

Full Council: 25 July 2017

Administration Motion: Cllr Brian Gordon

Proscribe Hezbollah in its entirety

Council expresses grave concern that the terrorist ideology of Hezbollah was allowed to be paraded yet again on the streets of London on Sunday 18th June at the annual 'Al Quds Day' march. The display of overtly racist, violence-provoking flags and banners and the delivery of blatantly antisemitic speeches with impunity is an affront to this country's democratic and tolerant way of life.

It is even more reprehensible at a time when innocent civilians of all faiths and none have been repeatedly targeted by, and fallen victim to, terrorist attacks on British soil this year. The Government has rightly declared its commitment to fighting this scourge in every conceivable way. However, there is presently one major string missing to this bow.

Council notes the unacceptable legal loophole whereby the so-called military wing of Hezbollah has been proscribed in the United Kingdom but the 'political wing' has not. The reality, however, is they are one and the same — a fact recognised by the Arab League, the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, Bahrain, Canada, the United States, Israel, France, and the Netherlands.

As Barnet is a multi-cultural borough committed to the values of community cohesion and an abhorrence of hate crime, we as members of its Council consider we have a duty to speak out on this issue, which has caused acute anxiety to numerous Barnet residents who are rightly proud of the borough's large and coexisting Muslim and Jewish communities. To ensure this harmony is not threatened, Council calls on the Home Secretary and the Mayor of London to use their respective powers and influence to:

1. Proscribe Hezbollah in its entirety as a terrorist organisation;
2. Ensure the police and other law enforcement agencies appropriately prosecute those who display Hezbollah flags and banners and use our streets to propagate racial hatred and incitement to violence.