defended A Councillor's Anti-Muslim Facebook Posts](#), *BuzzFeed*, June 2018

<sup>64</sup> [MP Philip Hollobone was referred to police over 'paper bag' burka comments](#), *The Guardian*, March 2010

<sup>65</sup> [Muslim leaders say Philip Davies 'misinformed' after he calls for abolishment of Sharia councils](#), *Telegraph & Argus*, 1 March 2018

<sup>66</sup> [MP's claims that Islamic headwear is 'an excuse for sexual violence against women' are branded 'ridiculous'](#), *South Wales Argus*, April 2016

<sup>67</sup> [Tory MP Pictured with Far-Right Activist Faces Calls For Investigation](#), *Huffington Post*, 14 February 2020

<sup>68</sup> [Tory MP's Facebook account part of Tommy Robinson group](#), *The Times*, 5 January 2019

**MP for Montgomeryshire.** Some have claimed to have been added without their knowledge.<sup>69</sup>

18. **Daniel Hannan, former MEP South-East England,** attended the National Conservatism conference in 2019, the same conference that Daniel Kawczynski was condemned for attending. Daniel Hannan has also spoken alongside far-right politicians including Viktor Orbán, Matteo Salvini and Marion Marechal Le Pen. He spoke at the Global Freedom Movement Conference, organised by the American Freedom Alliance, which is listed by the Southern Poverty Law Centre as an anti-Muslim group. The event also featured Katie Hopkins, former UKIP MEP Steven Woolfe and key Austrian anti-Muslim activist Elisabeth Sabaditsch-Wolff, among others. Hannan has not faced any scrutiny for attending these events, but instead was given a life peerage by Boris Johnson.<sup>70</sup>

### C. Choice of Prospective Parliamentary Candidates during the 2019 General Election

During the General Election in 2019, there were a number of Conservative candidates accused of Islamophobia and criticised for making anti-Islam remarks, with the Conservative Party failing to take robust action in every instance. A number of the candidates were still allowed to stand, and some have gone on to become MPs. Included in the section below are candidates in previous General Elections:

1. **Anthony Browne, 2019 PPC and now MP for South Cambridgeshire,** formerly an adviser to Boris Johnson when he was Mayor of London, questioned the loyalty of Muslims to Britain when responding to Muslim leaders' concerns about the Iraq War, branding Muslims as "a large minority with such divided loyalties."<sup>71</sup> Despite facing calls to stand down before the nomination process closed, he was still selected, stood as the Conservative candidate, and won the seat.
2. **Ross Houghton, 2019 PPC for Aberdeen South,** was suspended following claims that Muslims were having big families in a bid to create "Eurabia", and that Islam's core teaching was one of world domination. He confirmed his view that "Islam is more violent, from verses from the Qur'an itself, from watching lecture by Islamic scholars etc." going on to confirm he believes this is the view of all Muslims, not a select few.<sup>72</sup> Though he is under investigation, he was still the candidate for the Conservatives at the election, and still sits on Aberdeen City Council in the Conservative group.<sup>73</sup>
3. **Karl McCartney, 2019 PPC and now MP for Lincoln,** retweeted posts by Tommy Robinson and Katie Hopkins for a sustained period of time. Such posts included anti-Muslim and anti-Semitic material. Having apologised, he has not faced any investigation, and is now the MP.<sup>74</sup>
4. **Anjana Patel, 2019 PPC for Brent North,** posted a tweet directed at Malala Yousafzai, blaming her for the alleged kidnapping of two Hindu girls who were "forcibly converted" to "your religion, Islam". CCHQ had already investigated this tweet while she was a councillor, concluded an investigation, allowed her to quietly delete her Twitter account and still stand as the candidate.<sup>75</sup>
5. **Sally Ann Hart, 2019 PPC and now MP for Hastings and Rye,** shared a post written by Cheri Berens, an anti-Islam activist, claiming the Women's March against President Trump had been hijacked by the Muslim Brotherhood to promote the "Muslim agenda", describing this post as an "affecting read". She was still selected as the Conservative candidate is now the MP.<sup>76</sup>

<sup>69</sup> [Pro-Tory Facebook group filled with Islamophobic abuse](#), *The Guardian*, 9 June 2018

<sup>70</sup> [A Strange Ennoblement](#), *Hope Not Hate*, 10 February 2020

<sup>71</sup> [Anthony Browne faces calls to quit over disgusting racism](#), *The Guardian*, 11 November 2019

<sup>72</sup> [Aberdeen Tory candidate Ryan Houghton's sick posts uncovered](#), *The National*, 19 November 2019

<sup>73</sup> [Aberdeen Tory election candidate suspended over Holocaust comment retains £30k](#), *The Herald*, 28 January 2020

<sup>74</sup> [Tory ministers back candidates accused of Islamophobia](#), *The Guardian*, 6 December 2019

<sup>75</sup> [The Tories Knew About This Candidate's Anti-Muslim Tweet, But Let Her Stand Anyway](#), *BuzzFeed*, 18 November 2019

<sup>76</sup> [Tories open second investigation into Hastings candidate](#), *The Guardian*, 11 December 2019

6. **Antony Calvert, 2019 PPC for Wakefield**, was not suspended by the Conservatives, but voluntarily stood down over comments he had made about Colonel Gaddafi, advising if he wanted to go unrecognised, “he should surely have fled to Bradford.”<sup>77</sup>
7. **Linden Kemkaran, 2019 PPC for Bradford East**, was not suspended by the Conservatives, despite claiming Muslims play the “race card”, have a “nasty culture”, labelling Naz Shah MP a “Pakideshi” who pushes the “doggy-do-do Muslim narrative”. She is also alleged to have told young people at a hustings that the city had “no-go areas”, retweeting individuals accusing Naz Shah MP of being “not white enough”, claiming her loyalties did not lie in the city.<sup>78</sup>
8. **Flora Scarabello, 2019 PPC for Glasgow Central**, was suspended by the Scottish Conservatives, but was still the candidate on the ballot paper following a complaint and a recording of a private conversation involving the candidate using Islamophobic language.<sup>79</sup>
9. **Stephen Johnston, 2017 PPC for Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East**, posted on Twitter calling for the immigration system to exclude “Muslim invaders”<sup>80</sup> and “Muslims and Africans” to be “resettled” in other countries.<sup>81</sup>

Not all of these instances should be considered of the same seriousness, but the fact that few individuals on this list have been subject to an investigation, let alone faced any suspension or action, with Boris Johnson facing a secret inquiry which cleared him of any wrongdoing (see later section), demonstrates a woeful tolerance of Islamophobia in the Party.

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<sup>77</sup> [Wakefield Tory candidate Antony Calvert quits over Facebook comments](#), BBC, 10 November 2019

<sup>78</sup> [Tory candidate shared tweet claiming Muslims have ‘nasty culture’](#), *The Guardian*, 9 December 2019

<sup>79</sup> [Scottish Tories suspend second election candidate over alleged Islamophobia](#), *The Herald*, 27 November 2019

<sup>80</sup> Via [Twitter](#), *Stephen C Johnston*, 31 October 2018

<sup>81</sup> Via [Twitter](#), *Stephen C Johnston*, 7 July 2019

## 2. Atmosphere of Hostility Against Muslim Conservative Party Members

The way to best understand whether Islamophobia and anti-Muslim attitudes are tolerated in the Party and if there is an atmosphere of hostility against Muslims – a vital concern for the EHRC – is by looking to the most senior Muslims outside of Government (where they are likely to stick to the party line), but within the Conservative Party:

- **Baroness Warsi, the former co-chair of the Party**, has a unique insight into the workings of the Party. In 2016, she discussed how there was a “simmering underbelly of Islamophobia” in the Party,<sup>82</sup> and has since explained how she believes there is “institutional” Islamophobia in the Party.<sup>83</sup> She has called consistently for an inquiry into Islamophobia, describing her campaigning for the Party’s to hold an inquiry as having to “drag my colleagues kicking and screaming to address this issue.” She has also raised concerns about the views of senior government figures, warning about Michael Gove’s controversial opinions about Muslims when he was standing in the Party leadership election. Baroness Warsi has even described her membership of the Party in light of the problems of Islamophobia as being “in an abusive relationship”.<sup>84</sup>
- **Lord Sheikh, the founder of the Conservative Muslim Forum**, and longstanding senior Muslim peer has said how the concerns of Islamophobia are “no surprise to me and should not come as a surprise to the party either” as he urged the Party to launch an inquiry into Islamophobia.<sup>85</sup> He has since been hounded by party members, receiving dozens of “vile” Islamophobic emails,<sup>86</sup> together with calls for him to be expelled from the Party.<sup>87</sup>
- **Mohammed Amin, the now-former Chair of the Conservative Muslim Forum**, and longstanding activist has accused the Party of failing to root out Islamophobia because it was scared of damaging its own political power, noting that it was instead hoping the issue “will magically go away”.<sup>88</sup> He was expelled from the Conservative Muslim Forum for “casting doubt on Boris Johnson’s moral fitness” during an interview.<sup>89</sup> He questioned Boris Johnson’s integrity based on his comments likening Muslim women to “letter boxes”, explaining the prospective leader requires “a basic level of morality and integrity... Boris Johnson is the only one [candidate] that I believe fails that test.”<sup>90</sup> He then resigned as a member of the Conservatives once Boris Johnson was made leader and Prime Minister.<sup>91</sup>
- **Hashim Bhatti, Chair of the Youth Wing of the Conservative Muslim Forum**, and long-term activist discussed the “feeling that Muslims are not being listened to when they express concerns about the bigotry they face” and joined the call for an inquiry into Islamophobia in the Party.<sup>92</sup>
- **Sajjad Karim, former Conservative West Midlands MEP**, spoke about senior Conservative Party members, including a serving minister, “having an Islamophobic conversation about me and my religious and cultural background”. When approaching James Cleverly, the then-Chair of the Conservative Party to discuss this further and ensure action was taken, Sajjad Karim did not hear back from James Cleverly. He has expressed doubts about the Party’s willingness to tackle or even acknowledge the problem, claiming, “they just see it as a nuisance”, and that those speaking out against Islamophobia are “regarded as banging on about something that is damaging the party and not really an issue in itself.”<sup>93</sup>

<sup>82</sup> [Is Islamophobia taken as seriously as anti-Semitism?](#), BBC Asian Network, 12 May 2016

<sup>83</sup> [Baroness Warsi hits out at ‘institutional’ Islamophobia in the Tory party](#), ITV, 5 March 2019

<sup>84</sup> [Sayeeda Warsi on Tory Islamophobia: ‘It feels like I’m in an abusive relationship’](#), The Guardian, 27 November 2019

<sup>85</sup> [Theresa May urged to launch inquiry into Conservative Islamophobia by senior Tory peer](#), The Independent, 2 June 2018

<sup>86</sup> [Tory Muslim peer who called for Boris Johnson to be kicked out of party receives barrage of ‘vile Islamophobic emails’](#), The Independent, 10 August 2018

<sup>87</sup> [Conservatives call for Lord Sheikh to be expelled from party](#), The Guardian, 16 August 2018

<sup>88</sup> [Conservatives hoping Islamophobia issue ‘will magically go away’](#), warns senior party activist, The Independent, 5 June 2018

<sup>89</sup> [Conservative Muslim chair says he was expelled from group for questioning Boris Johnson’s moral fitness](#), ITV, 21 June 2019

<sup>90</sup> [My expulsion by the Conservative Muslim Forum](#), Mohammed Amin, 27 July 2019

<sup>91</sup> [Leading Tory Muslim quits after ‘morally unfit’ Boris becomes PM](#), Metro, 23 July 2019

<sup>92</sup> [I’m a Tory councillor. Islamophobia in my party goes beyond Boris Johnson](#), The Guardian, 7 August 2018

<sup>93</sup> [Sayeeda Warsi on Tory Islamophobia: ‘It feels like I’m in an abusive relationship’](#), The Guardian, 27 November 2019

- **Kyle Pedley, now-former Deputy Chair of Stourbridge Conservative Association**, resigned from the Party following a local election selection meeting in which a Muslim candidate was “faced with a barrage of questioning” about “one thing and one thing alone, and that was his religion and his race”. Questioning included whether the candidate was “really a Muslim”, how often they prayed and their record of attending the mosque. Kyle Pedley described how once the candidate had left, the other attendees at the meeting discussed whether they needed “an Asian”. Though he submitted two complaints to CCHQ, the Party had not followed up with an investigation until this was reported on the BBC, after which a formal investigation was launched. On this particular incident, Baroness Warsi spoke about how this was similar to what she had heard over four years, “happening in associations up and down the country.”<sup>94</sup>
- **Sajid Javid, then-Home Secretary**, was excluded by then-Prime Minister Theresa May from a state banquet held for President Trump. This was despite Sajid Javid being the Home Secretary, and several other junior ministers being invited. He described it as “odd”, but fell short of claiming his attendance was blocked because of his Muslim background. Baroness Warsi suggested it was an example of Islamophobia. No. 10 claimed Home Secretaries aren’t normally invited to such events, though his predecessor, Amber Rudd, was invited to at least one banquet for a head of state during her tenure, and former Labour Home Secretary Jacqui Smith confirmed she was invited to every state banquet during her two-year tenure.<sup>95</sup>
- **Parvez Akhtar, PPC for Luton South**, described the “blatant discrimination” in the Party towards individuals and in the policy agenda, when discussing Islamophobia. Parvez Akhtar spoke of his personal experience on two occasions of “anti-Muslim hatred within the Party”, believing the Conservative Party has a “blind spot” when it comes to Muslims.<sup>96</sup>
- **Councillor Nadeem Ahmed, Wakefield’s most senior Conservative**, who previously felt there wasn’t a need for an inquiry into Islamophobia, describes his shock at the scale of Islamophobia in the Party after having spoken to victims and seen racist comments online, admitting he previously “wasn’t aware” of the scale.<sup>97</sup>
- **Amir Sadjady, former deputy chair of Hammersmith Conservatives**, claims to have been excluded by other members, subject to inadequate selection processes, poor complaints procedures and that CCHQ has not taken action on his complaints of bullying and emotional blackmail, citing prejudice of “anyone who doesn’t fit in to their make-up...not being white and not having the right sounding name.”<sup>98</sup>
- **Imam Qari Asim, UK Government’s Independent Advisor on Islamophobia**, is not a member of the Conservative Party but is a key advisor to the UK Government, but was seemingly abandoned by the Government when he was grossly misrepresented in The Sunday Times.<sup>99</sup> Qari Asim was reported as having explained how Muslims may have different understandings of free speech, which was incorrect and taken out of context.<sup>100</sup> This report was widely condemned, with many organisations and individuals speaking in support of Qari Asim, including the Archbishop of Canterbury.<sup>101</sup> The UK Government refused to defend its advisor, and his credibility and position was brought into question by Conservative MP Bob Seely.

It is unclear who better within the Party can speak out to highlight the concerns they have seen. However, if these voices are insufficient, their views are supported by a series of specific examples of behaviour targeting Muslims within the Conservative Party:

- Baroness Warsi was labelled a “P\*\*\*” in internal meetings.<sup>102</sup>

<sup>94</sup> [‘I was aghast’: Stourbridge Tory association deputy resigns](#), BBC, 14 November 2019

<sup>95</sup> [No 10: Sajid Javid’s Trump banquet snub not Islamophobic](#), *The Guardian*, 13 June 2019

<sup>96</sup> [General election 2019: Tory candidate calls for PM apology on Muslim remarks](#), BBC, 27 November 2019

<sup>97</sup> [Wakefield councillor Nadeem Ahmed speaks candidly about racism and scale of Islamophobia in politics](#), *Wakefield Express*, 20 September 2019

<sup>98</sup> [Ex-council candidate accuses Conservatives of prejudice and discrimination as he quits party](#), *SW Londoner*, 4 April 2019

<sup>99</sup> [Tory inquiry imam in free-speech row](#), *The Sunday Times*, 9 February 2020

<sup>100</sup> [Qari Asim: Free Speech and Challenging Hatred](#), *Makkah Mosque*, 9 February 2020

<sup>101</sup> [Board of Deputies defends imam appointed to Tory inquiry into Islamophobia](#), *The Jewish Chronicle*, 10 February 2020

<sup>102</sup> [Good Morning Britain](#) via Twitter, 31 May 2018

- Conservative Party candidate Shazia Awan left the Party because it has “a notion that Islam is not compatible with British values” explaining a worrying incident a party event.<sup>103</sup>
- A Muslim member has said how he was asked to door-knock certain houses while campaigning because the residents were not white.<sup>104</sup>
- At the Hammersmith Conservative Association annual dinner 2016, the five ethnic minorities that attended were put on the same table at the farthest end of the hall (other than the girlfriend of one of the exec).<sup>105</sup>
- A Muslim former Deputy Chair of a local Party states he was not included on mailing lists for campaigning, was told his application for wards had gone missing and was only given three days’ notice for a selection event for Holland Park ward, prompted after he asked why he had heard nothing for three months.<sup>106</sup>
- The local Party leader had said that one member looked “too Muslim” and “wouldn’t be accepted”.<sup>107</sup>
- There were insinuations made by Conservative Party members that some Muslim members were not British.<sup>108</sup>
- One Muslim member explains how he overheard other Party members describe “the only good Muslims” as belonging to one particular sect.<sup>109</sup>
- Former Tory candidate Kishan Devani quit the Party due to the “uncomfortable lurch to the right which caused Islamophobia scandal”.<sup>110</sup>
- One Muslim member described how a councillor had told him he was “not welcome” in the Party. He was later told during a candidate interview that “naturally in your core belief women are not allowed to work”.<sup>111</sup>

These incidents are only some of the comments from Muslims within the Party which clearly demonstrate a culture of Islamophobia faced by Muslims. This is supplemented by the Islamophobia from those who are not Muslim as outlined in the later parts of the appendix.

