

Item 3: ID with SR freedom of religion
Human Rights Council Session 55th Session 7 March 2024
Agenda Item 2: Civil and Political Rights

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Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) is a not-for-profit campaign, research and advocacy organisation founded and based in the United Kingdom. It was set up in 1997 and works for redress of human rights violations and a better understanding of rights and norms across confessional, ethnic, national, political and other boundaries.

IHRC has consultative status with the UN – ECOSOC.

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Mr. President,

IHRC would like to draw your attention to an accelerating campaign of repression against mosques in England and Wales.

The countries have witnessed an alarming rise in the number of mosques and Islamic institutions being pursued by the authorities for so-called extremism.

The standard modus operandi is for the authorities to act on malicious complaints levelled by Islamophobes accusing mosques of platforming views that challenge the liberal secular orthodoxy.

Many mosques operate under charitable status making them vulnerable to any abuse of power by the charity regulator, the Charity Commission.

Complaints are often based on the flimsiest of contexts but are used as an justify wide-ranging and intrusive investigations and imposing draconian reforms.

These have included appointing non-Muslim interim managers to the institutions.

It is not the business of the state to attempt to dictate to Muslims the content of their religion or to tell them what parts of it they can publicly express or discuss.

We believe this is part of an unashamed attempt to reset the parameters of the Islamic faith by using public policy to reshape the way that Muslims think and behave.

This social engineering of Muslims is happening across Europe with alarming frequency, particularly in France and Germany. The state does not do this for other religious groups and it should not be allowed to try and do it for Muslims either.

Thank you.