

<https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=makeComment&keyVal=ST2A2NLPJU000>

As parish councillor and member of the public I have received a number of concerns regarding this application. I have been asked to voice these concerns to you, as some people feel that that they may be ignored, targeted or called racist.

Objections to this application are on policy, UK and international law, human rights, cultural, religious, policing and sex discrimination grounds. There are also objections to the council's permitting, teaching, embedding and forced assimilation/acceptance of other cultural practices that are creating many two-tier systems, contrary to the local indigenous cultural and lawful practices.

The existing planning application for use as an Islamic Education Centre is unclear. The application states, *"Proposed change of use of 14 Waterloo Street from a charity shop (Use Class E) to a place of worship and education centre (Use Class F1) for the Weston Islamic Education Centre/Mosque."* *"The existing Weston Islamic Education Centre is based in a two story building at 66 Palmer Street and the ground floor of 16 Waterloo Street as well"* (with the Avon Tandoori Shopfront?) Weston Islamic Centre Information (<https://westoniec.org/contact/>) As North Somerset Council (NSC) is aware, on the 22nd December, I requested a copies of change of use decision notices for the current use of the Islamic Education Centre. Nearly a month on, with the current mosque application closing today, I've yet to receive a reply. Please can you confirm that the current use of 66 Palmer St and 16 Waterloo Street has followed the expected change of use procedure and have had planning application submissions, public consultations and valid notice of decisions issued. (Islamic Education Centre Contact Information <https://westoniec.org/contact/>)

It is felt that the middle eastern design of this application doesn't conform to the Victorian heritage of the area as indicated in NSC's Great Weston Conservation Area - Town Centre Character Area Appraisal and Management Plan. The cultural and historic Victorian seaside town needs to be protected by elected representatives, as was presumed to be the point of creating the Conservation Area in the first instance. (<https://n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/Great%20Weston%20Conservation%20Area%20town%20centre%20appraisal.pdf>)

This application is for 371 worshippers in the centre of town and residential areas. The opening times of the new mosque are unclear. Will they be the same as the existing prayer times as can be seen on the Weston Islamic Education Centre website, e.g. 5 times a day over a varying 12 hour period? Will there be any call to prayer (noise) produced? (https://westoniec.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2026-Prayer-Timetable_compressed.pdf) There is concern over such a large male group/affiliated presence (300+), which may be felt as threatening especially to women and children, but also to individual males walking alone or in smaller groups within the area.

It is unclear if this application will be decided by an individual officer, however, I understand that Weston Town Council asked for this to be heard at a publicly accessible NSC Planning Committee. Please can you confirm.

LOCAL REPRESENTATION

NSC council and its councillors were elected to represent local people, in return residents 'agree' to pay demanded taxes to enable that representation and support. This is a regionally based planning application for a mosque, not a local requirement, and from the responses to date the majority of people that NSC represent clearly indicate that they do not want this application to proceed.

NSC TIME FOR CHANGE STRATEGY

The ‘Developing an Anti-Racism Strategy for Weston’ “... was developed as part of the Weston Community Hubs project that was led by RENS on behalf of North Somerset Council, funded by the UK Government Community Renewal Fund”. (<https://rens.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Time-for-Change-30-Nov-22.pdf>) This document promotes creating a “Disequilibrium State”. Disequilibrium is defined as “**a loss or lack of equilibrium or stability**” vs equilibrium as “*a state in which opposing forces or influences are balanced*”. Why is NSC proposing and promoting imbalance and instability, especially based on race? How will residents know that a balanced view has been taken on this application? The document goes on to include “*Create controversy: The discomfort caused by absence of visible support for anti-racism needs to be communicated, including the stress placed on those who speak up without knowing if they will be supported or ostracised.*” It seems that when local members of the public speak up they also feel unsupported and ostracised, as evidenced when NSC temporarily took all the comments on this application down, then censored them. An inability to use language as expected by NSC is not a reason to not hear people’s concerns, we have freedom of speech in this country for a reason, for open and honest debate, not censorship.