Muslim and non-Muslim communities across the UK have raised concerns and called for an inquiry into Islamophobia in the Conservative Party, including:

- Muslim Council of Britain, the largest umbrella body of Muslim organisations in the UK, which the majority of Muslims believe is doing a “good job” in representing their views.<sup>112</sup>
- More than 350 mosques and Muslim organisations from 11 separate umbrella organisations from across the UK, including Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.<sup>113</sup>
- The largest Muslim student union FOSIS representing 120 Islamic societies.
- Two out of the four Muslim Conservative peers Baroness Warsi and Lord Sheikh.
- Jewish organisations, such as the Jewish Council for Racial Equality and the Union of Jewish Students (UJS).
- The affiliated Muslim group, the Conservative Muslim Forum.

<sup>103</sup> [As a Muslim member of the Tory party, I saw Islamophobia firsthand](#), *New Statesman*, 1 June 2018

<sup>104</sup> [“Ex-council candidate accuses Conservatives of prejudice and discrimination as he quits party”](#), *SW Londoner*, 4 April 2019

<sup>105</sup> Directly from an attendee at the dinner

<sup>106</sup> [“Ex-council candidate accuses Conservatives of prejudice and discrimination as he quits party”](#), *SW Londoner*, 4 April 2019

<sup>107</sup> [Conservatives hoping Islamophobia issue 'will magically go away', warns senior party activist](#), *The Independent*, 5 June 2018

<sup>108</sup> [Conservatives hoping Islamophobia issue 'will magically go away', warns senior party activist](#), *The Independent*, 5 June 2018

<sup>109</sup> [‘He inferred I wasn’t British’: Tory members tell of Islamophobia](#), *The Guardian*, 31 May 2018

<sup>110</sup> [Former Tory candidate quit party due to ‘uncomfortable lurch to the right which caused Islamophobia scandal’](#), *The Independent*, 10 June 2018

<sup>111</sup> [Conservatives hoping Islamophobia issue 'will magically go away', warns senior party activist](#), *The Independent*, 5 June 2018

<sup>112</sup> [BBC Muslim Poll, 2015, ComRes and C4 / Juniper Survey of Muslims 2015](#), Question 8 (Table 26), ICM have polled similar questions – see screenshots on [Twitter](#) from the original polls

<sup>113</sup> [More than 350 mosques urge Conservatives to launch internal inquiry into Islamophobia](#), *The Independent*, 4 June 2018

Regrettably, despite commitments made to the contrary by the Prime Minister and all other Conservative leadership contenders in the 2019 leadership contest, these calls have been ignored, showing the apathy within the Party not just towards acknowledging and tackling the problem of Islamophobia, but also towards taking seriously the concerns of its Muslim, and in some cases, extremely senior, colleagues.

Furthermore, for any Muslim member of the Conservative Party to be involved and active in the Party, it is overwhelmingly likely that they would be members of the various Conservative forums and social media groups. Some of the most well-known groups have been full of instances of Islamophobia and the promotion of anti-Islam attitudes:

- **Conservative Home**, the most high-profile Conservative Party grassroots activist forum, which has been found to be littered with Islamophobia. Comments include the need to discuss “how to eradicate the cancer” of “Islam and Middle Eastern cultures”, with one commenter saying Muslims should be “explaining and justifying what their faith has to offer civilised society”, while another seemed to be threatening Muslims.<sup>114</sup>
- **Conservative Debating Forum**, the second largest pro-Conservative Facebook (closed), group was full of regular Islamophobic abuse. Comments include demands to “expel the London mayor” to prevent the growth of Islam, and “send back” immigrants, another post said “Islam should be banned”, with another post suggesting that Islam represents an “existential threat” to Britain. As previously said, ten Conservative MPs were found to be members, alongside a number of councillors and senior figures within the Party. Some of these individuals have now distanced themselves from the group.<sup>115</sup>
- **Boris Johnson’s official Facebook page** was found to have hosted hundreds of Islamophobic comments. Remarks include calls for “no Muslims in government, police or army”; with another post reading: “That’s crazy to trust them. They are just waiting for the Jihad signal to turn on us. #Islamophobicandproud.”; another tells Boris Johnson he “had the bottle to start getting rid of these bloody Muslims, just like Enoch [Powell] wanted to rid us all yer [sic] bloody c\*\*ns!”<sup>116</sup>
- **Jacob Rees-Mogg Supporters Facebook group**, with 23,000 members, also had a large number of Islamophobic comments. One mentioned entering a mosque with a rifle while another called to “stop the Islamification of Britain”. Muslims whose murder have been called for on this group include Sajid Javid, Sadiq Khan, Naz Shah and Magid Magid.<sup>117</sup>
- **True Blue Tories**, administrated by Rebecca D’Amato, who appeared to suggest the terrorist attack against Muslims in Christchurch was a “stitch up”. Martin Oddy, a Conservative supporter who has helped organise events for Andrea Jenkyns MP, replied with the sick joke “shoe sale in New Zealand”.<sup>118</sup>

For members who are Muslim who witness this level of toxic hate being tolerated in such groups, combined with the denial of the very existence of Islamophobia in the Party, explain how the Party has fostered an atmosphere of Islamophobia.

<sup>114</sup> [The Online ‘Home’ of the Tory Party Is a Hotbed of Islamophobia](#), *Vice News*, 10 August 2018

<sup>115</sup> [Pro-Tory Facebook group filled with Islamophobic abuse](#), *The Guardian*, 9 June 2018

<sup>116</sup> [Boris Johnson’s Facebook page mobbed by racists after burqa furore](#), *The Sunday Times*, 19 August 2018

<sup>117</sup> Screenshots via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 26 January 2019

<sup>118</sup> [Tory groups respond to Christchurch massacre with sick jokes and conspiracy theories](#), *The Red Roar*, 18 March 2019

### 3. Scale of Islamophobia in the Conservative Party

The problem of Islamophobia runs deep into the Conservative Party with a large number of representatives and members of the Party having engaged in Islamophobia.

In July 2019, anti-racist campaign group Hope Not Hate carried out extensive polling with YouGov of Conservative Party members to better understand their views on Muslims and Islam. This polling found that 60% believe ‘Islam is generally a threat to Western civilisation’. Furthermore, 54% thought Islam was ‘generally a threat to the British way of life’, with 61% of members believing this because ‘Islam breeds intolerance for free speech and calls for violent actions against those who mock, criticise or depict the religion in ways they believe are offensive’.<sup>119</sup>

The conclusions of this polling were rejected by then Party Chairman, Brandon Lewis, citing issues with YouGov’s self-report status with regards to membership data, despite having approvingly cited previous YouGov polling of Conservative members. This outright rejection of polling carried out by a reputable polling company indicates a lack of willingness to genuinely address the problem of Islamophobia.<sup>120</sup>

During the election, further polling was carried out among Conservative voters to gauge views on Muslims and Islamophobia in general. A poll carried out by ICM in the first week of December 2019 surveyed 2,011 voters, comparing answers of people who said they voted Conservative and Labour at the 2017 election with the public as a whole. It found that 37% of Conservative voters view Muslims in a negative light, compared with 26% of the electorate as a whole and 16% of Labour supporters. Conservative voters were also much more likely to say they agreed with the statement ‘Islam threatens the British way of life’ – 62% compared to 45% of the general public and 35% of Labour voters. It also found that 55% of Conservative supporters agreed that there should be a reduction in the number of Muslims entering Britain, while 41% of the wider public and 33% of Labour voters backed this statement.<sup>121</sup>

The staggeringly high percentages underline the deeply worrying levels of Islamophobic beliefs among Party members and voters and indicate as to just how widespread these views are.

This section provides examples of serious issues of Islamophobia and hate about Islam and/or Muslims by Conservative councillors, candidates and representatives, for whom it is unacceptable to share hate about Muslims or Islam, particularly as both the targeting of Muslims and Islam is against the stated position of the Conservative Party.

Given the Party consistently refuses to be transparent in its processes, these are therefore only a subset of the likely much larger group of representatives who have been involved in such activity:

1. Fiona Bulmer, now-former Chair of Chipping Barnet Conservatives, told a Muslim woman while canvassing during the 2019 General Election that she supported Boris Johnson’s comments about Muslim women wearing a niqab looking like “letter boxes”, and allegedly added that she found the woman’s hijab “offensive”.<sup>122</sup>
2. Nick Coulthick, East Riding Councillor, made comments online comparing “the tide of Islam” in the UK to the Nazi bombardment of Britain, and wrote: “Quote of the day: ‘There are two forces killing our people and our citizens: Islam and political correctness.’”<sup>123</sup>
3. John Moss, Waltham Forest Councillor, responded to a tweet about the right-wing journalist Douglas Murray winning an ‘Islamophobe of the Year’ award, with: “An ‘Islamophobe’ is by definition somebody frightened of Muslims. Maybe we should nominate every 11-year-old girl!” In

<sup>119</sup> [Conservative Islamophobia: new polling shows depth of the party’s crisis](#), *Hope Not Hate*, 8 July 2019

<sup>120</sup> [Conservative Party: A Year in Review](#), *Hope Not Hate*, 2020

<sup>121</sup> [A New Poll Found 37% Of Conservative Voters Admit They Have A Negative View Of Muslims](#), *BuzzFeed*, 11 December 2019

<sup>122</sup> [Tory chairwoman ‘tells Muslim shopper her hijab is “offensive” outside Asda’](#), *The Mirror*, 9 December 2019

<sup>123</sup> [Two Tory Councillors Repeatedly Made Anti-Islam Comments Online. The Tories Haven’t Suspended Them](#), *BuzzFeed*, 29 May 2019

another post, he said: “reject [sic] Islam’s barbarism, its sexism, its racism, its homophobia” and said: “According to Islam, women are chattels...They have no liberty.” He also sent a series of tweets to prominent Muslims, repeatedly asking them to “denounce” parts of the Qur’an.<sup>124</sup>

4. Roger Taylor, Calderdale Councillor, shared a post on Facebook claiming it is an “unqualified assertion” that the vast majority of Muslims want to live in peace, and that there is a “spectre of fanatics rampaging across the globe in the name of Islam...gradually taking over the entire continent”.<sup>125</sup> He also commented on a post about British Muslim journalist Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, asking “why is she even in the country?”<sup>126</sup>
5. Steve Vickers, Nottinghamshire County Councillor, claimed Sadiq Khan “and his brethren” were “part of the problem” following on from the 2016 terror attack in Nice.<sup>127</sup>
6. Susanna Dixon, former Coventry City Councillor, shared numerous fake articles about British Muslims discussing “gangs of Muslims” and how “Islamofascists” were taking over towns, by far-right outlets including Britain First.<sup>128</sup>
7. Sonia Armstrong, Harworth and Bircotes Town Councillor, posted a number of Islamophobic posts, using far-right tropes about “grooming, rapping [sic] our children, rapping [sic] and killing of our people”.<sup>129</sup>
8. Judith Clementson, Winchester City Councillor, posted conspiracy theories about “a dangerous Muslim agenda for world domination”.<sup>130</sup>
9. Ranjit Pendhar Singh Gill, Hounslow Councillor, celebrated the election of President Trump and his promised exclusion of Muslims, sharing posts about “75 million Muslim Turks” with plans to “infiltrate the UK”.<sup>131</sup>
10. Derek Bullock, Bolton Councillor, posted an article about Baroness Warsi from Robert Spencer’s ‘JihadWatch’. Robert Spencer is banned from entering the UK as his presence was “not conducive to the public good”.<sup>132</sup>
11. Bryan Denson, former Wakefield Councillor, shared a post by the far-right English Democrats that sought to associate Islam generally with the acts of extremists.<sup>133</sup>
12. Gail Hall, former Gwynedd Councillor, has shared a number of posts, including calling Muslims “savages”, and has ‘liked’ comments referring to Muslims as “scumbags” who should “sling their hooks back to their ancestral homelands”.<sup>134</sup>
13. Martin Akehurst, former Henley-On-Thames Councillor, ‘liked’ a post which claimed: “Muslims hate everything and everyone who is not Muslim”.<sup>135</sup>
14. Christopher Meakin, former Southwark Councillor and Leader of the Conservatives on Southwark Council, wrote a number of posts advocating for the murder of Muslim migrants and claiming Europe had been “invaded”.<sup>136</sup>
15. Karl Lewis, Llandinam Community Councillor, shared a fake video entitled “Sweden Being Raped To Death By Muslim Migrants”.<sup>137</sup>
16. Liam Ritchie, candidate for Sunderland City Council, shared a graphic with a Sadiq Khan which said “Londonistan”, and claimed there were “423 new mosques, 500 closed churches, 100 sharia courts”. The caption discussed “Islamic fundamentalism”.<sup>138</sup>
17. Roger Vernon, candidate for Bassetlaw District Council, shared a number of Islamophobic posts, comparing moderate Muslims to Germans living under the Nazis, and suggesting that Muslims “bring Islamophobia on themselves”.<sup>139</sup>

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<sup>124</sup> Ibid.

<sup>125</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Roger Taylor, 16 January 2019

<sup>126</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>127</sup> [Revealed: new evidence of Islamophobia among Conservative Party officials and activists](#), *Hope Not Hate*, 2 March 2020

<sup>128</sup> Ibid.

<sup>129</sup> Ibid.

<sup>130</sup> Ibid.

<sup>131</sup> Ibid.

<sup>132</sup> Ibid.

<sup>133</sup> Ibid.

<sup>134</sup> Ibid.

<sup>135</sup> Ibid.

<sup>136</sup> Ibid.

<sup>137</sup> Ibid.

<sup>138</sup> Ibid.

<sup>139</sup> Ibid.

18. Deidre Vernon, candidate for Bassetlaw District Council, shared a post about “Islamic illegals on the rampage”, and ‘liked’ a comment that suggested Muslims would eat “freshly slaughtered halal infidel” at Eid.<sup>140</sup>
19. Yonah Saunders, candidate for Salford City Council, shared posts suggesting that Muslims are “banning everything” and that Muslims leaving the UK would be a good thing.<sup>141</sup>
20. Paul Ingham, candidate for Tower Hamlets Council, shared content from far-right figures Tommy Robinson and Paul Joseph Watson about Muslim attacks.<sup>142</sup>
21. Alan Booth, former Chair of the Bishop Auckland Conservative Party, frequently shares Islamophobic posts from far-right fake news sites, including an article claiming “Muslim migrants” were demanding Sharia be implemented in the UK.<sup>143</sup>
22. Beverley Dunlop, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Councillor, posted a number of Islamophobic comments on Facebook about “fundamentalists...hiding in plain sight in the Muslim community” and calling for police to raid mosques, for Muslims to call for “an inquiry into Islamist rape gangs grooming underage, underprivileged white girls”. She claimed the “burqa is a symbol of the subjugation of women” which “British women died in protest against” and called for the banning of mosques.<sup>144</sup>
23. Christopher Newbury, Wiltshire Councillor, commented on an Islamophobic post claiming the UK had a problem with Muslims and that “the end comes next”, wrote about his support for the anti-Islam, far-right German nationalist group Pegida, and warned about Marseilles becoming “the first Muslim majority city” as a result of having “large numbers of barbarians”.<sup>145</sup>
24. Danny Scott, Blackpool Councillor, posted on Facebook about Muslims “terrorising anybody who is not Muslim” and about “their quest to turn the World Muslim”, among other comments about Muslims choosing not to integrate.<sup>146</sup>
25. Duane Farr, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Councillor, shared an article from the BNP about Muslim grooming gangs, claiming they were speaking “the truth on issues others would shy away from because of political correctness” and ‘liking’ a comment by another individual discussing “the shame of the Nation of Islam”. He has also described the EDL as “a reaction to Islamic Extremism that has been allowed to fester here” and posted about “Muslim only areas”.<sup>147</sup>
26. Alastair Redman, Argyle and Bute Councillor, shared a video on Facebook, ‘The Islamic State of Sweden’, with a caption insinuating Swedish women were unsafe because of Islam. He ‘liked’ a number of Islamophobic comments on Facebook posts of his, including one that blamed Muslims for “blood on our streets”.<sup>148</sup>
27. Colin Elcock, Dudley Councillor, was suspended by the local Conservative Group and is being investigated by West Midlands Police after claiming Islam was “domination not integration” and asking whether people in Iran were “all on the dole”.<sup>149</sup>
28. Malcolm Griffiths, Redcar and Cleveland Councillor and Chair of South Tees Conservative Association, shared a series of posts with comments insinuating Muslims were ‘taking over’: “fractions within Islam compete to kill each other”, and an article titled ‘Experts Discover That 50% of Muslims Have One Sickening Thing in Common’.<sup>150</sup>
29. Aniel Pucella, Bridgend Councillor, posted on Facebook: “most Imams and clerics of Islam have declared a holy jihad against the infidels of the world”, and a story about “an Islamic group of Welfare cheats, all illegally in the country” who died in a fire along with a Maori family who were “all welfare recipients and gang members”, while a white couple survived.<sup>151</sup>

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<sup>140</sup> Ibid.

