

COUNCIL MEETING, 29th January 2020

CABINET, 13th January 2020

87. TACKLING HATE CRIME AND ADOPTING THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTI-SEMITISM AND THE ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP DEFINITION OF ISLAMOPHOBIA

Councillor Press, Cabinet Member for Public Services and Communities presented a written report of the Director, Public Services seeking approval of the adoption of both the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definitions on anti-Semitism and the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) definition of Islamophobia.

Calderdale Council supported and leads on hate crime work in the Borough and was instrumental in directing the Hate Crime Partnership in implementing the recording of anti-Semitism and other forms of faith related hate crime. The definitions for IHRA and APPG were listed within the report.

It had always been Calderdale's aim to prevent and reduce the levels of hate crime and ensure that victims were supported and those that perpetrate the crime were brought to justice. The Hate Crime Partnership and Third Party Hate Incident Reporting Centres work with the Council to address the challenges that arose in the Borough. Working with communities directly over many years, the Council and its partners had increased the confidence for victims and third parties/witnesses to come forward and report hate crimes.

Cabinet recommends that full Council welcomes, endorses and adopts both the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and the working All-Party Parliamentary Group definition of Islamophobia (as defined in the report) in doing so, this would build further confidence with the Jewish and Muslim community in Calderdale that Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia hate crime would not be tolerated in the Borough.

The report outlined background information, options considered, financial, legal, human resources and organisational development, environmental, health and economic implications.

Councillor Press advised that she would like to champion the work the Council had undertaken on hate crime and to ensure that everyone was treated with respect.

Members welcomed the piece of work and confirmed that the Muslim community had always protected one another and was pleased that the paper sent out a strong message. There had been an increase in hate rhetoric around Islamophobia and the more Councils who adopted the definitions, would send a clear message to the government that the more Councils were

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committed to tackling hate crime. The Muslim community was an integral part of the Borough.

Councillor Lynn addressed Cabinet and shared her concerns that the public needed assurance that by Cabinet adopting the definitions it would not stop or limit free speech. Other Councils had felt that they could not host an event as it feared offending a community; this information had arisen from a freedom of information request. Councillor Lynn sought assurance from Cabinet that legitimate criticism and protest of a nation would not be deemed as being racist.

Members confirmed that there was no scope within the definitions to inhibit freedom of speech and/or criticism of a State. By adopting the definition the Council was not condoning the actions of the individual countries and would be horrified if any debate or legitimate protest was curtailed. It was hoped that by adopting the definitions, day to day issues and attitudes would be challenged.

***RESOLVED that it be recommend to Council the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition on anti- Semitism and All Party Parliamentary Group definition of Islamophobia be adopted:**

"Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed towards Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

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