As you will be aware, other cultures and values are being ‘embedded’ not ‘integrated’ into our culture, as seen by the City of Sanctuary Charter 2024-2028 with values of ‘Embed, Share, Learn’. Definition of **Embed**: “*to fix something firmly into a substance*” vs **Integrate**: “*to mix with and join society or a group of people, often changing to suit their way of life, habits, and customs*”. The subscribing organisation (local authority, school, college, etc.) aspires “*...to ensure people seeking sanctuary are involved in all decision making and are supported to become leaders in the organisation, networks, and the wider movement.*” (<https://cdn-e2wra3va3xhgzx.cityofsanctuary.org/uploads/2022/02/CHARTER-2022-2025.pdf>)

If these embedded ‘values and culture’ are not in line with Christian based equality, and ‘leaders’ are supported to be the majority decision makers in the future, then our Christian based culture will be removed in favour of Islam. The severe lack of public debate on these issues by NSC is purposely causing ‘disequilibrium’ and ‘creating controversy’ in the communities that it is supposed to be representing. How does this fit with the Christian common law base of England and the King’s Coronation Oath to, “*... maintain in the United Kingdom the Protestant Reformed Religion established by law...*” and to “*... maintain and preserve inviolably the settlement of the Church of England, and the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government thereof, as by law established in England*”. The Bill of Rights 1689 was made a ‘statute’ by Parliament as a result of the Declaration of Rights 1688 and is a lawful contract between the People, the Monarch, the Parliament and the Judiciary, created to enact as a Constitutional Law the rights set out in both Magna Carta and The Declaration of rights, crucial to these Rights are the Oaths of Office by the Monarch that protect the people of this realm and their Constitutional rights from Tyranny. The Oath of the Monarch is to ensure that our constitution is upheld and not allowed to be reneged or revoked, or for other religions to be given exceptions from our country’s laws and cultural expectations (e.g. sex equality, multiple marriages/polygamy, animal welfare, cousin marriage, etc.).

CHRISTIAN UK LAW

As seen during the pandemic years, the UK is governed by separate laws (English, Welsh, Irish, Scottish). England is governed by English law that is based on Christianity, as confirmed by the King in his Coronation Oath on the 6th May 2023, where he swore on the bible to:

- “***... maintain in the United Kingdom the Protestant Reformed Religion established by law...***” and to
- “***... maintain and preserve inviolably the settlement of the Church of England, and the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government thereof, as by law established in England***”.

(https://www.royal.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2023-05/23-24132 Coronation Liturgy_05 May_0.pdf)

I cannot find any North Somerset Council general or educational policies that also ensure the maintenance of Protestant Reform Religion and the Church of England. As you may be aware from the House of Commons Research Briefing this year, 1 in 7 Christians worldwide live in situations with at least “high” levels of

persecution and discrimination, including 1 in 5 in Africa and 1 in 7 in Asia. This compared to 1 in 8 worldwide in 2021. (<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cdp-2025-0076/>)

With mass immigration from non-Western cultures and the expansion of mosques, such as this planning application, what is NSC planning for the maintenance of our Christian based culture over the next 10-20 years? It has been predicted that within two generations the UK may be an Islamic-based nation due to large scale immigration and low indigenous replacement birth rates vs higher Muslim birth rates. The UN Replacement Migration (2000) indicates how mass immigration, and importation of other cultural practices and religion has occurred, rather than government officials and elected representative educating and supporting English Christian based practices.

(https://www.bleadon.org.uk/media/other/24400/UNReplacementMigrationPlanunpd-egm_200010_un_2001_replacementmigration.pdf)

SEX EDUCATION

What form of sex education is NSC supporting within schools? I was appalled to read an article that I was sent, stating that nearly half of all Generation Z pregnancies now end in abortion, the generation typically being defined as people born from 1997 to 2012, along with the significant impact on fertility from the use of contraception and less frequent heterosexual sex. “*The ONS data shows that in 2022, for all women aged up to 25, there were 190,970 conceptions, from which there were 100,217 births and 90,753 abortions. This means that in 2022, for Gen Z women, 48% of all viable pregnancies ended in abortion.*”

(<https://percuity.blog/2025/10/28/are-gen-z-aborting-half-of-all-pregnancies/>) How is NSC teaching our young birth control? How is NSC supporting a Christian based nation via schools?

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RIGHTS

We believe that this proposed application, and NSC supported immigration, does not comply with the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - Article 8.

