



Resolution Condemning On-Campus Islamophobia and Ethnicity-Based Discrimination and Affirming Inclusivity

Sponsored by: Senator Elbanany, Senator Lopez, Senator Hayden, Senator Lujan, Senator Valdez, Senator Limon, Senator López Morales, Senator Perez, Senator Blackwell, VP Hwang

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of UC San Diego remains dedicated to promoting the welfare and advocating for the rights of all undergraduate students, irrespective of their background, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or age; ASUCSD upholds the fundamental values of fostering an inclusive and tolerant campus environment, amplifying marginalized and underrepresented voices, and protecting students' full freedom of assembly and expression; In addition, student organizations, namely MSA, SJP, MEChA and APSA, have supported this resolution and stand firm in the collective support of this case;

WHEREAS, recent global crises have regrettably triggered a surge in incidents of malicious acts, harassment, discrimination, and intolerance on our campus, specifically targeting individuals based on their religious beliefs and ethnicities, including those within the Muslim and Arab communities, thereby propagating acts of Islamophobia and ethnicity-based discrimination. These incidents include derogatory and offensive remarks that unfairly link individuals of the Muslim faith to negative stereotypes, falsely attributing blame to them for actions unrelated to their personal beliefs or practices.

WHEREAS, these instances involved the mischaracterization of Islamic traditions and practices, contributing to an environment of discomfort and exclusion for Muslim students within our university community. In addition, these instances involved disrespectful mockery and derisive, disruptive behavior targeted at Muslim students directly such as during times of prayer, displaying a lack of respect and consideration for their beliefs and practices. These acts of discrimination and intolerance are contrary to the principles of inclusion, respect, and diversity that we strive to uphold at UC San Diego;

WHEREAS, the recent global events have tragically led to a distressing escalation in discriminatory behavior and intolerance on our campus, specifically targeting individuals based on their religious beliefs. Multiple students have exhibited tremendous courage in voicing their grievances and concerns



within the ASUCSD senate meetings and through private discussions. Their narratives have shed light on distressing accounts of discrimination and the proliferation of Islamophobia, fostering an environment of fear and exclusion for Muslim students;

WHEREAS, These courageous individuals have recounted harrowing experiences of being subjected to derogatory remarks, prejudiced stereotyping, and unfounded blame solely based on their association with the Muslim faith.¹ Students have shared instances wherein their religious practices were mischaracterized and misunderstood, further exacerbating feelings of alienation and discomfort within our university community. Moreover, these students have articulated the detrimental impact of such discriminatory behavior, citing instances that have induced fear and apprehension, impeding their ability to participate fully in campus activities and eroding their sense of safety and belonging.²

WHEREAS, The accounts shared by these students reflect a distressing reality wherein members of the Muslim and Arab communities are subjected to a climate of hostility, exclusion, and discrimination, contrary to the fundamental values of inclusion and respect that UC San Diego endeavors to uphold. Their narratives underscore the pressing need for immediate action to address and rectify the pervasive instances of discrimination and Islamophobia that continue to undermine the well-being and sense of security of Muslim and Arab students on our campus.

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Associated Students of UC San Diego wholeheartedly and unequivocally condemns all acts of Islamophobia, discrimination, and religious- or ethnicity-based harassment directed at students within our campus community. Fueled by misconceptions and bias, these reprehensible actions have no place within our academic environment. ASUCSD firmly stands against any form of religious or ethnic discrimination, understanding the critical necessity of distinguishing between political conflicts abroad and the inherent rights and safety of our diverse student body. It is imperative that our campus remains a haven that fosters respect, understanding, and inclusivity for all, regardless of their religious beliefs or cultural backgrounds.

