

**MINUTES OF RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY WORKING PARTY
HELD ON**

2 April 2019

19:50 - 21:10 pm

PRESENT

Committee Members

Jodi Dunne
Nishall Garala
Martin Harris
Neela Hibbert
Ai Woon Paramasivan
Lanie Shears
Alison Taylor

Officers

Hannah Criddle, Governance Support Officer
Simon Hill, Head of Governance

INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The group introduced themselves to each other. Apologies for absence were received from Rabbi Irit Shillor and Councillor Shona Johnson. The group may look at alternating the times of the meeting to ensure all groups can attend.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Terms of Reference	Discussion/Action Points
To consider and understand the causes of religious discrimination within Harlow.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Causes for religious discrimination:-<ol style="list-style-type: none">i) Lack of understanding/fear of the unknownii) Toleranceiii) Increased social media influenceiv) Social influencesv) Background and experiences in lifevi) "Religion" has a certain connotation.2. The group discussed personal experiences of religious discrimination in the community.

	3. Overall, the group felt that cultural discrimination, rather than religious discrimination, was more of an issue in Harlow.
To promote religious diversity within Harlow.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider using a panel consisting of religious leaders within the community for a question and answer session that would be broadcasted live using social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. 2. Consider hosting an inter-faith event at the Civic Centre where different religious groups can give readings. The event could emphasise two way engagement and conversation.
To discuss measures to make people of different religions feel safe and welcome.	1. It was agreed the group could focus on celebrating and promoting religious cohesion rather than differences.
To make recommendations to Cabinet consistent with the above.	1. Noted.
To undertake the above tasks by 31 December 2019.	1. The group would like to have monthly meetings to meet this deadline.

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

The group would like monthly meetings.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be arranged for mid-May.