(https://www.un.org/development/desa/Indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf) This application should not be approved as it will significantly change the centre and culture of Weston-super-Mare, with 300+ men called 5 times a day to prayer meetings, travelling from around the region.

“Article 8

1. *Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.*

2. *States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress or:*

(a) Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities;

(b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;

(c) Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights;

(d) Any form of forced assimilation or integration;

(e) Any form of propaganda designed to promote or incite racial or ethnic discrimination directed at them.”

NB “... the United Nations’ 2024 Population Division report estimates the global population at 8.1 billion, with the white population now hovering around 648 million—roughly 8%—based on extrapolations from regional demographic surveys.” (<https://wisdomimbibe.com/the-shifting-demographics-of-the-global-white-population-a-data-driven-analysis/>). World Data, “The global white population in 2025 comprises

approximately 850-950 million people worldwide, representing roughly 10.5-12% of the 8.1 billion global population. This demographic group concentrates overwhelmingly in North America (230-240 million), Europe (630-670 million), Australia and New Zealand (22-24 million), with smaller populations in South Africa (4.5 million), Latin America (primarily Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil – estimated 15-25 million), and scattered communities elsewhere.” These numbers are in decline showing steady cultural destruction in violation of Article 8 above. (<https://theworlddata.com/global-population-of-white-people/>)

It appears that NSC is encouraging and supporting local non-white minorities, despite knowing that its current electorate is in a growing global and future local minority. From the application comments this is not supporting the majority of the electorate that pays to be represented by NSC.

BRITISH MUSLIMS

The Henry Jackson Poll March 2024 ‘British Muslim and General Public Attitudes’, shows an increasing Muslim trend towards **Sharia Courts, ‘compulsory use of halal foods in schools and hospitals’ and a Muslim political party**. Supporting a regional mosque in the heart of Weston will not support the local Christian based culture. National politics should not prevent locally elected representatives supporting local cultural values and valid concerns. This mosque with its intended large number of attendees for potentially 12hrs a day, every day will change the local environment and affect the indigenous communities and tourism to its heritage seaside town, especially if non-western attire is worn. (<https://henryjacksonsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/HJS-Deck-200324-Final.pdf> especially pg30-31)

TWO-TIER MARRIAGES, SEX DISCRIMINATION & JUDGEMENTS

(Islamic Sharia Councils, Mosques, Inequality and Divorce)

There is concern about the sexist nature of this application, with 300+ men vs 35 women, along with separate entrances to the building. This application is contrary to both the **Sex Discrimination Act and Equality Act**, where there should be equality between men and women and with equal opportunity, including to religion. No government sanctioned activity should encourage or support discrimination of women, as is indicated in this mosque application.

I cannot find any reference to the original/existing mosque application on this site, nor any agreements made, via a Notice of Decision and Delegated Officers report. How was the division and imbalance of the sexes agreed in the original mosque application on this site? On 22nd December I requested a copy of the current Islamic Education Centre permission notices via the Planning Support Team, but still have not received a reply. I've been asked whether a two-tier planning permission situation has occurred, or is this delay in NSC reply, or apparent lack of online transparent public information, a clerical error? Please advise.

The regional expansion of the mosque may encourage more Sharia councils, as indicated in the Henry Jackson Poll. An Overview of Sharia law, 10 November 2023, "**Sharia councils in England and Wales: estimates vary between 80-85 and they are growing in number as British Muslims seek Sharia councils to settle their disputes...** Across the past few decades **serious concerns have arisen about the cultural and religious practices in Muslim communities...** The Independent Review into the Application of Sharia Law in England and Wales issued by Britain's Home Department in February of 2018 was purposefully set up because sharia councils were deemed **discriminating against women**" (<https://www.roythorne.co.uk/site/blog/family-law-blog/an-overview-of-sharia-law>)

Islamic Sharia and the Mistreatment of Women, 05 Sept 2025, "**Sharia subordinates women to men in a multitude of ways: the requirement of guardianship by men, the right of men to beat their wives, the right of men to have unfettered sexual access to their wives, the right of men to practice polygamy, and the restriction of women's legal rights in divorce cases, in estate law, in cases of rape, in court testimony, and in consent to marriage.**" (<https://www.equip.org/articles/islamic-sharia-and-the-mistreatment-of-women/>)

