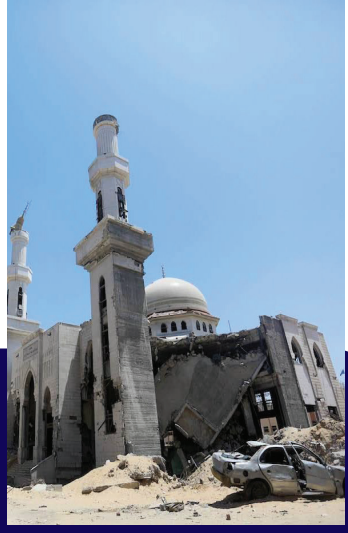
منظمة التعاون الإسلامي

ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION
ORGANISATION DE COOPÉRATION ISLAMIQUE



EIGHTEENTH OIC REPORT ON

ISLAMOPHOBIA

PRESENTED TO THE 52nd Session
of the Council of Foreign Ministers

January - December 2025

ABOUT

The OIC Islamophobia Observatory is a specialized unit operating under the Political Affairs Department of the OIC General Secretariat. Established in 2007 during the 34th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers in Islamabad, the Observatory has been actively monitoring and addressing issues related to Islamophobia for over 18 years.

The Observatory's establishment was prompted by three critical developments: the surge in anti-Islamic sentiment across Western nations following the events of 9/11; the escalating phenomenon of Islamophobia manifesting through deliberate misrepresentation and distortion of Islamic principles; and the emergence of discriminatory legislation in various non-Islamic countries specifically targeting Muslim minorities. These pressing concerns led the Muslim world to take action, culminating in the third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference in Makkah (2005), which emphasized the urgent need to counter Islamophobia. The Observatory's creation represents a direct response to the recommendations put forth by Muslim world leaders during this extraordinary summit.

The Observatory carries out its core mandate through three main functions: monitoring all manifestations of Islamophobia, reporting comprehensive findings to Member States, and addressing these challenges through collaborative efforts with governments and NGOs. In fulfilling these responsibilities, the Observatory conducts daily monitoring of Islamophobic incidents, analyzes emerging trends, and maps the evolving landscape of anti-Islamic sentiment. Based on these observations, the unit produces detailed reports, develops policy recommendations, and initiates targeted measures to effectively address Islamophobia's various manifestations.

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FOREWORD OF THE OIC SECRETARY GENERAL

As we convene for the 52nd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), I am honored to present the 18th Annual Report on Islamophobia. This critical document embodies the comprehensive research and vigilant monitoring undertaken by the OIC Islamophobia Observatory, operating within our Political Affairs Department at the General Secretariat. In a time marked by escalating religious intolerance and the weaponization of artificial intelligence to amplify hatred, the Observatory's work in documenting incidents of anti-Muslim bias, discrimination, and violence has become more vital than ever. The OIC remains steadfast in its commitment to utilizing these findings as a powerful catalyst for advocacy and in supporting Muslim communities confronting unprecedented challenges worldwide.

The production of this extensive analysis fulfills one of our organization's fundamental mandates—the systematic monitoring and reporting of Islamophobic incidents to our Member States. This year's report meticulously chronicles and analyzes the multifaceted challenges facing Muslim communities since our previous gathering, offering detailed examination of how anti-Muslim sentiment manifests across diverse societal contexts. We envision this document serving as both an early warning mechanism and a practical guide for policymakers, advocates, and leaders committed to advancing interfaith understanding and protecting religious freedom.

Recent global developments have elevated Islamophobia into an increasingly sophisticated challenge threatening social cohesion and human dignity. The convergence of heightened geopolitical tensions, persistent economic uncertainties, and the explosive growth of AI-generated disinformation through digital platforms has created unprecedented conditions for anti-Muslim prejudice to flourish and spread at scale. We have witnessed the deeply concerning trend of political actors systematically exploiting Islamophobic rhetoric for electoral advantage, while far-right movements deploy advanced technologies—including AI-generated imagery and deep-fake videos—to propagate hatred through coordinated online campaigns that reach millions within hours.

The human toll of these developments continues to mount alarmingly. Our communities have endured an intensifying wave of mosque attacks, discriminatory legislation disguised as secularism, systematic workplace harassment, and educational barriers. Especially troubling is the surge in gendered Islamophobia, with Muslim women facing compounded discrimination in employment, public spaces, and educational institutions. The normalization of anti-Muslim rhetoric in mainstream political discourse has emboldened acts of violence, fostering environments where even children experience harassment and exclusion in schools based solely on their faith identity.

Confronting these evolving challenges demands a comprehensive, multidimensional strategy adapted to contemporary realities. This must encompass strengthened hate crime legislation with enhanced enforcement mechanisms, robust digital literacy programs to counter AI-generated disinformation and online extremism, and innovative educational initiatives promoting cross-faith dialogue and understanding. The international community must recognize that combating Islamophobia is inextricably linked to the broader struggle for universal human rights, dignity, and the protection of all religious minorities from persecution.

The OIC is determined to expand its network of partnerships and strategic initiatives in this critical endeavor. We aim to initiate engagement with technology companies to address algorithmic bias and AI-generated hate content, to collaborate with educational institutions in order to develop evidence-based anti-bias curricula, and to work with governments to strengthen protective legislation and enforcement. These efforts reflect our recognition that effectively combating Islamophobia requires a comprehensive whole-of-society approach, engaging civil society, media organizations, technology platforms, and governments at all levels.

Our findings this year reveal a complex landscape of persistent challenges and emerging technological threats. Beyond conventional forms of discrimination, we have documented sophisticated attempts to institutionalize anti-Muslim bias through legislation and administrative measures, particularly evident in Asia and Europe where systematic closures of mosques and Islamic organizations continue under questionable legal pretexts. The weaponization of secularism to suppress Muslim religious expression has become increasingly prevalent, while the intersection of Islamophobia with other forms of discrimination creates acute vulnerabilities for our communities, particularly for women, youth, and visible minorities.

The documented attacks against Islam and Islamic symbols have evolved into coordinated campaigns designed to provoke, divide, and terrorize communities. These incidents, frequently livestreamed and algorithmically amplified through social media platforms, demonstrate how traditional religious hatred has adapted to the digital age, necessitating equally sophisticated responses from our Member States and international partners. The emergence of AI-generated anti-Muslim content—from fabricated images depicting Muslims as security threats to deep-fake videos spreading conspiracy theories—represents a dangerous new frontier requiring urgent attention and coordinated action.

This report transcends mere documentation of challenges—it provides a strategic blueprint for action. By analyzing successful interventions and identifying emerging threats, we equip policymakers and community leaders with empirical data and practical tools for effectively countering Islamophobia. The recommendations emphasize the critical importance of building resilient communities while actively promoting interfaith dialogue, cultural exchange, and the protection of fundamental rights for all.

I present this 18th Annual Report on Islamophobia with profound urgency and steadfast hope. While the challenges confronting us are formidable and evolving, our collective determination to combat Islamophobia has never been stronger. I call upon all Member States to examine these findings meticulously and implement robust, evidence-based measures to protect religious freedom, combat hate speech, and promote inclusive societies that respect human dignity. The path forward demands sustained political commitment, innovative solutions leveraging technology for good, and unwavering dedication to our shared values of justice, equality, and the inherent dignity of every human being.

Hissein Brahim Taha

TREND ON ISLAMOPHOBIA

(January - December 2025)

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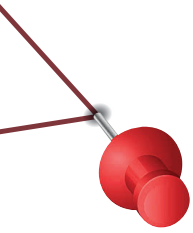
(January - December 2025)



TREND ON ISLAMOPHOBIA

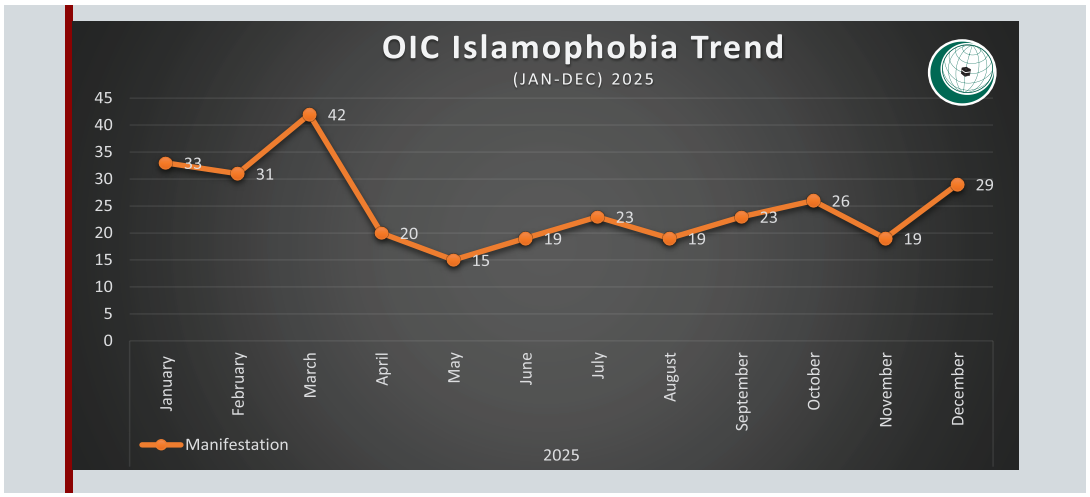
(January - December 2025)

Islamophobia represents a multifaceted form of prejudice and discrimination that extends beyond individual Muslims to encompass the entire spectrum of Islamic faith, practices, and symbols. This phenomenon manifests through various forms of stigmatization and intolerance, ranging from subtle discrimination in workplaces and media to more extreme expressions such as vandalism of religious properties and physical harassment of Muslims. While particularly pronounced in societies where Muslims constitute a minority, Islamophobia sentiments can emerge from diverse catalysts, including political dynamics, socioeconomic factors, immigration concerns, and global events that reverberate across our interconnected world.

The OIC Islamophobia Observatory conducted comprehensive monitoring of Islamophobia incidents and sentiments worldwide. Through careful analysis of news reports, social media discourse, government policies, and public statements, the Observatory has documented patterns of discrimination and prejudice against Muslims and Islamic practices across various regions. This report presents these findings to map the current landscape of Islamophobia.

The following is the summary of trend on Islamophobia during the 12-months period, from January to December 2025:

The trajectory of Islamophobic incidents throughout 2025 reveals a deeply troubling pattern characterized by volatile fluctuations, dramatic escalations, and an overall declining trend that, paradoxically, masks the intensifying severity and lethality of individual manifestations. The year opened with elevated levels of anti-Muslim incidents, reflecting an entrenched baseline of institutionalized Islamophobia that operates independently of specific triggering events, embedded within societal structures, political discourse, and media narratives across multiple global hotspots.



February witnessed a slight decline, suggesting neither significant improvement nor deterioration, but rather the persistence of what has become a normalized level of anti-Muslim hostility. This brief plateau proved deceptive, as March 2025 exploded into the year's most severe peak—the highest monthly total recorded. This dramatic March surge coincided with multiple catalysts across different regions: in India, the intensification of hate speech during state election campaigns saw BJP leaders delivering inflammatory anti-Muslim rhetoric; in France, the first quarter witnessed a 72% increase in anti-Muslim acts compared to the same period in 2024; and in the United Kingdom, the aftermath of the summer 2024 Southport riots continued to reverberate through elevated street-based violence targeting visibly Muslim individuals.

The March peak also reflected the compounding effect of Ramadan observances, which historically trigger heightened Islamophobic responses. In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, authorities refused to hand over administration of the Ibrahimi Mosque to the Palestinian Ministry of Endowment during Ramadan, breaking decades of custom. In the United States, educational institutions reported increased bullying of Muslim students, while political rhetoric intensified around themes of "cultural incompatibility." The convergence of religious observance with ongoing geopolitical tensions created conditions for what the data reveals as the year's most concentrated period of anti-Muslim manifestations.

April brought a sharp decline, followed by May's dramatic drop—the lowest point of the entire year. This steep descent, however, did not signal genuine improvement in the conditions facing Muslim communities. Rather, it reflected the complex relationship between documentation, reporting mechanisms, and the actual incidence of discrimination and violence. The relative lull coincided with shifting political attention in several key hotspots: India's focus temporarily

moved toward economic policy announcements; the United Kingdom experienced a brief period of reduced far-right mobilization; and the United States entered a quieter phase of the presidential campaign cycle before intensification.

Critically, the May low point occurred even as lethal violence claimed Muslim lives in France, where Aboubakar Cissé was stabbed to death in a mosque in April and Hichem Miraoui was shot dead by his neighbor in May—murders that illustrated how the declining quantity of documented incidents masked the increasing severity and lethality of individual attacks. The gap between statistical trends and lived reality underscored the limitations of quantitative measures in capturing the full scope of Islamophobic violence when individual incidents become more extreme even as their total number temporarily decreases.

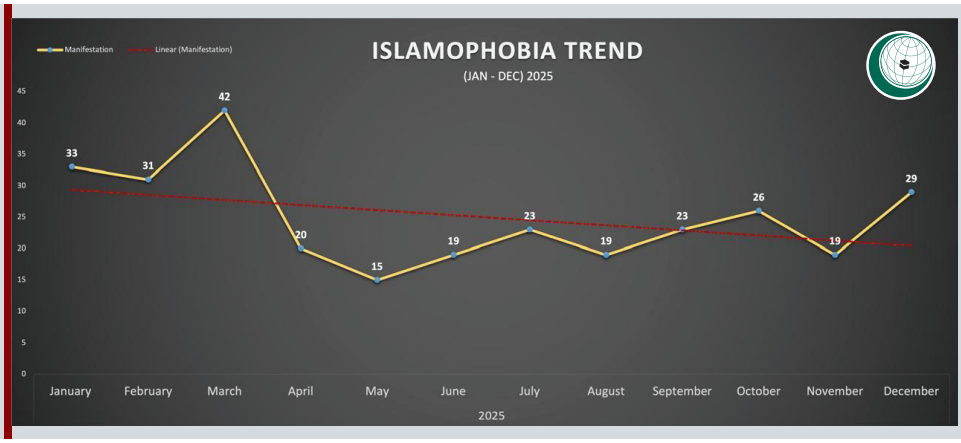
June through August demonstrated a gradual rebuilding of incident levels, rising in June, continued in July and declining slightly in August. This period witnessed the administrative seizure of the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, where Israeli authorities on July 15 stripped the Palestinian-run municipality of powers and transferred them to a settler religious council—a historic appropriation of one of Islam's holiest sites. In the United Kingdom, far-right activist Tommy Robinson's influence continued expanding through international financing networks, while in the United States, online Islamophobia spiked following Zohran Mamdani's victory in New York City's Democratic mayoral primary, with posts generating 419.2 million total engagements and explicit anti-Muslim language appearing in 39.4% of examined content.

September and October marked a concerning resurgence, with incidents climbing in September and in October—the second-highest monthly total of the year. This autumn escalation reflected multiple converging factors. In the United Kingdom, Tommy Robinson's "Unite the Kingdom" rally on September 13 drew 110,000 protesters to London's streets, with monitoring organizations documenting 157 anti-Muslim hate cases in the seven days following the event. In France, nine severed pig heads were scattered on mosque doorsteps across Paris on September 8, while the government's controversial Muslim Brotherhood report released in May continued fueling stigmatization that contributed to a 75% increase in anti-Muslim incidents during the first five months of the year.

The October spike also coincided with escalating violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, where National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir violated the Al-Aqsa status quo agreement on August 3 by leading Jewish prayer at

the compound, and where thousands of Israelis participated in state-funded marches through Jerusalem's Muslim Quarter chanting "death to the Arabs" and "may their villages burn." The intersection of intensifying occupation policies with the ongoing destruction of 1,109 mosques in Gaza created international reverberations that manifested as increased anti-Muslim incidents across Western countries, particularly targeting individuals expressing solidarity with Palestinians.

November witnessed a decline before December's year-end surge—nearly matching the elevated levels that opened the year. The December escalation reflected multiple end-of-year dynamics: in India, December saw illegal Israeli settlers staging 22 intrusions into Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, while monitoring documented that 2024 had witnessed a record 58,000 settler incursions—a 13% increase from 2023. In the United States, AI-generated hateful content targeting Muslims "sharply rose" through the second half of the year, with research compiling 1,326 AI-generated images and videos featuring sexualized depictions of Muslim women, exclusionary rhetoric, conspiratorial narratives, and aestheticized violence.



