

Notice of Motion: Daesh

Councillor Ashraf has submitted the following motion:

“This Council notes that:

- The ‘Prevent’ Duty’, which is part of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 states that we and other local authorities have a duty to support people who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism or supporting extremism.
- The group which operates in Syria and Iraq refers to itself as ‘the Islamic State’, and is also known as ISIS and ISIL in the UK.
- In the Middle East and in several countries including Canada, France, Australia and increasingly in the UK, the Arabic term ‘Daesh’ is used instead.
- The term Daesh has negative connotations, meaning one who crushes something underfoot or one who sows discord.

This Council believes that:

- The organisation that refers to itself as ‘the Islamic State’ is not Islamic, nor is it a state.
- Referring to this group as ‘the Islamic State’ helps to legitimise its poisonous propaganda campaign which is enticing vulnerable people to travel to Syria to join their group.
- This is contrary to the Prevent duty and the work undertaken by this Council in the development and implementation of a Prevent Strategy.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Refer to this evil organisation as Daesh instead of Islamic State or ISIS / ISIL in all Prevent literature; and calls on other local authorities to officially use the term Daesh.”