



COUNCIL MEETING – 7 DECEMBER 2017

URGENT MOTION

The Mayor has given consent for this motion to be included in a second despatch for the Council meeting on 7 December 2017 under Rule 10.2(n) of the Council's Constitution.

Urgent Motion – Islington – No Place for Hate Crime

Moved by Cllr Rakhia Ismail

Seconded by Cllr Richard Watts

This Council notes –

- A woman wearing a hijab was refused service and told to remove her headscarf at the McDonald's restaurant, Seven Sisters Road on Thursday 30th November.

This Council further notes –

- The incident was publicly condemned by many councillors and Cllr Rakhia Ismail led a protest outside the restaurant shortly afterwards.
- The incident has been reported to the police, and discussions have taken place with the police to discuss how they are responding and how they are supporting the victim.
- The restaurant owner has been suspended from the Nag's Head Town Centre Group.
- The Council is looking into various other issues with the restaurant from a Licensing perspective.
- The recently adopted 'Islington Hate Crime Pledge', which allows individuals and organisations to support and participate in ongoing efforts to reduce hate crime. The pledge includes a commitment to challenge those responsible for hate crimes when they occur to demonstrate that we do not tolerate hate crime in Islington.

This Council believes –

- Islington is a diverse and welcoming borough, that values free speech and freedom of expression, including religious expression. This incident ran contrary to those values and is unacceptable.
- Islington stands united against all forms of hate crime and we are proud to do so.

This Council resolves to –

- Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Chief Executive of McDonald's UK, requesting a formal apology be issued to the victim and to Islington as a community following this incident. The letter should also urge McDonald's to urgently retrain all staff (including sub-contractors) on hate crime awareness.
- Encourage individuals and organisations to sign up to the Islington Hate Crime Pledge.