

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- **316943**DATE OF FINAL PASSAGE **SEP 29 2026**

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
SAN DIEGO ADOPTING A WORKING DEFINITION OF  
ISLAMOPHOBIA AS AN EDUCATIONAL TOOL TO  
IDENTIFY, CONDEMN, AND COMBAT ANTI-MUSLIM  
HATE, AND AFFIRM THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO  
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND CIVIL RIGHTS.

RECITALS

The Council of the City of San Diego (Council) adopts this Resolution based on the following:

A. The City of San Diego (City) is home to one of California's largest and most diverse Muslim communities, representing a wide range of racial, ethnic, linguistic, and national backgrounds and making significant contributions to the civic, educational, cultural, economic, and charitable life of the City.

B. The City has long affirmed its commitment to protecting the civil rights, constitutional liberties, and equal dignity of every resident regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, gender, disability, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic.

C. Freedom of religion, including the right to worship without fear of intimidation or violence, is guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and article I, section 4 of the California Constitution.

D. On May 18, 2026, the Islamic Center of San Diego was the target of a deadly hate-motivated attack that claimed the lives of three community members and profoundly impacted Muslim families throughout the San Diego region. At the time of the attack, approximately 140 students attending the Islamic Center's school, together with their teachers and staff, were present on campus and placed in imminent danger. The heroic actions and

sacrifice of the three victims, Amin Abdullah, Nadir Awad, and Mansour Kaziha, prevented the attacker from reaching the school and likely saved the lives of countless children, educators, and staff members.

E. Following that attack, the U.S. Immigration Policy Center at the University of California, San Diego found that: 88 percent of surveyed Muslims in San Diego County reported feeling less safe in their community; 74 percent reported increased concern for their personal safety because they are Muslim; nearly two-thirds reported experiencing discrimination in the previous year because of their Muslim identity; and nearly one-half expressed concern that threats against Muslims are not taken seriously.

F. Research also found that: 50 percent of Muslim students in California reported being bullied because of their religion; 43 percent reported missing school because of bullying; 67 percent reported not reporting incidents because they lacked confidence in school responses; and approximately 50 percent reported not feeling safe or welcome at school.

G. These findings demonstrate that anti-Muslim hatred affects not only Muslim residents' physical safety, but also their civic participation, religious freedom, and ability to fully participate in public life. Muslims throughout the United States continue to experience discrimination in employment, education, housing, healthcare, public accommodations, travel, and interactions with government institutions.

H. Research conducted by the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding demonstrates that Islamophobia remains pervasive and systemic in the United States, with approximately six in ten American Muslims reporting experiencing religious discrimination within the previous year, including discrimination in employment, education, healthcare, housing, travel, interactions with law enforcement, and civic participation. The research further

found that Islamophobia undermines equal opportunity, weakens democratic participation, and harms not only Muslims but all communities by fostering intolerance and discrimination.

I. Islamophobia harms not only Muslims but the broader community by undermining religious liberty, equal opportunity, public safety, and the democratic values upon which the City is founded.

J. Government officials and institutions play an important role in addressing and preventing acts of hate and bigotry, including Islamophobia, and should be equipped with appropriate resources.

K. Accurate and uniform definitions can support monitoring, analysis, and policy discussions in addressing and preventing acts of hate and bigotry. The Council recognizes that providing a common working definition of Islamophobia will assist City officials, employees, advisory bodies, educators, law enforcement agencies, and community organizations in identifying anti-Muslim bias, improving public education, and promoting equal treatment under the law.

L. The proposed working definition of Islamophobia is: Islamophobia is a form of racism, prejudice, discrimination, hostility, or hatred directed toward Muslims or those perceived to be Muslim, or their property, that targets expressions of Muslim identity or perceived Muslim identity and may manifest through speech, conduct, institutional practices, exclusion, intimidation, harassment, or violence. Contemporary examples of Islamophobia include:

1. calling for, aiding, encouraging, or justifying violence against Muslims because they are Muslim or perceived to be Muslim;

