

# Factsheet: Understanding & Responding to Islamophobia

Action Against Islamophobia (AAI) is a national initiative of the Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) that is dedicated to supporting victims of anti-Muslim discrimination, challenging systemic bias, and empowering communities affected by Islamophobic incidents. AAI works to ensure that incidents of prejudice and harm are documented, supported, and addressed through advocacy, justice and community engagement.

## What is Islamophobia?

Islamophobia is a form of racism that specifically targets Muslims or those perceived to be connected to Islam or the Muslim community. It manifests in various ways, from overt acts of violence to subtle forms of discrimination.

This prejudice not only seeks to marginalise and silence Muslims but also denies them their rights, equal opportunities, and freedom of movement in society.

## What is an Islamophobic Incident?

An Islamophobic incident is any act, behaviour, or expression targeting individuals, institutions, or property because of their Islamic identity, which is motivated by hatred, prejudice, or hostility.



Let's work together to ensure every Muslim feels safe, respected, and valued in their community

### We're Here to Help:

Action Against Islamophobia (AAI) Supporting families in responding to and addressing Islamophobia in schools. [support@actionagainstislamophobia.org.au](mailto:support@actionagainstislamophobia.org.au)

[actionagainstislamophobia.org.au](http://actionagainstislamophobia.org.au)

Scan this QR Code to report



# Examples of reportable Islamophobic incidents:

## Vandalism

A Mosque is defaced with graffiti and slogans such as "MUSLIMS f&%@ OFF". This would qualify as a hate crime due to the targeting of the Muslim community with malicious intent.



## Verbal Abuse

A person yells "dirty Muslim terrorist" at a Muslim person on the street. While this might not result in criminal charges, it could be reported as a hate incident.



## Online Abuse and Threats

A Muslim individual receives online threats, such as "All Muslims deserve to die and we'll make sure we finish what was started in the middle east." This constitutes an anti-Muslim hate incident that could potentially escalate into criminal charges.



## Anti-Palestinian racism

A hijabi student wearing the Palestinian flag at an Australian university campus is singled out by security staff and threatened with suspension for protesting the genocide in Gaza. Police are then called in and the student is escorted off campus.



### How does AAI respond to these incidents?

When an incident is reported, a case manager reviews the incident for completeness and level of urgency. If additional information or verification is needed, AAI will contact you with recommended actions and, if necessary, provide referrals for legal or mental health support services.

**If the incident is reported as a hate crime or hate incident, further support can be provided to escalate the case to the relevant authorities.**

How do you report an Islamophobic incident to AAI?

Option 1: **Call the support line on (02) 8377 4399 Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm (AEST)**

Option 2: **Report the incident online via our website: [actionagainstislamophobia.org.au](https://actionagainstislamophobia.org.au)**



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