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An accord of Muslim organisations, Mosques and Madrassas in Scotland

Dated 30/06/22

Muslim Council of Scotland Memorandum June 2022

In the name of God, the Kind, the Caring,

We, the representatives of the Muslim Council of Scotland, call of the government of the United Kingdom to condemn hate speech against the respected and beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) of the entire Muslim world. This hate speech violates the universal declaration of human rights, specifically articles 1, 9 and 10. These hate instigating comments are already condemned by more than 15 countries and many more are preparing response.

I, Dr Muhammad Adrees, am the elected Convener of the Muslim Council of Scotland (MCS). I have been elected by the majority of registered Muslim organisations, Mosques and Islamic centres of Scotland.

I would like to bring into your knowledge the profoundly hostile and disrespectful comments against the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) by Indian BJP government representative Nupur Sharma and BJP Media Head Naveen Kumar Jindal. These comments have harmed and injured our hearts, soul and feelings as a community. These disrespectful comments were incredibly slanderous and offended the Muslim community as a whole.

This isn't the first time several disparaging remarks were made in the media to upset the Muslim community. These repeated Islamophobic incidents in the mainstream media heavily affect and upset our community and we expect a government level condemnation.

Furthermore, it is worth mentioning some prominent human rights articles to highlight the disrespect to the Muslim community by the aforementioned remarks.

1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 1 says:

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood”

This is the take-off point of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This mentions a vital yet frequently neglected article. Our humankind is interconnected and established by our inherent dignity as humans. We are associated with one another by these freedoms and by the execution of our subsequent obligations.

Likewise, a great deal of Muslims and individuals from different minority religions are being killed in India, Indian occupied Kashmir, Palestine and Myanmar on the basis of discriminate religious and ethnic cleansing. This repeated violence across the globe against Muslim communities cause fear and disrupt within western Muslim

communities and is only heightened by the ongoing islamophobia present in the mainstream media.

The goal against islamophobia passed by the UN on March 15 this year is a noticeable step appreciated by the Muslim community, but we have yet to see any implementation or improvement in light of this goal.

2. Freedom of Expression is protected by Article 19 of UDHR

“Your voice matters. You have the right to say what you think, share information and demand a better world. You also have the right to agree or disagree with those in power and to express these opinions in peaceful protests”

The importance of this article is highlighted by the corresponding responsibility of being respectful in our freedom of expression. Our freedom of expression should not infringe on the dignity of fellow human beings in light of the previously mentioned article.

The disrespect in this situation is against one of the largest global communities. The Islamophobic remarks in the media are not just limited to that specific broadcast, it also instigates hate by enticing extremists against their local Muslim communities which often leads to violence and further hate crime.

3. Human Rights Act 1998

Article 9 protects right to freedom of thought, belief and religion:

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief, in worship, teaching practice and observance.

2. Freedom to manifest one’s religion or beliefs shall be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of public safety, for the protection of public order, health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

This freedom of thought and religion is subject to the protection of our safety and moral rights. The global Muslim community is inherently entitled to freely practice their religion without fear of compromising their safety and place in society. The islamophobia instigated by hate speech in media compromises this freedom of ours.

4. Article 10 protects your right to hold your own opinions:

Article 10 protects your right to hold your own opinions and to express them freely without government interference.

This includes the right to express your views aloud (for example through public protest and demonstrations) or through:

- published articles, books or leaflets
- television or radio broadcasting
- works of art
- the internet and social media

The law also protects your freedom to receive information from other people by, for example, being part of an audience or reading a magazine.

There are few restrictions in Article 10 of HRA, which is mentioned

Public authorities may restrict this right if they can show that their action is lawful, necessary and proportionate in order to:

- protect national security, territorial integrity (the borders of the state) or public safety
- prevent disorder or crime
- **protect health or morals**
- **protect the rights and reputations of other people**
- prevent the disclosure of information received in confidence
- maintain the authority and impartiality of judges

An authority may be allowed to restrict your freedom of expression if, for example, you express views that encourage racial or religious hatred. However, the relevant public authority must show that the restriction is 'proportionate', in other words that it is appropriate and no more than necessary to address the issue concerned.

To conclude, the islamophobia against the Muslim community, the Muslim faith and prophet of Islam Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is unacceptable. Since this matter concerns more than 24% of the global population, these remarks should be condemned by western world leaders like yourself, to limit further incitement of hate against our communities. The prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the most important figure not only in Islamic history and faith but for all existing Muslims which is to say that any hostile and false remarks against the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) are a direct disrupt to the Muslim world. A fair and straightforward demand ought to be led against Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal to apologise for their remarks and take responsibility for the islamophobia and hate crimes that their comments inspired across the globe.

No nation, country, individual or group of individuals around the world ought to be permitted to stifle individuals and sacred personalities of various religions and none. With regards to the aforementioned issues, we need your positive action for the safety of the rights of Human beings on the bases of Declaration of Universal Human Rights, Charter of Human Rights and the Human Rights Act.

Yours faithfully,



Dr. Muhammad Adrees
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Convener Muslim Council of Scotland