<sup>141</sup> Ibid.

<sup>142</sup> Ibid.

<sup>143</sup> Ibid.

<sup>144</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>145</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>146</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>147</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>148</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>149</sup> [Police launch investigation into Dudley councillor’s ‘Islamophobic’ tweets](#), *Express and Star*, 14 January 2020

<sup>150</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>151</sup> Screenshots available on request

30. Paul Marks, Kettering Councillor, posted on Facebook describing Sadiq Khan as a “vile creature”, London under his tenure as “anti-British”, and made anti-refugee comments about “the Afghan boy who just chopped up some people on a train in Germany”.<sup>152</sup>
31. Ken Smith, Havant Councillor, ‘liked’ and agreed with Facebook post about “The Muslim Mayor who puts his religion before is country”, describing Sadiq Khan as “a disgrace to... our nation”.<sup>153</sup>
32. Nick Colbert, South Somerset Councillor, tweeted: “Muslim women handing ballot papers to Imams as ordered”,<sup>154</sup> and claimed Sadiq Khan said: “we have to get used to Muslim terrorist attacks”.<sup>155</sup>
33. Sam Rumens, Northamptonshire Councillor, tweeted: “if only I was Muslim I could be doing much more explosive things”, expressed alarm at seeing “a white Muslim”, and tweeted: “Muslims is trending haha” on the day of the Boston marathon bombings.<sup>156</sup>
34. Trevor Hales, Sandiacre Parish Councillor, tweeted about the appeasement of Muslims, suggested legislation to “arrest a load of Muslims”, among other Islamophobic comments.<sup>157</sup>
35. Mike Hardy, Folkestone Councillor, posted on Facebook about Muslims “forever BURNING & [sic] destroying anything that offends them”, the immigration of “Islamic fruitcakes and Somali scum... to deliberately erode...our heritage”, and about how if it wasn’t illegal, he would “probably slag off ISLAM [sic], suggesting that it is predominantly “a wicked evil practice”.<sup>158</sup>
36. Colin Raine, former candidate for Bishop Auckland Council, shared a number of Islamophobic posts, calling for people to “stand up for our culture and history and stop pandering to an alien intolerant religion”,<sup>159</sup> and about “aggressive muzzies” who he claimed were praying in public to “provoke a reaction”. He also organised a far-right protest with known Islamophobic groups, including Bishop Auckland Against Islam, For Britain and North East Infidels (a splinter group of the EDL) outside the office of the then-MP Helen Goodman. This was reported to CCHQ, who claimed he was not a member, though the local Conservative Association Chairman later confirmed he was. CCHQ came under fire for failing to expel Raine,<sup>160</sup> and he was recently pictured with the new MP for Bishop Auckland, Dehanna Davison.<sup>161</sup>
37. Thor Halland, Chairman of Leyton and Wanstead Conservative Association, posted on Facebook about “the Muslim corruption party aka the SWP”, called for the banning of Muslims, and labelled UK Muslim scholars speaking about the Israel-Palestine conflict as “illiterate Pakistani Mullahs”, telling them to “look at what their flocks are up to with white children”.<sup>162</sup>
38. Aidan Cockerill, Stockton Councillor whose Facebook profile picture is of himself with Boris Johnson, shared posts about the Japanese Prime Minister banning “the entry of Muslim migrants”, and “Sharia courts conquer the UK”.<sup>163</sup>
39. Marc Cranfield Adams, former Richmond upon Thames Mayor and Councillor, tweeted about Muslim voter fraud, Islam being “profoundly unBritish”, made jokes on Facebook about Muslim women wearing burqas looking like “letterboxes”, and about “every mosque & Muslim community” being a “Trojan Horse”.<sup>164</sup>
40. Tom Butcher, former Gelding County and District Councillor, shared a series of Islamophobic jokes and posts on Facebook about having “more wives than teeth” making someone Muslim, and about Muslims “openly constructing Armageddon”.<sup>165</sup>
41. Ken Smith, former Kingston Councillor, posted on Facebook about “The Muslim Mayor who puts his religion before is country”, describing Sadiq Khan as “a disgrace to... our nation”.<sup>166</sup>

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<sup>152</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>153</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>154</sup> Via [Twitter](#), Nick Colbert, 9 March 2018

<sup>155</sup> Via [Twitter](#), Nick Colbert, 29 December 2017

<sup>156</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>157</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>158</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>159</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), Mates Jacob, 13 February 2019. This tweet also shows this person has self-identified as a member of the Conservative Party.

<sup>160</sup> [Tories Failed to Expel ‘Islamophobic’ Member Allegedly Behind Far-Right Protest At MP’s Office](#), *Huffington Post*, 1 March 2019

<sup>161</sup> [New Tory MP pictured with alleged far-right activists](#), *The Guardian*, 14 February 2020

<sup>162</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>163</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>164</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>165</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>166</sup> Screenshots available on request

42. Clive Johnson, former High Peak councillor, labelled Muslims as “prime suspect number 1” responding to a tweet about attacks on Christian churches, expressing his “detest” at the way “Muslims are given priority treatment”, and tweeted about “all of the atrocities committed by Muslims...killing Christians and killing British people”.<sup>167</sup>
43. Aidan Wedgbury, candidate for Ashford Borough Council, tweeted about the UK becoming “a one-party Marxist Muslim state”.<sup>168</sup>
44. Howard Jones, former Mole Valley Councillor, tweeted: “second generation Muslim immigrants...blowing up school girls”, describing “anti-Muslim feeling” as “a response to nearly 20 years of unspeakable acts of terrorism”.<sup>169</sup>
45. Harry Gilham, former Harpenden Town Councillor, tweeted about grooming being “rife” in the Pakistani community, and posted on Facebook about “muslin [sic] terrorists killing Muslims...if they don’t like it they can go back home”.<sup>170</sup>
46. Michael Franklin, former Medway Councillor, retweeted Islamophobic material, including a tweet that said Justin Trudeau was “worshipping the devil” in a mosque. His tweets were first raised with his council colleagues three years before any action was taken by the local party.<sup>171</sup>
47. Dr Peter Hill, former Bracknell Forest Councillor, posted on Facebook describing Islamophobia as “a fear of being run over by a lorry, blown up or stabbed by Islamists”.<sup>172</sup>
48. Andrew James Tagg, former Calderdale Councillor, posted on Facebook about Britain being turned into “an undemocratic Islamic state”, calling for “unconditional surrender” by Muslims,<sup>173</sup> labelling Muslims as “brutes who beat kill and maim young women”.<sup>174</sup>
49. John Hill, Portsmouth City Council candidate, posted on Facebook about “the fecund Islamic population who are breeding a second and third generation that does not integrate”.<sup>175</sup>
50. John Shoesmith, candidate for Calderdale Council, on a Facebook post with an article about the murder of Muslim shopkeeper Asad Shah, commented “I down 1.6 million to go”, called for Muslims to “go away back to Pakistan... u [sic]... are NOT wanted here”. He is also friends on Facebook with Nigel Evans MP.<sup>176</sup>
51. Sean Matthews, Vice Chair of Louth and Horncastle Conservative Association, called for a worldwide ban on the hijab, labelling it a “hatred for people choosing not to wear something”.<sup>177</sup>
52. Charles Beckham, candidate for Darlington Borough Council, posted on Facebook: “Muslims demand to change our country to appease them”, ‘liking’ a comment on the post about election fraud in “Muslim areas” being “rife”,<sup>178</sup> and called for Muslims to “only do business with Muslims...somewhere else.”<sup>179</sup>
53. Allan Couch, candidate for Wakefield Council, ‘liked’ a comment on a Facebook post of his calling David Cameron “more of a Muslim than the f\*\*king Muslims”.<sup>180</sup>
54. Will Smith, former Breckland Councillor, shared posts about Islam on Twitter, with comments like: “Muslim tail wagging the British dog”.<sup>181</sup>
55. Tom Lowther, Maldon District Parish Councillor, responded to tweets by Tommy Robinson and Fraser Nelson with, “Muslims hate = free speech”, and commented about taking a cricket bat and knuckle duster to a protest organised by Muslims.<sup>182</sup>
56. Perry Hicks, candidate for Bristol City Council, tweeted labelling actions by ISIS as “behaviour in the name of Islam”.<sup>183</sup>

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<sup>167</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>168</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>169</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>170</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>171</sup> [Local Tories knew of councillor’s ‘Islamophobic retweets’ 1,000 days before he was expelled](#), *The Mirror*, 11 March 2019

<sup>172</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>173</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Andrew James Tagg, 24 May 2017

<sup>174</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Andrew James Tagg, 4 December 2011

<sup>175</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>176</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>177</sup> Via [Twitter](#), Sean Matthews, 19 February 2020

<sup>178</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Charles Beckham, 16 June 2019

<sup>179</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Charles Beckham, 26 February 2017

<sup>180</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Allan Couch, 29 August 2013

<sup>181</sup> Via [Twitter](#), William Smith MA. LL.M., 17 December 2011

<sup>182</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>183</sup> Screenshots available on request

57. Mike Payne, Calderdale Councillor shared an article which called Muslims “parasites” who “live off the state and breed like rabbits” amongst other Islamophobic comments.<sup>184</sup>
58. Alexander van Terheyden, candidate for Hackney Council, called Islam a “violent political ideology” comparing it to fascism and communism.<sup>185</sup>
59. Darren Harrison, candidate for Watford Borough Council, was alleged to have links to Generation Identity, an anti-Islam organisation with strong links to far-right groups across Europe.<sup>186</sup>
60. Phillipa Auton, prospective candidate for Hounslow Council, tweeted: “Revoke Muslim immigration, repatriate and secure European borders” as a means of keeping Europe safe, as well as retweeting Tommy Robinson.<sup>187</sup>
61. Peter Lucey, former Mayor of Wokingham, liked a page by right-wing extremist Tommy Robinson and Geert Wilders, the anti-Muslim Dutch politician, and made a number of posts about Islam and the English Defence League.<sup>188</sup>
62. Nick Sundin, prospective candidate for Newcastle City Council, tweeted the Prophet Mohammed was a ‘f\*\*\*\*\*g paedophile’ and that Allah was a ‘c\*\*\*\*\*’.<sup>189</sup>
63. Karen Sunderland, candidate for Lewisham Council, called Islam “the new Nazism” and attacked women who wear the hijab, stating “Such a lame attempt you made to justify hijabs. Self-indulgent to think anyone would give a toot that you showed your hair”.<sup>190</sup>
64. David Boston, candidate for Enfield Council, posted a picture of bacon hanging on a door handle as a way to “protect your house from terrorism.”<sup>191</sup>
65. Stephen Goldsack, North Lanarkshire Councillor, had formerly been an activist and security adviser for the BNP.<sup>192</sup>
66. Ray Bray, Kirkburton Parish Councillor, said Labour were to blame for “Muzzie rapists” amongst a number of offensive and Islamophobic tweets and retweets.<sup>193</sup>
67. Stephen Ardley, former Mayor of Lowesoft, allegedly said it was “unbelievable” that a Muslim had been elected and went on to describe those who voted for him as “blind”.<sup>194</sup>
68. Ian Hibberd, former Mayor of Romsey and Test Valley Borough Councillor, asked a fellow councillor “Why are you dressed like a P\*\*\*\*\*”.<sup>195</sup>
69. Linda Freedman, Barnet Councillor, expressed support for the detention of Muslims. She was initially suspended, but her suspension has been lifted.<sup>196</sup>
70. Dr Teck Khong, Oadby and Wigston Borough Councillor, endorsed and shared various messages including: “Naturally Muslims can be humane in spite of their religion, much as not all Nazis were guilty of murder”, “An evil religion if ever there’s one” and “Muzzies don’t need any help with radicalising.”<sup>197</sup>
71. Afzal Amin, former PCC for Dudley North, made plans to persuade the English Defence League to announce an inflammatory march against a new £18million ‘mega-mosque’ to attract votes for him.<sup>198</sup>
72. Rosemary Carroll, former Mayor of Pendle and Pendle Borough Councillor, posted a joke on Facebook which compared Asian people to dogs. She was found to have failed to comply with the Conservative Party’s code of conduct, but later rejoined the Party.<sup>199</sup>

<sup>184</sup> [Calderdale councillor suspended over 'Muslim parasite' posts](#), BBC, 4 April 2018

<sup>185</sup> [Tory candidate in Hoxton suspended for anti-Muslim posts on social media](#), Hackney Citizen, 17 April 2018

<sup>186</sup> [VICE Exclusive: The Tory Council Candidate Who Supports Far-Right Extremists](#), VICE News, 20 April 2018

<sup>187</sup> [Claims that tweets sent by woman selected as Conservative election candidate were anti-Muslim](#), MyLondon, 27 April 2018

<sup>188</sup> [Town's mayor resigns over claims he liked Islamophobic and far-right social media posts](#), Mail Online, 29 April 2018

<sup>189</sup> [Tory candidate suspended over tweets calling prophet Mohammed a 'paedophile'](#), Chronicle Live, 27 April 2018

<sup>190</sup> [Lewisham Tory candidate suspended over 'Islamophobic tweets'](#), BBC, 1 May 2018

<sup>191</sup> [Tory candidate suspended for 'deep-seated racist' Facebook post of bacon on door handle to 'protect your house from terrorism'](#), The Mirror, 1 May 2018

<sup>192</sup> [Tory councillor expelled over BNP links](#), BBC, 23 May 2018

<sup>193</sup> [Islamophobia, bully claims and a far-right retweet - how councillors fell foul of social media](#), Examiner Live, March 2018

<sup>194</sup> [Tory councillor suspended after 'posting Islamophobic comments about Sadiq Khan on Facebook'](#), The Independent, 10 June 2018

<sup>195</sup> [Two Conservative councillors suspended following allegations of Islamophobic comments on social media](#), The Independent, 4 June 2018

<sup>196</sup> [Jewish Tory councillor suspended for backing 'detention of Muslims'](#), Jewish News, 4 June 2018

<sup>197</sup> [Meet Cllr Dr Teck Khong, Conservative Councillor and General Practitioner](#), Tell MAMA, 20 April 2016

<sup>198</sup> [Exposed: Star Tory candidate plotted with race thugs to stage fake EDL demo in cynical bid to win votes](#), Mail on Sunday, 22 March 2015

<sup>199</sup> [Tory councillor who shared joke comparing Asian people to dogs suspended](#), Indy100, 4 July 2017

