



Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP

*Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for
Housing, Communities & Local Government*
2 Marsham Street
London
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Florence Eshalomi MP
Chair of the HCLG Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

28 February 2025

Dear Florence,

Anti-Muslim Hatred/ Islamophobia Definition Working Group

MHCLG is at the heart of government's work to support communities by strengthening relationships across ethnic and religious differences. Less well integrated communities often have poorer life outcomes including health, education and employment.

I am pleased to confirm that we are establishing a new group to provide government with a working definition of Anti-Muslim Hatred/Islamophobia, supporting a wider stream of work to tackle the unacceptable incidents of anti-Muslim hatred.

This new group will be chaired by Dominic Grieve KC, bringing his years of legal and government expertise to the role. It will advise government on how to best understand, quantify and define prejudice, discrimination, and hate crime targeted against Muslims.

With incidents of anti-Muslim hate crime at record high in England and Wales, the group's work will support wider and ongoing government-led efforts to tackle religiously motivated hate crime – delivering on the government's Plan for Change mission for safer streets.

Alongside drawing on their own expertise, the new group will engage widely to ensure the definition accounts for the variety of backgrounds and experiences of Muslim communities across the United Kingdom.

The group's proposed definition will be non-statutory and will provide the government and other relevant bodies with an understanding of unacceptable treatment and prejudice against Muslim communities.

The group's proposed definition must also be compatible with the unchanging right of British citizens to exercise freedom of speech and expression - which includes the right to criticise, express dislike of, or insult religions and/or the beliefs and practices of adherents.

This Government is firmly committed to working with Members of Parliament to rebuild our communities and root out hatred wherever it manifests itself. I am confident that the work of this group will be a pivotal step towards achieving this.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela', with a stylized flourish at the end.

RT HON ANGELA RAYNER MP
Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government