



CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 21 st September 2021
Report Subject	Adoption of Definitions of Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education
Report Author	Chief Executive and Chief Officer (Governance)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Many governments and UK local authorities have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism.

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims' definition of Islamophobia is being formally adopted by a number of councils and other public institutions, such as universities.

It is recommended that Cabinet, on behalf of the Council, adopts the definitions of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, to be used as part of our working culture and in fostering greater Diversity in Democracy- recognising the importance of a tolerant and inclusive society within Flintshire.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 That the Cabinet, on behalf of the Council formally adopts the following:
 - (i) the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism and,
 - (ii) the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims' definition of Islamophobia.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00 EXPLAINING THE NEED TO FORMALLY ADOPT RECOGNISED DEFINITIONS OF ANTI-SEMITISM AND ISLAMOPHOBIA	
1.01	A significant number of nations, including the UK and Welsh governments have formally adopted the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism. Many local authorities have also adopted this non-legally binding working definition of anti-Semitism. Within our increasingly diverse society, it is appropriate that Islamophobia should also be treated in the same way, with the adoption of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims' definition of Islamophobia.
1.02	The definition of anti-Semitism is as follows: “Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.” Source: IHRA website
1.03	The definition gives eleven ‘contemporary examples of anti-Semitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere’. The contemporary examples, include, but are not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.2. Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.3. Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.4. Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).5. Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.6. Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.7. Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.

	<p>8. Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.</p> <p>9. Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.</p> <p>10. Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.</p> <p>11. Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.</p>
1.04	<p>In 2019, the All Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims (APPG) proposed the following definition of Islamophobia:</p> <p>'Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness.'</p> <p>Drawing on analysis published since 2019, the Muslim Council of Britain's report (<i>Defining Islamophobia: A Contemporary Understanding of How Expressions of Muslimness are Targeted</i>) sets out core conceptual components in accessible terms and establishes a framework of reference that helps determine what does – and does not – constitute Islamophobia.</p> <p>Types of intervention that will be regarded as Islamophobic include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'causing, calling for, aiding or justifying acts of aggression against Muslims'; 2. 'dehumanising, demonising or making stereotypical allegations about Muslims' and 3. 'prescribing to/ propagating conspiracy theories about Muslims.'
1.05	<p>The Muslim Council of Britain's report addresses commonly raised objections. Context is key when Islamophobia is considered; examples where interventions may not be Islamophobic include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'being critical of Islam or religions in general, which would not automatically make you an Islamophobe unless you were using the language of racism and Islamophobic; and 2. calling out and campaigning against criminality where Muslims may happen to be involved without impugning all Muslims.' <p>The report emphasises how the APPG definition of Islamophobia is, in fact, in favour of free speech: 'Naming a prejudice is not an act of censorship. Giving considered definitions to racism, antisemitism or Islamophobia, for example, allows us to express ourselves in a more informed and considerate manner.'</p>
1.06	<p>Whilst we do not believe that there are any particular concerns about anti-Semitism and Islamophobia within Flintshire, we also know that we should not be complacent. A lack of understanding or an intolerance of others'</p>

	<p>faiths or lifestyles is not an indicator of a healthy society. By adopting the definitions of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, we are showing that Flintshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has an understanding of the issues, • is tolerant of all beliefs and • that we no place for unacceptable attitudes towards religious diversity.
1.07	<p>The UK and Welsh governments, along with most local authorities have already adopted the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism. More recently, the need to formally recognise Islamophobia is being recognised. The Leader of the Council has received a letter inviting the Council to adopt the definition. A copy of the letter is attached as an appendix.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	None.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	Operational report: not required.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	Not applicable

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Letter to the Leader of the Council dated 9 th July 2021, from the Chair of the Labour party, the Shadow Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government and the LGA Labour Group Leader.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Link to IHRA website https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definitions-charters/working-definition-antisemitism</p> <p>Defining Islamophobia- A contemporary understanding of how expressions of Muslimness are targeted. https://mcb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/FULL-SPREAD-IslamophobiaReport_020321_compressed.pdf</p>

7.00 CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS	
7.01	Contact Officer: Robert Robins, Head of Democratic Services Telephone: 01352 702320 E-mail: robert.robins@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00 GLOSSARY OF TERMS	
8.01	Anti-Semitism: defined in the text of the report. Islamophobia: defined in the text of the report.