

COUNCIL

29 JANUARY 2020

ITEM NO: 16

TITLE: “Standing together against anti-semitism and racism in all its forms”

PROPOSING COUNCILLORS: Danny Thorpe, Matt Hartley
All Labour Group Members, All Conservative Group Members

At its meeting in January 2019 the Full Council of the Royal Borough of Greenwich unanimously passed a motion to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism - in response to growing concerns around the rise of antisemitism in the UK, and in recognition of our community’s long-standing united stance against racism in all its forms.

In recent weeks our borough has had a stark, and shocking, reminder of the continuation of anti-semitic sentiment amongst a small minority, with the painting of anti-semitic and racist graffiti at Blackheath Standard, Charlton and East Greenwich. This Council unequivocally condemns these actions, and re-iterates that we are united in our rejection of any acts of hate and prejudice that seek to divide our communities.

Council notes that the response of the Royal Borough of Greenwich and our community to this graffiti has been not just words - showing important solidarity as well as sorrow that this has happened - but also actions. Immediate action was taken to remove the graffiti in question, and representatives from across the borough attended the Holocaust Memorial Day service at the Town Hall - coming together as we always have, and always will, to reject anti-semitism and racism in all its forms.

Council notes that the rise in antisemitism mirrors a national rise in public acts of racism, islamophobia, homophobia and misogyny, and re-iterates its determination to oppose and challenge these acts using every means available to us.

Council is united in standing together with our Jewish citizens to make clear that the Royal Borough is their home and their community, and that anti-semitism and hatred of any kind has no place in our borough.

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Council hereby:

- Makes a clear statement of support for our Jewish residents at a time of rising antisemitism and reiterate its commitment to challenging hate speech and conduct as defined by the IHRA.
- Reconfirms our collective pledge to challenge racism in all its forms and making sure that Greenwich has no place for hate or the perpetrators of hate crime of any kind.