

## **No to racism – no to Islamophobia!**

### **Union notes**

1. The rise of Islamophobia in the United Kingdom [1][2],
2. The rise of the extreme right in Europe [3],
3. The 762 Islamophobic offences in London alone between April 2009 and June 2011 as confirmed by the Metropolitan Police, [4]
4. Ethnic minorities are 42 times as likely to be targeted under the Terrorism Act, [5]
5. Recent Islamophobic incidents at LSE.

### **Union believes**

1. In the right to criticise religion,
2. In freedom of speech and thought,
3. It has a responsibility to protect its members from hate crime and hate speech,
4. Debate on religious matters should not be limited by what may be offensive to any particular religion, but the deliberate and persistent targeting of one religious group about any issue with the intent or effect of being Islamophobic ('Islamophobia' as defined below) will not be tolerated.
5. That Islamophobia is a form of anti-Islamic racism.

### **Union resolves**

1. To define Islamophobia as “a form of racism expressed through the hatred or fear of Islam, Muslims, or Islamic culture, and the stereotyping, demonisation or harassment of Muslims, including but not limited to portraying Muslims as barbarians or terrorists, or attacking the Qur’an as a manual of hatred”,
2. To take a firm stance against all Islamophobic incidents at LSE and conduct internal investigations if and when they occur.
3. To publicly oppose actions on campus that are Islamophobic based on the aforementioned definition,
4. To ensure that all Islamophobic incidents aimed at or perpetrated by LSE students either verbal, physical or online are dealt with swiftly and effectively in conjunction with the School,
5. To work with the Pro-Director for Teaching and Learning and Deans to address Islamophobia and other forms of racism on campus and methods to alleviate it,
6. To ensure that this definition is used to promote and enhance legitimate debate regarding the morality and legitimacy of international conflicts and oppose illegitimate acts of Islamophobia on campus.

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[1] [http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2011/07/04/110704fa\\_fact\\_collins](http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2011/07/04/110704fa_fact_collins)

[2] <http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/leading-articles/the-rising-tide-of-islamophobia-in-britain-6168594.html>

[3] <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/nov/06/far-right-rise-europe-report>

[4] <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/muslims-call-for-action-against-hate-crimes-2296477.html>

[5] <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/may/23/counter-terror-stop-search-minorities>