

# Multi-Faith Centre

## Protocol of Use

The Multi-Faith Centre (Room 1 and 2) is provision provided by Queen Mary, University of London Students' Union (the Union) and managed by QMSU.

### 1. Multi-Faith Centre Use Policy

The 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 Centre and, in particular, any harassment and discrimination, will be investigated and, if appropriate, action will be taken.

### 2. Multi-Faith Centre User Consultation (Interfaith Forum)

The Union is committed to on-going consultation with its membership and with users of the Multi-Faith Centre in order to best meet the needs of students of faith and belief; this will be fulfilled through regular meetings, of which there will be at least one per semester. In order to promote an atmosphere of mutual respect and celebration of diversity, the Union will facilitate the Interfaith Forum and actively promote interfaith initiatives.

### 3. Multi-Faith Centre Access

The Multi-Faith Centre operates a non-reserved access policy for use by all students and staff between 09:00-21:00pm, Monday – Friday during term time. During vacation hours the Multi-Faith Centre 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 Centre must be for quiet prayer, contemplation or meditation; contemplation is defined as “silent reflective thought”

### 4. Multi-Faith Centre User Use Regulations

**All users of the Multi-Faith Centre 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 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<sup>1</sup>.
- 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 Centre as the Union provides other rooms, which can be booked for this purpose. External speakers may be permitted with prior written authorisation from the Union in connection with an act of worship.
- 4.6 Use of the space :
  - During open prayer the Multi Faith Centre may be used by any Queen Mary student or staff member.
  - the Centre must be for quiet prayer, contemplation or meditation; contemplation is defined as “silent reflective thought”

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/10>

- use of the Centre must be for individual not group use;
  - Multi Faith Centre 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 Centre.
  - 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 Centre does not unreasonably interfere with use of the other spaces in the QMSU Hub.
- 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 Centre and must be stored in the shoe racks provided. For those who must wear shoes when observing prayer shoe covers can be collected from Reception
- 4.9 No food or drink is permitted to be consumed in the Centre, unless prior written authorisation from the Union in connection with an act of worship.
- 4.10 All areas of the Multi-Faith Centre must be left in a clean and tidy condition by users.
- 4.11 Only furniture and fittings belonging to the Union are permitted in the Multi-Faith Centre.
- 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 Union. The 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 Centre, unless prior permission has been gained from the Union.
- 4.14 No mobile phones, computers, photographic, video recording, sound recording or playing equipment are permitted to be used in the Centre, unless prior permission has been gained from the Union.
- 4.15 Any user who causes damage to the Centre or anything in it will be required to pay for necessary repair or replacement.
- 4.16 All Union and University policies, as well as all applicable health and safety regulations, must be always observed.

## **5. Concerns**

If any user has any concern about the upkeep or maintenance of the Centre or its facilities or wishes to make a complaint concerning the Centre, they should raise it initially with Union Reception. If the Union Reception cannot deal with the users' concern or complaint, they will pass it on to an appropriate member of staff.

## **6. Disputes**

The QMSU President or their nominee will decide any dispute or issue arising in relation to any of these regulations.

## **7. Amendments to this protocol**

Amendments to this protocol by the Union where possible will be made in consultation with the users of the Multi-Faith Centre via the Interfaith Forum.