73. Jeff Potts, Solihull Councillor, shared Islamophobic Facebook posts, including: “Deport and repatriate all Muslims from the UK or watch terrorists kill innocent people for generations to come”, and “you’ve clearly not experienced Pakistani hospitality, having a daughter raped by men who think she’s ‘white trash’”.<sup>200</sup>
74. Mike Franklin, Medway Councillor, retweeted a post which said Prime Minister Trudeau had been “worshipping the devil” alongside a photo of Prime Minister Trudeau kneeling in a mosque. He also shared various posts about Sadiq Khan, including posts which said “Islam is incompatible with everyone. Where there are Muslims, there is conflict”, and “If Islam is the answer, could the question be “What’s the most irritating, dull and violent religion on earth?”<sup>201</sup>
75. John Raper, Ryedale District Councillor, shared posts mocking Muslims including a picture of a pig with a caption stating “share this pig if your [sic] not celebrating Ramadan” or a “joke” about people having a whip-round to procure petrol in order to allow three Muslim protestors to set themselves on fire. He also published a picture of David Cameron promising to “hand-over” the country to a Muslim man.<sup>202</sup>
76. Robert Phipps, Teignmouth Town Councillor, shared a Facebook post from the far-right group Britain First showing a picture of a dog with its nose poking through a blue sheet captioned “Guide dog for a Muslim woman known as a Barka”.<sup>203</sup>
77. Martyn York, Wellingborough Councillor, was a moderator for ‘Boris Johnson: Supporters’ Group’, which included comments calling for the bombing of mosques around the UK, calling Muslims were “ragheads”; and calling Sadiq Khan a “conniving little muzrat”.<sup>204</sup>
78. Dorinda Bailey, candidate for Newcastle Council, wrote “I agree” after comments saying mosques should be bombed.<sup>205</sup>
79. Len Milner and Chris Smith, East Staffordshire Councillors, ‘liked’ a cartoon posted on Facebook depicting a mock beheading of Sadiq Khan.<sup>206</sup>
80. Peter Lamb, prospective candidate for Harlow Council, posted a series of Islamophobic tweets, including “Islam like alcoholism [sic]. The first step to recovery is admit you have a problem”, “Turkey buys oil from ISIS. Muslims sticking together”, and “Do they want us to call ISIS Daesh now so that we don’t associate them with Islam?”<sup>207</sup>
81. George McIntyre, prospective candidate for Midlothian Council, said he was “sick to the back teeth” of “whinging” Muslims and suggested they should leave the country.<sup>208</sup>
82. Ian Lawson, Stafford County Councillor, said in a council training meeting that he would “send them home” in what the complainant believed he was referring to Muslims, although he has since “clarified” that he meant those who had committed crimes in this country, which remains problematic.<sup>209</sup>
83. Paul Messenger, Kent County Councillor, admitted to writing a social media post which said: “Let’s not fool ourselves here; The Muslim Communities living in Britain would like to see the whole country Muslim. Whether this is achieved by violent or stealth – they would prefer this – it’s natural and you could argue within their rights to do this... given that MI5 have to commit considerable resources into the protection and prevention of ‘home grown’ Islamic threat far more than when the IRA were doing their worst to us, then I believe the peaceful British Islamic Society should pay for this extra cost.”<sup>210</sup>

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<sup>200</sup> [Solihull councillor suspended after sharing racist tweets](#), *Birmingham Live*, 24 September 2017

<sup>201</sup> [Conservative Cllr Mike Franklin suspended over Islamophobic retweets](#), *Tell MAMA*, 6 February 2019

<sup>202</sup> [Facebook ‘jokes’ land councillor in hot water](#), *The Scarborough News*, 30 September 2015

<sup>203</sup> [Councillor pictured with Prime Minister under fire for sharing Britain First post on Facebook](#), *Devon Live*, 1 December 2017

<sup>204</sup> [Tory councillor suspended over Islamophobic comments about bombing mosques made in Facebook group he moderates](#), *The Independent*, 2 March 2019

<sup>205</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>206</sup> [Tory councillors in East Staffordshire quit over Islamophobia row](#), *BBC*, 6 March 2019

<sup>207</sup> [EXCL Tories slammed after activist suspended for Islamophobia allowed to stand as council candidate](#), *Politics Home*, 4 March 2019

<sup>208</sup> [Midlothian Tory candidate suspended over anti-Muslim rant](#), *Edinburgh News*, 10 March 2017

<sup>209</sup> [‘I’ve had two operations with Muslim doctors...’ - Race-row councillor hits back after ‘send them home’ comment sparks official complaints](#), *Stoke on Trent Live*, 23 December 2018

<sup>210</sup> [Councillor suspended by Conservative Party over Islamophobic posts admits guilt and issues apology](#), *The Isle of Thanet News*, 17 March 2019

84. Ron McKail, Aberdeenshire Councillor and Deputy Provost, shared an image comparing Muslim women to patio umbrellas.<sup>211</sup>
85. Mike Kusneraitis, Runnymede Borough Councillor, posted a number of images relating to Muslims on a private Egham residents' group on Facebook including a dog wearing a towel.<sup>212</sup>
86. Graeme Miller, Sunderland City Councillor, shared posts on Facebook including a meme of the Queen advising Kate Middleton not to "leave William for a Muslim".<sup>213</sup>
87. Chris Joannides, Enfield Councillor, shared a photo on Facebook comparing Muslim children wearing burqas to binbags.<sup>214</sup>
88. Bob Frost, Dover District Councillor, has a history of racist posts about Muslims including memes and statements about Muslims being anti-Semitic, committing voter fraud, claiming that Sadiq Khan's background is responsible for grooming, and that Islam is not a religion of peace because of a terror attack.<sup>215</sup>
89. Andrew Bowles, Leader of Swale Borough Council, shared a Twitter post hailing Tommy Robinson as a "patriot".<sup>216</sup>
90. David Pulman, candidate for Hampshire City Council, wrote a Facebook post about Muslims: "I guess people will stop being afraid of Islam ... when the Islamic radicals stop beheading Christians, throwing homosexuals to their deaths from high buildings, beating women for disobeying their husbands, stoning to death the wife of a man who has committed adultery and generally trying to kill all non-Muslims and take over Christian countries? Islamophobia is perhaps not surprising?"<sup>217</sup>
91. Robin Popley, Charnwood Borough Councillor, endorsed Facebook posts suggesting Sajid Javid was appointed Home Secretary to secure "the ethnic vote".<sup>218</sup>
92. David Abbott, Deputy Mayor of Houghton Regis, in a Facebook post said: "Moslems are commanded to do everything in their power, including killing, to rid the world of every person who does not follow Islam." In another exchange, when being told Muslims "hate" being called "Mohammedans", Mr Abbott replied, "I'll have to remember that" before using the term in other posts himself, including one in which he said that the religion had a "breed for Islam" philosophy.<sup>219</sup>
93. Charalampos Kagouras, who has stood for the Conservatives in a number of council seats, posted on social media "F\*\*k Muslims and their mosques... must confiscate their British passports", "How about teach the f\*\*k [sic] Muslims how to get the f\*\*k out of Europe before getting kicked out", amongst other comments.<sup>220</sup>
94. Shaun Bailey, Mayor of London candidate, wrote in 2005 that accommodating Muslim culture "robs Britain of its community" which could lead the country into a "crime-riddled cesspool",<sup>221</sup> and shared a tweet referring to Sadiq Khan as "mad mullah Khan of Londonistan".<sup>222</sup>
95. Laurel Ellis, candidate for Merthyr Tydfil Council, shared Facebook posts which suggested Britain was tolerant "until... Muslims marched [in]" and referred to Theresa May in a doctored picture wearing a hijab, as "Sharia May". In addition, he tweeted "Theresa May is a front-runner really? A leader that supports Islam and is happy to have Sharia Law in our country?"<sup>223</sup>
96. David Bishop, candidate for Brentwood Borough Council, posted comments on Twitter: "It's good to be anti-Muslim", and "Islam is the 'religion of peace' and rape".<sup>224</sup>
97. Mick Murphy, Ashfield District Councillor, shared an image of a woman and a child in burqas flanked by black refuse bags, with the caption: "I saw her standing there and I told her she had three

<sup>211</sup> [Tory councillor apologises for sharing 'Muslim women as patio umbrellas' post](#), *The Scotsman*, 10 August 2018

<sup>212</sup> [Tories to investigate Runnymede councillor's alleged anti-Muslim social media post](#), *Surrey Live*, 31 August 2015

<sup>213</sup> [Sunderland councillor slammed for sharing anti-Muslim and offensive Facebook posts](#), *Chronicle Live*, 13 March 2018

<sup>214</sup> [Tory councillor who shared burka joke on Facebook expelled from party](#), *Daily Telegraph*, 4 March 2014

<sup>215</sup> Screenshots via [Twitter](#), *Miqdaad Versi*, 13 February 2019

<sup>216</sup> [Fresh Islamophobia row hits Conservative Party as chairman Brandon Lewis intervenes](#), *Sky News*, 6 March 2019

<sup>217</sup> [Tory candidates suspended over racist and inflammatory posts](#), *The Guardian*, 25 April 2019

<sup>218</sup> [Tory candidates suspended over racist and inflammatory posts](#), *The Guardian*, 25 April 2019

<sup>219</sup> [Conservative candidate David Abbott is suspended over Islam posts](#), *The Times*, 9 April 2019

<sup>220</sup> [Tories drop Manchester election candidate who dubbed Curry Mile the 'P\\*\\*\\* Mile'](#), *Manchester Evening News*, 30 April 2019

<sup>221</sup> [Tory London mayor candidate's comments 'Islamophobic'](#), *BBC*, 3 October 2018,

<sup>222</sup> [Conservative London Mayor candidate embroiled in new Sadiq Khan Islamophobia row](#), *The Independent*, 27 September 2018

<sup>223</sup> [Tory councillor suspended for Islamophobic comments](#), *The Muslim News*, 27 July 2018

<sup>224</sup> [Tory council candidate quits after anti-Islam and homophobic comments](#), *The Guardian*, 4 May 2014

beautiful children. She didn't have to get all pissed off and threaten me. It was an honest mistake.”

He also shared an image on Facebook with a watermark for Britain First's website.<sup>225</sup>

98. Evan Woolcock, candidate for North Somerset Council, labelled Islam a “stone age death cult”, and wrote “submit or resist, that's the only choices Islam presents.”<sup>226</sup>
99. Ivan Lyons, candidate for Brighton and Hove City Council, posted a series of jokes about Muslims, including telling a suicidal Muslim man to “stay on the line” when calling the Samaritans from a railway track, being frightened of women wearing burqas, and “Muslims, angry bearded types” while on a trip to Afghanistan – with the payoff being that this “scary hell hole” was actually Hounslow.<sup>227</sup>
100. Carola Godman Irvine, now-former Chair and President of Lewes Conservative Association, claimed Islamic extremists were raping British women to create “Muslim babies”, and that the Manchester arena bombing may have been the “wake-up call that was needed” to spur the police into “radical monitoring” of Muslims.<sup>228</sup>
101. Steve Iles, former Mayor of Medway, shared a picture of a bacon sandwich that said: “I am proud to be English”. The implication being that who don't eat pork, like Muslims are somehow less English.<sup>229</sup>
102. A councillor said: “Islam: come for the infidel-killing” over a picture of blood-soaked Asian men wielding knives.<sup>230</sup>
103. A councillor retweeted a series of Islamophobic posts, including a post that discussed “Muslim invaders”.<sup>231</sup>

From the above list, given the Party's unwillingness to be transparent in its processes, it is unclear what has happened to each of these individuals, whether they were suspended and investigated or not, whether they have since been readmitted into the Party and if so, whether there was any apology or training prior to readmission.

There are also a large number members of the Conservative Party who have been identified as having shared Islamophobic content, and other targeting Islam, which the Party has confirmed it does not tolerate. These include:

1. Richard Patient, who has been named as a donor to the Conservative Party<sup>232</sup> and writes for Conservative Home,<sup>233</sup> liked a comment describing Islam as “unEuropean”.<sup>234</sup>
2. Fraser Duffin, also a donor to the Conservative Party,<sup>235</sup> in the wake of the Manchester terrorist attack, called for the Manchester Muslim community to “hand over those who perpetrate...this. Otherwise don't be surprised if there's justified retribution.” He commented on his post that it was “a movement” that was behind this, not an individual, and called for an RAF strike and lynch mobs in South Manchester. He also commented on a post about circumcision saying: “I thought with Muslims, it's just the females...”<sup>236</sup>
3. Stephen Jubb asked: “Why does no rich muslim Country take ANY refugees? Why are you classed as racist if you are proud be white and British?”<sup>237</sup>
4. Sam Salzburg shared a post by Breitbart News about an “official hijab” for “British Police”, which he then commented on with: “I'm not being frisked...by someone in a hijab” and “Time to hide some pork on my person”.<sup>238</sup>
5. Ann Patricia Smith shared an article about a “mega mosque” in Birmingham, stating: “I do not wish to have to listen to call for prayers etc, when christians are criticised for church bells ringing.

<sup>225</sup> [A Tory Party Vice-Chair Defended A Councillor's Anti-Muslim Facebook Posts](#), BuzzFeed, 16 June 2018

<sup>226</sup> [Prospective councillor suspended over Islamophobic tweets](#), BBC, 23 April 2019

<sup>227</sup> [Hove Tory candidate quits over 'Islamophobic' jokes](#), Brighton & Hove News, 28 March 2019

<sup>228</sup> [EXCL Senior Tory official suspended after 'Muslim babies' comments](#), Politics Home, 12 July 2018

<sup>229</sup> [LBC obtains dossier showing 10 Tory councillors sharing Islamophobic comments](#), LBC, 15 November 2019

<sup>230</sup> Ibid.

<sup>231</sup> Ibid.

<sup>232</sup> [Donations to Tory party](#), End Propaganda, 7 August 2017

<sup>233</sup> [Richard Patient: At last, the Conservatives have realised that the CBI is the voice of big business, not all business](#), Conservative Home, 19 November 2019

<sup>234</sup> Screenshot available on request

<sup>235</sup> [Changes to the Register of Members Interests Simon Hart](#), TheyWorkForYou, 10 February 2020

<sup>236</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>237</sup> Screenshot available on request

<sup>238</sup> Screenshots available on request

- We are a Christian not a Muslim country”,<sup>239</sup> and commented on a post about an Eid gathering in Birmingham that there would be “no chance” for a Christian gathering to be allowed to be held.<sup>240</sup>
6. Guy Gibbons called “Londonistan” a “s\*\*t\*hole” with a “bacon sandwich test on the border”.<sup>241</sup>
  7. Renee Rawsthorne said: “Oldham is Labour, with a Muslim majority, downhill all the way for this once lovely town”, and responded to a comment about “no go areas” claiming “they have taken over and continue to do so”. She also responded to a comment about Muslims claiming they are “taking over our country”.<sup>242</sup>
  8. Sandra Collicott commented on a post about The Netherlands banning the burqa with: “Get rid of the wearers as well!”, and commented on a post in agreement about Muslims turning “England into an Islamic country”.<sup>243</sup>
  9. Douglas Taylor commented on a post sharing an article by the right-wing think tank Barnabas Fund about UK churches getting sent threatening letters with: “Islam is the religion of PEACE!!!”, and on a post about “mega mosques” being planned in Maidstone and Worcester, with: “WRONG.”<sup>244</sup>
  10. Dan Russell commented on a post about the police investigating hate crime looking for a “man who talked of dislike of Muslims”, with: “I’m right here, along with millions of others”. Also commenting on a post about “mega mosques” being planned in Maidstone and Worcester, he discussed conspiracy theories related to the New World Order.<sup>245</sup>
  11. Nick Jones said he did “not wish to tolerate the nasty murderous cult that Islam is”, calling for Muslims to “be stopped”. He also shared a post which stated: “Why is it some people just don’t seem to realise that these people just want to take over our country and enslave or kill us.”<sup>246</sup>
  12. Helen Young posted a picture of a letter she wrote to the Headteacher at her child’s primary school requesting to withdraw her child from any religious or social lessons which discuss Islam” and any lessons that “in any way mention Islam either as a religion or as a social/political movement or presence in Britain.” In other posts, she referred to Islam as a “ROP”, ‘Religion of Peace’, a derogatory term for Muslims and shared a post about an “Islamic migrant” arrested for rape with the caption: “Sickening...Hilary Clinton wants to let a million more of these in your country”.<sup>247</sup>
  13. Victoria Whitehead commented on a post about Muslims trying to “take over” the UK and “turn it Islamic” with: “It’s called benefits and free housing”, and on a post about Germany becoming “a Muslim state” with a comment insinuating Muslim are all unemployed.<sup>248</sup>
  14. Andy Demaine shared a post about George Soros wanting to “eradicate white Europeans” and Europe having “migrant flooded towns” with “rival Muslim factions fighting”.<sup>249</sup> He also shared an article from Breitbart News entitled “London’s Muslim Mayor Appoints ‘Integration’ Deputy Who Worked With Jihadi John Apologists”.<sup>250</sup>
  15. Jennifer McCambridge said: “all terrorists are Muslims”,<sup>251</sup> and of Sadiq Khan, she would “like to roll him in a red carpet and chuck him in the Thames.”<sup>252</sup>
  16. Brendan Coulton shared a ‘joke’ about entitled “5 Signs you may be Muslim”, which contained references to suicide vests and rocket launchers,<sup>253</sup> and said: “Muslim Leaders take control, your values are not valued in our Country.”<sup>254</sup>
  17. Lorraine Cullen is an active campaigner in Inverness, canvassing for Douglas Ross MP in the 2019 General Election and signing nomination papers for the candidate in Inverness. She shared an

