

Combating Islamophobia

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This Union Notes:

- 1) Islamophobia is on the rise and it is global. We've seen the genocide of the Muslim people in Rohingya, the media narrative around Muslim people not only in the UK, but in the USA also.
- 2) The president of the United States is openly racist towards Muslim people, most recently his sharing of false videos which claim Muslim people are terrorists.
- 3) Hate crimes in the UK were only considered hate crimes from 5 years ago. This year the number of Islamophobia hate crimes in the UK has increased, and was the largest percentage rise. There was a 47% rise in the number street-based incidents in the 2016 calendar year, up from the 437 street-based incidents recorded in our previous reporting according to Tell Mama UK.

This Union Believes:

- 1) A surge in response to Brexit and terrorist attacks (Manchester) across Europe all led to the Muslim hate crimes e.g. Finsbury Park attack.
- 2) This has been on going from as early as 2001, and Mohamed Saleem was murdered by a Neo-Nazi.
- 3) Nazi demonstrations have taken place in East London recently.

This Union Resolves:

- 1) Goldsmiths continue to support students not suspects campaign, make it vocal on campus.
- 2) Work with groups like FOSIS and MEND
- 3) Discuss and follow up on weekly reports of Islamophobia from MEND, Runnymede, which will assist combatting Islamophobia awareness outside of the Islamophobia awareness month.
- 4) Use blog platforms, if they exist to shed light on the issue, have students feel empowered to share their stories.
- 5) Encourage students to stand up for Muslims whenever they are facing Islamophobia in university and outside university.
- 6) Have the Muslim narrative perspective shared on every panel discussion platform if relevant, e.g. if there is a Black Lives Matter talk, have a Black Muslim give their perspective on the double injustice throughout the year.
- 7) Goldsmiths to partake in the #handsoffmuslimkids campaign in response to questioning of hijab.
- 8) Contact NUT and NEU regarding campaigns they are working on to combat Islamophobia.
- 9) Support families who have suffered from Islamophobia, for example if a parent or relative passes away or is assaulted support campaigns to support them.