

GUEST SPEAKER POLICY

1.0 Introduction

Feltham Hira Association (FHA) is a Muslim faith based charity operating in West London

In furtherance of its objective to promote learning and education FHA from time to time invites speakers and scholars from around the globe to present at community gatherings and religious functions. Guest speakers are chosen for their intellectual prowess, ability to challenge listeners, ability to present fresh perspectives and their reputation. The audience appreciate good speakers and welcome these opportunities to learn and seek religious knowledge.

FHA recognises its responsibility to the audience that it serves and the wider community in which it operates. FHA will continue to ensure the messages imparted from its platform do not promote hatred, bigotry or animosity between groups of people, or segments of society.

This will be achieved through due diligence and screening of speakers who are invited to attend the FHA's gatherings. As a matter of principle FHA does not invite speakers known:

- To be affiliated with extremist organisations
- To hold extremist views or
- To have been barred from similar organisations to ourselves

2.0 Aims of this Policy

- To ensure Swansea Mosque is not used for purposes incompatible with its objects as a charity
- To ensure the facilities of Swansea Mosque are not used as a platform to cause offense, or to promote intolerance, hatred or violence
- To protect the reputation of Swansea Mosque both in the Muslim community and wider society
- To protect freedom of speech in accordance with the law
- To foster and promote community cohesion
- To provide a framework for determining the suitability of a proposed speaker

3.0 Rights, responsibilities and legal obligations

The Trustees of Swansea Mosque has a duty to uphold the rights of people using its facilities. They must

also protect Swansea Mosque from harm, especially from abuse for extremist purposes:

“All charities must comply with UK law and so must not promote or support terrorism or extremism, or other illegal conduct, such as racial or religious hatred. Nor can a charity’s name, premises or money be used to promote extremist and other activities which are inappropriate under charity law.”

(Charity Commission, Compliance Toolkit – Protecting Charities from Harm)

Article 19 of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states:

“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”

Freedom of speech is not without limits. There are occasions when it is necessary to restrain freedom of speech, e.g. if it is known that a speaker at an event may:

- Commit a criminal offence
- Incite others to commit a criminal act
- Discriminate against a protected group

This policy is effective of 12 April 2022 and until further notice.