The linear trend line overlaid on the 2025 data reveals a gradually declining trajectory across the year. However, this statistical decline obscures three critical realities that demand attention. First, the overall reduction in documented incidents coincided with dramatic increases in specific categories of violence, particularly lethal attacks and physical assaults. In the United Kingdom, street-based cases increased by 120% since 2022, with threatening behavior rising by 715% between 2023 and 2024—a pattern that continued into 2025. In France, violence targeting individuals more than tripled in early 2025, with direct assaults accounting for 99 of 145 total cases through May, representing more than two-thirds of all Islamophobic acts.

Second, the declining trend reflected reporting and documentation challenges rather than necessarily indicating improvement in conditions. Multiple monitoring organizations noted that victims frequently do not file complaints due to fear, distrust of authorities, or belief that reporting would produce no meaningful response. In the United Kingdom, research found that only 12.5% of sexual harassment incidents against Muslim women on public transport were reported, with 69% of those who did come forward saying they were not confident their cases would be taken seriously. In the United States, survey data revealed that 67% of bullied Muslim students did not report experiences to school staff because they felt undervalued, afraid, or faced unclear reporting processes.

Third, and most significantly, the year demonstrated how global Islamophobia has become increasingly characterized by state-sanctioned policies and rhetoric rather than merely isolated incidents perpetrated by non-state actors. In India, the Waqf (Amendment) Bill passed in April 2025 threatened 872,324 immovable waqf properties, while mass deportations expelled 1,880 ethnic Bengali Muslims to Bangladesh between May and July without due process. In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the administrative transfer of the Ibrahimi Mosque to settler control and the systematic destruction of over 1,100 mosques in Gaza represented state policies of religious erasure operating at scales that individual incident counts cannot adequately capture.

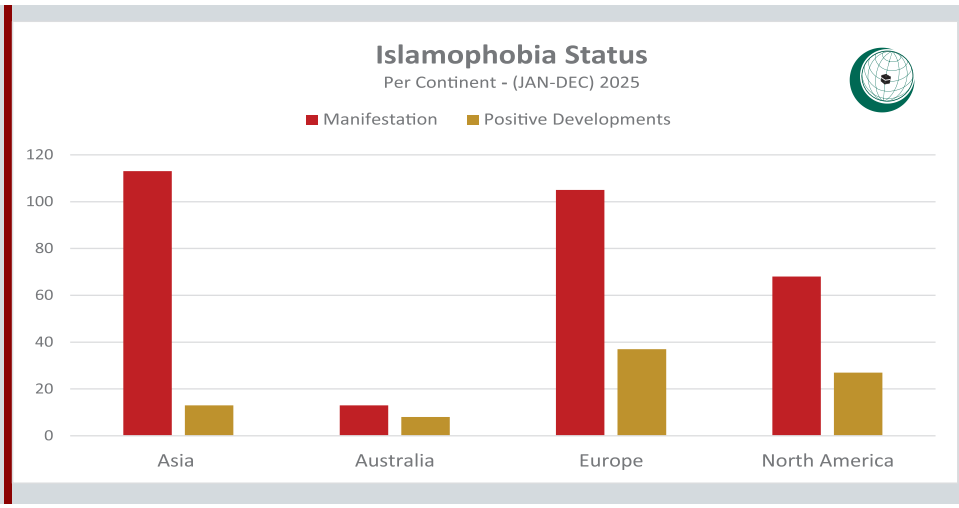
The comparative pattern between 2025's first and second halves reveals a troubling evolution in the character of Islamophobic manifestations. While the first half showed the dramatic March peak followed by steep decline to May's low point, the latter half demonstrated more sustained elevation after October's surge, with December's incidents nearly matching January's opening level. This pattern suggests that despite quantitative fluctuations, a qualitative transformation has occurred wherein each cycle of escalation reinforces and entrenches anti-Muslim sentiment, establishing new elevated baselines that resist complete de-escalation.

The bimodal distribution with major peaks in March and October reflects how Islamophobia operates through both event-driven catalysts and structural embedding. Specific triggering events—election campaigns, religious observances, geopolitical conflicts, far-right mobilizations—can rapidly mobilize anti-Muslim sentiment, creating sharp escalations. However, the persistence of elevated levels in subsequent months demonstrates how these triggers interact with structural factors: discriminatory legislation normalizing anti-Muslim policies; algorithmic amplification spreading conspiracy theories; political rhetoric from elected

officials legitimizing hatred; and inadequate accountability mechanisms allowing perpetrators to operate with impunity.

Looking across the full 2025 trajectory, the data reveals a crisis that has transcended episodic outbursts to become systematically embedded across multiple dimensions of social, political, and institutional life in key hotspots. The fact that India, the United Kingdom, the United States, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and France collectively accounted for the overwhelming majority of documented incidents—with India alone representing 34%, the UK 23%, and the US 20%—demonstrates geographic concentration that enables targeted intervention. Yet the convergence of state policies (deportations, legislative restrictions, administrative seizures), political rhetoric (from prime ministers, cabinet ministers, and presidential candidates), algorithmic amplification (AI-generated content, social media monetization of hatred), and violent manifestations (murders, assaults, mosque destruction) creates self-reinforcing cycles increasingly difficult to dismantle.

The declining linear trend across 2025, rather than offering reassurance, underscores the urgent need for comprehensive approaches addressing both immediate manifestations and structural underpinnings before these patterns become further normalized in public consciousness and institutional practices. The year's trajectory suggests that without fundamental interventions—robust legal frameworks consistently enforced, political leadership rejecting rather than exploiting anti-Muslim sentiment, platform accountability for algorithmic hatred, and international pressure on state-sanctioned discrimination—the fluctuating but persistent manifestations documented throughout 2025 will continue establishing ever-higher baselines of normalized Islamophobia that threaten Muslim communities' safety, dignity, and fundamental rights globally.



The geographic distribution of Islamophobia across continents during 2025 reveals Asia as the undisputed epicenter of anti-Muslim incidents, with manifestations dramatically outpacing positive developments in the region. This troubling dominance reflects the intensification of religious nationalism and state-sanctioned discrimination. The stark disparity between manifestations and positive developments in Asia indicates an alarming institutionalization of Islamophobia embedded within governmental policies, judicial complicity, law enforcement bias, and social structures that operate with coordinated efficiency to marginalize Muslim communities.

India's dominance within the Asian category—accounting for 34% of global manifestations—drove the continental totals to unprecedented levels. The convergence of legislative actions like the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, systematic educational discrimination with 52 madrasas sealed in Uttarakhand alone, hate speech from the highest political offices including Chief Ministers and Cabinet Ministers, violent communal riots increasing by 84% in the previous year with patterns persisting into 2025, and the weaponization of administrative machinery through bulldozer demolitions created a comprehensive architecture of persecution. The relatively modest positive developments documented in Asia—primarily judicial interventions holding some perpetrators accountable and civil society documentation efforts—proved insufficient to counterbalance the scale and systematic nature of state-sponsored discrimination.

The Occupied Palestinian Territory's inclusion within the broader Asian context, while geographically debatable, contributed significantly to the continental disparity. The administrative transfer of the Ibrahimi Mosque from Palestinian to Israeli settler control, the violation of the Al-Aqsa status quo agreement by a government minister leading Jewish prayer at the compound, and the wholesale destruction of over 1,100 mosques in Gaza between October 2023 and January 2025 represented state policies of religious erasure operating at scales that individual incident metrics struggle to capture. The fact that such systematic destruction of Islamic religious infrastructure proceeded with international impunity while being sanctioned, funded, and executed by state authorities distinguished the Asian experience of Islamophobia as qualitatively different from manifestations in other continents.

Europe emerges as the second most significant hotspot for Islamophobic incidents, though the data reveals a more substantial ratio of positive developments to negative manifestations compared to Asia. The high incidence rate can be

attributed to the resurgence and mainstreaming of far-right political movements across the continent, with the United Kingdom accounting for 23% of global manifestations and France representing 10%. In the UK, the year witnessed record-breaking hate crime levels including attacks on 27 mosques between July and October, Tommy Robinson's rally drawing 110,000 protesters, and systematic discrimination in prisons where Muslim inmates faced disproportionate use of force. France experienced a 75% surge in anti-Muslim incidents during the first five months of 2025, with violence targeting individuals more than tripling and culminating in two murders within weeks of each other.

However, Europe's substantial positive developments—representing 37% of the global total according to the Observatory's data, with the UK alone accounting for the largest share—reflect the region's robust civil society organizations, functioning judicial systems willing to intervene against discrimination, media regulatory bodies holding broadcasters accountable, and political figures occasionally pushing back against Islamophobic proposals. The UK's judicial convictions of far-right extremists planning mosque attacks, Meta's removal of hate-promoting accounts, police banning of provocative demonstrations in Muslim-majority areas, and grassroots interfaith solidarity demonstrated that countervailing institutional and social forces remained operative despite the overall hostile environment.

France's positive developments, while more modest, included Prime Minister Bayrou's public rejection of proposals to ban hijab for minors under 15, declaring "I don't want to make Islam a subject of fixation for French society," and judicial protection of the Ibn Sina Islamic middle school against government closure attempts. These counterbalancing forces suggest that while Islamophobia remains deeply embedded in European societies and increasingly normalized in political discourse, the continent has developed institutional mechanisms and civic traditions that can be mobilized to resist the most extreme manifestations when political will exists and civil society pressure mounts.

North America presents a complex landscape with manifestations representing a significant portion of global incidents—the United States alone accounting for 20%—while simultaneously demonstrating the highest proportion of positive developments at 31% of the global total. This pattern reflects a deeply polarized society where systematic discrimination and violence persist alongside robust legal protections, civil society advocacy, and institutional accountability mechanisms. The U.S. documented record-breaking civil rights violations with

complaints rising to the highest level since systematic monitoring began in 1996, systematic educational bullying where half of Muslim students experienced harassment, AI-generated hateful content surging through the second half of the year, and toxic political rhetoric from elected officials including proposals to "kick every dirty Muslim out of Texas" and accusations that USAID was funding "terrorist organizations" simply because their names included "Islam" or "Palestine."

Yet North America's positive developments proved equally substantial: judicial accountability through terrorism convictions and hate crime prosecutions, comprehensive legislative initiatives including reintroduction of the Combating International Islamophobia Act, educational accommodations with school districts recognizing Eid as an official holiday, corporate accountability with Meta removing hate-promoting content, and vibrant interfaith solidarity with Christian and Jewish leaders condemning Islamophobic attacks. The relative equilibrium between negative manifestations and positive developments suggests a society engaged in active contestation over Muslim communities' treatment, with neither Islamophobic forces nor their opponents gaining decisive permanent momentum, but rather cycles of escalation met by resistance that prevent complete normalization of discrimination.

Australia stands out with remarkably fewer recorded incidents of both Islamophobic manifestations and positive developments compared to other continents. This pattern reflects Australia's relatively smaller Muslim population and geographic distance from major geopolitical flashpoints that trigger anti-Muslim sentiment elsewhere. However, the minimal positive developments—representing only 9% of the global total—suggest a concerning absence of proactive institutional measures to address existing Islamophobia or build inclusive frameworks for Muslim community integration. The lack of visible crisis does not necessarily indicate genuine social cohesion; rather, it may reflect limited monitoring infrastructure, inadequate reporting mechanisms for Muslim communities to document discrimination, or the operation of more subtle exclusionary practices that remain invisible to current documentation systems. Australia's modest presence in both categories underscores how statistical absence can mask underlying tensions requiring attention before they escalate to the levels documented in other regions.

The comparative analysis across continents reveals profound disparities in both the intensity of Islamophobia and the robustness of societal responses. Asia's

overwhelming concentration of incidents—driven primarily by India's systematic state-sponsored persecution and the Occupied Palestinian Territory's religious erasure policies—combined with relatively modest positive developments, creates the starkest imbalance globally. This stands in sharp contrast to Europe and North America, where substantial counter-measures more meaningfully balance negative trends despite those regions experiencing their own crises of rising anti-Muslim hatred.

These continental patterns demonstrate that Islamophobia, while a global phenomenon, manifests through dramatically different mechanisms and meets vastly different institutional responses depending on regional contexts. In Asia, Islamophobia operates primarily through state policies and actions, with governments actively promoting, legislating, and enforcing discrimination against Muslim populations. Legislative seizures of religious properties, administrative control of mosques, systematic destruction of Islamic infrastructure, mass deportations, and judicial complicity create comprehensive architectures of persecution that isolated positive developments—primarily from civil society and occasionally from lower courts—cannot effectively counter.

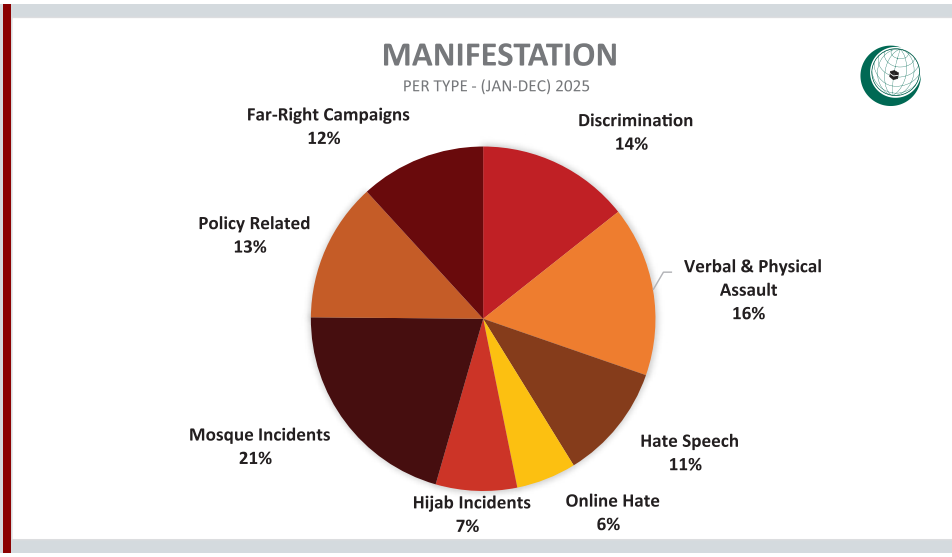
In Europe, Islamophobia manifests through a combination of far-right mobilization, political rhetoric normalizing anti-Muslim sentiment, and policy proposals targeting religious practices, operating within democratic systems that retain (though increasingly strained) institutional checks and balances. The substantial positive developments reflect functioning judicial independence, civil society capacity, and occasional political courage that can resist the most extreme proposals, even as the overall trajectory remains concerning.

In North America, Islamophobia reflects deep societal polarization, with systematic discrimination and hate crimes operating alongside robust legal frameworks and advocacy networks that achieve meaningful accountability for at least some perpetrators and institutional protections for at least some Muslim rights. The contestation remains active and outcomes uncertain, with neither complete normalization of hatred nor comprehensive protection achieved.

The regional disparities underscore that effective responses to Islamophobia cannot follow a one-size-fits-all approach. Asia requires international pressure on state actors engaging in systematic discrimination, sanctions for governments violating religious freedom, and support for embattled civil society organizations documenting abuses under hostile conditions. Europe needs strengthening of

existing institutional protections against erosion by far-right political forces, enforcement of hate speech regulations including on digital platforms, and political leadership willing to resist rather than exploit anti-Muslim sentiment for electoral advantage. North America requires consistent application of existing legal protections, educational interventions addressing systematic bullying, platform accountability for algorithmic amplification of hatred, and political courage to reject rather than normalize Islamophobic rhetoric.

The global pattern revealed through continental analysis demonstrates that while Islamophobia threatens Muslim communities worldwide, the specific drivers, manifestations, and potential intervention points vary dramatically across regions. Strengthening transnational solidarity networks that can share effective strategies—Europe's judicial interventions, North America's legislative frameworks, civil society documentation methodologies, interfaith coalition building—while adapting approaches to regional contexts offers the most promising path toward reversing trajectories that in 2025 saw anti-Muslim hatred intensify across multiple continents with inadequate coordinated global response.