<sup>239</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Ann Patricia Smith, 31 August 2017

<sup>240</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>241</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>242</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>243</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>244</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>245</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>246</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>247</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>248</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>249</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Andy DDemaine, 15 February 2018

<sup>250</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>251</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Jennifer McCambridge, 15 November 2015

<sup>252</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>253</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Brendan Coulton, 1 March 2012

<sup>254</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Brendan Coulton, 22 May 2013

- article entitled: “New World Order: Muslims to be majority in Europe within two decades”, and further commented about wanting to slap a “white woman in a hijab...for being so stupid.”<sup>255</sup>
18. Christine Gill shared a post about “Islamization”, agreed with a post which said: “there’s too many Muslim mayors in England”, and commented to say she disagreed with higher levels of immigration, “especially moslems”.<sup>256</sup>
  19. Cliff Lockyer claimed Muslims were “the superior chosen race of the government” and that Muslims are allowed “more than one vote if it’s for a Muslim Mayor”.<sup>257</sup>
  20. Jennie Hodgkinson posted: “the political elite would sooner allow our young girls to be raped and sexually abused sooner than offend the Muslim population...they believe in the extinction of us and our culture.” She also attributed the problem of anti-Semitism in the Labour Party to “win the Muslims vote”.<sup>258</sup>
  21. Rowland McMurray called for the banning of all Muslims from entering the UK and from standing in any political position.<sup>259</sup>
  22. Paul Le May said: “Muslims kill more Muslims... The religion of peace that seems to involve just killing everyone and everything.”<sup>260</sup>
  23. Mark Griffin tweeted about how accommodating Muslims “has changed Britain”, with there now being “areas that are no longer white friendly”. He also claimed, “Muslims carry the whip hand in Britain”.<sup>261</sup>
  24. Harry Parker said: “Islam forces their religion down the throats of local people and antagonises them until they eventually hate them”.<sup>262</sup>
  25. Michael Collins shared a meme of an Asian man with a beard which said: “All I want to do is move to your country, rape your women, bomb your buses, riot in your streets and demand that you accept my religion. why can’t you be more tolerant?”, making a further comment about “Khant’s [sic] countrymen”.<sup>263</sup>
  26. Malcolm Goodger shared a video entitled “Muslim Rape Gang Leaves Court, Horror When They See Who’s Outside”, with the caption “Bastards and as usual Muslims Islamic filth what a horrific cult”.<sup>264</sup> He also shared an article from the Islamophobic ‘think tank’ which claims to be “educating the public about medieval fascism” about Muslims causing a drop in productivity in the UK.<sup>265</sup>
  27. Ian Fish tweeted about the “spineless government... so damn scared to upset the Muslims” with regards to banning the burqa, and criticised both Theresa May and Jeremy Corbyn for wishing Muslims for Ramadan.<sup>266</sup>
  28. John Hendry tweeted about Muslims committing “the majority of terrorist events”, asking why the UK is “putting up with the insidious replacement of our ways”. He tweeted about Islamophobia being “a genuine fear of what it brings to the UK... Muslims scare the shit out of most people”, Muslims being “non integrator [sic]”.<sup>267</sup>
  29. Jon Houlton said: “Islam is not designed to exist beside other cultures... ultimately Islam will be the death of our values and culture”, and about “the negative impact Islam is likely to have on British society”. He also tweeted about a time when “over half of our government is Muslim.”<sup>268</sup>
  30. Suze Eggleton said she has an issue with Muslims and Islam because Islam “interferes with life”, “Christian priests arrested so that they don’t offend Muslims, not to mention grooming gangs raping our kids.” She also tweeted about “Muslim controlled councils” which are “trying to bring back Blasphemy laws... if they succeed we’ll never be able to speak out against anything Islamic.”<sup>269</sup>

<sup>255</sup> [Revealed: new evidence of Islamophobia among Conservative Party officials and activists](#), *Hope Not Hate*, 2 March 2020

<sup>256</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>257</sup> Screenshots via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 13 June 2019

<sup>258</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>259</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>260</sup> Screenshots via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 19 November 2019

<sup>261</sup> Screenshots via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 19 November 2019

<sup>262</sup> Screenshots via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 19 November 2019

<sup>263</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>264</sup> Via [Facebook](#), *Malcolm Goodger*, 15 July 2017

<sup>265</sup> Via [Facebook](#), *Malcolm Goodger*, 17 July 2017

<sup>266</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>267</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>268</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>269</sup> Screenshots available on request

31. Vera Housley shared posts calling for all school trips to mosques to be banned,<sup>270</sup> and an article entitled “Muslim Migrants DEMAND – “We need Sharia Implemented Here NOW, Or We Are Better Off Going Home”.”<sup>271</sup>
32. Lorretta Doran-Eaton shared articles about Christian countries deporting violent Muslims,<sup>272</sup> claiming Muslims were “raping US women in UBER taxis”,<sup>273</sup> among other Islamophobic posts from far-right outlets.<sup>274</sup>
33. Andy Ingleby-Delube ‘liked’ comments about “Muslims trying to take our country over” and “Muslims can dictate what is going to happen here, we have Muslim MP’s now running and all. A Muslim Mayor.”<sup>275</sup>
34. Rita Norman shared a post about “Britain’s First Muslim Mayor”, commenting: “there will be so many Muslims in this country...the battleground will be London instead of Syria & Afghanistan/Iran”.<sup>276</sup> She also shared a post entitled “Muslim boys refuse to shake hands with female teachers” with the caption: “This is absolutely disgusting, go back to your Muslim country & give up your rights to live in a civil, respectful society”.<sup>277</sup>
35. Joy Stephens said: “you can see how people are scared of saying anything about the Muslims” and ‘liked’ a comment talking about Muslims which said “they kill us!”<sup>278</sup>
36. John Sim commented on an article about “how Muslim men can exploit the benefits system”, commenting: “I would throw them all out of the country. He also shared a video of the Chinese Government closing down a mosque during Friday prayers, calling for the UK Government to do the same and “see the dangers of Islam”.<sup>279</sup>
37. Bill Franklin commented on an Islamophobic post warning “women in the west...and their girl children... will suffer in the long run if Islam becomes the dominant religion in the west.”<sup>280</sup>
38. Janice Lakstigala shared a meme with Asian men which asked why governments “insist on forcing us to live with people who wish to behead us”.<sup>281</sup>
39. Susan OHare commented on a story from The Independent entitled “Third of Brexit voters think Muslim immigration is secret plot to Islamicise the UK”, commenting: “A third?! It is all of us!”<sup>282</sup>
40. Tarn Young responded to a post about banning Muslim immigration with: “Yes... only if it was total, including the contents!”, advocating ethnic cleansing.<sup>283</sup>
41. Nick Simon, who has posted pictures with Boris Johnson ‘liked’ a number of posts post calling for Muslims to “go back to your own countries...stop trying to change our countries laws to suit you... if you don’t you will be forced to leave [sic]”, “May is more for Muslims than her own country”.<sup>284</sup>
42. June Hurst, a self-proclaimed activist who has posted pictures attending Conservative Party functions tweeted that she didn’t “want Muslims in this country”.<sup>285</sup>
43. Chris Bartlett ‘liked’ a comment on a post of his that called for mosques in the UK to burn, and called for “halal shops” to also burn.<sup>286</sup>
44. Russell Gray posted two Islamophobic rants about Muslims taking over countries through an increasing birth rate, and called for countries to “begin their expulsion”,<sup>287</sup> and claimed children were taught “Islamic supremacy”.<sup>288</sup>

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<sup>270</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>271</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Vera Housley, 12 October 2016

<sup>272</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Lorretta Doran-Eaton, 19 May 2019

<sup>273</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Lorretta Doran-Eaton, 1 August 2016

<sup>274</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Lorretta Doran-Eaton, 8 August 2016

<sup>275</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>276</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Rita Norman, 5 May 2016

<sup>277</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Rita Norman, 5 April 2016

<sup>278</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>279</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>280</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>281</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>282</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>283</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>284</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>285</sup> Via [Twitter](#), June Hurst, 24 May 2017

<sup>286</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Chris Bartlet, 23 May 2017

<sup>287</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Russell Gray, 26 December 2018

<sup>288</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Russell Gray, 19 October 2017

45. Lulu Rich shared a post by an Islamophobic ‘news’ site entitled “Muslims Paying ZAKAT are Funding Terrorism”,<sup>289</sup> and posted about Muslim no go areas.<sup>290</sup>
46. Viv Carter posted on Facebook insinuating Muslims “rob us, carjack us, and rape our daughters”, and commented in support of a post which called for Muslims to “embrace our culture, accept Christianity or move to a country more in tune with your values”.<sup>291</sup>
47. Nicholas Batt tweeted “Muslim bastard”, “Muslim scum” “Why are Muslims in a Christian country for what purpose?” and “Muslims rule Peterborough”.<sup>292</sup>
48. Connor Winnett claimed all the media talk about is “how anyone who isn’t Muslim is Islamophobic”, with regards to homosexuality, that Muslims believe in “chucking them of buildings” and that “You can only condemn LGBTQ if you’re Muslim.”<sup>293</sup>
49. Lisa Gilfillan Johnston said “gimmigrants” and “home-grown wasters” should be forcible sterilised.<sup>294</sup>
50. Sandy Lancaster called for Muslims to be thrown from bridges.<sup>295</sup>
51. Charles Lamb claimed his “golden rule in life is “never do business with p\*\*\*s...you will most certainly regret it.”<sup>296</sup>
52. Tony Fell shared a video with the subtitle, “why Muslims kill for Islam,” and referred to the “osmosis” of Islamic influence on British politics. Elsewhere he said: “the biggest problem” is “Governments weaponising against their own people,” and referred to Sadiq Khan as “the king rat of the most polluted sewer in the UK.”<sup>297</sup>
53. Caroline White shared an article claiming that George Soros was implementing a plan to create a “Muslimized Europe” through immigration, referring to the far-right “Kalgeri plan” conspiracy theory.<sup>298</sup>
54. Ally Stubbs wrote a post about Muslims being wiped out in the future, and posted a petition calling for an end to all immigration into Britain which accused “foreign citizens” of “trying to change the UK into a Muslim country.”<sup>299</sup>
55. Mary Wilkins shared a meme of Theresa May wearing a headscarf, blaming terrorist attacks on Islam, accompanied by the comment: “the only way we can stop terrorism is by removing the threat.” She also shared a post bemoaning the lack of “White Pride Day” and an image of Theresa May shooting herself in the mouth with a pistol labelled “Islam.”<sup>300</sup>
56. Sue Anderson shared a post about the far-right “great replacement” conspiracy where the European people are replaced by “Islamic” people.<sup>301</sup>
57. David Hitch referred to the British capital as “Londonistan” and bemoaned feeling “like a pilgrim in a foreign land” in response to an article about “Jihadis”.<sup>302</sup>
58. Phyllis Holmes shared a meme asking: “has Britain gone mad?” with a picture of an “Islamic advisor to the armed forces” leading a prayer. She also shared a meme fearmongering about sharia law, a quote from Tommy Robinson warning about the “Islamic takeover of our beautiful land,” and a video of Katie Hopkins titled “Muslims cannot run our city.”<sup>303</sup>
59. Annette Susan Martin shared a post on the different ways Muslims act depending on their size in relation to the rest of the population, another on the disproportionate influence they have on British society, and a third warning Muslims would “stab [the USA] in the back as [they] did on 9/11.” She also shared several videos by alt-right Infowars employee Paul Joseph Watson.<sup>304</sup>

<sup>289</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Lulu Rich, 24 October 2017

<sup>290</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Lulu Rich, 11 November 2017

<sup>291</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>292</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>293</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>294</sup> Screenshots via [Twitter](#), Mates Jacob, 28 February 2019

<sup>295</sup> Screenshots via [Twitter](#), Mates Jacob, 3 March 2019

<sup>296</sup> Screenshots via [Twitter](#), Mates Jacob, 4 March 2019

<sup>297</sup> [Tory Islamophobia crisis deepens as FIFTEEN members’ offensive Facebook posts revealed](#), *The Red Roar*, 17 March 2019. Note all the individuals cited here identified themselves as members of the Conservative Party in replies to a post in the Jacob Rees-Mogg Supporters’ Group on Facebook.

<sup>298</sup> Ibid.

<sup>299</sup> Ibid.

<sup>300</sup> Ibid.

<sup>301</sup> Ibid.

<sup>302</sup> Ibid.

<sup>303</sup> Ibid.

<sup>304</sup> Ibid.

60. Margaret Mary Rebecca Kiely commented that she was “not ashamed” to say she agreed with Tommy Robinson and his work in “exposing the truth behind radical Islam,” and that “Islamic refugees should go to Saudi Arabia or Iran.”<sup>305</sup>
61. Amanda Toland wrote that there was “not much to disagree with” in UKIP leader Gerard Batten’s call for Muslim-only prisons and the abolition of all hate crime laws. She also regularly expresses concern about the “escalating number of mosques in the UK,” celebrating those which are abandoned, and shared fake news about Europe being “handed to Islam without a shot being fired.”<sup>306</sup>
62. Mark Cooper called for “no Muslims, no refugees”, for Halal to be outlawed and for those who want Halal to “go live in a Muslim country.”<sup>307</sup>
63. Philip H Clarkson shared a video by Infowars’ alt-right YouTuber Paul Joseph Watson bemoaning how Muslims are treated differently in Britain from “white people,” and shared a video titled “Muslim horde swamps English town” commenting that it was “scary”.<sup>308</sup>
64. Mandy Greenhaigh said: “tow them back to sea, sink the boat!! Simples.”<sup>309</sup>
65. Abigail Winsor said she would never vote for a “cuckoo” in what appears to be an Islamophobic slur referring to Sajid Javid.<sup>310</sup>
66. Lynn Moughan shared a post about the “Muslim invasion”.<sup>311</sup>
67. Jan Falconer commented in support of all Muslims to be shipped to Saudi Arabia.<sup>312</sup>
68. Johnny Fox said: “all Muslims are radicalised, that is their tragedy”, commented about “incoming Muslim hordes” and labelled the crane collapse disaster in Mecca’s Grand Mosque as “god’s judgement on Muslims who won’t take any refugees”.<sup>313</sup>
69. Sue Boyd shared a video entitled “Muslim horde swamps English town”, with the caption: “Lancashire god help them and soon be a town near you”.<sup>314</sup>
70. Bill Hammond posted on Facebook about Britain having “passively succumbed to the Muslim invasion”, referencing mayors in different parts of England who are Muslim, “Muslim-Only No-Go Areas” and supposed statistics about social security. He also liked a comment calling for “Muslim immigration” to be “halted” and “those that are already here returned to their own countries.”<sup>315</sup>
71. Gwendoline Bishop commented in agreement on Facebook posts about Muslims “taking over”, “the primitive ways of Sharia Law and Muslims” and Islam being “based on and survives on violence”.<sup>316</sup>
72. Stephen Greaves shared a post with pictures of weapons and the caption “Coming to a town near you... Immigration is nothing less than an armed invasion”, and a post which insinuated Muslims were ‘uncivilised’.<sup>317</sup>
73. Maggie Reddaway posted about “the Muslim invasion”.<sup>318</sup>
74. Ellen McCarty posted in support of Tommy Robinson, claiming “our children are being destroyed, ruined and corrupted. Our nation is being attacked from every angle...these gangs are doing this...just the way the Koran proclaims it should be.”<sup>319</sup>
75. Jennifer Eaglestone said: “the Muslim aim is to take over our country too” and called for a Police Commissioner to be shot as “officers are reluctant to act against Muslims”. She also agreed with a post which claimed: “the police don’t protect the British folk anymore just the Muslims and all immigrants”, that Theresa May is “allowing in millions of Muslims, whose aim in life...is to eradicate Christianity”.<sup>320</sup>

<sup>305</sup> Ibid.

<sup>306</sup> Ibid.

<sup>307</sup> Screenshots via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 9 November 2019

<sup>308</sup> Ibid.

