London
Liberal Democrats

Tackling the escalation of Islamophobia

Submitted by: 10 members or more
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Conference notes with alarm the figures published by Tell MAMA on 19 August 2026 showing a sustained escalation in anti-Muslim hate in London, with 1,031 reports in the first six months of 2026, already exceeding the 1,028 recorded during the whole of 2023, and over three times the 313 reports recorded in 2021.

Conference also notes that:

A. Home Office figures show anti-Muslim religious hate crime in England and Wales increased by 19% in the year to March 2025;
B. The Met Police reported a 31% rise in Islamophobic offences over the past year;
C. more than 70 attacks on Muslim places of worship were recorded across the UK in the twelve months to July 2026, with London identified as one of the main hotspots;
D. research by British Muslim Trust and British Future found that one in six Britons believes that growth in the Muslim population poses a "foundational threat to UK culture."
E. The Casey Review found institutional racism, misogyny and homophobia within the Metropolitan Police and specifically documented concerns about discrimination affecting Muslim officers and Londoners.
F. The Nazir Afzal review of London Fire Brigade found evidence of institutional misogyny, racism and discrimination, including Islamophobia.
G. The recent BBC Panorama investigation at Charing Cross exposed serving Met officers expressing racist, anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim and misogynistic views.

Conference believes that

I. These figures demonstrate a sustained and deeply concerning escalation of Islamophobia;
II. recorded incidents inevitably understate its true scale;
III. institutional failures and lack of confidence in public services can discourage victims from reporting;
IV. anti-racism should never become a competition between communities: Islamophobia must be tackled alongside antisemitism, anti-Sikh hatred, anti-Black racism and other forms of racism, while recognising that different forms of hatred require specific understanding and specific responses.

Conference calls on the UK Government to:

1. Develop a comprehensive strategy to tackle anti-Muslim hatred, including prevention, victim support, countering extremism and protecting places of worship;
2. Provide faster and more accessible funding for mosque security, devolved to local authorities to protect communities more quickly;

3. Strengthen accountability for the recording, investigation and prosecution of anti-Muslim hate crime; and
4. Recognise and address the particular intersection of Islamophobia with other forms of racism and with misogyny, including the targeting of visibly Muslim women.

Conference calls on the Mayor of London to:

1. Introduce explicit Islamophobia training programmes for the GLA and tailored schemes for the Met, LFB and TfL, developed with Muslim communities and specialist organisations;

Conference affirms that tackling Islamophobia is an essential part of the London Liberal Democrats' commitment to equality, human rights and an open, tolerant society.

Conference further affirms that the London Liberal Democrats will be active participants in the eradication of this racism, during Islamophobia Awareness Month, and every month.