

Community Education Council District 28

Resolution Opposing Islamophobia

APPROVED at the March 7, 2024 Calendar Meeting by a vote of the CEC D28 members present at the time of the vote (11 in favor / 0 opposed / 0 abstain / 1 absent)

Sponsor: Simone Dornbach

Co-Sponsor: Nurun Swapna, Vijah Ramjattan, Adriana Alicea, Kalyanaram Gurumurthy, Quentin Mezetin, Lu Zhao

WHEREAS, Islamophobia is defined as “a fear, prejudice and hatred of Muslims that leads to provocation, hostility and intolerance by means of threatening, harassment, abuse, incitement and intimidation of Muslims and non-Muslims, both in the online and offline world. Motivated by institutional, ideological, political and religious hostility that transcends into structural and cultural racism, it targets the symbols and markers of being a Muslim.”¹

WHEREAS, Islamophobia is a threat to all and not confined to Muslims but also to those who are perceived to be Muslims. Furthermore, islamophobia has the same roots as and is empirically linked to antisemitism and anti-Black Racism.²

WHEREAS, in 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to designate March 15 as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia.³

WHEREAS, New York City is the home of the most ethnically diverse Muslim community of any city in the world⁴ which makes up 9% of all New Yorkers and account for over 22% of the American Muslim population.⁵

WHEREAS, in New York City 64% of Muslims have experienced a hate crime, bias incident, or both. 66% believe that they were targeted because of their religion. 34% of bias incidents or hate crimes took place at educational institutions. Of those Muslims who knew someone who

¹ United Nations. (2021). International Day to Combat Islamophobia. United Nations.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/anti-islamophobia-day>

² *Islamophobia: A Threat to All* | ISPU. (2016, August 26). Institute for Social Policy and Understanding.

<https://www.ispu.org/public-policy/islamophobia/>

³ United Nations. (2021). *International Day to Combat Islamophobia*. United Nations.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/anti-islamophobia-day>

⁴ Melnitsky, R. (2023, December 12). *Islamophobia Surges in the U.S. Due to Global and National Tensions*. New York State Bar Association.

<https://nysba.org/islamophobia-surges-in-the-u-s-due-to-global-and-national-tensions/>

⁵ *Feeling the Hate Bias and Hate Crimes Experienced by Muslim New Yorkers*. (Council on American-Islamic Relations). Retrieved February 17, 2024, from

<https://www.cair-ny.org/feeling-the-hate-full-report>

either experienced a hate crime or bias incident, 32% reported that the person they knew who experienced one or the other was a minor.⁶⁷

WHEREAS, the Middle East conflict has led to a dramatic increase in hate crimes against Muslims in the United States⁸ causing massive disparity in treatment toward students and teachers who show they slightest pro-Palestinian solidarity.⁹

WHEREAS, on January 22, 2024, New York City Public Schools (“NYCPS”) announced a comprehensive plan to combat antisemitism, islamophobia, and all forms of hate.¹⁰

THEREFORE, be it resolved,

- that Community Education Council 28 (“CEC28”) unequivocally condemns islamophobia whenever and wherever it occurs and stands with all families of District 28 against anti-Muslim hate.
- that CEC 28 values the different and many cultures, religions, and traditions that our District 28 families embrace and declares their unwavering support for Muslim families in district 28.
- that CEC 28 fully supports Chancellor Banks and NYCPS in their efforts to eliminate hateful rhetoric from public schools and to provide resources and materials to NYC schools after collaborating with expert partners.
- that CEC 28 urges NYCPS to implement immediately their comprehensive plan to combat antisemitism, islamophobia, and all forms of hate.
- that CEC 28 encourages the District 28 leadership while awaiting the NYCPS implementation plan and resources to step up and step in to provide guidance to their district schools of district 28 to combat islamophobia and all forms of hate in their schools.

⁶ *Feeling the Hate Bias and Hate Crimes Experienced by Muslim New Yorkers*. (Council on American-Islamic Relations). Retrieved February 17, 2024, from <https://www.cair-ny.org/feeling-the-hate-full-report>

⁷ *CAIR-NY Welcomes NYC DOE Efforts to Combat Islamophobia, Awaits Details on Implementation* — CAIR NY. (2024, January 22). CAIR New York. <https://www.cair-ny.org/news/2023/1/22/cair-ny-welcomes-nyc-doe-efforts-to-combat-islamophobia-awaits-details-on-implementation>

⁸ Melnitsky, R. (2023, December 12). *Islamophobia Surges in the U.S. Due to Global and National Tensions*. New York State Bar Association. <https://nysba.org/islamophobia-surges-in-the-u-s-due-to-global-and-national-tensions/>

⁹ *CAIR-NY Welcomes NYC DOE Efforts to Combat Islamophobia, Awaits Details on Implementation* — CAIR NY. (2024, January 22). CAIR New York. <https://www.cair-ny.org/news/2023/1/22/cair-ny-welcomes-nyc-doe-efforts-to-combat-islamophobia-awaits-details-on-implementation>

¹⁰ *New York City Public Schools Announces Comprehensive Plan To Combat Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and All Forms of Hate*. (n.d.). Web. Retrieved February 18, 2024, from <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/news/announcements/2024/01/22/new-york-city-public-schools-announces-comprehensive-plan-to-combat-antisemitism-islamophobia-and-all-forms-of-hate>

- that CEC 28 calls upon the NYCPS to provide a timeline for when collaboration with various expert partners will take place and when the ensuing resources and materials will be provided to NYC public schools.
- that CEC 28 calls upon the NYCPS to ensure that resources and materials provided to schools are unbiased and fact-based.
- that CEC 28 demands accountability from the NYCPS that resources and materials provided to schools are utilized by schools and that the NYCPS requires schools to report back to the NYCPS how such resources and materials are being utilized.
- that CEC 28 urges the NYCPS to support courageous and curious conversations in safe, inclusive, and welcoming spaces in NYCPS about the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict where all students can freely express their feelings, concerns, and fears.
- that CEC 28 calls upon all families, educators, school administrators, politicians, and high profile people within District 28 and citywide to stand up and speak out against any forms of anti-muslim hate and islamophobic rhetoric. All families deserve to live in a safe environment free of hate and discrimination;
- that CEC 28 calls upon all families, educators, school administrators, politicians and high profile people within District 28 and citywide to stand together for peace and understanding and help create a safe community for all children so they can thrive in a conducive learning environment where they can come to their full potential.