



YORK CONFERENCE 15-17 March 2019 THE ESSENTIAL EVENTS

Last updated 14/03/2019

Mindfulness Session	Saturday 16th March
A quiet reflection using mindfulness	8am-9am
	Novotel, Meeting Room 6

Introduction to formless meditation, 10 minutes of meditation reading about political motivation, 10 minutes of silent reflection, group discussion, closing silence.
Facilitator: Jane Reed.

HSLD	Saturday 16th March
Is openness on your religion or belief and your sexuality a barrier to political office?	1pm-2pm
	Novotel, Meeting Room 5

Liberals believe in the right to be open about your personal religion or belief and your sexuality – but also the right to keep them private. Does pressure to disclose your beliefs or sexuality deter people from public life?

With **Baroness Lorely Burt**, **Aderonke Apata** and **Adrian Hyrylainen-Trett**.

Lorely is a humanist, an HSLD Co-President, and ex LibDem Lords spokesperson on Equalities. Aderonke's asylum application as a lesbian from Nigeria was only successful after major support from Liberal Democrat campaigners.

Adrian is a gay humanist, and HSLD Chair.

F13: Federal Board Report	Sunday 17th March
Adoption of "Islamophobia" definition	9.40am-10am (NOT 9.45am-10am)
	Auditorium, Barbican Centre

Toby Keynes is challenging Federal Board's decision to adopt a definition of the controversial term "Islamophobia" without consulting or involving the wider party membership.

See overleaf for the full text of his question, which has been selected for discussion.

Please come to the session and show your support.

Please do visit our stand at the Exhibition.

***Other exhibitors include:
LGBT+ Liberal Democrats
Lib Dem Christian Forum***

www.hsld.org.uk

F13: Federal Board Report

Sunday 17th March

9.40am-10am (NOT 9.45am-10am)

Adoption of "Islamophobia" definition

Auditorium, Barbican Centre

Question submitted by Toby Keynes:

On 2nd March, Federal Board adopted the following definition of Islamophobia, at the request of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims and Baroness Sayeda Warsi:

"We recommend the adoption of the following definition following widespread consultation with academics, lawyers, local and nationally elected officials, Muslim organisations, activists, campaigners, and local Muslim communities:

Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness."

There was certainly no "widespread consultation" or even warning of the proposal **within the party** prior to this decision, which I and members of the HSLD committee only learned of three days beforehand - far too late for concerns to be raised and taken up effectively with FB members.

Does FB now recognise that the term and the definition are both highly contentious?

Does FB recognise concerns that the term and definition may give comfort and protection to those who would attack my rights and freedoms as a gay man as well as the rights and freedoms of other oppressed and discriminated-against groups, including women, LGBT+ people and ex-Muslims, most of all within religiously conservative Muslim communities in the UK and abroad?

Will FB suspend this decision, so as to allow party members to engage in a full, open and honest debate – perhaps through the Policy Working Group on the Nature of Public Debate?