

## **QUESTION BY A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12**

**Council Meeting:**      **Wednesday, 23 July 2025**

**Question from:**      **Andrew Tagg**

**Question to:**      **Councillor Jane Scullion**

### **QUESTION**

The Council currently uses the APPG definition of Islamophobia, which the government has not adopted. This definition labels terms like “Asian grooming gangs” as Islamophobic and racist. In light of the Dame Casey report and your support on 17 June for a future public inquiry, how can this position be justified? Will the Council now stop using the APPG definition, acknowledge it was wrong to adopt it, and issue a formal apology in the interests of transparency and public confidence?

### **RESPONSE**

Thank you for raising your concerns regarding the Council’s adoption of the APPG definition covering both International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), and All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) definition of Islamophobia.

I appreciate the thought you have given to this issue and the opportunity to reflect on how we approach the fight against all forms of hate and discrimination.

I understand that the definition has generated discussion, particularly around how it may relate to safeguarding issues and public inquiries. These are serious concerns, please be reassured that Calderdale Council is committed to ensuring that victims are heard and justice is served.

The APPG definition was developed through extensive engagement with both the British Jewish and British Muslim communities, reflecting a wide range of lived experiences – from overt hate crimes to subtler forms of bias and stereotyping. The purpose is not to prevent legitimacy of scrutiny or discussion of criminal behaviour, but to ensure that such conversations do not generalise or stigmatise entire communities based on race or religion.

The APPG definition calls for more accuracy and care in language, not denial and, or deflection of serious crimes. Holding perpetrators accountable and safeguarding vulnerable individuals is our shared priority – one that must be pursued alongside the efforts to protect all communities from being unjustly blamed, stereotyped or marginalised.

The Council's use of the APPG definition stands alongside its endorsement of the IHRA definition of antisemitism. Both frameworks are vital in recognising and challenging how antisemitism and racism manifests in different forms. Supporting one does not come at the expense of the other. On the contrary, our commitment reflects a principled and consistent stance that no form of hate is acceptable.