Mosque-related incidents emerged as the single largest category of Islamophobic manifestations in 2025, constituting approximately one-fifth of all documented cases. This prominence reflects systematic targeting of Islamic sacred spaces ranging from violent attacks and vandalism to administrative seizures and desecration. In the United Kingdom, verified attacks targeted mosques with incidents escalating from vandalism to coordinated symbolic intimidation and arson attempts, including an explosive device thrown through a window while worshippers prayed inside.

The Occupied Palestinian Territory witnessed the most extreme manifestations, with Israeli military forces destroying over 1,100 mosques in Gaza—an average of more than two mosques destroyed daily—while simultaneously completing administrative seizure of the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, transferring control from Palestinian authorities to a settler religious council. France experienced attacks including mosque vandalism and the September incident where nine severed pig heads were scattered on mosque doorsteps across Paris. The concentration of mosque-related incidents across such diverse geographic contexts demonstrates how Islamic sacred spaces have become primary targets for those seeking to terrorize Muslim communities and symbolically assert their exclusion from social belonging.

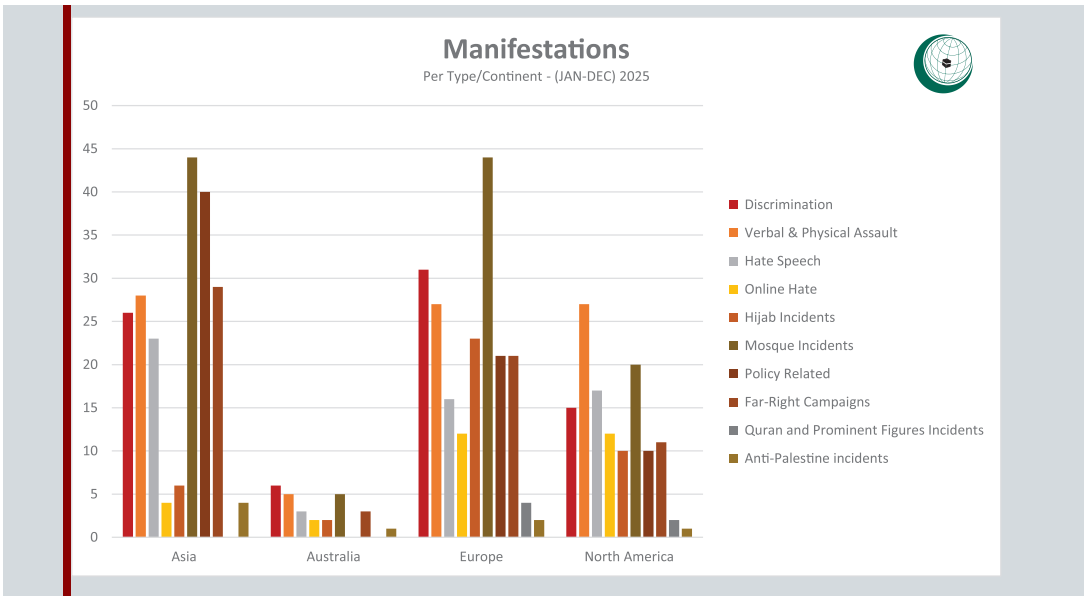
Verbal and physical assault constituted the second-largest category, representing immediate bodily harm and psychological trauma inflicted on Muslim individuals. In France, two murders exemplified the lethal endpoint of this violence, while the United Kingdom witnessed violence targeting individuals more than triple in early 2025, with street-based threatening behavior rising dramatically. The Occupied Palestinian Territory saw thousands participate in state-funded marches chanting "death to the Arabs" and "may their villages burn." The fact that verbal and physical assault constituted such a substantial proportion—with violence increasingly turning lethal—demonstrated that Islamophobia in 2025 involved direct threats to Muslim lives and physical safety.

Discrimination represented systematic exclusion and unequal treatment across employment, education, healthcare, and public services. Educational discrimination proved particularly pervasive, with half of Muslim students in some regions experiencing bullying from peers due to religious identity, many missing school as a result, and substantial percentages changing their appearance or behavior to hide their Muslim identity. Survey data revealed Muslims reported experiencing religion-based discrimination at rates far exceeding other religious groups. This systematic discrimination operating across educational, professional, healthcare, and civic domains created comprehensive barriers to Muslim participation and advancement.

Policy-related manifestations represented state-sanctioned discrimination codified into legislation, administrative actions, and institutional practices. India's Waqf Amendment Bill threatened hundreds of thousands of religious properties, while mass deportations, madrasa closures, and new criminal legislation specifically targeted Muslim communities. France's governmental

report stigmatizing Muslim organizations, combined with proposals to ban hijab for young girls and prohibitions on Ramadan fasting for athletes, demonstrated policy-based discrimination. The concentration of policy-related incidents—operating through legislative action, administrative decisions, and institutional rules—demonstrated how Islamophobia had become embedded in governmental structures rather than remaining confined to individual prejudice.

Far-right campaigns constituted a significant organized category reflecting coordinated mobilization rather than isolated incidents. Tommy Robinson's rally in the UK drew over 100,000 protesters, financed by international networks, while in the United States, candidates ran explicitly on platforms to expel Muslims, with campaign videos showing Quran burning and genocidal rhetoric. Organized campaigns featured systematic targeting with flags and Christian symbols used as tools of intimidation. These coordinated efforts—featuring organized rallies, international financing, and political candidates on explicitly anti-Muslim platforms—demonstrated that substantial portions of Islamophobia reflected deliberate mobilization.



Hate speech encompassed inflammatory rhetoric from political figures and public discourse that dehumanized Muslims and incited hostility. Political leaders used derogatory terms for Muslims, claimed they should be destroyed, labeled charitable organizations as "terrorist" simply for having Islamic names, and declared Islam a "death cult"—all while facing minimal accountability and often receiving political rewards for such incitement. The concentration of hate speech from elected officials, government ministers, and judicial figures demonstrated how inflammatory anti-Muslim rhetoric had been normalized in public discourse.

Hijab-related incidents represented specific targeting of Muslim women's religious dress, operating as both symbolic assault on Islamic practice and gendered Islamophobia. Legislative proposals sought to ban hijab for minors with criminal penalties for parents, while educational and workplace harassment targeted young girls and women for wearing religious dress. The gendered nature of hijab incidents—targeting visible markers of Muslim women's identity through legislative restriction, institutional harassment, and physical assault—demonstrated how Islamophobia intersected with misogyny to create particular vulnerabilities.

Online hate, while appearing as a smaller documented category, represented only the visible portion of a vastly larger digital phenomenon. Posts about Muslim political candidates generated hundreds of millions of engagements with substantial portions containing explicit anti-Muslim language, while AI-generated hateful content "sharply rose" featuring sexualized depictions, dehumanizing rhetoric, and conspiracy theories. Platform investigations revealed many anti-Muslim accounts were run from other countries, monetizing Islamophobia for profit. The relatively small proportion of documented online hate reflected monitoring challenges rather than actual prevalence, with reported violations across major platforms resulting in zero content removals, suggesting figures represented only a fraction of actual digital Islamophobia.

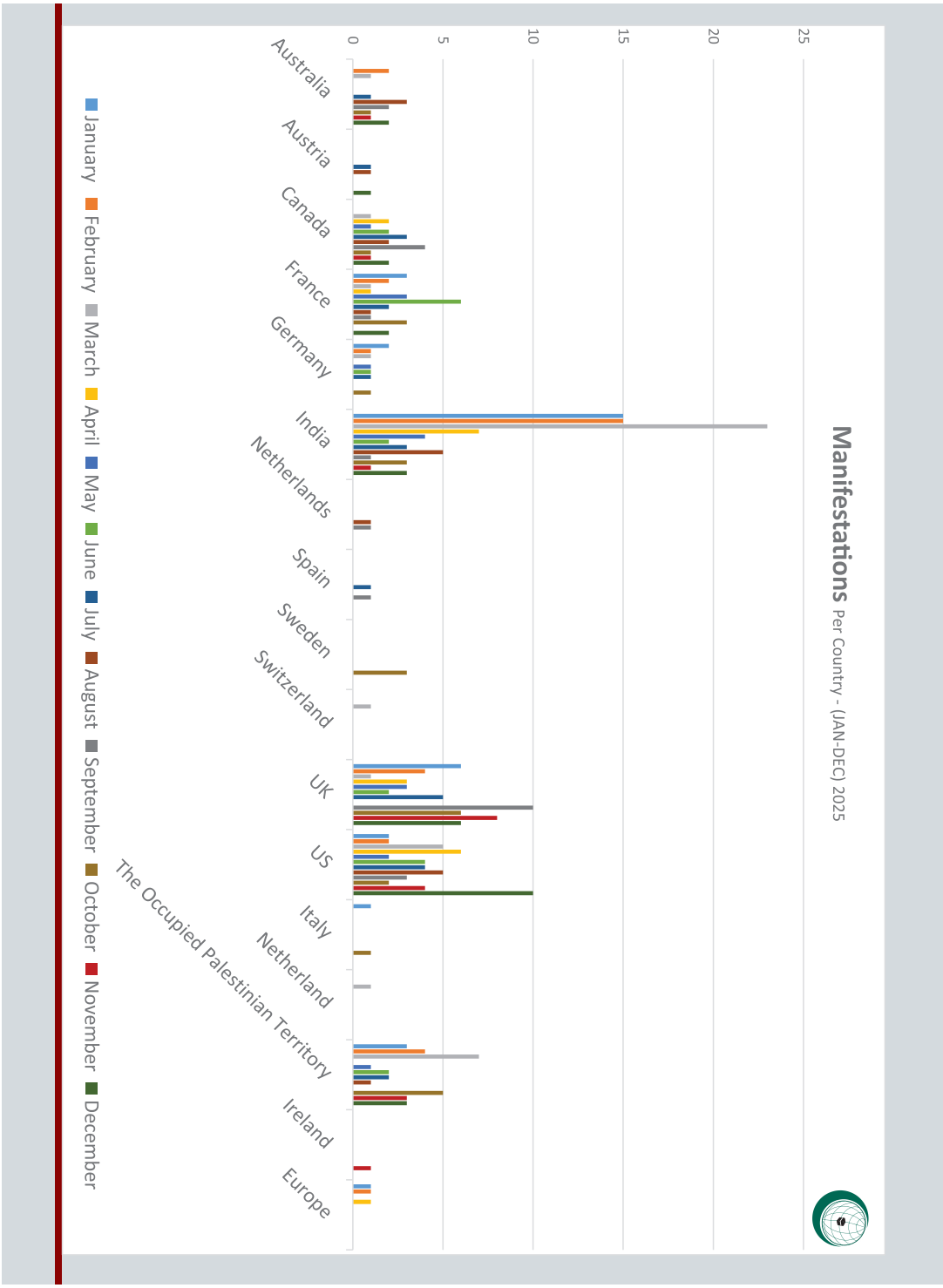
The distribution pattern across these categories reveals concerning diversification of Islamophobic expressions across multiple domains. The prominence of mosque-related incidents and verbal/physical assault demonstrated immediate threats to Muslim safety and sacred spaces. The substantial shares of discrimination and policy-related manifestations showed systematic embedding of anti-Muslim bias in institutions and governmental structures. The significance of far-right campaigns and hate speech from political figures revealed coordinated mobilization and normalized incitement.

When viewed holistically, this distribution demonstrates how Islamophobia in 2025 operated through interlocking systems—from organized political movements financed by international networks to institutional policies codifying discrimination, from public discourse featuring hate speech by elected officials to private acts of lethal violence, from administrative seizure of mosques to AI-generated content monetizing hatred. This multi-dimensional architecture created comprehensive environments of hostility affecting Muslims across numerous life aspects: their safety in public spaces, their access to education

and employment, their ability to practice religion freely, their participation in civic life, and their sense of belonging in societies increasingly treating Muslim identity as incompatible with national citizenship. Addressing this systematized Islamophobia requires equally diverse and coordinated responses targeting not merely individual manifestations but the structural factors—political incentives rewarding anti-Muslim rhetoric, algorithmic systems amplifying hatred, inadequate legal enforcement, international financing networks, and governmental policies—that enable and normalize anti-Muslim bigotry within contemporary societies.

Geographic Distribution of Islamophobia Manifestations

The distribution of Islamophobia manifestations across countries throughout 2025 reveals unmistakable patterns demanding immediate attention. India stands as the most dramatic outlier, with incident rates towering over every other nation during the observed period. The concentration peaked dramatically in March, correlating with state election campaigns featuring inflammatory anti-Muslim rhetoric, the intensification of legislative attacks on waqf properties, and the escalation of communal violence that would characterize much of the year. This aligns with documented systematic state-sponsored discrimination where the ruling party has promoted ideologies that marginalize Muslim communities through legislative action, administrative seizures, mass deportations, and normalized hate speech from the highest political offices. The sustained elevation across subsequent months demonstrated how initial surges establish new baselines of normalized hostility rather than representing temporary aberrations.


Manifestations Per Country - (JAN-DEC) 2025
25
20
15
10
5
0
Australia
Austria
Canada
France
Germany
India
Netherlands
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
UK
US
Italy
Netherland
The Occupied Palestinian Territory
Ireland
Europe
January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December

The United Kingdom and United States show substantial patterns as well, though at significantly lower absolute levels than India. The UK's distribution reveals persistent activity throughout the year with notable concentration in late summer and autumn months, reflecting the aftermath of the 2024 Southport riots, the September rally that drew over 100,000 protesters, and the systematic targeting of mosques that saw attacks escalate from vandalism to arson attempts. The temporal clustering particularly around far-right mobilizations demonstrates how organized campaigns can rapidly elevate incident levels. Similarly, the US data reflects patterns where Muslims remain among the most targeted religious groups, with incidents clustering around political campaign intensification, the spike following a Muslim candidate's mayoral primary victory, and systematic educational bullying that persists throughout academic calendars. The consistent reporting across months indicates how Islamophobia has become embedded in political discourse in both nations, operating through both episodic escalations and structural persistence.

The Occupied Palestinian Territory exhibits a distinctive pattern with sustained activity throughout the year but notable concentration in specific months corresponding to religious observances and intensifying occupation policies. The temporal distribution reflects the February refusal to hand over Ibrahimi Mosque administration during Ramadan, the July administrative transfer to settler control, the August violation of Al-Aqsa status quo by a government minister, and the systematic destruction of mosques in Gaza proceeding throughout the period. Unlike other countries where incidents spike around triggering events before subsiding, the Occupied Palestinian Territory demonstrates how state-sanctioned policies create sustained elevated levels reflecting ongoing rather than episodic persecution. The pattern illustrates Islamophobia operating not through discrete incidents but through continuous systematic erasure of Muslim religious presence and rights.

France displays concentrated activity particularly in spring and late year, with the March spike coinciding with the first quarter's documented 72% increase in anti-Muslim acts, the April and May murders of Muslim men, and the release of the controversial Muslim Brotherhood report stigmatizing Muslim organizations. The temporal clustering demonstrates how governmental rhetoric and policies can catalyze violence, with lethal attacks occurring within the context of state-sponsored stigmatization. European countries more broadly show varied patterns: some demonstrate sporadic low-level activity reflecting

ongoing tensions around immigration and integration policies, while others show minimal documented incidents potentially indicating either lower actual incidence rates, more effective community dialogue and legal protections preventing escalation, or limitations in monitoring capacity and reporting mechanisms.

Canada's pattern reveals moderate but persistent activity, while Australia shows relatively minimal documented incidents despite a Muslim population experiencing challenges that may not always be captured in available documentation frameworks. The limited data reflects either genuinely lower incidence rates, different manifestations of discrimination operating through more subtle institutional mechanisms, or geographic distance from major geopolitical flashpoints that trigger anti-Muslim sentiment elsewhere. Several other countries show almost no documented activity, which may indicate successful integration policies, stronger social cohesion, or areas where monitoring infrastructure remains underdeveloped.

