

Title of Proposal: The right to organise an event facilitating students to observe and celebrate Friday (Jumu'ah, the holy day for all Muslims).

Background

1. There is currently no Friday prayer provisions on campus at City University London for Muslim students.
2. There has been no provisions for Muslim students to conduct Friday prayers on campus for almost four years.
3. Current arrangements for Friday prayer outside university are severely inadequate and sometimes non-existent.
4. City University London has a significant number of Muslim students studying at its campus'.
5. Friday is the most holy day of the week for all Muslims and has been likened to a day of celebration in Islam's holy scriptures.
6. Religion is one of a range of protected characteristics in the Equalities Act and is an important part of many students' lives.
7. Despite ongoing campaigns from faith societies (including the a live policy overwhelmingly passed in 2014 CULSU AGM), faith societies are not allowed to book facilities between 12.30 pm and 2pm on a Friday to celebrate part of their faith, which forms the basic aim of faith societies.
8. City University London is amongst very few London institutions that do not permit CULSU faith societies to book facilities to facilitate Friday prayer.
9. The CULSU already has current policies in place to protect students, such as the CULSU Safe space policy and speaker policy.

Principles

1. All students should be able to access Friday prayer on campus at City University London.
2. Faith plays a key role in students' lives and should be incorporated in discussions regarding student experience.

3. Given the high demand of such facilities from students, it is entirely reasonable to permit bookings for a short period of time to serve students basic faith needs.
4. Student faith societies should be given the freedom to organise Friday prayers in the exact same manner that any society organises any other event. (I.e. In accordance with all of the current event booking policies).
5. Feedback surveys by the CULSU have confirmed that that students prefer to attend Friday Prayer organised by relevant faith societies.
6. Current policies are in place, designed to protect and safeguard students, hence there is no justification for further vetting specifically for Friday prayer, being identified as a potential 'risk' for the university.
7. CULSU should continue to have complete and full trust in all of it's societies, given the tremendously high levels of conduct displayed by student societies despite academic commitments.

Idea/Proposal

1. To lobby City University London Students Union (CULSU) to permit faith society bookings for only **one hour periods** every Friday, between the hours of 12.30 and 14.00 (depending on the time of year) to facilitate Muslim students to celebrate and practice an essential part of their faith.
2. CULSU to lobby City University London to support such arrangements, treating them the same as any other society-booking request.
3. To lobby CULSU to treat Friday prayer as a significant contributing factor to student experience and so to facilitate it using its current policies and regulations.
4. CULSU to lobby City University London that there is no risk attached to student faith societies conducting Friday prayer as students will be protected via the implementation of current CULSU safe space and speaker policies.