<sup>309</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 4 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>310</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 6 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>311</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 6 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>312</sup> Screenshot available on request

<sup>313</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>314</sup> Via [Facebook](#), *Sue Boyd*, 29 November 2015

<sup>315</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>316</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>317</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>318</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>319</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>320</sup> Screenshots available on request

76. Sabrina Harvey shared a video entitled “Radical Islam” The Plan to Destroy America from Within” and called for “all Muslims” to be sent away.<sup>321</sup>
77. Kathleen Owen labelled Muslims as “bloody animals they want putting down”, claimed Muslims make Britain look like “a third world country” and claimed there are “14 Muslim Mayors” in the North West because Muslims “win the vote every time we are outnumbered”.<sup>322</sup>
78. Amanda McMichael wrote to Theresa May about “people being thrown into prison and barred from our country for speaking out about...the way our freedoms are being eroded by a foreign religion which needs ending...Please stop letting our country from being taken over”. She also claimed Muslim countries are “funding” Syrian refugees “to infiltrate the rest of the world”.<sup>323</sup>
79. Alex Lindsay said: “Islamic global jihad should not be tolerated, nor those Muslims who openly publicly, stealthily deaceitfully wish to play their own part in it, either by lying or by terror jihad by bombing, knifing or vehicular jihad”, further speaking about “those who like wolves in sheeps clothing await the days when their numbers are sufficient to allow them to seek insurrection”.<sup>324</sup>
80. Marion Mulry referred to London under “Moslem” Sadiq Khan as Mayor as “third world”, with “Moslems...in full control”.<sup>325</sup>
81. Kevin Slade agreed with posts which referred to women not having any rights within Islam, “child brides” and being “victims of the animalistic rites and habits of the Islamic fanatics within our society”.<sup>326</sup>
82. John Armstrong-Coulson said Muslims can’t “be good [citizens] of any non-Muslim country” because of submission to “the mullahs...who teach annihilation of Israel and destruction of America”. He also posts about Muslims bringing Europe “stupidity and ignorance, religious extremism and lack of tolerance, crime and poverty, due to an unwillingness to work and support their families with pride” and of how Muslims “desire death for themselves and others, for our children and theirs.”<sup>327</sup>
83. Philip Ellison commented on a picture of Muslim men outside a mosque with comments about electoral fraud.<sup>328</sup>
84. Maureen Richards MBE posted on Facebook “they are everywhere”, with reference to Muslims.<sup>329</sup>
85. Dot Harrison said: “This country is being taken over my Muslim kangaroo courts” and referred to “a town overrun with Muslims”.<sup>330</sup>
86. Michael W Foster called Islam “a mediaeval and barbaric” religion.<sup>331</sup>
87. Tony Hagerty posted about “the Islamification of the UK”, men “beaten up regularly by gangs of Muslims” and “Non-Muslim places of worship, pubs, clubs, gays...attacked regularly until they close.”<sup>332</sup>
88. Jackie James posted about the “New World Order” and a ‘Muslim take over’.<sup>333</sup>
89. Jull Kursner said (about Muslims): “[they] want to take it over, and turn it into total chaos!”<sup>334</sup>
90. Angela Huxley said: “Muslim men...dehumanise Muslim women-not Boris”, and said she was “scared for [her] grandchildren” because of an Eid festival in London.<sup>335</sup>
91. Adrian Walker shared a post about Europe being “[flooded] with 80 million infidel-hating Turkish Muslims”.<sup>336</sup>
92. William Christie posted about a “Muslim takeover”, “militants running shatria [sic] courts all over the UK”, “Muslim only areas where whites are chased out” and about the UK “being invaded by Islam”.<sup>337</sup>

<sup>321</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>322</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>323</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>324</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>325</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>326</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>327</sup> Via [Facebook](#), John Armstrong-Coulson, 16 January 2015

<sup>328</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>329</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>330</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>331</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>332</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>333</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>334</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>335</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>336</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Adrian Walker, 2 May 2016

<sup>337</sup> Screenshots available on request

93. Peter Ridler said, with reference to Muslims: “the south coast is being invaded”.<sup>338</sup>
94. Molly Saitch posted an ‘joke’ ridiculing Muslims and Islam.<sup>339</sup>
95. Patricia Harvey posted about “deport[ing] these parasites”.<sup>340</sup>
96. Ewan Marshall said: “non-Muslims [will be] fleeing the UK to avoid persecution and execution under the new Sharia law.”<sup>341</sup>
97. Terence Alan Brown said: “I was going through a few magazines the other day down at the local mosque. I was really enjoying myself. Then the rifle jammed.”<sup>342</sup>
98. Sheila Sears said: “No Muslim will get my vote” and thinks Muslims were coming to steal dogs.<sup>343</sup>
99. Phil Barber shared an Islamophobic conspiracy theory and in his post explained that is “why our government and politicians have tolerated the Islamic ideology of rape, pillage and terror, by allowing them to attack the people of Britain”.<sup>344</sup>
100. Jacqueline Dixon shared an Islamophobic post (and video) from the BNP requesting people to share if they are angry that there will be a Muslim Prime Minister and Muslim Parliament soon.<sup>345</sup>
101. Marilyn Foster Catling shared Islamophobic posts including one stating that our armed forces are being directed by the Muslim Council of Britain and another by “Make Britain Great Again” about Sharia Law taking over.<sup>346</sup>
102. Dave Pendrey wants to close all mosques, deport all imams and hang Theresa May.<sup>347</sup>
103. Susan Terry Bennett appears to be against any Muslim in public office and claims that “we’ll be a Muslim country under sharia law if Labour get in”.<sup>348</sup>
104. John Lyndon Sullivan thinks Muslims should be banned from Parliament and calls British Muslims “gullible penniless dregs”.<sup>349</sup>
105. Diane Gummer shared an Islamophobic post by the BNP entitled “Muslim in charge of immigration and policing; Muslim rape gangs”.<sup>350</sup>
106. Fiona Pancheri said she would “ban Sharia and all those who practice it, turf all Muslims out of public office...”.<sup>351</sup>
107. Sheila Stokes said: “...nor Muslims with their outlandish way of life, belong in this country...” amongst other Islamophobic statements.<sup>352</sup>
108. Valerie Lee wants to “get rid of all MOSQUES”.<sup>353</sup>
109. Irene Sheffar said: “Muslims don’t seem to care who they bed” and “Don’t really want a Muslim running our country”.<sup>354</sup>
110. Rocky Pinder said: “If you lot want the country run by a Muslim, with all that goes with it, rather than a well-spoken, quick thinking English Christian gentleman, then you need to have your head read, and find somewhere else to spout your rubbish.”<sup>355</sup>
111. Jill Philpot said: “no Muslim PM for me”<sup>356</sup>
112. Malcolm Burton states that “The Muslem Mayors round England are making a mockery of our laws & culture”.<sup>357</sup>

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<sup>338</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>339</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>340</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>341</sup> Via [Facebook](#), Ewan Marshall, 9 September 2015

<sup>342</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), Mates Jacob, 6 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>343</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), Mates Jacob, 7 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>344</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), Mates Jacob, 8 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>345</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), Mates Jacob, 9 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>346</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), Mates Jacob, 9 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>347</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), Mates Jacob, 10 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>348</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), Mates Jacob, 10 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>349</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), Mates Jacob, 12 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>350</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), Mates Jacob, 12 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>351</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), Mates Jacob, 24 February 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>352</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), Mates Jacob, 28 November 2018. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>353</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), Mates Jacob, 17 November 2018. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>354</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), Mates Jacob, 24 February 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>355</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), Mates Jacob, 25 February 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>356</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), Mates Jacob, 25 February 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>357</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), Mates Jacob, 25 February 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

- I 13. Haydn Wilkins blames "...the bloody Muslims who want to preach their hate and paedophilia in our country...send them home now".<sup>358</sup>
- I 14. Val Tromans has issued a number of Islamophobic posts including one which states: "Muslims are a very small minority in this country but wield great power... You should control where your money goes, don't spend it in shops and supermarkets that pay into the Muslim council, don't buy halal meat...you don't have to fund Islam"<sup>359</sup>
- I 15. Keith Farrington said that Muslims are "here to destroy us".<sup>360</sup>
- I 16. David Homewood said that "Islam is no different to Nazism..." as part of an Islamophobic post about Islam's followers.<sup>361</sup>
- I 17. Wes Boorman said that Muslims are "allowed to lie to further the cause" as well as that immigrant "invaders" are inherently violent.<sup>362</sup>
- I 18. Lynne Fincher said: "Muslims must go to Muslim countries! There is no excuse for them to crucify US".<sup>363</sup>
- I 19. Laura White under a post entitled "Shrewsbury Against the Islamification of Britain's Post", wrote: "Sikhs everytime, mussions NEVER!".<sup>364</sup>
- I 20. Mark Beaumont appears to want to "Deport" Baroness Warsi after a post was shared about her latest book, and in the context of her calling for an inquiry into Islamophobia in the Party.<sup>365</sup>
- I 21. Jillian Giddens said that Britain is becoming an "Islamic s\*\*\*hole", and that Sajid Javid and Sadiq Khan are "political jihadists".<sup>366</sup>
- I 22. Lynda Anne Heath said Sajid Javid is a "Trojan horse" and agreed that he is "part of the Muslim brotherhood takeover of the UK helped by the puppet Sharia May"<sup>367</sup>
- I 23. Tony Madden appears to wish to bulldoze mosques and states that "Those so-called hard workers from the Middle East, Africa and so on (mainly of Muslim Faith) do not come here to work, but to live on benefits...".<sup>368</sup>
- I 24. Paul Shearn said: "A practicing Muslim should not be allowed to work in any of the emergency profession's".<sup>369</sup>
- I 25. Andrew Spencer Machin said: "Islam must be banned from Europe".<sup>370</sup>
- I 26. Dave Richardson said that a vote for Sajid Javid is a vote for "Islam to lead this country".<sup>371</sup>
- I 27. Irene Burton said: "Who in sane mind would vote for someone who takes their oath to Queen and Country on the Koran have we learnt nothing remember Khan".<sup>372</sup>
- I 28. Antony Goodall labelled the halal certification of Kellogg's (which does not exist) a "Muslim tax and that us Brits are against it", said: "I sure as hell won't pay a penny to Muslims" and shared an Islamophobic post stating: "Basically Europe has been handed to Islam... now you know why there is a law for Muslims and a law for us".<sup>373</sup>
- I 29. Richard Woods contrasted Muslims with "normal British communities" who "don't form rape gangs", "slaughter teenagers at a pop concert" and "demand that non-Moslems be slaughtered or Jews exterminated".<sup>374</sup>
- I 30. Alan Wingrove said: "How come there are all these stabbings but no one gets to Khan... fingers crossed one day soon".<sup>375</sup>

<sup>358</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 26 February 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>359</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 26 February 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>360</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 28 February 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>361</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 1 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>362</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 1 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>363</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 1 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>364</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 2 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>365</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 3 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>366</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 3 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>367</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 3 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>368</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 3 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>369</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 3 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>370</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 4 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>371</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 4 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>372</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 4 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>373</sup> Screenshot via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 13 March 2019. Tweet shows self-identification as Conservative Party member.

<sup>374</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>375</sup> Screenshots available on request

- 131. Maureen Aston shared a meme of Theresa May with the statement: “Sharia May – Remember Islamic attacks on the UK are nothing to do with Islam!” as well as posts from the BNP and Daily Stormer.<sup>376</sup>
- 132. Clive Dudley shared a post stating: “Halal funds terrorists: Zakat – Boycott Halal”.<sup>377</sup>
- 133. Ian Grist said, with reference to a previous post about Muslims: “These people are cavemen...personally I’d like them rounded up and returned to point of origin”.<sup>378</sup>
- 134. Christina Toal posted laughing face emojis responding to an article headlined “Muslim prisoners ‘forced to eat pork and drink alcohol as punishment in China’s brutal anti-Islam camps’” and responded “most do” to a post stating “Not all Muslims sexually assault young women”.<sup>379</sup>
- 135. Barbara Brown shared conspiracy theories about Muslims, including stating: “It is happening and it was planned, the replacement of Christianity and its culture and replacement by Islam” and “...the takeover of our country by Sharia Law” when sharing a Jihad Watch article.<sup>380</sup>
- 136. Tony Jacks responded “Yes” when asked if he would support a ban on Muslim immigration.<sup>381</sup>
- 137. Pamela Joan Rolfe responded “Yes they cause mayhem wherever they decide to invade” when responding to a post asking “Would you support a ban on Muslim immigration in your country”.<sup>382</sup>
- 138. Carol Ann Citroen asked: “Why the surprise its part of their culture” when referring to a “paedophile” who appears to be Muslim (based on the site Free Patriot Post) and said “looks like Ireland may have the right idea after all” when sharing a post entitled “Muslims flee Northern Ireland to escape anti-Islam violence”.<sup>383</sup>
- 139. Nigel Hodgson shared a post after the New Zealand Christchurch massacre stating: “We allowed them [Muslims] to come to our country, even though they refused to integrate, they groomed, raped, abused and murdered our children...”.<sup>384</sup>
- 140. Margaret Robinson wrote a post using the Islamophobic trope of Muslims taking over, in which she said: “perhaps the intention is a fully Islamic Europe. Another step to the new world order. Definitely for Europe, one country – one people and that has to be Islam.”.<sup>385</sup>
- 141. Sonia Jayne Luff said: “Time we did the same thing and get them out” when discussing the ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya in Myanmar, further commenting: “Rohingyas getting what they deserve”.<sup>386</sup>
- 142. Deanne Maria Santini said: “they need to be rounded up and shipped into an Islamic country where they can practice their Sharia to their hearts content”.<sup>387</sup>
- 143. Alan Endacott said Sadiq Khan “is only the Mayor of Londonistan... Theresa May needs to get a grip of this Mus&lim Br@therh@@d stooge.”<sup>388</sup>
- 144. Paul Tupman commented on a meme of how Europeans are disappearing through Muslim men marrying 4 wives and having 12 children noting: “and we are also paying for most of them”.<sup>389</sup>
- 145. Jeremy Wilks said: “Go home and dirty up your own countries. We don’t want you in a decent country” as he shared a YouTube clip from Robert Spencer entitled “Muslims want Sharia Law...”.<sup>390</sup> Robert Spencer is banned from entering the UK as his presence was “not conducive to the public good”.<sup>391</sup>
- 146. Annemarie Fleming shared a post stating: “To understand what makes Muslims tick, you need to understand how utterly slavishly they imitate the founder of their death-cult...”<sup>392</sup>

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<sup>376</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>377</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>378</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>379</sup> Screenshots available on request

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<sup>386</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>387</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>388</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>389</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>390</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>391</sup> [Far-right US bloggers banned from entering UK for Woolwich rally](#), *The Guardian*, 26 June 2013

<sup>392</sup> Screenshots available on request

147. David Adams said: “there’s no good ones or bad ones...just Muslims, if it came to the push, the so-called “good ones” will side with the bad ones, they read the same book of lies”.<sup>393</sup>
148. Alan Renault stated: “we all know who what can we expect from may who is not only trying to give our country to the eu but also to the muslims next it will be sarah law and finally we all have to convert to Islam time to stand up and fight like our forefathers who fought 2 wars to keep this country British”.<sup>394</sup>
149. Colin Ash said: “Its Muslims that are planting bombs...Muslims are doing all the bad things in the world. And they wonder why people are suspicious about them.”<sup>395</sup>
150. Sandra Blake said: “We voted for the securing of our borders to halt an Islamic invasion”, amongst other posts.<sup>396</sup>
151. Helen Cattle wrote to David Cameron saying: “...you have gone ahead and decided with Merkel and Junkel to flood Britain with Muslims from around the world...no background checks...We have so many no-go areas where People who are not Islamic cannot enter...this is British genocide”.<sup>397</sup>
152. Jeremy Howes said: “All women should know, if they become involved with a Muslim immigrant, there is a real risk of violence and death.” He also claimed there was a “joint Islam/Government drive to bring in more Muslims, followed by extremist, non English speaking, Imams.”<sup>398</sup>
153. Andrew WYROBECK asked: “I don’t understand why our “betters” (and I use that term very loosely) have decided that we want a medieval barbaric cult to take precedence over us”, and “94%...are forced to buy halal meat...90% of child grooming and rape is down to them”.<sup>399</sup>
154. Ann Wilshaw said: “The men with their awful facial hair scare me to death. This isn’t how it should be in our country...” and “I agree, they are slowly taking over...”.<sup>400</sup>
155. Simon Aspinall shared a series of Islamophobic posts, including a claim that “fundamentalist Deobandi” control 45% of the UK’s 1700 mosques and that “Hijrah is a core part of jihad.... involves Islamic conquest by migration” etc.<sup>401</sup>
156. Theresa Bates said about Sajid Javid: “The Home Secretary will protect his own. He was sworn in on the Koran”, and about Sadiq Khan: “We make the decision not a Muslim who has a completely different set of values to most of the uk”.<sup>402</sup>
157. Sue Rowell Jnr said: “Britain has an Islamic problem”, shared a meme of the “World Order” showing Jews who apparently run the world and endorses a quote saying: “Muslims, who are Sharia law have been asked to leave Australia by Wednesday...each and every mosque will be searched...”.<sup>403</sup>
158. Graham Forbes shared a YouTube clip about “The Terrifying Results of Muslim immigration in the UK”, stating: “Muslim hordes of Turkey are equally in favour of robbing us of our financial resources”, and “this is the UN/Soros/EU/May plan, total destruction of the white Caucasian European population, in a word genocide”.<sup>404</sup>
159. Mary Simmonite shared a post from LibertyGB’s Paul Weston stating: “We will do whatever it takes to prevent an Islamic takeover”, and another stating “Well i never thought that England would be destroyed from within by traitorous MP’s allowing the invasion of Muslims”.<sup>405</sup>
160. Paul Glover said: “I hope trump becomes president and stops the Muslims taking over the world, I know it’s happening here in the uk and we don’t have a politician strong enough to lead us away from this infestation”.<sup>406</sup>