The temporal dimension reveals significant monthly variations with certain periods showing heightened activity across multiple countries simultaneously. The most striking pattern appears in March, when India experienced its most dramatic surge coinciding with elevated activity in France, the UK, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. This temporal clustering suggests transnational triggering events that activate Islamophobic sentiment across different national contexts simultaneously—whether through shared religious calendars like Ramadan, coordinated far-right campaigns operating across borders through international financing networks, algorithmic amplification of conspiracy theories spreading instantaneously across platforms, or geopolitical developments resonating globally. The October elevation across multiple countries demonstrates how anniversary events and renewed conflicts can create synchronized escalations despite vastly different local contexts.

This interconnectedness highlights the increasingly globalized nature of anti-Muslim rhetoric, where incidents in one region can quickly catalyze similar manifestations elsewhere through digital media networks and international political discourse. The fact that far-right figures travel between countries to speak at each other's rallies, that American billionaires finance British anti-Muslim activists, that Israeli government ministers host convicted British Islamophobes, and that AI-generated hateful content produced in one continent targets audiences in another demonstrates how Islamophobia has developed

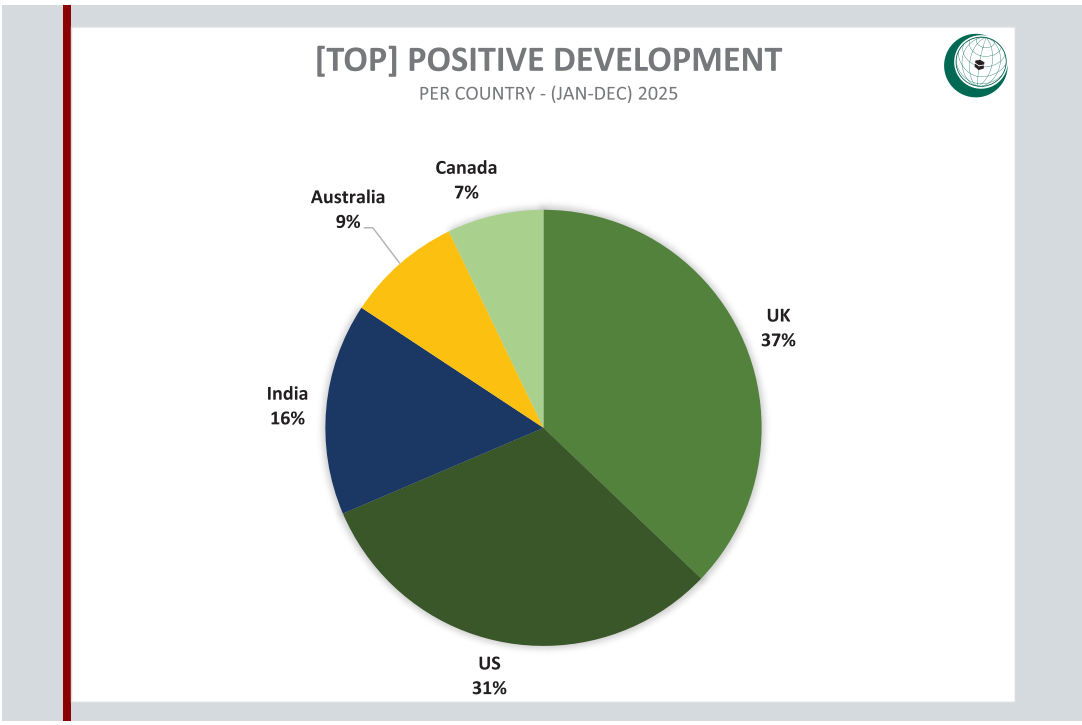
transnational infrastructure transcending national boundaries. Yet these global currents manifest through locally specific expressions shaped by each nation's particular history, political structure, demographic composition, and legal framework.

The striking contrast between India's overwhelming concentration and the relatively modest numbers across other nations illustrates how Islamophobia manifests through different mechanisms in different socio-political contexts. India's dramatic levels reflect systematic state-sponsored discrimination operating through legislative seizures, administrative actions, mass deportations, judicial complicity, and normalized political incitement creating comprehensive architecture of persecution. The United Kingdom and United States demonstrate how Islamophobia operates in democratic systems through far-right mobilization, algorithmic amplification, political exploitation, and inadequate accountability, with substantial civil society resistance creating contested rather than unidirectional trajectories. The Occupied Palestinian Territory reveals Islamophobia functioning as instrument of occupation and territorial control through administrative seizures of mosques, systematic destruction of religious infrastructure, and state-funded incitement. France shows how republican secularism can be weaponized against Muslim religious practice through legislative restrictions, governmental stigmatization reports, and inadequate response to lethal violence.

The geographic distribution provides crucial insights for intervention strategies. Countries like India require international pressure on state actors, sanctions for systematic discrimination, and support for embattled civil society. The UK and the US need consistent legal enforcement, platform accountability for algorithmic hatred, and political leadership rejecting rather than exploiting anti-Muslim sentiment. The Occupied Palestinian Territory demands international intervention to protect religious sites and prevent ongoing destruction. France requires political courage to reject making "Islam a subject of fixation" and judicial protection against discriminatory application of secular principles. Australia and countries with minimal documentation need strengthened monitoring infrastructure to reveal whether low numbers reflect genuine inclusion or invisible discrimination.

It also reveals that addressing Islamophobia in 2025 requires both context-specific interventions attending to each nation's particular manifestations and coordinated international responses recognizing the global infrastructure—

financing networks, digital platforms, political alliances, ideological movements—that connects these seemingly disparate incidents into a worldwide phenomenon threatening Muslim communities' safety, dignity, and fundamental rights across diverse settings.



Despite the concerning trends of Islamophobia observed throughout 2025, it is encouraging to note that substantial efforts have been made in various parts of the world to promote harmony, tolerance, and counter anti-Islamic sentiments and activities. These initiatives, undertaken by governments, judicial systems, civil society organizations, and community leaders, represent crucial signs of resistance in the ongoing battle against the normalization of hatred and violence toward Muslims. The distribution reveals that positive developments have been concentrated primarily in the United Kingdom, United States, and India—nations that together account for the overwhelming majority of documented constructive actions. This pattern suggests a complex relationship where countries experiencing the highest rates of Islamophobic incidents are simultaneously those where the most significant countermeasures are being implemented, perhaps reflecting both the urgency created by crisis conditions and the existence of institutional mechanisms, civil society capacity, and democratic traditions that can be mobilized to respond.

The United Kingdom emerges as the global leader in positive developments, accounting for more than one-third of all documented initiatives worldwide. British efforts have spanned judicial accountability through terrorism convictions of far-right extremists planning mosque attacks, law enforcement interventions including the arrest of anti-Muslim activists and the banning of provocative demonstrations in Muslim-majority areas, public policy initiatives providing new powers to manage protests near religious sites, media regulation with platforms removing hate-promoting accounts, and institutional reforms including the dismissal of police officers expressing discriminatory views. The breadth of UK positive developments—from court decisions prosecuting perpetrators to Prime Minister's condemnation of far-right mobilization as "the fight of our times," from Meta's removal of accounts reaching millions to grassroots interfaith solidarity painting over Islamophobic graffiti—demonstrates how multiple sectors of British society mobilized countervailing responses despite the overall hostile environment. These multifaceted approaches reflect attempts to address Islamophobia through both structural reforms and grassroots engagement, though their adequacy relative to the scale of the crisis remains contested.

The United States follows with nearly one-third of global positive developments, demonstrating substantial institutional capacity for resistance despite record-breaking civil rights violations. American initiatives have included judicial accountability through criminal prosecutions and hate crime charges, comprehensive legislative efforts with reintroduction of bills to establish a Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Islamophobia and prevent future discriminatory bans, educational accommodations with school districts recognizing Islamic holidays and providing Ramadan meal support, disciplinary action against educators who discriminated, corporate accountability with platforms apologizing for failures, and vibrant interfaith solidarity with Christian and Jewish leaders condemning attacks and opposing Islamophobic rhetoric from political figures. The recognition of Islamophobia Awareness Month, the establishment of hate crime reporting hotlines, and political figures publicly rejecting proposals to ban hijab demonstrate that even within deeply polarized environments, mechanisms exist for asserting Muslim communities' rights and dignity. The relative equilibrium between the scale of negative manifestations and positive responses suggests ongoing contestation rather than unidirectional trajectory, with neither complete normalization of hatred nor comprehensive protection achieved.

India's substantial share of positive developments represents a noteworthy counterbalance to its role as the primary global hotspot for Islamophobic manifestations. These constructive efforts have included significant Supreme Court interventions suspending discriminatory legislation, prosecuting political figures for inciting communal violence, and providing relief to educational institutions, alongside law enforcement accountability through arrests of perpetrators and exposure of false-flag operations designed to frame Muslims. Cultural recognition through interfaith preservation of heritage sites, public apologies for harassment, and civil society documentation creating evidentiary records for advocacy have demonstrated resistance to systematic persecution. However, the gap between positive developments and the comprehensive architecture of state-sponsored discrimination—legislative seizures, mass deportations, normalized hate speech from the highest offices, systematic violence—underscores that these countermeasures, while meaningful, remain insufficient to reverse the overall trajectory threatening India's Muslim population.

Canada's modest but significant contribution highlights how nations with stronger histories of multiculturalism continue developing and refining approaches even when facing fewer acute crises. Australian positive developments, while representing a smaller share, demonstrate engagement across diverse geographic contexts. The representation of various European countries signals different national approaches to combating Islamophobia shaped by distinct legal traditions, political cultures, and integration histories. Some nations have pioneered research-based approaches to addressing religious discrimination, while others have implemented reforms following specific triggering events, demonstrating how tragedy can catalyze sustained commitment when supported by ongoing political will and institutional follow-through.

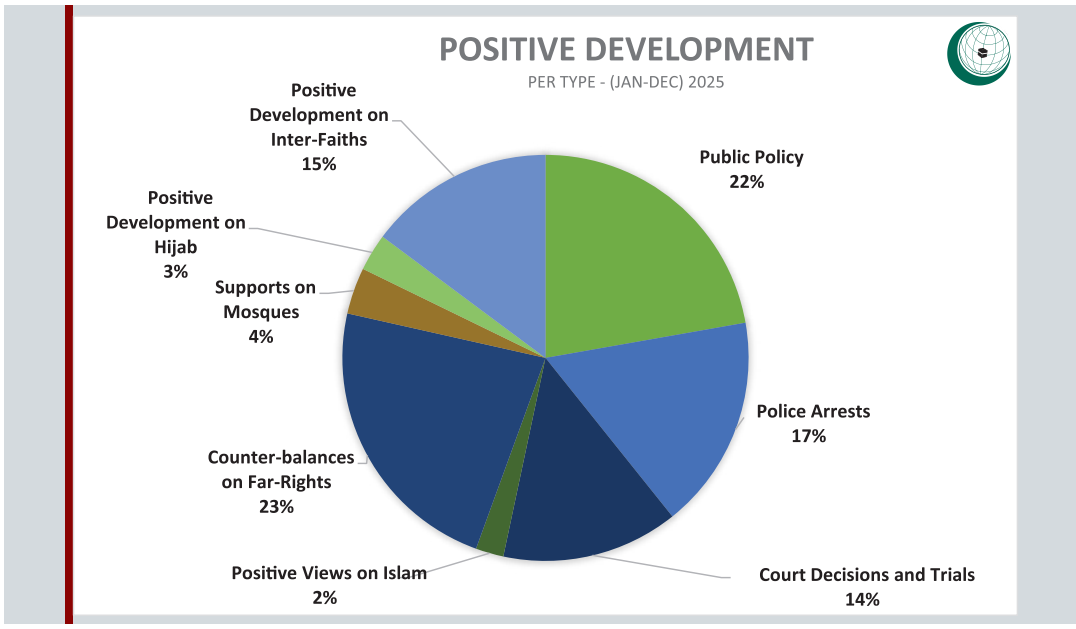
A particularly encouraging aspect from the Observatory's finding is the diverse nature of positive developments across countries, suggesting a multifaceted global response to Islamophobia operating through multiple channels simultaneously. Judicial interventions have provided accountability for hate crimes and terrorism offenses while protecting Muslim institutions from discriminatory closure. Legislative initiatives have sought to establish international monitoring mechanisms, prevent future discriminatory bans, and recognize Islamophobia as requiring specific attention. Public policy measures have included security funding for religious institutions, establishment of reporting mechanisms, and official recognition of Muslim holidays and observances. Law enforcement

actions have ranged from arrests of perpetrators to investigations characterizing anti-Muslim violence as terrorism when legally appropriate. Corporate accountability has occasionally functioned through platform content removal and apologies for systemic failures. Political leadership has sometimes provided pushback against discriminatory proposals and condemnation of far-right mobilization. Interfaith solidarity has manifested through coalition statements, joint advocacy, and community organizing across religious boundaries.

This diversity of approaches demonstrates growing understanding—at least within certain sectors and institutions—that effectively addressing Islamophobia requires comprehensive strategies targeting both structural factors and social attitudes. The combination of top-down policy changes and bottom-up community engagement visible across multiple countries offers promising models, though their effectiveness relative to the intensifying crisis remains uncertain. Judicial interventions prove meaningful only when consistently applied rather than sporadic, legislative initiatives require actual passage and implementation rather than repeated introduction without enactment, public policy measures need adequate funding and political will, law enforcement accountability demands overcoming systemic bias within policing institutions, corporate responsibility requires fundamental algorithmic reforms rather than reactive content removal, and political leadership must be sustained rather than episodic.

The geographic concentration of positive developments in the UK, US, and India—the same countries experiencing the most severe manifestations—reveals a critical dynamic. These nations possess institutional mechanisms (independent judiciaries, civil society organizations, advocacy networks, media accountability bodies) and democratic traditions (despite increasing strain) that enable resistance to Islamophobia even as it intensifies. The Occupied Palestinian Territory, despite accounting for significant manifestations, shows minimal positive developments, reflecting how systematic state-sponsored religious erasure operates beyond the reach of domestic countermeasures, requiring international intervention. France's limited positive developments relative to its crisis level suggest inadequate mobilization of resistance compared to need. Countries showing minimal manifestations and minimal positive developments may indicate either successful integration rendering specific interventions unnecessary or invisibility of Muslim experiences in regional discourse masking underlying tensions.

This finding demonstrates that while Islamophobia threatens Muslim communities worldwide, the capacity and willingness to mount institutional, legal, and social resistance varies dramatically across contexts. Nations with functioning judicial independence, robust civil society, traditions of interfaith cooperation, and occasional political courage can generate meaningful countermeasures even amid severe crises. Those where Islamophobia operates primarily through state policies with judicial complicity, civil society suppression, and political unanimity in anti-Muslim sentiment find resistance far more difficult and dangerous. The challenge for the international community is strengthening positive developments where they exist, replicating effective strategies across contexts, and providing external pressure and support where domestic resistance proves insufficient to protect Muslim communities from systematic persecution, violence, and erasure of their fundamental rights to safety, dignity, and religious freedom.



Counter-balances to far-right extremism emerge as the most substantial category of positive developments throughout 2025, reflecting growing recognition that organized anti-Islam movements require specific strategic responses beyond general anti-discrimination measures. These counter-measures have encompassed law enforcement actions including arrests of far-right activists planning terrorist attacks on mosques, police banning of provocative demonstrations in Muslim-majority areas to prevent serious disorder, and investigations characterizing anti-Muslim violence as terrorism when perpetrators sought to "disrupt public order through terror." Media and platform interventions have included removal of accounts promoting hate content reaching

millions of followers, though the fact that reported community guidelines violations across major platforms resulted in zero content removals suggests persistent inadequacies in enforcement. Political pushback has occasionally materialized, with some leaders condemning far-right rallies as representing "the fight of our times" and criticizing the hosting of convicted Islamophobes by government ministers as "irresponsible and deeply dangerous behaviour." Civil society coalition building has brought together diverse communities—including Christian and Jewish religious leaders publicly denouncing attacks on Muslim representatives and standing in solidarity against bigotry—to resist extremist narratives attempting to normalize anti-Muslim hatred.

The significant proportion of efforts specifically targeting far-right movements corresponds directly with data showing organized campaigns constituting a major manifestation category, suggesting responsive adaptation in counter-strategies. However, the adequacy of these responses relative to the scale of far-right mobilization—including internationally financed rallies drawing massive participants, political candidates running on explicitly anti-Muslim platforms, and transatlantic networks linking activists across continents—remains questionable. The fact that counter-balances constitute the largest positive development category demonstrates that far-right extremism has been recognized as the primary organizational vector for contemporary Islamophobia requiring concentrated intervention.