TWO-TIER ACCESS TO ISLAMIC RELIGION

New report calls on mosques across the UK to improve access for women, 05 March 2024, "... 59% said they themselves or a woman they know had experienced unfair treatment in a mosque, including physical intimidation, sexism and being denied entry, on one or more occasions. According to the latest data from Muslims in Britain, 28% of the approximately 1,858 mosques in the UK do not offer facilities for women" (<https://hyphenonline.com/2024/03/05/new-report-calls-on-mosques-across-the-uk-to-improve-access-for-women/>) Please explain, how can an application under English/UK/International Law permit blatant discrimination of the sexes such as this application stating 300 men vs 35 women, with separate accesses?

TWO TIER MARRIAGE

What is the current status of Islamic marriages (Nikah) in the UK? 13 March 2020, "The Court has confirmed that a Nikah marriage is a non-qualifying ceremony, meaning that spouses have no redress to the courts for a division of assets if the relationship breaks down. For one party this judgment brings distinct advantages in seeking to protect their assets in any way. Sadly, it also serves as a distinct disadvantage to a party who cannot then make a financial remedy application following the breakdown of their Islamic marriage." (<https://www.hja.net/expert-comments/blog/family-law/what-is-the-current-status-of-islamic-marriages-nikah-in-the-uk/>)

Polygamous marriages may not be performed in the United Kingdom, and if a polygamous marriage is performed, the already-married person may be guilty of the crime of bigamy under section 11 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polygamy_in_the_United_Kingdom and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matrimonial_Causes_Act_1973). However, House of Commons Research Briefing 01 Feb 2023, "For a polygamous marriage to be considered valid in the UK, the parties must be domiciled in a country where polygamous marriage is permitted and must have entered into the marriage in a country which permits polygamy". (<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN05051/SN05051.pdf>) A request for divorce may not be covered by UK law and therefore reverts to a Sharia Council as seen above.

See Channel 4 documentary, "The Men with Many Wives - Some estimate that there are 20,000 polygamous marriages among Muslims in the UK. This documentary explores polygamous life and asks how it can be reconciled with modern British values... From an office in east London, Mizan Raja runs a Muslim marriage bureau with over 50,000 clients on his books. In recent years there has been a marked increase in enquiries from Muslim men and women looking to get into polygamous marriages..." (<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/the-men-with-many-wives>)

TWO-TIER BENEFIT SYSTEM

"**Universal Credit (UC)** is replacing means-tested benefits and tax credits for working age people. Polygamous marriages are not recognised in the UC rules. This means that some polygamous households will receive more under UC than they would have under the legacy benefits and tax credits system." "The DWP is handing out more than £6,000 to second wives and third wives in the UK as part of benefits given to people in polygamous marriages - and the amount is being increased from April." (Article 02DEC25 <https://www.express.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/2141391/rachel-reeves-slammed-extra-benefits-polygamy>) There is valid concern that this is creating another two-tier system with regards marriage and benefit entitlements.

TWO-TIER CULTURAL EXPECTATIONS

BBC - Couple defend first-cousin marriages amid ban call 27 Jan 2025, "According to a 2021 study, about 55% of British Pakistanis are married to first cousins, while the practice accounts for about 3% of all marriages nationally." (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4g38l07895o>). Daily Mail - Fury as NHS tells midwives to back cousin marriage as 'only' 15 per cent have deformed babies. "Oxford based academic and director of the Pharos Foundation Research Institute... said 'This is on a par with recommending alcohol and smoking during pregnancy for their calming effects, while brushing over the absolutely horrendous consequence for mother and child. There is no justification or excuse for this at all. Shame on the authors and shame on the Government for refusing to ban this indefensible cultural practice". Again, the immediate impact is on women and their children. (<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15473581/NHS-midwives-cousin-marriage-deformed-babies.html>)

This is embedding other cultural values into the UK, not integration. Born in Bradford - Evidence Briefing Genes and Health: Inheritance and Risk Dec 2022, "Between **20% and 40% - child deaths** possibly due to genetic disorders associated with consanguinity... After allowing for risk factors such as age, obesity and smoking, the risk of congenital anomalies was doubled (3% to 6%) in first cousin marriages and explained **30% of genetic disorders**." (<https://borninbradford.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/HG2954-BIHR-BiB-Evidence-Briefing-Genes-and-Health-4.pdf>) There are valid concerns regarding effects of these embedded cultural practices on the NHS and schools, requiring subsequent additional needs support.