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<sup>393</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>394</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>395</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>396</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>397</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>398</sup> Screenshots via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 3 November 2019

<sup>399</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>400</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>401</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>402</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>403</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>404</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>405</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>406</sup> Screenshots available on request

161. Beverly Maller shared a post stating: “The future is Islam, but it can be halted if you act now. VOTE LEAVE on 23rd June and we can then at least start to control immigration and put a stop to any of the migrant Muslim hordes...”<sup>407</sup>
162. Victoria Littlewood tweeted about the Muslim community taking over the UK.<sup>408</sup>
163. Kim Alexander called for British Muslims to “adapt [or] f\*\*\* off”.<sup>409</sup>
164. A member, who is in a closed group of Conservative Party members and called Muslims “muzz rats” and “sub human scum”, asked: “why have we got them in our country?” He also wrote: “This lot should be rounded up and put on a boat home. They don't like our flag - but they love our welfare payments.”<sup>410</sup>
165. A member, who claimed he had joined the Conservatives to get a Brexiteer elected as Prime Minister, said of Sajid Javid: “Britain is not ready for a Muslim PM, that would be taking the absolute piss out of the country”. He also wrote of Sadiq Khan: “This man does not represent the United Kingdom, he is only the Mayor of Londonistan... Theresa May needs to get a grip of this Muslim Brotherhood stooge.”<sup>411</sup>
166. A member said she was staying as a Conservative member “so that we can elect the right leader”, wrote that Javid “will protect his own. He was sworn in on the Koran”.<sup>412</sup>
167. A member, who said: “I'm ready to cancel my membership only holding onto it in case I could use it against them”, wrote that “Britain has an Islamic problem”.<sup>413</sup>
168. A member wrote on Facebook: “I intend to stay a member because I hope to be able to influence the party and help get it to move in the right direction”, accused the government and the EU of “facilitating Hijrah”, which he called “Muslim conquest by emigration”. He also wrote: “We have serious problems with young Muslim men. Too many of them are running wild. They think they have a direct line to Allah.”<sup>414</sup>
169. A member shared a post calling Islam a “death cult” and Mohammed a “paedophile”.<sup>415</sup>
170. A member said: “When I look around London, there's no sound of the English language it's completely Asian, what have you done to make me feel like a foreigner in my own country, you have gone ahead and decided with Merkel and Junker to flood Britain with Muslims from around the world”.<sup>416</sup>
171. A member said of Conservative peer Lord Sheikh: “I'm bloody fed up of people coming to our country like he did because Amin booted him and others out of Uganda, and then after everything we have given to them, they kick us in the backside and start telling us what we should and should not say or do”.<sup>417</sup>
172. A member wrote: “Muslims, it's either AK47s, power in liberal groups or politics... they are like knot-weed in your lawn.”<sup>418</sup>
173. A member shared a post claiming “Islam wants our entire culture” and said the government has to “start getting tough” on Muslims.<sup>419</sup>
174. A member called Islam a “weird cult and not a religion”, claimed that under sharia law “they can have sex with white children” and that “evil people are stopping white people rightly exposing that”.<sup>420</sup>
175. Several other Conservative members posted about a “Muslim invasion” and the so-called white genocide conspiracy theory.<sup>421</sup>

<sup>407</sup> Screenshots available on request

<sup>408</sup> Screenshots via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 4 November 2019

<sup>409</sup> Via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 29 June 2019

<sup>410</sup> [Anti-Muslim Tory Members On Facebook Are Telling One Another To Stop Sajid Javid From Becoming Prime Minister](#), *BuzzFeed*, 8 April 2019

<sup>411</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>412</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>413</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>414</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>415</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>416</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>417</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>418</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>419</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>420</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>421</sup> *Ibid.*

176. A member tweeted about the “block Muslim vote”, claimed “Islamic ideology [is] incompatible with Western culture”, and that Muslims’ “every whim is accommodated”.<sup>422</sup>
177. A member labelled Muslim immigration in Europe as “an army of faceless Muslims”, claiming the EU was “importing a holy war”.<sup>423</sup>
178. A member claimed Muslims “keep having sex with helpless children and blowing them up.”<sup>424</sup>
179. A member tweeted about the Muslim “takeover” of the UK, with Sadiq Khan only listening to Muslims.<sup>425</sup>
180. A member said: “Muslims go home pigs”.<sup>426</sup>
181. A member responded to an article about Sadiq Khan with: “P\*\*i tosser”.<sup>427</sup>
182. A member tweeted: “Rebuild it now! Keep the muzzrats walled up”.<sup>428</sup>
183. A member tweeted about Islam having “invaded these shores” and called for people to “fight it”.<sup>429</sup>

This compilation of Conservative Party representatives, both elected councillors, and ordinary members demonstrates the how entrenched Islamophobic views are at every level of the party. This is in addition to the dossiers passed to ITV News,<sup>430</sup> BuzzFeed,<sup>431</sup> LBC<sup>432</sup> and The Guardian,<sup>433</sup> which feature over 150, potentially additional, Conservative Party members.

The recurring theme seems to be a lack of transparency from the Conservative Party about how many of these individuals who have been reported have been suspended, which individuals have been suspended, and/or readmitted, and if so, whether they underwent any training or gave an apology to local Muslim communities. Further discussion on this is continued in section 4 of the appendix.

There are a number of individuals who, despite not necessarily being members of the Conservative Party, have demonstrated worrying attitudes related to Islam and Muslims, and are in positions of huge influence, both within the Conservative Party and at the very top levels of government. These include:

## 1. Dominic Cummings, Chief Adviser to the Prime Minister

- Orchestrated the Vote Leave campaign which played on fears of immigration and hate against Muslims to push the anti-EU agenda. Vote Leave claimed the EU was about to admit Turkey, a Muslim-majority country, which could create a risk to security.<sup>434</sup> This implied, and the message was further propagated by UKIP with a poster showing Asian males,<sup>435</sup> that this would mean an increase in Muslim immigration.
- With overall responsibility for The Spectator website according to Stuart Reid, the magazine’s acting editor at the time in 2006, Cummings was in charge when a controversial cartoon of the Prophet Muhammad with a bomb in his turban on its website was posted, with the comment: “as European populations die and Muslim populations grow... the balance of power shifts every day; meanwhile Britain’s comic political class cannot even control Islamic terrorists when they finally lock a few up in prison...”, feeding into the Islamophobic trope about a Muslim ‘takeover’.<sup>436</sup>

## 2. Chloe Westley, Special Adviser to the Prime Minister

<sup>422</sup> Screenshots via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 9 November 2019

<sup>423</sup> Screenshots via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 9 November 2019

<sup>424</sup> Screenshots via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 4 November 2019

<sup>425</sup> Screenshots via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 4 November 2019

<sup>426</sup> Screenshots via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 17 September 2018

<sup>427</sup> Screenshots via [Twitter](#), *Mates Jacob*, 17 September 2018

<sup>428</sup> [Dossier exposes more than 100 accusations of Islamophobia and racism from Conservative Party members](#), *ITV*, 17 May 2019

<sup>429</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>430</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>431</sup> [Anti-Muslim Tory Members On Facebook Are Telling One Another To Stop Sajid Javid From Becoming Prime Minister](#), *BuzzFeed*, 8 April 2019

<sup>432</sup> [LBC obtains dossier showing 10 Tory councillors sharing Islamophobic content](#), *LBC*, 15 November 2019

<sup>433</sup> [Revealed: Tory councillors posted Islamophobic content on social media](#), *The Guardian*, 12 November 2019

<sup>434</sup> [Vote Leave embroiled in race row over Turkey’s security threat claims](#), *The Guardian*, 22 May 2016

<sup>435</sup> [Nigel Farage’s anti-migrant poster reported to police](#), *The Guardian*, 16 June 2016

<sup>436</sup> [Spectator makes cartoon U-turn](#), *The Guardian*, 2 February 2006

- Praised Anne Marie Waters as a “hero”, despite her being a far-right activist who has called Islam “evil” and who has links to Tommy Robinson, <sup>437</sup>

### 3. **Tim Montgomerie, Social Justice Adviser to the Prime Minister**

- Praised Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, suggesting the UK should have a “special relationship” with the far-right leader.<sup>438</sup>
- Insinuated the Muslim world has a “desire to suppress free expression” which “must not be smuggled into the West”.<sup>439</sup>
- Labelled Baroness Warsi as “always playing the victim” over Islamophobia.<sup>440</sup>
- Wrote about “moderate representatives of Islam”, implying there is a scale, with extremism at one end.<sup>441</sup>

### 4. **Andrew Sabisky, Adviser to the Prime Minister**

- Questioned whether a growing Muslim population could be met with violent resistance, propagating a discredited statistic: “by around 2050 Britain is forecast to be a majority Islamic nation on current birthrate trends”.<sup>442</sup>

### 5. **Sir Roger Scruton, Conservative Philosopher, Adviser to the Communities Secretary**

- A political philosopher specialised in traditionalist conservative views, Scruton had huge influence in the Conservative Party, which was best displayed upon his passing, whereby tributes were paid to him by the Prime Minister, hailing him as “the greatest modern Conservative thinker – who not only had the guts to say what he thought but said it beautifully.”<sup>443</sup>
- Made insulting remarks about Arabs, labelling them as having a “habit of living by violence” and a tendency to place “vengeance before justice”.
- Claimed the idea of Islamophobia was “invented by the Muslim Brotherhood in order to stop discussion of a major issue which we all are worried about”.<sup>444</sup>
- Admired Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, saying: “the Hungarians were extremely alarmed by the sudden invasion of huge tribes of Muslims”.<sup>445</sup>
- Though initially dismissed as the chair of the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission in response to the widespread criticism of his comments following an explosive interview with the New Statesman in which he was questioned on his views, he was reappointed as the co-chair of the commission a week later, after the New Statesman apologised for the way in which the article was written. Roger Scruton was never challenged on his specific views, nor was he ever asked to apologise for them, and his initial sacking was labelled as “regrettable”.<sup>446</sup>

<sup>437</sup> [Who Is Chloe Westley, Boris Johnson’s Controversial New No.10 Social Media Chief?](#) *Huffington Post*, 26 July 2019

<sup>438</sup> [Fury as Boris Johnson aide suggests ‘special relationship’ with far-right leader](#), *The Mirror*, 7 January 2020

<sup>439</sup> Via [Twitter](#), *Tim Montgomerie*, 16 May 2019

<sup>440</sup> Via [Twitter](#), *Tim Montgomerie*, 16 May 2019

<sup>441</sup> [God and my right](#), *The Guardian*, 25 February 2010

<sup>442</sup> [Andrew Sabisky: Boris Johnson’s ex-adviser in his own words](#), *The Guardian*, 17 February 2020

<sup>443</sup> Via [Twitter](#), *Boris Johnson*, 13 January 2020

<sup>444</sup> [Anti-Muslim bigotry tarnishes the legacy of Sir Roger Scruton](#), *Middle East Eye*, 14 January 2020

<sup>445</sup> [Theresa May Is Facing Calls To Sack Her New Housing Adviser Over His Views On Islamophobia And Homosexuality](#), *BuzzFeed*, 6 November 2018

<sup>446</sup> [Roger Scruton gets government job back after ‘regrettable’ sacking](#), *The Guardian*, 23 July 2019

#### 4. Failure of the Complaints Process

The Conservative Party acknowledges, to a small extent, that its complaints process is not fit for purpose. The Party has announced that it is holding an inquiry into its handling of complaints about discrimination, including Islamophobia. This inquiry is very much needed, and this section will outline the failures of the complaints process to date. However, there are already issues with this inquiry, which risk making it merely a rubberstamping exercise which whitewashes over the problem.

The inquiry announced by the Conservative Party on 17 December 2019 is in lieu of the original inquiry committed to by the Prime Minister and all other leadership contenders during the Conservative Leadership election in 2019, which was specifically into Islamophobia in the Conservative Party. This inquiry was then watered down to look more broadly into prejudice and discrimination across the Party, but when it was formally announced by the Conservative Party, it was confirmed to only look into the way in which the Party handles complaints of such a nature.

Whilst the Terms of Reference are yet to be announced, it is critical that the inquiry is thorough and looks at historical complaints. The Conservative Party must also consider whether the chair, Professor Swaran Singh, is the most appropriate person to lead this inquiry. Concerns have been raised about him, including by the former chair of the Conservative Party, Baroness Warsi, including over his belief that it is not realistic for the UK to live to a standard “where every individual is non-racist”.<sup>447</sup>

It is because of these concerns with the inquiry as announced, and the scale of the failure of CCHQ in handling complaints of Islamophobia, that the EHRC should investigate the Party.

The Conservative Party has been notoriously secretive over its complaint process, which lacks any sort of transparency. We have seen consistent failure of successive Prime Ministers and Party Chairs to even take the first step towards tackling this. Theresa May, the then-Prime Minister, claimed that the Party “takes action”, has “acted on cases” and that “the party chairman [Brandon Lewis] takes very seriously any allegations that are brought before the party.”<sup>448</sup> This section aims to demonstrate that this has categorically not been the case.

Successive chairs of the Conservative Party, who are responsible for the complaints process, have failed to get a grip on the problem.

Sir Patrick McLoughlin was the chair of the Party who oversaw Zac Goldsmith’s racist mayoral campaign. It was under his watch that Zac Goldsmith was not subject to an internal investigation, despite widespread criticism, both from internally and externally to the Party, over his campaign.

Brandon Lewis was the chair of the Party from January 2018 to July 2019 and oversaw huge swathes of complaints about Islamophobia within the Party. Most notably, he oversaw the independent investigation of Boris Johnson over his remarks about the burqa in 2018. This investigation cleared him of any wrongdoing, claiming his comments were, in fact, “respectful and tolerant” towards Muslim women.<sup>449</sup> This investigation was carried out with little transparency, with the composition of the investigating panel not made public, no understanding of whether the impact of his statements were fully understood by the panel, and no detailed rationale provided as to how the decision to clear him of any wrongdoing was made. Whilst Boris Johnson remains the only MP to have faced an investigation over Islamophobia by the Conservative Party, it is evident that even this investigation was far from robust.

