



Interfaith Symposium

Countering Fear and the Rise of Discrimination, Hate Speech and Hate Crimes in the UK

Islamic Cultural Centre, London

9 November 2017

Agenda

10:00-10:20 Registration and Coffee

10:20-11:35 Session 1: Identifying familiar patterns and the situational differences in the UK: Fear and the Rise of Discrimination, Hate Speech and Hate Crimes in the UK

- Is it true that hate speech and hate crime is on the rise? How is it manifested, in which shapes and forms?
- What, according to your community, have been the main drivers of fear? Towards whom?
- How has religion, ethnicity or national origin been used to foster fear, feelings of superiority in the lead up to the increase of incidents?
- How has religion been misused to justify discrimination and/or violence in a broad sense and in the UK?

11:35- 12:15 Break and Prayer Time

12:15-13:45 Session 2: The Role of Religious Leaders and Establishments in Countering Fear and the Rise of Discrimination, Hate Speech and Hate Crimes in the UK

Taking into account the background of the increase in hate speech/crimes in the UK, as well as the recent terrorist attacks:

- What are the potential causes within your own community that have led to discriminatory speech/actions or event hate speech/crimes?
- How religious leaders and religious institutions in the UK do to counter these actions?
- What can religious leaders and religious institutions do to try to address the drivers of these feelings and actions?
- What are the responsibilities of the faith community, civil society more broadly, as well as the individual believer in countering hate speech/crimes? How?

13:45-15:00 Lunch and Prayer time

15:00-16:15 Session 3: Fostering Social Cohesion

- What measures can be taken to build bridges across the gaps that have been created by Brexit, the conflicts abroad, religious extremism, etc.?
- What is needed in your community to support these measures?
- Who is needed to support these measures?
- How can we ensure that the most affected communities in the UK benefit from such measures?

16:15-16:30 Break and Prayer Time

16:30-17:00 Session 4: Closing Session