Public policy improvements represent another substantial category, demonstrating how governmental systems at various levels have incorporated specific protections and considerations for Muslim communities into operational frameworks. These initiatives have ranged from parliamentary recognition of Islamophobic murders through minutes of silence to establishment of hate crime reporting hotlines, from allocation of security funding for mosques and religious institutions to legislative proposals creating specialized envoys for monitoring and combating Islamophobia internationally. Educational accommodations including recognition of Islamic holidays on academic calendars, provision of Ramadan meal support, and disciplinary action against educators who harassed students represent policy-level commitments to inclusion. Some political leadership has provided crucial pushback against discriminatory proposals, with one prime minister publicly rejecting hijab bans for minors by declaring unwillingness to "make Islam a subject of fixation" and questioning the enforcement practicality of such measures. However, the gap between policy proposals and actual

implementation, between individual initiatives and comprehensive frameworks, and between symbolic gestures and substantive protections suggests that while public policy positive developments are substantial in number, their transformative impact remains limited relative to systemic challenges.

Police arrests and law enforcement interventions constitute a significant category, indicating some increased accountability for those perpetrating anti-Muslim hate crimes. Arrests have included perpetrators of murders characterized appropriately as motivated by religious hatred, individuals planning mass shootings at mosques, suspects in arson attacks intended to endanger life, and participants in violent assaults. The willingness of some prosecutors to open terrorism investigations when anti-Muslim violence meets legal definitions, to characterize acts appropriately as hate crimes, and to pursue enhanced charges represents important recognition within justice systems of the severity of Islamophobic offenses. However, the persistence of impunity in numerous cases—including riots where no arrests were made despite video evidence, political figures facing no consequences for genocidal rhetoric, and systematic patterns of police bias documented within law enforcement institutions themselves—demonstrates that arrests represent selective rather than consistent accountability. The fact that law enforcement positive developments constitute a substantial category while simultaneously policing institutions exhibit systematic discrimination against Muslim communities reveals the contradictory and contested nature of these responses.

Court decisions and trials represent crucial judicial interventions providing both accountability for perpetrators and protection for Muslim institutions and individuals. Convictions have included terrorism sentences for extremists planning mosque attacks and manufacturing weapons, hate crime charges for individuals burning sacred texts while shouting slurs, prosecutions of those who created online channels encouraging violence against mosques, and sentencing of perpetrators who committed murders motivated by anti-Muslim hatred. Judicial protection has manifested through courts overturning discriminatory government decisions to close Muslim educational institutions, suspending implementation of legislation threatening religious properties, and providing relief against bulldozer demolitions. These judicial responses range from prosecutions establishing criminal accountability to rulings protecting religious freedoms and institutional rights. The substantial representation of court-related positive developments indicates some institutionalization of protections within

legal frameworks, though the effectiveness depends entirely on consistent application, adequate resources, judicial independence from political pressure, and enforcement of rulings—conditions that vary dramatically across jurisdictions.

Interfaith initiatives constitute a meaningful though smaller category, demonstrating how coalition building across religious communities can provide solidarity and resistance to anti-Muslim hatred. Religious leaders from Christian and Jewish traditions have publicly condemned Islamophobic attacks, sent demand letters to elected officials urging denunciation of hateful rhetoric, and characterized desecration of sacred texts as distortions of their own faiths' messages. Grassroots cooperation has manifested through sustained food bank operations bringing together Muslim and Jewish volunteers, community organizing to remove hate graffiti, and public statements from progressive organizations standing against racist attacks even when perpetrated by institutions claiming to represent their communities. Historic cultural recognitions including interfaith observances at venues like Windsor Castle and mayoral appointments of Muslim women wearing hijab represent symbolic progress. However, the relatively limited proportion of interfaith initiatives compared to institutional responses suggests this approach—which addresses underlying prejudices and builds social cohesion before crises emerge—remains underutilized relative to its potential impact.

Mosque support initiatives, while modest in overall proportion, represent targeted responses to the fact that mosque-related incidents constituted the largest manifestation category. Support has included security funding, police protection announcements following attacks, community solidarity demonstrations when mosques were vandalized, and investigations treating desecration seriously. The relatively small share of mosque support positive developments relative to the scale of mosque targeting—from wholesale destruction in Gaza to coordinated attacks in the UK to provocative desecration in France—demonstrates inadequate response to this primary vector of anti-Muslim violence.

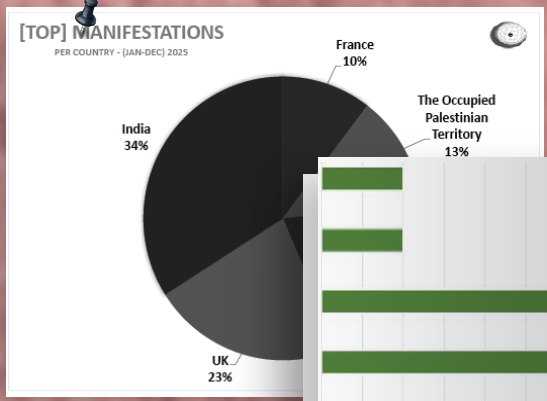
Hijab-related positive developments represent the smallest documented category, despite hijab incidents constituting a significant manifestation type through legislative restriction proposals, workplace and educational harassment, and physical assaults targeting Muslim women's religious dress. The limited positive developments—primarily disciplinary action against educators who harassed students and political pushback against ban proposals—prove grossly

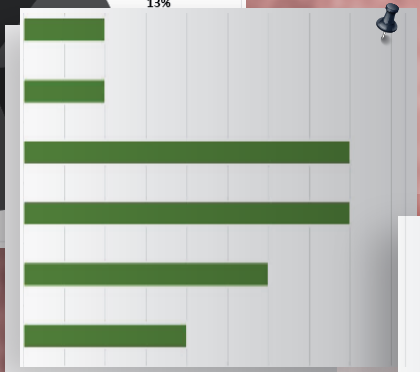
insufficient relative to the systematic targeting of hijab across multiple domains. Similarly, positive views on Islam in media and public discourse constitute a minimal category, reflecting the reality that inflammatory rhetoric from political figures, conspiracist narratives on platforms, and AI-generated dehumanizing content vastly outweigh constructive portrayals.

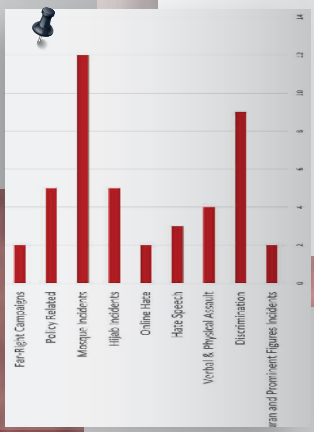
This distribution reveals that formal institutional responses—counter-balances to far-right extremism, public policy measures, police arrests, and court decisions—currently dominate positive development landscapes, outweighing cultural and social approaches like interfaith dialogue, positive media representation, and community-building initiatives. This pattern suggests that responses tend to be reactive rather than preventive, addressing manifestations after they occur rather than transforming underlying attitudes and structures that generate Islamophobia. The relatively limited representation of approaches addressing root causes—prejudices, misconceptions, dehumanizing narratives, social divisions—points to critical gaps in comprehensive anti-Islamophobia strategies.

The 2025 analysis reveals how positive developments, while substantial in certain categories, remain inadequate relative to the intensifying crisis. Counter-balances to far-right extremism, though the largest category, have not prevented far-right movements from achieving unprecedented mobilization and political normalization. Public policy improvements, while meaningful, have not reversed legislative trajectories toward greater restriction of Muslim religious practice. Police arrests provide selective accountability but coexist with systematic bias within law enforcement institutions. Court decisions offer crucial protections but depend on consistent application often lacking. Interfaith initiatives build important solidarity but reach limited audiences compared to mass amplification of hatred. Mosque support and hijab-related positive developments prove grossly insufficient relative to targeting of these primary vectors.

This typological distribution demonstrates that while mechanisms for resistance exist and are being deployed across multiple domains—judicial, political, law enforcement, civil society, interfaith—their collective impact has proven insufficient to reverse trajectories seeing Islamophobic manifestations intensify in severity, lethality, and systematic embedding within institutional structures and political discourse. Addressing this gap requires not merely continuing existing positive development categories but fundamentally scaling responses, ensuring consistent rather than selective application, transforming reactive interventions into preventive strategies, and mobilizing political will to confront rather than exploit anti-Muslim sentiment for electoral or geopolitical advantage.







HOT SPOTS OF ISLAMOPHOBIA
(JANUARY-DECEMBER 2025)

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Islamophobia—the fear, hatred, or prejudice towards Islam and Muslims—continues to persist as a deeply troubling global phenomenon, manifesting at varying degrees across different regions. In certain areas, deemed as 'hot spots,' Islamophobic attitudes and incidents have become particularly pronounced, posing significant challenges to Muslim communities and undermining the fundamental values of tolerance, dignity, and peaceful coexistence.

The term "hot spots" refers to areas or regions experiencing heightened levels of anti-Islam activity, discrimination, or hostility compared to their surroundings. These hot spots represent focal points where complex socio-political factors intersect, creating intense situations that demand close attention and prompt action from the international community. They may be countries where institutional discrimination against Islam and Muslims has become normalized or even codified into law, regions witnessing spikes in hate crimes targeting Muslim individuals and communities, areas where inflammatory rhetoric against Islam has gained prominence in public discourse and political campaigns, or territories where Muslim populations face systematic exclusion from civic life and economic opportunity.

As we examine the landscape of 2025, it is crucial to recognize both the persistent patterns and emerging trends in Islamophobic incidents worldwide. This year's report documents not only the continuation of previously identified hot spots but also the emergence of new areas of concern, reflecting the dynamic and evolving nature of anti-Muslim prejudice in our interconnected world. Understanding these developments is essential for developing effective strategies to combat Islamophobia and protect the rights and safety of Muslim communities globally.

MANDATE FROM OIC MEMBER STATES

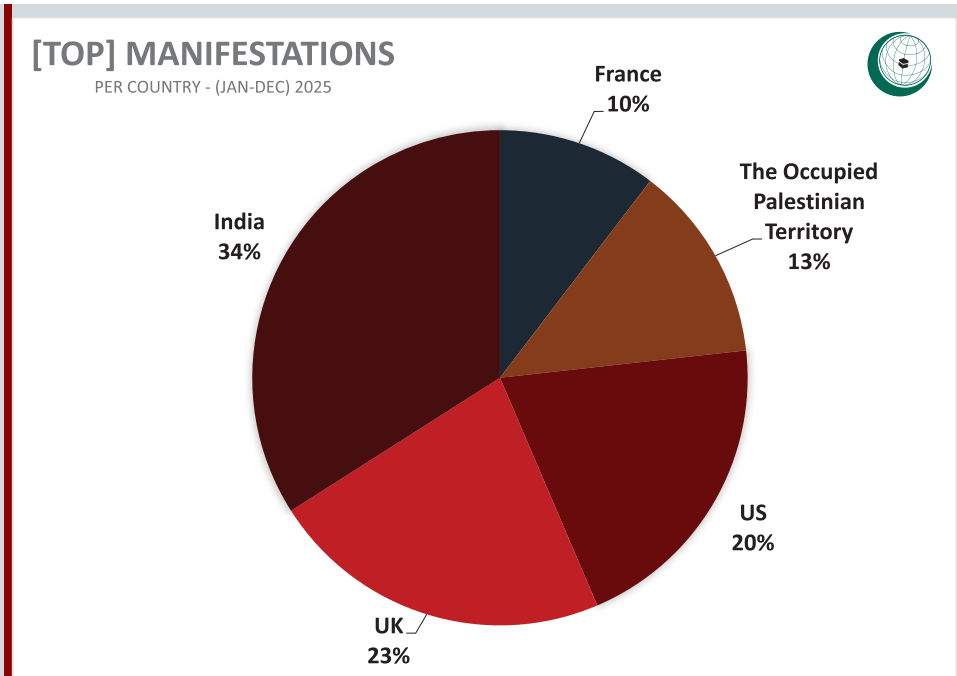
The importance of identifying and addressing these hot spots has been explicitly recognized by OIC Member States through Resolution No. 31/51-POL on Combating Islamophobia and Eliminating Hatred and Prejudice against Islam.

In Operative Paragraph 43, the Member States "…..***Further requests*** *the OIC's Islamophobia Observatory to prepare a list of 'countries of concern' where Islamophobic policies and actions are prevalent, endangering in particular safety of religious sites, as also provided in the Action Plan of the Contact Group on Peace and Dialogue."*

This clear mandate underscores the critical significance of this chapter within the broader report, highlighting the collective determination of OIC Member States to confront Islamophobia through systematic monitoring, documentation, and response. By entrusting the Islamophobia Observatory with the specific task of identifying countries of concern, Member States have established a formal mechanism to bring international attention to areas where Muslims face heightened discrimination and danger.

CURRENT HOT SPOTS

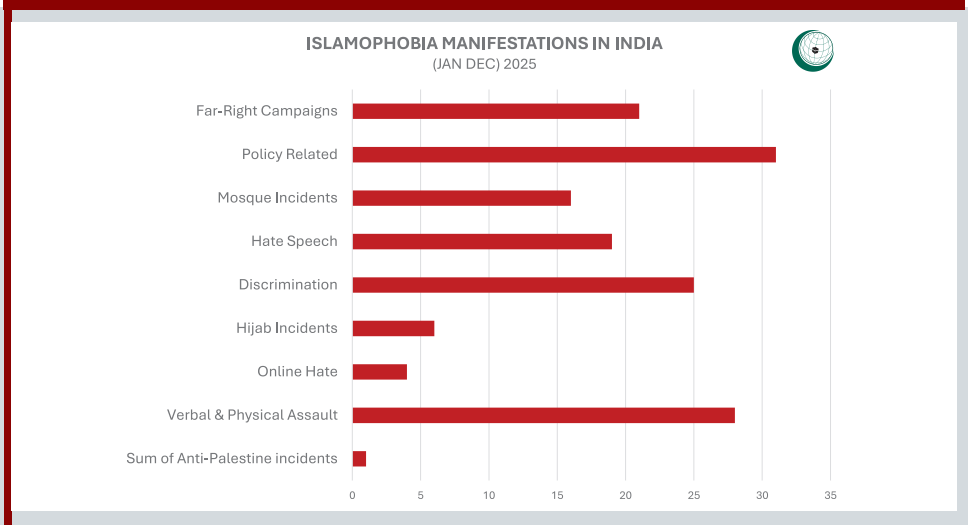
In fulfillment of this mandate, the Observatory has conducted thorough research and analysis covering the period from January to December 2025 to identify countries showing the most prevalent indicators of Islamophobia. This assessment has revealed a concerning concentration of Islamophobic manifestations across five key countries, with a notable shift in the distribution of incidents compared to the previous year:



- **India** (34%): While remaining the country with the highest concentration of Islamophobic incidents globally, India now accounts for approximately one-third of all documented manifestations. This represents a significant decrease from the previous year's 64%, though the absolute scale of incidents remains deeply troubling and demands sustained international attention.
- **United** Kingdom (23%): Emerging as a major hot spot in 2025, the UK has witnessed a dramatic increase in Islamophobic manifestations, now representing nearly a quarter of all documented incidents globally. This sharp rise reflects intensifying anti-Muslim sentiment and discriminatory practices that require urgent intervention.
- **United** States (20%): Maintaining its position as a significant hot spot, the US accounts for one-fifth of recorded incidents. The persistence of Islamophobic attitudes and actions across American society continues to pose serious challenges to Muslim communities.
- **The** Occupied Palestinian Territory (13%): Continuing to be a critical area of concern where Islamophobia intersects with broader geopolitical tensions, occupation policies, and ongoing conflict. The situation in this region remains particularly complex and demands nuanced understanding.
- **France** (10%): Demonstrating a substantial increase from previous monitoring periods, France now represents a tenth of global Islamophobic manifestations. This elevation reflects persistent and possibly intensifying anti-Muslim policies, rhetoric, and societal attitudes that warrant heightened scrutiny.

