



IRISH MUSLIM DECLARATION OF PEACE & GUIDE TO PREVENT RADICALISATION

7. We call for the promotion of human rights, fundamental freedoms, equality between men and women, and the cardinal values of humanity such as reconciliation, forgiveness, generosity and solidarity.

8. We declare as Muslim scholars that, All humans are equal and must be treated with equal respect, dignity, compassion, equality, solidarity and justice.

9. We unequivocally condemn anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and all other forms of racism and xenophobia.

10. We call on all Muslims and other minorities living in the Ireland to continue to respect all the laws of Ireland, whether they possess the status of citizen or resident.

11. We call on the Muslims, the governments and the elites of the West to promote integration and citizenship, the only solution for peaceful co-existence and cohesion.

12. We call on all governments to protect minorities against all hatred, intimidation and violence, especially from ultra-nationalism or religious intolerance.

13. We call upon the Media to depart from using provocative language and sensationalist rhetoric. There is no doubt that terrorist activities should be reported in the media, however how these events are communicated to the public needs to change. Instead a more prudent style of reporting based on factual evidence should be used to educate people. By using provocative language the Media provide these terrorists the oxygen they so desperately crave.

14. The disproportionate attention given to “radicalism” on TV screens and front pages of newspapers feeds into ongoing misrepresentations of Muslims living in western nations. The majority of Muslims want to live their lives in peace. But their views are not represented in the media – except in minority publications – and when they are offered a platform to speak it is only in the context of debates on radicalism.

To prevent home grown radicalism, we should stop creating such a climate of hysteria and drop the divisive, reductionist rhetoric. We need to engage in a more complex public discourse in the media. This requires engaging with the Irish Muslim community – not just the people who put their hands up as leaders, but a range of voices from within the community. It means representing the diversity of experiences and viewpoints - across gender, age, ethnicity and sect - that make up the Muslim communities.

15. Imams, community leaders in Mosques and Islamic Centres should condemn atrocities that are committed in the name of Islam and educate their congregations about the Islamic position on terrorism.