2. targeting mosques, houses of worship, Islamic schools, Muslim cemeteries, or Islamic organizations for vandalism, threats, intimidation, discrimination, or violence because of their religious identity;
  3. harassing or assaulting individuals because they wear hijab, niqab, kufi, thobe, or other visible expressions of Islamic faith;
  4. making false, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Muslims as a group, including portraying Muslims as inherently violent, extremist, disloyal, uncivilized, or incompatible with democratic society;
  5. holding Muslims collectively responsible for the actions of an individual, terrorist organization, or foreign government;
  6. denying employment, housing, education, healthcare, public accommodations, or government services because an individual is Muslim or perceived to be Muslim;
  7. bullying, intimidating, or excluding students because they are Muslim or are perceived to be Muslim;
  8. treating Muslims or those perceived to be Muslim as presumptive security threats solely because of their religion, ancestry, ethnicity, name, language, or appearance;
  9. promoting conspiracy theories alleging that Muslims seek to undermine democratic institutions, secretly control government, or impose religious rule;
- and

10. targeting individuals, businesses, organizations, or institutions for vandalism, threats, intimidation, discrimination, or violence because they are, or are perceived to be, Muslim.

M. Government actions, policies, or practices that discriminate against Muslims or those perceived to be Muslim, or that disproportionately burden Muslim individuals, communities, institutions, or religious practices without a legitimate and nondiscriminatory justification, may also be manifestations of Islamophobia.

N. The definition is non-legally binding and is intended to serve as an educational and analytical framework to help government, institutions, and communities better identify, understand, and address Islamophobia.

O. Nothing in this resolution is intended to, nor shall it be construed to, limit or infringe upon rights protected by the United States Constitution or the California Constitution, including the right to free speech and expression.

P. The Office of the City Attorney prepared this Resolution based on the information provided by City staff, including information provided by affected third parties and verified by City staff, with the understanding that this information is complete and accurate.

#### ACTION ITEMS

Be it resolved by the Council of the City of San Diego:

1. The City recognizes the documented rise in anti-Muslim hatred, discrimination, and violence locally, nationally, and globally, and unequivocally rejects Islamophobia and all forms of anti-Muslim bias, discrimination, harassment, and violence.

2. The City commits to working collaboratively with Muslim communities, interfaith partners, educational institutions, community organizations, and relevant stakeholders to identify, prevent, and address anti-Muslim bias and discrimination.

3. The City adopts the definition of Islamophobia set forth in recital L, including the contemporary examples.

4. Council requests that the City Clerk and Mayor make the working definition of Islamophobia and contemporary examples available to all City departments, including the San Diego Police Department, as an educational resource to support efforts to address Islamophobia and other forms of discrimination.

5. The City supports the physical security of houses of worship and expanding education, engagement, and collaboration among community organizations, educational institutions, religious congregations, and public agencies to promote understanding, protect civil rights, strengthen community resilience, and prevent Islamophobia, anti-Muslim hate, and hate directed toward individuals perceived to be Muslim.

6. The City reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that every resident can live, work, learn, worship, and participate in civic life free from discrimination, intimidation, and violence.

APPROVED: HEATHER FERBERT, City Attorney

By



Kathy J. Steinman  
Chief Deputy City Attorney

KJS:jvg  
August 19, 2026  
Or.Dept: Council District 1  
Doc. No. 4525709

I certify that the Council of the City of San Diego adopted this Resolution at a meeting held on  
SEP 15 2026.

DIANA J.S. FUENTES  
City Clerk

By Connie Patterson  
Deputy City Clerk

Approved: 9/28/26  
(date)

Todd Gloria  
TODD GLORIA, Mayor

Vetoed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
TODD GLORIA, Mayor

Passed by the Council of The City of San Diego on September 15, 2026, by the following vote:

| Councilmembers      | Yeas                                | Nays                     | Not Present                         | Recused                  |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Joe LaCava          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jennifer Campbell   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Stephen Whitburn    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Henry L. Foster III | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Marni von Wilpert   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kent Lee            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Raul A. Campillo    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vivian Moreno       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sean Elo-Rivera     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Date of final passage SEP 29 2026.

**(Please note: When a resolution is approved by the Mayor, the date of final passage is the date the approved resolution was returned to the Office of the City Clerk.)**

AUTHENTICATED BY:

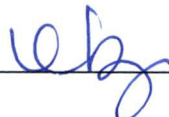
TODD GLORIA

Mayor of The City of San Diego, California.

(Seal)

DIANA J.S. FUENTES

City Clerk of The City of San Diego, California.

By , Deputy

Office of the City Clerk, San Diego, California

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