



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE NEW UNIVERSITY

EST. 1891

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Writing a definition of Islamophobia

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Scholars

Images removed

Muḥammad ibn Musā al-
Khwārazmi (c. 780 – c. 850)
*The Compendious Book on
Calculation by Completion and
Balancing*

Ḥasan Ibn al-Haytham
(Alhazen)
(c. 965 – c. 1040) *Book of
Optics*

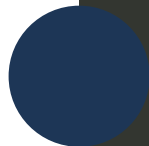
‘If I have seen further it is by
standing on ye sholders of Giants.’

Isaac Newton to Robert Hooke
(1675)



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Context



Approach



Definitions



Reflections



Next steps



Overview



Context

“Muslims are the UK’s second ‘least liked’ group, after Gypsy and Irish Travellers” (Jones and Unsworth, 2022, p. 22)

Adopted International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism in November 2020

BNU community is diverse, with 12% of students and 6% of colleagues identifying as Muslim

GTRSB into Higher Education Pledge, 2021; Antigypsyism/GTRSB definition, 2022

Advance HE Race Equality Charter



Approach

March
2022

Matrix
working

Experience

▶ Limited by lack of lived experience

▶ Consult internal, external, panel events

▶ Multiple drafts

Research

Co-produce

September
2022



Definitions

2005

Council of
Europe

2018

Muslim
Engagement
and
Development
(MEND)

2020

Federation of
Student
Islamic
Societies
(FOSIS)

1997

Runnymede
Trust

2017

Runnymede
Trust

2018

All Party
Parliamentary
Group
(APPG)

2020

United
Nations
(UN), Prof.
Awan and Dr
Zempi

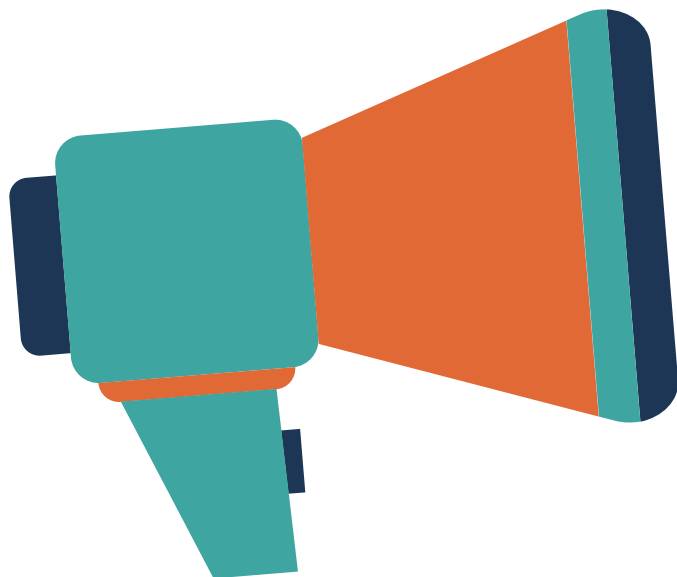
BNU Definition

- “A fear, prejudice, hostility or hatred of Muslims or non-Muslim individuals that transcends into religious or racial discrimination or intolerance, by excluding or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, of equal human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, educational or any other areas of public life, both in the online and offline world”
- IX. Applying ethnocentric approaches to the treatment of Muslims (judging another culture solely by the values and standards of one’s own culture). For example, evaluating Muslim women’s choice of dress exclusively through the speaker’s expectations and without reference to the personal cultural norms and values of the women in question.
- X. Deliberate or thoughtless exclusion of Muslims by sustained expected exposure to activities/events/places revolving around non-halal food or alcohol, without reasonable alternatives or justifications.





Reflections



‘We appreciate the need to “see the definition as a conversation starter rather than as a conversation stopper;” (Birt, 2018) and hope to discover the impact of this work through meaningful dialogue so that “Being you at BNU” can become a reality for everyone in our community.’

‘Adopting a definition in no way puts at risk responsible free speech, academic freedom, or critical debate; on the contrary, it ensures that microaggressions, hate speech and acts of verbal intimidation can be effectively challenged with the objective of creating a welcoming and inclusive learning community in keeping with the progressive and enlightened values on which HE is founded.’



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Next steps

Not without any backlash

Embed into staff consciousness - workshops, policy, induction, website

Long term, significance for decolonisation – student experience, curriculum, REC

Civic engagement – IAM, Ramadan, Eid, WHD

Chaplaincy model

Sources

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