TWO-TIER ANIMAL SLAUGHTER

Many people, including me, consider changes to our lawful method of killing as a serious offence. RSPCA, "Current **UK law** requires animals to be stunned before slaughter, so they don't feel pain. However, Jewish and Muslim communities aren't required by law to stun animals before slaughter. All Shechita (Jewish) and some Halal (Muslim) slaughter involves cutting the animal's throat without stunning them first." (<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/farm/slaughter/religiousslaughter>) This application may increase the local need for halal food and therefore the inhumane non-stun slaughter of local animals. Why is religion exempt from law? This seems to apply to the treatment of women too.

With regards halal, there are significant cultural differences over animal welfare - **Non-stun Slaughter of Animals Volume 768: debated on Monday 9 June 2025** "... Proponents of those practices argue that banning non-stun slaughter would violate their freedoms. The **teachings of the Jewish and Muslim religions** state that an animal must be fully alive before it is slaughtered. Accordingly, **the stunning of an animal before slaughter may be interpreted as not being compliant with such religious teachings**. However, in many religions—including my own, Christianity—there are variations in the interpretation of religious laws. Leaders of more liberal branches may be more open to interpreting religious law in the light of modern customs and welfare standards. However, it has to be said that **more orthodox factions may still consider changes to traditional methods as a serious offence**." (<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2025-06-09/debates/27E94862-93C7-4D29-B0DA-F77F92D14161/Non-StunSlaughterOfAnimals>)

TWO-TIER POLICING

The very real national concern about two-tier policing, along with the nationwide grooming gang situation and coverups, applies to this application with potentially 300+ men (vs only 35 women) on the streets 5 times a day, every day. There is concern regarding such a large male presence in the centre of town and residential areas 5 times a day for maybe up to 12 hours a day. Some women, children and men already feel vulnerable, and that the police will not address their concerns.

MI5 Director General Ken McCallum gives latest threat update 8th Oct 2024, "The headline split of our counter terrorist work remains roughly 75% Islamist extremist... Today, an attacker may have no connections to other terrorists. They might not be on our records. And there's often no claim of responsibility... Today's Islamic State is not the force it was a decade ago. But after a few years of being pinned well back, they've resumed efforts to export terrorism." (<https://www.mi5.gov.uk/director-general-ken-mccallum-gives-latest-threat-update>)

It only takes one extreme person to cause disharmony, death and/or destruction, and with mass migration of different cultural practices and expectations and support for sexist Islamic practices, this trend has been increasing across England, the UK and Europe. How Immigration Has Caused a Rape Crisis in Britain & Europe. Shocking Statistics Revealed Rapes in England and Wales quadrupled in 10 years. Where is the local debate on these types of issues, that may increase if this large scale mosque is permitted in the heart of Weston community, especially in relation to NSC's disequilibrium approach?

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJ58WG3hd2g>)

In relation to the Bondi Beach shootings December 2025, an Imam of Peace calls to BAN the Muslim Brotherhood in the West, "*In the West, it is a political question. That is the problem.*" "*Anyone who DOES NOT ban the Muslim Brotherhood only cares about votes, not the national security of their nation.*" (<https://x.com/TalkTV/status/2001397447315030025>) This has been known, but not addressed, in the UK for many years, as seen in the government's Muslim Brotherhood review: main findings 15 Dec 2015, "... aspects of Muslim Brotherhood ideology and tactics, in this country and overseas, are contrary to our values and have been contrary to our national interests and our national security".

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/muslim-brotherhood-review-main-findings>)

This large scale regional mosque planning application unnecessarily increases the local risk.

POTENTIALLY BIASED POLICIES AND DECISION MAKING

The 2022 NSC Workforce Diversity Report, North Somerset Council significantly over-represents ethnic groups in both its Senior Leadership Team (13%) and Whole Staff Profiles (14%) in comparison to the North Somerset Communities (6%) that it represents. There is a concern that NSC may be ethnically biased. I hope that this is not the case and I look forward to attending the committee meeting to discuss this application.