As Chair, Brandon Lewis regularly made bold statements about tackling Islamophobia, claiming that “swift action” had been taken when complaints were made, that there was “absolutely no place” for anti-Muslim discrimination in the party” and that the complaints process is “robust”.<sup>450</sup> This is despite

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<sup>447</sup> [Tory Islamophobia inquiry chair in row over Kashmir views](#), *The Guardian*, 18 December 2019

<sup>448</sup> [House of Commons: Prime Ministers Questions](#), *Prime Minister Theresa May*, 27 March 2019

<sup>449</sup> [Conservatives rule Boris Johnson comparing Muslim women in veils to letter boxes and bank robbers was ‘respectful’](#), *The Independent*, 21 December 2018

<sup>450</sup> [Islamophobia: ‘No place’ for it in Conservative Party says chairman](#), *BBC*, 19 March 2019

leaked emails showing CCHQ had failed to respond to complaints of Islamophobia, issuing a private apology after two Conservative officials resigned in protest at their complaints being ignored for several months.<sup>451</sup> Under Brandon Lewis' tenure, there were a series of failures to acknowledge complaints, including:

- Ajay Jagota, chair of South Shields Conservative Association, resigned after complaints of Islamophobia he had experienced (he had been referred to as a Muslim in a pejorative way), were ignored by the Party (noting that he had spoken to Brandon Lewis directly as well as followed the formal process). He notes that "it seems like there was a deliberate attempt to sweep the complaint under the carpet in the hope that it would go away."<sup>452</sup> After his resignation, despite Downing Street even getting involved to assure him of a response, Ajay Jagota did not receive anything from CCHQ.<sup>453</sup>
- Baroness Warsi raised a number of complaints which had not been responded to, leading to her raising them publicly by tweeting: "I raised this with @BrandonLewis privately and no response so here we go again...".<sup>454</sup>
- Conservative Party members in Portsmouth South reported that Brandon Lewis failed to acknowledge repeated requests to investigate a dozen alleged racist and Islamophobic incidents, with registered letters of complaint sent to his office ignored. Massoud Esmaili, a Conservative activist for ten years who stood to become a city councillor, wrote to Brandon Lewis outlining a number of allegations of racism but said he was yet to receive a reply. The former chair of the Portsmouth South Conservative Association said: "Our local party is riven with racism, from top to bottom. Lewis has blatantly ignored my pleas to investigate."<sup>455</sup>
- Conservative officials warned Brandon Lewis and the CCHQ complaints team about anti-Muslim posts by party members in the Jacob Rees-Mogg Supporters Group on 4 October 2018, but no action was taken until March 2019.<sup>456</sup>
- After Conservative MP Helen Goodman complained about Colin Raine organising a demonstration outside her office with anti-Muslim far right groups, Raine was not expelled and the Party instead "waited for Colin Raine's membership to expire".<sup>457</sup>

Brandon Lewis tweeted on 7 November 2018 claiming the Party had no complaints outstanding. This was untrue, with a number of outstanding complaints occurring at this time, as pointed out by Hope Not Hate. These include, but are not limited to:

- The concerns raised by Conservative members in Portsmouth South, as outlined above, reported in *The Guardian* on 7 March.
- A complaint from a Conservative Party member that another member had said: "I'm not working with that Muslim" by BuzzFeed News on 11 March.
- A complaint about a member who posted on social media about "aggressive muzzies", as reported by Huffington Post on 1 March.<sup>458</sup>

In response, Brandon Lewis said: "The party's complaints process is robust and allows us to deal with allegations of behaviour that fall below our high standards. We take swift action when complaints are made to CCHQ, immediately referring them for investigation. That was the case in November 2018, and continues to be the case today."<sup>459</sup> Whilst these warm words are welcome, it remains that the evidence shows swift action is not always taken, many individuals are not investigated, and there have

<sup>451</sup> [These Leaked Emails Reveal Number 10 Apologised After Conservative HQ Failed To Respond To Islamophobia Complaints](#), BuzzFeed, 11 March 2019

<sup>452</sup> [My complaints of Tory Islamophobia were ignored, so I had to resign](#), *The Guardian*, 12 March 2019,

<sup>453</sup> [These Leaked Emails Reveal Number 10 Apologised After Conservative HQ Failed To Respond To Islamophobia Complaints](#), BuzzFeed, 11 March 2019

<sup>454</sup> Via [Twitter](#), Sayeeda Warsi, 20 March 2019

<sup>455</sup> [Tory chairman accused of repeatedly ignoring racism complaints](#), *The Guardian*, 7 March 2019

<sup>456</sup> [Leaked Emails Show The Tory Head Office Was Warned About Anti-Muslim Facebook Posts Last Year. No Action Was Taken.](#), BuzzFeed, 8 March 2019

<sup>457</sup> [Tories Failed To Expel 'Islamophobic' Member Allegedly Behind Far-Right Protest At MP's Office](#), *Huffington Post*, 1 March 2019

<sup>458</sup> [Tory Islamophobia: Our Challenge to Brandon Lewis](#), *Hope Not Hate*, 18 March 2019

<sup>459</sup> [Tory chairman Brandon Lewis asked if he misled public over Islamophobia complaints](#), *Evening Standard*, 18 March 2019

been countless occasions where allegations of behaviour that fall below standards have not been dealt with.

Further adding to the atmosphere of secrecy, when asked about the Party's processes, he insisted they were "transparent" but refused to reveal how many overall complaints about Islamophobia the party had received, or how many members had been expelled.<sup>460</sup>

There have been a number of occasions where dossiers have been submitted to CCHQ with a group of individuals, which has been met with a blanket statement about suspending 'a number' of individuals, with no clarity over which individuals will be dealt with and how.<sup>461</sup>

Alarming, there have also been a number of occasions where individuals have been suspended and then secretly readmitted into the party. Brandon Lewis, who criticised the Labour Party for reinstating councillors who had posted anti-Semitic messages, admitted on LBC that this is also something the Conservative Party does.<sup>462</sup>

It is rarely communicated when individuals who have been suspended are reinstated, further highlighting the lack of transparency in the process. In one instance, The Guardian found 15 suspended councillors had been reinstated despite having been suspended over alleged Islamophobia. The Guardian's research suggested that in the majority of cases where a councillor was reprimanded for retweeting or sharing offensive content, they were later readmitted to the party.<sup>463</sup>

Despite Brandon Lewis' evidently poor handling of complaints of Islamophobia in the Conservative Party, failure to act on a number of occasions, and being accused of misleading the public about the number of complaints by Hope Not Hate,<sup>464</sup> he was still rewarded by Boris Johnson, by being appointed Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

James Cleverly MP, the now-former Chair of the Conservative Party, was responsible for the handling of complaints from July 2019 until February 2020. In this time, there have also been a number of dossiers has been submitted to CCHQ with groups of individuals, which have been met with a blanket statement about suspending 'a number' of individuals, with no clarity over which individuals will be dealt with and how.<sup>465</sup> In some cases, individuals are suspended from the Party, but are still in the group.

For example, Ryan Houghton, the Conservative prospective parliamentary candidate for Aberdeen North, was suspended during the election over alleged Islamophobia and anti-Semitism but remains a councillor and in the Conservative group on Aberdeen City Council.<sup>466</sup> This implies that even when an individual is suspended from the Party, this may not necessarily mean they are no longer able to represent the party.

Another candidate in the 2019 General Election, Anjana Patel, whose Islamophobia scandal is detailed in section one of this appendix, was still allowed to stand as a candidate, despite the Party knowing of her past. Anjana Patel had been a councillor in Harrow at the time of sending the abusive tweet, which was investigated by the Conservative Party and the investigation "concluded", though no details provided as to what the outcome of the investigation was. She was able to stand after she had deleted her Twitter account.<sup>467</sup>

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<sup>460</sup> [Islamophobia: Tory chairman won't reveal complaint numbers](#), BBC, 29 April 2019

<sup>461</sup> [Islamophobia: Conservative Party members suspended over posts](#), BBC, 20 September 2019

<sup>462</sup> Screenshots via [Twitter](#), Mates Jacob, 22 November 2019

<sup>463</sup> [Tory Islamophobia row: 15 suspended councillors quietly reinstated](#), The Guardian, 24 March 2019

<sup>464</sup> [Tory chairman Brandon Lewis asked if he 'misled' over Islamophobia complaints](#), Sky News, 19 March 2019

<sup>465</sup> [Islamophobia: Conservative Party members suspended over posts](#), BBC, 20 September 2019

<sup>466</sup> [Aberdeen Tory election candidate suspended over Holocaust comments retains £30k council post](#), The Herald, 28 January 2020

<sup>467</sup> [The Tories Knew About This Candidate's Anti-Muslim Tweet, But Let Her Stand Anyway](#), BuzzFeed, 18 November 2019

He was also responsible for the failure to take action on the candidates during the 2019 General Election who were flagged as having made Islamophobic remarks in the past. Though apologising for when “people do or say things that are wrong”, this apology was not followed up with tangible action. He claimed that there was now “a robust mechanism” in place to deal with Islamophobia, though the robustness of this mechanism must be called into question when looking at the candidates during the 2019 General Election, some of which are now MPs, were not investigated at all.<sup>468</sup> In November 2019, there were a number of scandals of Islamophobia in the Conservative Party, involving 35 sitting and former councillors and two General Election candidates. James Cleverly did not comment on any of these incidents.

Furthermore, he insisted the Conservative Party’s investigation would “look specifically into Islamophobia” despite already having announced it would look at prejudice and discrimination, and then formally announcing the investigation into being into the complaints process, rather than the specific problem of Islamophobia itself.<sup>469</sup>

James Cleverley’s failure to deal with complaints of Islamophobia, his decision to severely downgrade the Party’s inquiry as originally committed to by Boris Johnson, and the significant public criticism his inaction drew was rewarded by Boris Johnson in February 2020 with a ministerial position at the Foreign Office.

There is strong anecdotal evidence to show that there also appears to be a culture within the Party to try and stop complaints being made by Muslim members. Examples of this include:

- One Muslim councillor stated he was worried about taking concerns to the Party because it would be “political suicide”.<sup>470</sup>
- One Muslim Party member alleges he was told to “suck it up” and stop complaining after alleging discrimination by the Conservative candidate for London Mayor, Shaun Bailey.<sup>471</sup> This member has since cancelled his membership because he has “repeatedly experienced discrimination, racism and at times been either bullied or emotionally blackmailed to keep silent about my experiences.”<sup>472</sup>
- One Party member said he made a complaint to the Conservatives’ West Midlands headquarters after a councillor made a racist mark during a meeting. He said: “It was totally brushed under the carpet; they didn’t want to know. They said, ‘don’t worry about it, he’s an old man’.”<sup>473</sup>

Regardless of who is the Chair of the Conservative Party, there is evidence to show that the Party prioritises political gain or improving its public perception over genuinely wishing to root out Islamophobia from within the Party. Evidence of this includes:

- Councillor Rosemary Carroll was suspended for sharing a racist joke on Facebook but was then readmitted into the Party when the Conservatives needed one more seat to gain control of Pendle Council. After an internal investigation prompted by a media outcry at her readmission, no action was taken, and the Party did not challenge her reinstatement.<sup>474</sup>
- Peter Lamb, the Conservative candidate in the 2017 Harlow Council by-election, was still allowed to stand as the council candidate after being suspended following a series of comments he made on social media about Muslims.
- Councillor Andrew Bowles, Conservative leader of Swale Borough Council, was found to have retweeted a message calling Tommy Robinson a patriot.<sup>475</sup> Channel 4 News was informed of his suspension live on air, whilst he was not even aware of this decision, which indicates that

<sup>468</sup> [General election 2019: Tory chairman 'sorry' for Islamophobia in party](#), BBC, 8 December 2019

<sup>469</sup> Ibid.

<sup>470</sup> ['He inferred I wasn't British': Tory members tell of Islamophobia](#), *The Guardian*, 31 May 2018

<sup>471</sup> [Tories are prejudiced against Islam, says council candidate](#), *The Guardian*, 6 March 2019

<sup>472</sup> [Via Twitter](#), *Amir Sadjady*, 26 March 2019

<sup>473</sup> ['He inferred I wasn't British': Tory members tell of Islamophobia](#), *The Guardian*, 31 May 2018

<sup>474</sup> [Suspended Rosemary Carroll rejoins Tories ahead of election win](#), BBC, 4 May 2018

<sup>475</sup> [Tory council leader retweets message hailing Tommy Robinson as a patriot](#), *The Mirror*, 4 March 2019

this action was only taken to placate the concern raised by the journalist.<sup>476</sup> He was readmitted to the party 13 days later after a social media training course.<sup>477</sup>

Whilst not a failure of the complaints process, the way in which the Conservative Party handled the case of Daniel Kawczynski MP in February 2020 shows a wider failure by the Party at the highest level in the House of Commons. As outlined in section one of this appendix, Daniel Kawczynski attended a far-right conference whilst Parliament was sitting for two days. This leave of absence from the House of Commons is not something an MP can do without gaining prior permission from their party whip's office.<sup>478</sup> Therefore, Daniel Kawczynski's attendance at this conference was sanctioned by the appropriate body in the Conservative Party, once again showing the relaxed approach the Party takes when it comes to engaging with the far-right.

The Conservative Party's institutional problem with Islamophobia is further exemplified in its approach towards dealing with complaints of Islamophobia. The Party's abject failure to even investigate claims of Islamophobia is disappointing enough, but the trend to readmit the few individuals who have been investigated and found guilty shows Islamophobia is not taken seriously in the slightest.

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<sup>476</sup> Via [Twitter](#), *Miqdaad Versi*, 5 March 2019

<sup>477</sup> [Cllr Andrew Bowles allowed back into Swale Conservative party after Tommy Robinson retweet](#), *Kent Online*, 19 March 2019

<sup>478</sup> Via [Twitter](#), *Alex Wickham*, 4 February 2020

## 5. Denial of Islamophobia

Despite the clear prevalence of Islamophobia in the Party, it was only during the leadership election in 2019 and then again during the General Election that leadership hopefuls, and the Prime Minister, acknowledged there was a problem. Disappointingly, both of these interventions were not proactive, and were instead during media interviews and as a result of public pressure.

All five Conservative leadership candidates committed to supporting an independent inquiry into Islamophobia in response to a question during a TV debate. Sajid Javid committed to this, and challenged the other candidates to do the same, and they appeared to agree.<sup>479</sup>

During the General Election, the Conservative Party came under pressure to comment on its institutional problem with Islamophobia. When asked in an interview whether he apologised for the Islamophobia that has taken place in the Conservative Party, Boris Johnson replied: “Of course, and for all the hurt and offence that has been caused – of course we do.”<sup>480</sup>

Even though the problem was acknowledged, the commitment to hold an independent inquiry specifically into Islamophobia was quickly watered down, as discussed in the previous section of this appendix. Despite already having announced that the inquiry would no longer be into Islamophobia but into prejudice and discrimination broadly, when asked about this during the General Election, Michael Gove appeared to mislead the public by claiming that the inquiry was still into Islamophobia. Michael Gove told BBC Radio 4’s Today programme: “We will have an inquiry into Islamophobia and it will be established by the end of the year absolutely.”<sup>481</sup>

There have also been a number of occasions where Conservative representatives have denied the existence of Islamophobia:

- Brandon Lewis as Party Chair said: “I would dispute that [Islamophobia in the party] is an issue that exists in the first place”.<sup>482</sup>
- James Cleverly as Deputy Party Chair said he didn’t agree with Baroness Warsi’s assessment of on the extent of Islamophobia in the Party.<sup>483</sup>
- Sajid Javid as the Home Secretary denied the party could have a problem citing his heritage as evidence of this: “My name is Sajid Javid. I am the Home Secretary.”<sup>484</sup> Instead, he launched into an attack on the Muslim Council of Britain who shared this evidence in the public space.
- Kemi Badenoch MP claimed calls for an investigation into Islamophobia have a “political motive”.<sup>485</sup>
- Henry Smith MP said: “I have never come across any of that in the Conservative Party”, with reference to Islamophobia.<sup>486</sup>
- Nadhim Zahawi MP denied there was any evidence that the Party was institutionally racist.<sup>487</sup>
- Nicky Morgan, former MP and now Peer, said the Party does not have an Islamophobia problem.<sup>488</sup>
- Owen Paterson MP denied the problem, claiming “The Tory Part is a completely open Party.”<sup>489</sup>

<sup>479</sup> [Tory leadership rivals back Islamophobia inquiry](#), BBC, 19 June 2019

<sup>480</sup> [Boris Johnson says sorry for ‘hurt’ caused by Tory Islamophobia](#), *The Guardian*, 27 November 2019

<sup>481</sup> [Michael Gove Pledges Inquiry Into Tory Islamophobia Before End Of The Year](#), *Huffington Post*, 5 November 2019

<sup>482</sup> Via [Twitter](#), *Miqdaad Versi*, 2 May 2018

<sup>483</sup> Via [Twitter](#), *Miqdaad Versi*, 30 April 2018

<sup>484</sup> [Sajid Javid denies the Conservative Party has an Islamophobia problem](#), *The Mirror*, 3 June 2018

<sup>485</sup> [Sophie Ridge on Sunday](#), *Sky News*, 4 November 2018

<sup>486</sup> [BBC Politics Live](#), BBC, 28 February 2019

<sup>487</sup> [Islamophobia in the Tory Party?](#), *BBC Politics Live*, 6 March 2019

<sup>488</sup> [The Conservative party does not have an Islamophobia problem, says Nicky Morgan](#), *Business Insider*, 6 March 2019

<sup>489</sup> Via [Twitter](#), *Miqdaad Versi*, 6 March 2019

- Jacob Rees-Mogg MP and Tom Tugendhat MP both claimed the Party had “acted swiftly” on Islamophobia.<sup>490</sup>
- Shaun Bailey, candidate for London Mayor, denied there was a problem of Islamophobia, noting: “I’m a black man in the Tory Party and I don’t feel the racism.”<sup>491</sup>

Considering the scale and the nature of the evidence, both in this submission and already publicly available, it is difficult to understand how anyone could deny the existence of the problem.

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<sup>490</sup> Via [Twitter](#), Paul Brand, 5 March 2019

<sup>491</sup> Via [Twitter](#), Miqdaad Versi, 1 March 2019