¹ "I got called a terrorist simply for walking wearing my traditional scarf and the school did nothing" [[SOURCE](#)]

² "Me and a fellow SJP girl were walking in Warren around 11 p.m. We had this keffiyeh wrapped around our shoulders," he explained. "We were walking to a friend's house when a guy drove by in his car and stucked his head out the window and screamed 'Hillel.' Incidents like these make us feel so unsafe on campus." [[SOURCE](#)]



LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT ASUCSD vehemently condemns the perpetuation of claims associating religious symbols, such as the Islamic Profession of Faith (Shahada), with terrorism. The failure to address and correct frivolous claims on social media that wrongfully label students carrying flags with religious scriptures as jihadists is deeply concerning. Such claims not only contribute to Islamophobia but also create harmful and unjust connotations for members of the Islamic faith and student organizations with Muslim students. It is crucial to clarify and educate the community about the distinction between religious scriptures and symbols associated with terrorism to prevent the dissemination of discriminatory narratives.³ Such claims only contribute to the perpetuation of dangerous rhetoric against students on campus, and ASUCSD strongly condemns these perilous claims.⁴

LET IT ALSO BE RESOLVED THAT ASUCSD unequivocally denounces all forms of religious-based discrimination, emphasizing the importance of separating religious beliefs from the actions of individuals. ASUCSD reaffirms that the focus on addressing Islamophobia within this resolution does not intend to diminish the significance of discrimination against other religions or ethnicities. Rather, this focused approach to combating Islamophobia is aimed at addressing one of the specific and urgent issues within our diverse campus community. It is crucial to highlight that despite instances of discrimination being brought to light, there has been a lack of substantive action by the university to address these concerns effectively. This targeted focus on Islamophobia and ethnicity-based discrimination is necessitated by the pressing need to address instances of discrimination faced by Muslim and Arab students, which have not received adequate attention or resolution from the university administration. ASUCSD recognizes the collective obligation to combat all forms of discrimination and is committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable campus environment for all.

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED THAT ASUCSD pledges unwavering commitment to engage proactively with University administrators. This engagement aims to ensure the swift implementation of effective measures that safeguard the security, well-being, and psychological and physical safety of all students on campus; ASUCSD reasserts its unyielding dedication to advocating for and fostering a

³ “The flags in this photo are not those of ISIS. They are the ‘shahada’ which is a declaration of faith in Islam.” [\[SOURCE\]](#)

⁴ “[The flags are] generic Muslim flags, they do not belong to anyone...” [\[SOURCE\]](#)



campus environment where every student feels profoundly safe, respected, and entirely free from any form of discrimination, be it based on their religious beliefs, cultural heritage, or individual backgrounds. This commitment reaffirms our collective pursuit of creating an inclusive and equitable academic milieu that celebrates diversity and embraces the richness of our collective identities.

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED THAT ASUCSD urges the university to:

1. Establish robust mechanisms that offer immediate support and redressal for any instances of discrimination or harassment based on religious beliefs or cultural backgrounds.
2. Provide ongoing cultural competency training for university staff, faculty, and students to deepen understanding of diverse cultures, religions, and practices, fostering a more inclusive campus environment.
3. Ensure transparent and thorough investigations into reported incidents. Hold individuals accountable for discriminatory actions according to university policies, implementing appropriate disciplinary measures.
4. Take proactive measures to address harmful rhetoric and misleading claims that negatively influence the student body. The university should implement initiatives to promote critical thinking and media literacy among students, emphasizing the importance of responsible information sharing. Furthermore, the university must take a firm stance in correcting and addressing false claims or misinformation that wrongfully associate religious scriptures with terrorism or any forms of harmful disinformation against members of marginalized communities and those that stand in solidarity with them, ensuring a more informed and tolerant campus community.
5. Actively enforce and uphold the foundational UC San Diego Principles of Community, which detail that “[UC San Diego] reject acts of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion, and political beliefs, and, we will confront and appropriately respond to such acts”.⁵ This enforcement must ensure unwavering protection and support for Muslim students and all individuals affected by discrimination or harassment stemming from global conflicts. Upholding these principles is not just a mere obligation but a fundamental commitment to safeguarding the rights and dignity of every member of our student community.

⁵[Source: UC San Diego Principles of Community]



6. Forward this resolution to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, urging their immediate attention and action. The Vice Chancellor is hereby called upon to ensure accountability in the implementation of the proposed measures.

Approved January 10, 2024.