

## Motion to Council – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019

This Council condemns the horrific attack in Christchurch, New Zealand, on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019, and stands in solidarity with the people of New Zealand and the worldwide Muslim population. This terrorist hate crime was Islamophobic, and the Council extends its condolences to all the victims and their families. Donations to victim support can be made <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/christchurch-shooting-victims-fund>

This Council:

1. Reaffirms its commitment to the Hate Crime Strategy and its support for the borough's Muslim communities, who contribute so much to making Merton a great place to live and work
2. Will continue to work with all the borough's Muslim groups to identify concerns and reaffirm Merton's zero tolerance approach to Islamophobia in all its forms
3. Welcomes the work done by the APPG to combat Islamophobia by investigating the forms, manifestations and extent of prejudice, discrimination and hatred against Muslims in the UK, while reviewing legislation and policy, the recording and prosecution of hate crimes, the role of the media, and the use of social media platforms as a means for spreading hatred
4. Will write to the borough's MPs to urge them to work with the government to produce an internationally recognised definition of Islamophobia to be adopted by the government, which will then be formally adopted by this Council

Cllr Stephen Alambritis Cllr Anthony Fairclough Cllr Nick McLean Cllr Peter Southgate

This page is intentionally left blank