These five countries collectively account for the overwhelming majority of documented Islamophobic incidents worldwide, highlighting the urgent need for targeted interventions, policy reforms, and sustained advocacy efforts in these critical regions. The following sections provide detailed analyses of the situation in each of these hot spots, examining trends, incidents, policies, and their implications for Muslim communities and the broader goal of promoting mutual respect and understanding.

INDIA



India has maintained its position as a predominant global hotspot for Islamophobic incidents, accounting for 34% of all documented manifestations worldwide in 2025 according to the Observatory's statistics. While this represents a decrease from the previous year's 64%, the absolute scale, systematic nature, and state-sanctioned character of anti-Muslim persecution remain deeply alarming, demanding urgent international attention and intervention.

India has witnessed an accelerating surge in anti-Islamic rhetoric, discriminatory policies, and violent attacks targeting its Muslim minority population of approximately 200 million citizens. This concerning trend, intensifying over the past six years, has been fueled by a potent mixture of Hindu nationalism, majoritarian politics, state-sponsored discrimination, and deep-rooted societal biases that have fundamentally undermined India's constitutional commitment to pluralism and religious tolerance.

Central to this crisis is the rise and institutionalization of Hindutva ideology—a belief system envisioning India as an exclusively Hindu nation—which has increasingly sought to marginalize, intimidate, and economically destroy Muslim communities by portraying them as existential threats to India's cultural and religious identity. This narrative has been actively promoted not only by political leaders seeking to consolidate Hindu voter support, but has been codified into law, embedded within law enforcement agencies, and normalized through state institutions.

Legislative and Institutional Persecution

The year 2025 witnessed unprecedented legislative assaults on Muslim religious

autonomy. The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, passed in April 2025, fundamentally altered the governance of India's 872,324 immovable waqf properties spanning over 940,000 acres. The amendments mandated non-Muslim representation on waqf boards, transferred dispute resolution authority from waqf tribunals to government bureaucrats, restricted property dedication to Muslims who have practiced Islam for at least five years, and eliminated the "waqf by user" provision that historically protected centuries-old mosques and shrines. Critics characterized these changes as a systematic power grab enabling the state to seize Muslim religious properties under administrative pretexts, violating constitutional guarantees of religious freedom under Articles 25 and 26.

State governments intensified their targeting of Muslim educational institutions. In Uttarakhand alone, 52 madrasas were sealed in just 15 days under orders from Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, with Muslim organizations denouncing the closures as unconstitutional and discriminatory. In Assam, prominent educationist Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor of the University of Science and Technology (USTM)—an 'A' grade NAAC-accredited institution recognized as the best private university in Northeast India—was arrested by the Special Task Force following Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's inflammatory accusations that the university promoted "flood jihad" and featured a "Makka-like structure" as a sign of "jihad." Sarma had threatened that USTM graduates would be scrutinized and denied jobs in Assam.

In Assam, the state legislature passed the Prohibition of Polygamy Bill 2025, criminalizing polygamy with up to 10 years imprisonment and barring offenders from state employment and elections—a law critics argued was deliberately designed to target the Muslim minority despite polygamy being practiced across religious communities.

Mass Deportations and Citizenship Violations

One of 2025's most egregious developments was the mass deportation campaign targeting ethnic Bengali Muslims. Between May 7 and July 3, Indian authorities expelled 1,880 people to Bangladesh without due process, according to official Bangladeshi government data. Human Rights Watch documented systematic violations, with authorities in BJP-governed states—Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Odisha, and Rajasthan—rounding up Muslims, predominantly impoverished migrant workers, and turning them over to border guards who allegedly threatened and beat detainees to force them across the border.

Crucially, many deportees were Indian citizens from states bordering Bangladesh. Eleven individuals interviewed confirmed they were detained without being given any opportunity to provide proof of legal status, with original identity documents confiscated and copies dismissed as forgeries. Bangladeshi officials logged 110 cases of wrongly deported Indians who were subsequently returned after proving citizenship, though the actual number of wrongful deportations likely far exceeded documented cases. The Indian government provided no official data on deportations, and authorities had to readmit dozens who eventually proved their Indian citizenship.

Escalating Communal Violence and Hate Crimes

Communal riots surged by 84% in 2024, with the Centre for Study of Society and Secularism documenting 59 riots compared to 32 in 2023, resulting in 13 deaths—10 Muslims and 3 Hindus. Maharashtra emerged as the epicenter with 12 riots, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Bihar with seven each. Significantly, 49 of the 59 riots occurred in states where the BJP governs either independently or in coalition. Religious festivals increasingly became flashpoints, with 26 riots triggered during religious processions and celebrations, including violence during Ram Mandir Pran Pratishthan, Saraswati Puja, Ganesh festivals, and Bakri Eid. Six riots erupted over contested places of worship, triggered by right-wing groups demanding demolition of mosques and dargahs alleged to be built on Hindu sites.

The year 2025 also witnessed 13 mob lynching incidents resulting in 11 deaths—nine Muslims, one Hindu, and one Christian. Seven incidents were linked to cow vigilantism or accusations of cow slaughter, while others involved allegations of "love jihad" and assaults targeting Muslims for their religious identity.

The April 2025 Pahalgam terrorist attack unleashed coordinated nationwide violence against Muslims. Between April 22 and May 8, the Association of Protection of Civil Rights documented 184 hate crimes including 84 hate speeches, 39 assaults, 19 instances of vandalism, and 3 murders. In Agra, members of the Kshatriya Gau Raksha Dal allegedly killed a Muslim man and wounded his cousin in retaliation. In Mangaluru, Karnataka, a Muslim man was lynched over an alleged "Pakistan slogan," while another was killed by a Hindu mob in Bokaro, Jharkhand. Kashmiri women and students were attacked in Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh with security personnel reportedly remaining inactive, while Bajrang Dal members brutally assaulted Muslim shawl vendors in Mussoorie,

Uttarakhand, with police subsequently telling victims to leave the area.

India Hate Lab documented 64 in-person hate speech events across nine states between April 22 and May 2, organized primarily by Hindu nationalist groups including Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal, Antarrashtriya Hindu Parishad, Rashtriya Bajrang Dal, Hindu Janajagruti Samiti, and Hindu Raksha Dal. Speakers routinely employed dehumanizing language, referring to Muslims as "green snakes," "piglets," "keede" (insects), and "mad dogs," while explicitly calling for violence. At an event in Kondagaon, Chhattisgarh, far-right influencer Pushpendra Kulshrestha declared, "Don't talk to the mad jihadis in your city; they can't be spoken to, they have to be shot in the head."

By 2025, Maharashtra alone had witnessed 823 incidents of communal unrest since January, fueled by demands for removal of Aurangzeb's tomb and distorted social media narratives. The state registered 156 criminal cases in January, 99 in February, and 78 by mid-March related to communal unrest, with 102 classified as cognizable crimes due to religious reasons.

Economic Persecution and Social Exclusion

Economic boycotts targeting Muslims intensified systematically across multiple states. In Gujarat, the State Road Transport Corporation cancelled licenses of 27 hotels owned by Muslims but registered under Hindu names, preventing state buses from stopping at these establishments—a decision widely condemned as blatant religious profiling aimed at marginalizing Muslim businesses.

In Madhya Pradesh's Indore, over 120 Muslim salesmen were expelled from the Sheetla Mata Cloth Market following orders allegedly from the son of a local lawmaker, with groups waving BJP's saffron flags parading through lanes enforcing the removal. Hindu-Muslim business partnerships operating successfully for over a decade were forcibly destroyed. Hindu businessman Balwant Rathore, who had invested ₹51 lakh ($58,000) in a joint venture with Muslim partner Mohammad Harun, was ordered to vacate solely because of his partner's religion, justified on grounds of "love jihad." Rathore defied the order, stating, "We thought like brothers—let's open a shop together... Business was good, then suddenly we were told to leave because my partner is Muslim... Don't drag religion into politics."

In Bihar's Samastipur, during Maha Shivratri celebrations, a group of 20-25 individuals stormed the market and selectively targeted only Muslim-owned meat shops among the 16 establishments—mostly Hindu-owned—forcing closures while recording videos for social media dissemination.

Hate Speech Explosion and Political Rhetoric

Hate speech against religious minorities remained at crisis levels throughout 2025, with the overwhelming majority of incidents targeting Muslims. The BJP continued to be linked to a substantial portion of cases, with party leaders maintaining the pattern of inflammatory anti-Muslim rhetoric that had characterized previous years, particularly during election periods.

A comprehensive report tracking hate crimes during Prime Minister Modi's third term recorded 602 incidents in just one year, with Modi himself delivering five hate speeches, 63 from BJP chief ministers, and 71 from other elected individuals. The Association for Protection of Civil Rights emphasized that despite rising intensity and frequency of targeted attacks, "no systematic or institutional effort to record or document hate crimes" exists.

High-ranking government officials contributed extensively to this toxic environment. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath declared on January 10, 2025, that "any disputed structure should not be called a mosque," adding that worship at sites built by hurting others' faith "is not acceptable to God" and claiming "Islam does not mandate the construction of a structure for worship, but Sanatan Dharma does." On February 25, he stated, "We want to make children scientists, not Mullahs and Maulvis," while dismissing Urdu language education as promoting "kathmulla-pan" (orthodoxy).

Allahabad High Court Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav, called before the Supreme Court for targeting Muslims at a Vishwa Hindu Parishad event, refused to retract his statements. In his controversial speech, Justice Yadav used the derogatory term "kathmulla," claimed Muslim children could not be expected to be "tolerant" or "generous" because they are exposed to "the slaughter of animals" from an early age, and declared that India would function only according to the wishes of "the majority."

The year also witnessed the conferral of the Padma Award—one of India's highest civilian honors—upon Sadhvi Rithambara, whose genocidal rhetoric against Muslims between 1989 and 1992 was documented by the Liberhan Commission investigating the Babri Masjid demolition. Cassettes of her hate speeches were widely circulated and played at temples and public gatherings across India during the lead-up to the mosque's destruction.

Yati Narsinghanand, despite Supreme Court orders to ensure he makes no hate speech, continued his vitriolic campaign. At the December 2024 World's

Religion Parliament in Haridwar, he called for "destruction" of those hindering Hindu programs, demanded a "Sanatan Vedic Nation" with "no room for a single mosque, a single madrasa, or a single jihadi," and issued veiled threats of violence. In January 2025, he claimed "Muslims are giving birth like pigs" and labeled Islam "the biggest threat to India and the world." He subsequently called for Hindus to form terrorist organizations like ISIS, stating, "Take up arms. If needed, form your own organisation, like the Muslims do, like ISIS."

In Maharashtra, newly sworn-in Cabinet Minister Nitesh Rane—who had 20 (First Information Report)—FIRs filed against him over two years for calling Muslims "Pakistani pimps," "green pigs," and "green snakes," and threatening to strip and beat them—faced no questioning or action from police, confirming a BJP pattern of rewarding anti-Muslim hate speech. BJP MLA T. Raja Singh threatened Muslims while referencing Akbaruddin Owaisi's controversial statement, declaring that if Naga Sadhus were sent to Hyderabad, "those who speak of 15 minutes will go to Pakistan."

The release of the film "Chhaava" in February 2025 inadvertently generated a massive anti-Muslim hate campaign across social media. Far-right politicians, Hindutva outfit members, and supporters disseminated memes and posts calling Indian Muslims "Aurangzeb ki aulad" (children of Aurangzeb), with extremist factions vowing to "revenge" historical atrocities depicted in the film. This campaign amplified through WhatsApp forwards, X threads, Facebook posts, and Instagram reels, demonstrating how cultural products are weaponized to fuel contemporary hatred.

In Assam, the BJP's state chapter released an AI-generated video portraying Muslims as illegal immigrants seizing government land across the state, showing them at airports, tea estates, heritage sites, and stadiums. The video falsely claimed the Muslim population would rise to 90%—a nod to the "replacement theory" that Muslims will replace Hindus as India's majority—and alleged an unspecified "link" between the opposition Congress party and Pakistan.

Following the Pahalgam attack, at least 20 songs labeled "Hindutva Pop" emerged within hours, calling for violent retribution. With titles like "Pehle Dharam Pocha" (They Asked About Religion First), these tracks—garnering hundreds of thousands of views—labeled Indian Muslims as "traitors," advocated their boycott, and called for violence, setting pulsing beats to calls for communal bloodshed.

Systemic Police Bias and Torture

The Status of Policing in India Report 2025, surveying 8,276 police personnel across 17 states, revealed deeply entrenched Islamophobia within law enforcement. Nearly 28% of personnel expressed preference for extrajudicial measures over due process, while significant proportions believed Muslims were "naturally prone towards committing crimes"—a view particularly prevalent in Delhi, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Gujarat, and Jharkhand. In Delhi, police personnel were most likely to believe this "to a great extent."

The report documented that Muslims were identified as common targets of police torture, with tactics deliberately designed to target religious identity and masculinity to humiliate the entire community. Police respondents in states with harsh cow slaughter laws—Gujarat, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra—showed high support for mob punishment in such cases. Despite personnel believing Muslims are predisposed to crime, many simultaneously perceived that Muslims receive justice "to a great extent"—a contradiction the report attributed to pre-existing biases contrary to Muslims' lived realities. Independent prison statistics indicated over-incarceration of Muslims, confirming systemic bias.

Absurd cases illustrated this prejudice: a sub-inspector was suspended for organizing an iftar party at a newly inaugurated police station in Meerut in March 2025, with authorities citing "violation of duty protocol." A week earlier, a government school headmistress in Bulandshahr was suspended for allowing an iftar party in a classroom, accused of "extreme negligence and acting contrary to school rules."

In Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur, Muslim youths were arrested for waving Palestinian flags after Eid prayers in April 2025, with police launching investigations based on viral social media videos. In Sambhal, senior police officer Anuj Kumar Chaudhary urged Muslims to stay indoors during Holi as it "comes only once a year, while Friday comes 52 times"—remarks backed by Chief Minister Adityanath. BJP leader Raghuraj Singh suggested Muslim men wear "hijabs made of tarpaulin" to avoid inconvenience during Holi celebrations.

Forced Conversions and Physical Assaults

Individual incidents revealed the depth of persecution. In Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh, Muslim man Fateh Uddin claimed he was forcefully converted to Hinduism while in police custody, coerced by the Superintendent of Police and a Hindutva leader who threatened him with false arms charges and destruction of his family.

In Haryana's Nuh, cow vigilante groups brutally attacked Muslim truck driver Arman Khan transporting bulls, forcing him to kneel, beating him, dragging him by his hair, and compelling him to repeatedly chant "gau hamari mata hai" (the cow is our mother) and "bail hamara baap hai" (the bull is our father).

In Kanpur, a 13-year-old Muslim boy was assaulted by three minors who demanded he bow down, touch their feet, and chant "Jai Shri Ram." When he refused, they stabbed his leg with broken glass.

In Rajasthan's Bhiwaar district, following arrest of 10 Muslim youths (including three minors) in connection with alleged blackmail and molestation, Hindutva organizations staged protests and bandhs across multiple cities. The administration initiated bulldozer action against the township where accused families resided, issuing demolition notices including to local corporator Hakeem Qureshi's family.

Cultural and Religious Targeting

Hijab and burqa became targets of official discrimination. Maharashtra Minister Nitesh Rane demanded a ban on burqas at examination centers for board exams, claiming concerns about cheating, and stating, "Those who want to wear a burqa or hijab can do so at home, but at examination centers, they should write their exams like other students."

In Rajasthan, a gynecologist allegedly refused to treat a seven-month pregnant Muslim woman after seeing her surname "Khatun" following the Pahalgam attack, stating she would not treat Muslim patients and referencing the attack.

The Assam Assembly discontinued its decades-old tradition of a two-hour Friday break enabling Muslim legislators to offer namaz—a decision Speaker Biswajit Daimary justified as shedding "colonial baggage" introduced by the Muslim League in 1937. Chief Minister Sarma welcomed this, prioritizing "productivity" over religious accommodation for the approximately 30 Muslim MLAs.

In Maharashtra, BJP lawmaker Medha Kulkarni led Hindu activists to Pune's Shaiwarwada fort in October 2025 after videos of Muslim women praying there went viral, "purifying" the site by "cleaning" it with cow urine and dung while chanting prayers to Hindu deities, declaring the site "a symbol of Maratha pride" where acts hurting "Hindu sentiments" should not occur.

