

Annual Student Meeting (Additional Meeting July 2024)

Motion 3: Should the Students' Union introduce mandatory Islamophobia awareness training to all Students' Union staff including Executive Officers and lobby the university to implement the training for all Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) staff?

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What do you want?

The QMSU to introduce mandatory Islamophobia awareness training to all QMSU staff including sabbatical officers and to lobby the university to implement the training for all QMUL staff.

Why do you want it?

Recently, there have been several cases where either QMUL staff or students have been reported to have been Islamophobic. This has significantly increased since the start of the QMUL Encampment for Palestine, where incidents of harassment, racism and discrimination have been reported to have occurred towards the students at the encampment.

The QMSU already have some anti-discrimination awareness trainings put in place for their staff and sabbatical officers. Hence, a mandatory Islamophobia awareness training programme should also be put in place for all QMSU staff and sabbatical officers.

QMUL have consistently failed to support Muslims during a time of increased Islamophobia. Muslim students feel unsafe and uncomfortable to step onto campus as they fear to be a victim of hate crime & Islamophobic remarks. The QMSU should lobby the university to introduce mandatory training for all QMUL staff as well.

The Federation of Students Islamic Society (FOSIS) is the largest organisation that represents Muslim student across the UK. Also, the Queen Mary Islamic Society is currently affiliated with FOSIS. For both these reasons, the Islamophobia awareness training should be delivered by FOSIS.

What impact will this have?

This will raise awareness about conscious and unconscious biases that exist towards Muslim students and staff. It is hoped that this will help to make Muslim students and staff feel safe on campus again. This will ensure that the QMSU remains an inclusive and representative student-led body. This will also ensure that QMUL fulfils their aim of being the most diverse and inclusive university out there.