Multi-Faith Spaces

Protocol of Use

The Multi-Faith Spaces in the Mile End Students' Union Hub (2nd Floor Room 1 and 2) and Whitechapel Garrod Building (Third Floor annex Room 1 and 2) are provided by the University and are managed by Queen Mary Students' Union. This protocol extends to any spaces used for multi-faith practice and use overseen the Students' Union.

1. Multi-Faith Spaces Use Policy

1.0 The Students' Union is committed to tolerance and understanding in relation to religion and belief. Any allegations of improper conduct arising from the use of the Multi-Faith Spaces and, in particular, any harassment and discrimination, will be investigated and, if appropriate, action will be taken.

2. Multi-Faith Spaces User Consultation (Faith Forum)

2.0 The Students' Union is committed to on-going consultation with its membership and with users of the Multi-Faith Spaces in order to best meet the needs of students of faith and belief. This is fulfilled through members requesting a meeting of the Faith Forum to discuss any points. The meetings can be called at any time. In order to promote an atmosphere of mutual respect and celebration of diversity, the Students' Union will facilitate the Faith Forum and actively promote interfaith initiatives.

3. Multi-Faith Spaces Access

3.0 The Multi-Faith Spaces operates a non-reserved access policy for use by all students and staff between 09:00-21:00, Monday – Friday during term time. During vacation hours the Multi-Faith Spaces will be open 09:00-16:30. The centre will operate a timetable, which will be agreed by faith group representatives at the Interfaith Forum termly.

3.1 Use of the Multi-Faith Spaces must be for quiet prayer, contemplation or meditation; contemplation is defined as "silent reflective thought".

4. Multi-Faith Spaces User Use Regulations

All users of the Multi-Faith Spaces must always comply with the following regulations:

4.1 All users must be either a student of the University or a member of staff of the University or the Students' Union.

4.2 All use must be connected to a religion or belief. In this context "religion" and "belief" have the meanings given to them in the Equality Act 2010[1].

4.3 All users must respect other users and staff and must behave reasonably and considerately towards each other.

4.4 Due to fire safety regulations, no smoking of any substances, no lighting of candles and no burning of incense is permitted.

4.5 No political gatherings and normally no external speakers are permitted in the Multi-Faith Spaces as the Students' Union provides other rooms, which can be booked for this purpose. External speakers may be permitted with prior written authorisation from the Students' Union in connection with an act of worship.

4.6 Use of the space:

- During open prayer the Multi-Faith Spaces may be used by any Queen Mary student or staff member.
- The spaces must be for quiet prayer, contemplation or meditation; contemplation is defined as “silent reflective thought”.
- Use of the space must be for individual not group use.
- Multi-Faith Spaces may be used by any gender.
- No images, icons, statues, or other religious or belief materials are permitted to be displayed anywhere in the Multi-Faith Spaces.
- No socialising, sleeping or misusing the space and persons caught doing so will be asked to leave and action may be taken.
- Group prayer, contemplation, meditation or worship may take place, provided the noise level from the spaces does not unreasonably interfere with use of the other spaces in the building.

4.7 The timetable for use must be strictly observed. All arrangements for setting up and for packing up must be made with the specified times.

4.8 Shoes must not be worn in the spaces and must be stored in the shoe racks provided. For those who must wear shoes when observing prayer shoe covers can be collected from the Students’ Union Reception.

4.9 No food or drink is permitted to be consumed in the space, unless prior written authorisation from the Students’ Union in connection with an act of worship.

4.10 All areas of the Multi-Faith Spaces must be left in a clean and tidy condition by users.

4.11 Only furniture and fittings belonging to the Students’ Union are permitted in the Multi-Faith Spaces.

4.12 All items belonging to users must be taken with them when they leave, any item left contrary to this regulation will be removed by the Students’ Union. The Students’ Union will not be responsible for any loss of or damage to any such item.

4.13 No musical instrument, portable sound system or amplifying equipment is permitted to be used anywhere in the spaces, unless prior permission has been gained from the Students’ Union.

4.14 No mobile phones, computers, photographic, video recording, sound recording or playing equipment are permitted to be used in the spaces, unless prior permission has been gained from the Students’ Union.

4.15 Any user who causes damage to the spaces or anything in it will be required to pay for necessary repair or replacement.

4.16 All Students’ Union and University policies, as well as all applicable health and safety regulations, must always be observed.

5. Concerns

5.0 If any user has any concern about the upkeep or maintenance of the spaces or its facilities or wishes to make a complaint concerning the spaces, they should raise it initially with the Students’ Union Reception. If

the Students' Union Reception cannot deal with the users' concern or complaint, they will pass it on to an appropriate member of staff.

6. Disputes

6.0 The Students' Union President or their nominee will decide any dispute or issue arising in relation to any of these regulations.

7. Amendments to this Protocol

7.0 Amendments to this protocol by the Union where possible will be made in consultation with the users of the Multi-Faith Spaces via a Faith Network or similar within the new democratic structure.