Marginalization and Ghettoization

A February 2025 SPECT Foundation report documented systematic neglect of Muslim-dominated areas in Delhi, including Jamia Nagar, Zakir Nagar, and Abul Fazal Enclave. These areas suffered from shortages of schools, mohalla clinics, and government hospitals, with existing facilities severely under-resourced. Poor waste management, unsanitary conditions, and ongoing issues with roads, open drains, water, and electricity characterized these neighborhoods.

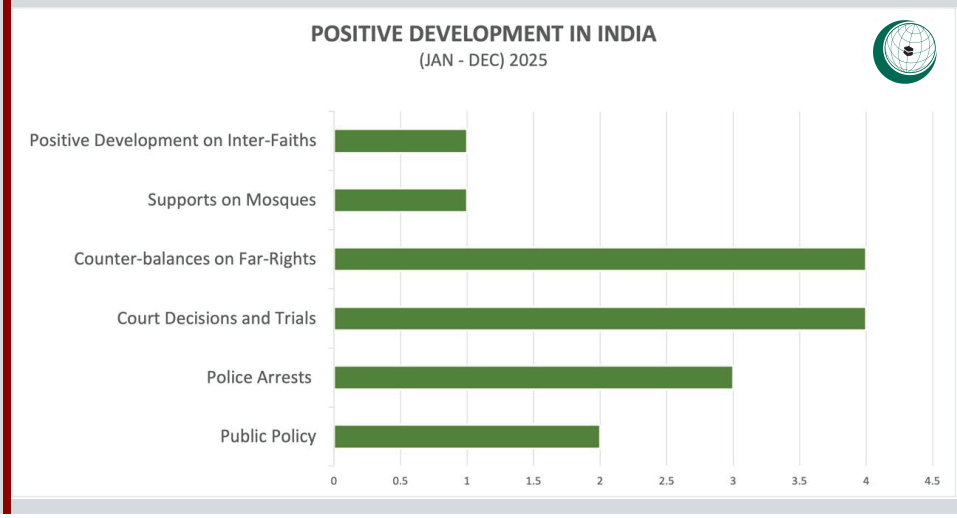
Social activist Syeda Hameed, a resident since 1969, noted the area was previously diverse but transformed into a ghetto following the Babri demolition, Gujarat riots, and Delhi violence, with residents experiencing isolation, increased police surveillance, and pressure. The report characterized this as deliberate transformation into "Muslim ghettos" with rapid population increase but zero infrastructure development—a civic and political issue reflecting systematic marginalization.

The Islamophobia Observatory's observation

Just a recall, the deteriorating situation in India since the past six-years has drawn expressions of serious concern from the OIC and international human rights organizations.

India's situation in 2025 represents a comprehensive, state-orchestrated assault on Muslim rights spanning legislative action, law enforcement, economic life, judicial processes, educational access, and social inclusion. The systematic nature of discrimination—from the highest levels of government including the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, and sitting judges, to local enforcement and vigilante groups—combined with rising violence, mass deportations of citizens, and the active participation of state institutions in perpetuating anti-Muslim hatred, positions India as one of the world's most alarming hot spots for Islamophobia. This persecution threatens not only the safety, dignity, and constitutional rights of 200 million Muslim citizens but fundamentally undermines the secular, democratic character of the Indian state itself, demanding immediate and decisive international intervention

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA



Despite the alarming trends of Islamophobia in India during 2025, it is encouraging to note that significant efforts were made to promote harmony, tolerance, and counter anti-Islamic sentiments. India's substantial share of positive developments at 16% of global documented cases represents a noteworthy counterbalance to its high incidence of Islamophobic manifestations. These constructive efforts include significant judicial interventions, law enforcement accountability measures, regulatory actions against hate speech, legislative initiatives at the state level, and grassroots expressions of interfaith solidarity that demonstrate the persistence of pluralistic values within segments of Indian society and institutions.

Landmark Supreme Court and Judicial Actions

The Supreme Court demonstrated critical judicial oversight through several landmark decisions protecting Muslim rights and challenging discriminatory state actions. Most significantly, in a ruling that provided relief to over 25,000 Muslim schools serving 2.7 million students, the Court set aside an order banning Islamic madrasas in Uttar Pradesh, recognizing these institutions' importance and stating they fulfill "the positive obligation of the state to ensure that children get adequate education." This decision represented a powerful reaffirmation of the educational rights of Muslim communities and the constitutional obligation of the state to protect rather than undermine minority educational institutions.

The Court's firm stance against "bulldozer justice" marked an important step in protecting Muslim properties from unlawful demolition—a practice that had become increasingly weaponized against Muslim communities across BJP-governed states. In September 2025, the Supreme Court suspended key

provisions of the controversial Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025, responding to pleas by Muslim groups and opposition parties who argued the legislation infringed on Muslims' rights to manage their own religious endowments. This suspension halted implementation of provisions that would have fundamentally altered how properties donated by Muslims—worth billions of dollars and used for mosques, madrassas, graveyards, and orphanages—were owned and managed, preventing what critics characterized as a systematic state appropriation of Muslim religious properties.

Independent UN human rights experts reinforced this judicial position on June 23, 2025, issuing a strong warning against India's practice of arbitrary demolitions and urging immediate cessation of actions affecting minorities, migrants, and low-income families. The experts—including Balakrishna Rajagopal, Special Rapporteur on adequate housing; Nazila Ghanea, Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief; Nicolas Levrat, Special Rapporteur on minority issues; and others—noted that arbitrary demolitions constituted "grave human rights violations" that were particularly "outrageous when they target minorities or marginalized communities." They emphasized that "demolition must never lead to homelessness and displacement and those evicted must have access to adequate alternative housing," noting that such practices continued despite the Supreme Court's pivotal Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind ruling mandating procedural protections against arbitrary demolitions.

At the state level, a special MP-MLA court in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar took significant legal action on January 3, 2025, framing serious charges against 19 political figures including senior BJP leaders in connection with the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots during which around 42 Muslims were killed. The accused included high-profile politicians such as UP minister Kapil Dev Aggarwal, former Union minister Sanjeev Balyan, former UP minister Suresh Rana, Samajwadi Party MP Harender Malik, VHP leader Sadhvi Prachi, former BJP MP Bhartendu Singh, controversial priest Yati Narsinghanand, former BJP MLAs Ashok Kansal and Umesh Malik, and former UP minister Ashok Katari. All accused were present in court during the hearing. Charges included violating prohibitory orders and inciting communal violence through hate speech delivered at a panchayat meeting at Nagla Madore village on August 30, 2013, where they allegedly used loudspeakers to target a particular community. This legal action, coming more than a decade after the riots, demonstrated that judicial accountability—however delayed—remained possible even for high-ranking political figures.

Law Enforcement Accountability and Criminal Justice

Law enforcement agencies across India demonstrated increased willingness to hold accountable those who engage in violence, torture, and discrimination targeting Muslims, though such actions remained inconsistent and often delayed. In a significant development, a Delhi court directed registration of an FIR against a former Station House Officer of Jyoti Nagar police station for his alleged role during the February 2020 Delhi riots when police personnel were captured on video assaulting Muslim men and forcing them to sing the national anthem, Vande Mataram, and chant Jai Shri Ram. The offences included wrongful confinement, criminal intimidation, hurt, and religious insult under the Indian Penal Code. According to the complaint filed by Mohammad Waseem, he had witnessed BJP leader Kapil Mishra leading an unlawful assembly and shooting at people, with policemen supporting Mishra and others. This judicial directive for FIR registration represented acknowledgment of police complicity in communal violence and opened pathways for accountability.

In Haryana, police inspector Radheshyam Sharma, head of the Palwal city police station, was arrested on April 19, 2025, after a departmental inquiry found him guilty of torturing Muslim man Abid in custody in December 2024. The investigation, relying on CCTV footage and medical professional statements, confirmed allegations that Sharma had taken Abid to a restroom, removed his pants, tied his hands and legs, brutally beaten him, forced him to drink green chili solution, and injected the same solution into his private parts. This arrest, nearly four months after the complaint was filed, demonstrated that accountability mechanisms, though slow and requiring substantial evidence, could ultimately function to hold individual officers responsible for egregious violations.

At least five members of the little-known outfit Kali Sena were booked on February 9, 2025, in Dehradun for allegedly delivering provocative speeches urging locals to evict Muslim tenants and assaulting shopkeepers. According to the FIR, on February 4, 2025, a group of 50-60 people held a gathering in Nathuwala locality ostensibly to protest sexual abuse of a minor, but instead incited people with communal rhetoric, delivered provocative speeches urging locals to assault and evict tenants from other communities, marched through neighborhoods vandalizing signboards and banners of Muslim-owned shops, forcibly evicted Muslim vendors from the weekly bazaar near Lower Tunwala primary school the next day, verbally abused and assaulted vendors while warning them against setting up shops in the future, and threatened to kill

them if they returned. The FIR noted that "several videos were made in which inflammatory speeches were recorded," providing documentary evidence of the hate campaign. This police action demonstrated willingness to intervene against organized attempts at economic and social exclusion of Muslims.

In a major revelation demonstrating police commitment to uncovering the truth and preventing false-flag operations, Uttar Pradesh Police arrested four Hindutva activists—Zeeshanth Singh, Akash Saraswat, Dilip Sharma, and Abhishek Saraswat—for writing "I love Muhammad" on temple walls in Aligarh to deliberately frame Muslims and stoke communal unrest. According to police reports, the graffiti appeared on multiple temples, causing public outrage and sparking tension. The subsequent investigation uncovered that the act was a deliberate attempt to create anti-Muslim sentiment amid an ongoing land dispute between local groups. Senior Superintendent of Police Neeraj Kumar Jadaun confirmed that the accused had carried out the graffiti campaign to falsely implicate Muslims and escalate hostility in the area. This investigation and arrest represented crucial police willingness to expose manufactured provocations designed to inflame communal tensions and demonstrated that not all law enforcement agencies were complicit in anti-Muslim campaigns.

Multiple cases were registered against Hindu outfit leaders and BJP politicians for alleged hate speeches targeting Muslims. In Kerala, BJP leader PC George faced legal action in Kottayam district after the Muslim Youth League Municipal Committee filed a complaint alleging he made communal remarks against Muslims during a televised debate. In his controversial statement, George reportedly said: "Out of the 40,000 population here, 38,600 are Muslims. There are no such communal forces without any conscience like you anywhere in this world... If you are a Muslim, then you are communal. It's become like that. You don't want India but Pakistan. Go to Pakistan." The registration of this case demonstrated that in certain states, particularly those not governed by the BJP, legal mechanisms remained available to challenge hate speech from political figures.

Media and Social Media Regulation

Media regulation bodies took meaningful steps to combat hate speech and communal disharmony across both traditional and digital platforms. The News Broadcasting and Digital Standards Authority (NBDSA) penalized several television channels and ordered removal of programs spreading

hatred against Muslims, demonstrating growing institutional resistance to normalized Islamophobia in mainstream media. In notable actions, TimesNow Navbharat and News18 India were fined for airing content on "love jihad" that the NBDSA deemed harmful to communal harmony. The regulatory body's decisions emphasized that religious stereotyping violates the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards and can "corrode the secular fabric of the country," establishing important precedents for holding media organizations accountable for content that promotes anti-Muslim hatred and conspiracy theories.

On February 20, 2025, Meta took decisive action by removing multiple accounts and pages linked to BJP legislator T. Raja Singh following a comprehensive report by India Hate Lab exposing how Singh and his supporters continued amplifying hate speech against Muslims on social media platforms despite an official ban. Meta's action removed two Facebook pages with over one million followers and three Instagram accounts with a combined following of over 155,000 users. A Facebook spokesperson confirmed: "We have banned Raja Singh from Facebook for violating our policy prohibiting those that promote or engage in violence and hate from having a presence on our platform. The process for evaluating potential violators is extensive and it is what led us to our decision to remove his account." This represented a significant enforcement action against a sitting legislator whose inflammatory anti-Muslim rhetoric had contributed substantially to the toxic online environment, demonstrating that international technology platforms could play a role in limiting the reach of hate speech when properly documented and reported by civil society organizations.

Legislative and Policy Initiatives

The Karnataka government demonstrated proactive commitment to combating hate crimes and hate speech by considering introduction of the comprehensive Hate Speech and Hate Crime Prohibition Bill. The proposed legislation aimed to enforce a ban on hate speech in public gatherings, ensuring that no individual or group was targeted based on caste, religion, or gender. Additionally, the bill sought to establish stricter control over hate-inducing content on social media and prohibit inflammatory rhetoric in plays, public meetings, or events. Under the proposed law, offenders would face punishments ranging from three to five years in prison, with repeat offenders potentially facing permanent restrictions from public platforms. The government was expected to finalize the draft and seek legal opinion before tabling it in the assembly session. This legislative initiative represented a significant effort to create comprehensive legal frameworks

specifically addressing hate crimes and hate speech—areas where existing laws had proven inadequate or inconsistently enforced—and demonstrated that state-level governments could take proactive measures to protect minority communities even when national-level political will was lacking.

Civil Society Documentation and Advocacy

Civil society organizations continued their crucial work of documenting hate crimes, advocating for justice, and providing legal support to victims despite facing increasingly hostile environments and potential government retaliation. The Association for Protection of Civil Rights (APCR), India Hate Lab, Centre for Study of Society and Secularism (CSSS), and other organizations compiled comprehensive data on communal violence, hate speech incidents, and discriminatory policies that provided essential evidence for legal challenges, media reporting, and international advocacy. These organizations' reports—documenting everything from the 84% surge in communal riots to the 74% increase in hate speech against minorities—created an evidentiary record that enabled judicial interventions, regulatory actions, and international attention. Their work represented a form of resistance against attempts to normalize Islamophobia and demonstrated the continued vitality of India's civil society sector despite government hostility toward human rights organizations.

Grassroots Interfaith Solidarity and Cultural Resistance

Perhaps most heartening were grassroots expressions of interfaith solidarity that demonstrated the enduring potential for coexistence and the persistence of pluralistic values among ordinary citizens despite intensifying political polarization. The preservation and restoration of the centuries-old Amanati Mosque by the Hindu Basu family in Bengal's Barasat district exemplified how individual citizens can transcend religious boundaries through personal acts of respect, care, and devotion to shared heritage. Partha Sarathi Basu's dedication to maintaining the mosque on his family property and welcoming Muslim worshippers for Friday prayers, continuing a tradition started by his grandmother decades earlier, represented the resilient foundations for pluralism and mutual respect that persist in Indian society despite political challenges. Such stories—often unreported in mainstream media focused on conflict—demonstrated that interfaith cooperation, mutual respect, and shared sacred spaces remained possible and indeed thrived in communities where individuals chose solidarity over division.

Business partnerships between Hindus and Muslims, though increasingly targeted by right-wing campaigns, also demonstrated resistance. The case of Balwant Rathore in Madhya Pradesh's Indore, who refused to abandon his Muslim business partner Mohammad Harun despite pressure and threats, stating "My business runs with my partner. There has never been a problem between us. Don't drag religion into politics," represented individual acts of courage that challenged the economic boycott campaigns. Such personal stands, though often costly in terms of business viability and social pressure, maintained living examples of the possibility of Hindu-Muslim cooperation.

The Islamophobia Observatory's observation

These positive developments—judicial interventions, selective law enforcement accountability, media regulation, state-level legislative initiatives, civil society documentation, and grassroots interfaith solidarity—represent crucial counterweights to the systemic Islamophobia documented throughout this report. They demonstrate that while anti-Muslim hatred has become increasingly institutionalized at the national level and within BJP-governed states, countervailing forces within the judiciary, certain state governments, regulatory bodies, civil society, and among ordinary citizens continue to resist and challenge the normalization of discrimination and violence.

However, these positive developments, representing only 16% of global cases compared to India's 34% share of Islamophobic incidents, remain insufficient to reverse the broader trajectory of marginalization, persecution, and violence facing India's 200 million Muslims. The effectiveness of judicial interventions is limited by slow implementation, political interference, and the reality that perpetrators of hate speech and violence—particularly when affiliated with the ruling party—often face no meaningful consequences. Law enforcement accountability remains sporadic and heavily dependent on documentation by civil society organizations, media attention, and the political environment of specific states. Legislative initiatives like Karnataka's proposed hate speech law face uncertain futures and potential legal challenges.

Nevertheless, these developments demonstrate that the struggle for equality, justice, and religious freedom remains active and that the constitutional values of secularism, pluralism, and equal citizenship retain meaningful defenders within Indian society and institutions. They provide evidence that alternative narratives and practices of coexistence persist despite political attempts to define

India exclusively in majoritarian Hindu terms. These positive developments offer hope that with sustained civil society pressure, international attention, judicial vigilance, and the courage of individuals who choose solidarity over sectarianism, the tide of Islamophobia can eventually be challenged and reversed, restoring India's constitutional commitment to religious freedom and equal citizenship for all communities

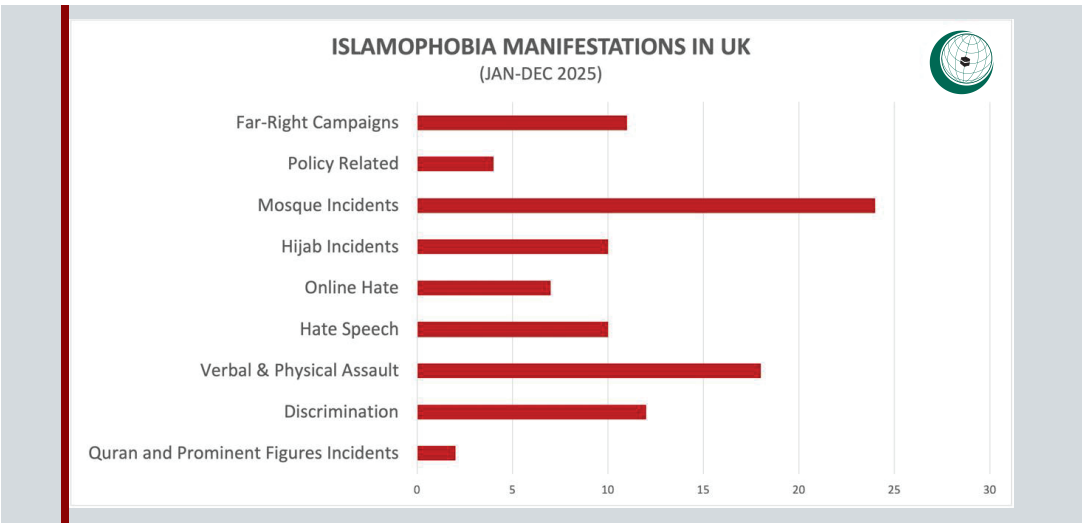
UNITED KINGDOM

The United Kingdom emerged as the second most significant hotspot for Islamophobia globally in 2025, accounting for 23% of all documented manifestations worldwide—a dramatic increase from the previous year's 10%. This sharp escalation reflects a multi-faceted crisis characterized by record-breaking hate crime levels, coordinated far-right mobilization, institutional discrimination, and a toxic political discourse that has fundamentally undermined the safety and sense of belonging of Britain's Muslim communities.

Unprecedented Surge in Anti-Muslim Hate Crimes

The crisis had been building throughout 2024 and intensified further in 2025. Tell MAMA (Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks) reported that 2024 witnessed the highest number of anti-Muslim hate cases ever recorded since the organization's founding in 2011/2012, with 6,313 reports received—a 43% increase from 2023's 4,406 cases and a staggering 165% increase since 2022. After verification, 5,837 cases were confirmed as anti-Muslim incidents in 2024, compared to 3,767 in 2023 and 2,201 in 2022. This upward trajectory continued into 2025.

Tell MAMA, warned that this represented the "most dangerous" time to be a Muslim in the UK, citing a 73% surge in Islamophobic assaults documented in 2024 that carried into 2025. It identified the normalization of Islamophobic rhetoric in political discourse and the spread of the far-right "Great Replacement" conspiracy theory on social media as creating unprecedented levels of anti-Muslim hatred. Atta revealed that right-wing extremists were "sharing tips on how to target Muslim communities, attack mosques, evade police, avoid leaving forensic evidence—and even offering financial incentives for carrying out attacks."



The data from 2024 revealed alarming trends that persisted into 2025. Street-based cases increased by 120% between 2022 and 2024, with 3,680 offline incidents reported in 2024—a 72% increase over two years. Targeted hate toward visibly Muslim individuals rose by 103% when comparing 2023 and 2024 data. Most disturbingly, "threatening behavior" in street-based cases increased by 715% between 2023 and 2024. For the first time since Tell MAMA's inception, men were targeted more than women in 2024, reflecting deepening harmful stereotypes that falsely portray Muslim men as terrorists or terrorist sympathizers—a trend that continued throughout 2025.

Official police statistics corroborated these findings. Home Office figures for the year ending March 2025 showed that religious hate crimes targeting Muslims rose by 19%, with significant spikes following the Southport murders and subsequent riots in summer 2024. Several of the UK's largest police forces reported increases in religious hate crimes. Greater Manchester Police recorded an average of 39 Islamophobic offenses monthly from January to July 2024 before a sharp jump to 85 in August 2024. West Yorkshire Police saw similar patterns, averaging 39 monthly before rising to 94 in August 2024. The Metropolitan Police also documented substantial increases, though changes in crime recording methods complicated year-over-year comparisons.

Coordinated Attacks on Mosques and Islamic Institutions

The British Muslim Trust (BMT) documented a "nationwide surge" in anti-Muslim hate between July and October 2025, with at least 27 verified attacks targeting 25 mosques at 23 locations across the country. This represented a dramatic escalation from the first half of 2025, when the BMT found evidence of no more than four mosque attacks using publicly available data.

The nature of attacks escalated from vandalism to "coordinated symbolic intimidation and violent attacks," culminating in arson and repeat targeting. More than 26% of documented attacks involved violence or destruction including smashed windows, assaults, and arson attempts. One arson attack in Peacehaven, East Sussex, was specifically intended to endanger life. The South Essex Islamic Centre in Basildon was defaced on August 28, 2025—the night before Friday prayers—with red crosses daubed across walls alongside the words "Christ is King" and "This is England." The timing appeared calculated to intimidate worshippers. In Belfast, an explosive device was thrown through the window of the Belfast Islamic Centre on June 20, 2025, while approximately 30 people were praying inside.

More than 40% of mosque attacks involved British or English flags, Christian symbols, or slogans such as "Christ is King," "Jesus is King," and "Devils" with upside-down crucifixes. Local bishops decried this misuse of Christian imagery, issuing joint statements calling the vandalism "scandalous and profoundly misguided" and declaring that invoking Christianity to justify racism is "theologically false and morally dangerous."

In London, anti-Muslim graffiti was found on seven buildings in January 2025, including mosques, community centers, and Noor Ul Islam Primary School. The Metropolitan Police confirmed the incidents were fueled by a Telegram hate group offering £100 to people who committed acts of vandalism. The targeted sites included West Norwood Mosque (January 6), South Norwood Islamic Community Centre (January 6), Thornton Heath Islamic Centre (January 16), Stratford mosque (January 23), Leyton Jamia Masjid (January 23), Albirr Foundation mosque (January 23), and Noor Ul Islam Primary School (January 25). A London GP practice, Queens Road Medical Centre in Walthamstow, was also targeted at the end of January 2025 with "obscene and Islamophobic graffiti" and vandalism including damage to locks, letterboxes, intercom systems, and outdoor lighting. Muslim burial sites were desecrated at Carpenders Park Lawn cemetery in Watford on April 12, 2025, with graves ripped out of the ground or destroyed—all in the section reserved for Muslim burials.

Far-Right Mobilization and Political Extremism

The year 2025 witnessed unprecedented far-right mobilization culminating in Tommy Robinson's Unite the Kingdom rally on September 13, 2025, which drew 110,000 protesters to London's streets. Tell MAMA received 157 anti-Muslim

hate cases in the seven days following the rally, as victims reported being told to "leave the UK" and "go back to your country"—language the organization linked to political discourse around migration. Between June and September 2025, Tell MAMA documented 913 cases targeting Muslims, with 17 mosques and Islamic institutions attacked during this period—averaging four institutions targeted each month.

Robinson's transformation from right-wing agitator to self-styled "citizen journalist" was financed by US tech billionaire Robert Shillman, who provided approximately £85,000 through a "Shillman fellowship" to right-wing Canadian website Rebel Media in 2017. Shillman, a key figure in the transatlantic "counter-jihad" movement, has invested in about 20 fellowships working with organizations whose stated aim is "to promote freedom and to expose the lies of the radical left, the Islamist movement, and their allies in the media." Shillman also paid more than $200,000 toward legal fees of Dutch far-right politician Geert Wilders in his successful defense against hate speech allegations directed at Muslims and Moroccans. This international network created slick videos and vast social media followings that amplified Robinson's focus on Muslims allegedly involved in child sexual abuse.

The summer 2024 Southport riots exemplified the deadly consequences of far-right disinformation, with impacts extending into 2025. After a British-born man with Rwandan parents fatally stabbed three young girls (Bebe King, Elsie Dot Stancombe, and Alice Dasilva Aguiar) at a dance studio in July 2024, false reports that the assailant was an undocumented Muslim migrant spread rapidly online. A false name, "Ali Al-Shakati," circulated for a day before authorities clarified that Axel Rudakubana had been born in Britain. By then, erroneous reports had reached millions, triggering riots in Southport and subsequently in cities and towns across England. The violence resulted in attacks on mosques, attempts to burn down a hotel housing asylum seekers while chanting "Get them out," and over 50 injured police officers.

A parliamentary committee report into the riots concluded that restrictions on police disclosures were "not fit for the social media age." When a similar incident occurred in Liverpool on May 27, 2025—a vehicle ramming a crowd during a sports parade—police released information within two hours that the driver was a white British man, appearing to calculate this disclosure would defuse rumors and misinformation that had spread after Southport.

Three far-right extremists who amassed hundreds of weapons and planned attacks on targets including a mosque were convicted of terrorism offenses on May 14, 2025. Brogan Stewart, Christopher Ringrose, and Marco Pitzettu were part of an online group that "idolized the Nazi regime," with Sheffield Crown Court hearing how Stewart had detailed torturing a Muslim leader using an "information extraction kit." All three were due to be sentenced on July 17, 2025.

Toxic Political Rhetoric and Institutional Complicity

Political discourse throughout 2025 contributed substantially to the hostile environment facing British Muslims. Former Home Secretary Suella Braverman told a Washington delegation that Britain could become "the first Islamist nation in possession of nuclear weapons," warning that the UK could "fall into the hands of Muslim fundamentalism" and become an Iran-style enemy of America within 20 years. She referenced Vice-President JD Vance's comment at the National Conservatism conference, adding: "What happens if the UK falls into the hands of Muslim fundamentalism, our legal system gets substituted for Sharia Law and our nuclear capabilities vest in a regime not too dissimilar to that of Iran today?"

Reform MP Lee Anderson claimed at a Birmingham rally on March 28, 2025, that there was "no such thing as Islamophobia" and that it was a "made-up word." Scottish Tory councillor Gordon Lang similarly claimed Islamophobia was "made up," referring to it as a "made up word" that "gives protection for one group over others." In a tweet about plans to bring students from Gaza to Britain, Lang wrote: "Father = hamas Uncle = hamas Older brother = hamas Younger brother = hamas Mother = feeds father, uncle and 2 brothers."

GB News contributor Lucy White faced calls to be dropped after claiming on November 26, 2025, that House of Commons deputy speaker Nusrat Ghani should not be allowed in the house because she was born in Pakistan, stating: "There should not be a single person born in Pakistan in the UK House of Commons." The comments drew criticism across the political spectrum amid warnings that explicitly racist language was becoming increasingly normalized in British life.

The newly appointed mayor of Rotherham, Councillor Rukhsana Ismail, who wears the Islamic hijab and is of Pakistani heritage, was subjected to racist disinformation campaigns on social media by far-right accounts on May 16, 2025, accusing her of being "fanatical about Islam," "unable" to speak English, and demanding "new legislation to ensure that only 'English people' were allowed to occupy such posts."

Discrimination in Healthcare, Employment, and Institutional Settings

The healthcare sector experienced unprecedented levels of fear and discrimination throughout 2025. A British Islamic Medical Association (BIMA) survey of just over 100 Muslim doctors conducted in summer 2025 found that 44% had faced regular discrimination since medical school, while 38% experienced discrimination in their current workplace. Some 40% identified religion as the most frequently targeted aspect of their identity. Dr. Hina Shahid, chair of the Muslim Doctors Association, characterized these experiences as "unsurprising" and "part of a pattern" within the NHS, urging the service to prioritize tackling Islamophobia and racism.

Dr. Salman Waqar of BIMA described Muslim NHS staff experiencing "unprecedented" fear, receiving death threats, being trapped in practices, and avoiding home visits due to safety concerns. A doctor who accidentally recorded himself making derogatory comments about two Muslim patients in a voicemail—including claims that "these Muslims are very bad" and references to incest—received only a warning from a medical tribunal, highlighting inadequate accountability for professional misconduct.

Two NHS professionals were investigated and barred from their workplace in early 2025 for merely expressing interest in organizing a peaceful protest in support of Palestine during their lunch break. The therapist and nurse, working at Kensington and Chelsea child and adolescent mental health service, were accused of posing a threat to staff "personal safety" and "bringing the trust into disrepute." After being redeployed to new workplaces, a three-month investigation found they had no case to answer and that the trust had breached its own disciplinary policy.

In the prison system, Freedom of Information requests covering 2023 data (the latest full year available when requested in 2025) revealed systematic discrimination. In eight out of nine prisons with high Muslim populations, Muslim men were more likely than average inmates to be confronted with batons, rigid bar handcuffs, or pain-inducing techniques. At Belmarsh prison, Muslims comprised 32% of the population in 2023 but were subjected to 43% of rigid bar handcuff incidents and 61% of pain-inducing technique incidents. At HMP Whitemoor, Muslims constituted 43% of the population but experienced more than 55% of such force applications. Similar disparities existed at HMP Isis, HMP/YOI Feltham B, and HMP Woodhill.

Online Hate and Artificial Intelligence

The online environment proved particularly toxic throughout 2025, with X (formerly Twitter) identified as "the most toxic online platform in the dissemination of anti-Muslim hate," far outstripping other social media platforms in volume, aggressive language, and targeted nature of hatred. Post-October 7, 2023, monitoring organizations documented patterns of online anti-Muslim hate that continued into 2025, remaining at elevated levels. Data from 2024 showed 2,307 verified cases of online anti-Muslim hate, representing a 34% increase from 2023, with the majority reported after July 29, 2024, following the Southport murders—a trend that persisted throughout 2025.

Deep concern emerged about AI-generated anti-Muslim content being circulated online, a phenomenon that became increasingly marked throughout 2025. London School of Economics research analyzing 622 posts from far-right sources found that visualizations of racist conspiracies gained approximately 30% more amplification than other content. The research detailed how AI-generated images depicted Muslim men as dirty and carrying weapons in contrast to "heroic" white men and "vulnerable" white women threatened by racialized migrants—imagery informed by algorithmic bias. One recommendation called for Ofcom to develop a specialized unit to monitor AI extremism and combat disinformation.

A Times cartoon published on June 16, 2025, by Peter Brookes depicting missiles launching from mosques drew widespread condemnation from Muslim advocacy organizations, which characterized it as playing on anti-Muslim tropes reminiscent of the Swiss People's Party's 2009 referendum campaign that associated mosque minarets with missile launches. Critics emphasized a fundamental point: "Mosques and minarets are not missile launchers, nor are they places of danger. They are legitimate religious spaces where worshippers deserve to pray in peace."

Impact on Muslim Women and Girls

Muslim women bore disproportionate burdens of anti-Muslim hate throughout 2025. Baroness Shaista Gohir, head of Muslim Women's Network UK, stated on January 15, 2025, that one in five Muslim women reported experiencing hate crimes during 2024, identifying rising "gendered Islamophobia" resulting from negative political rhetoric and online social media spaces. Research by Survation found that almost half of British Muslim women felt less safe than a year ago,

with 30% saying they did not feel safe going out at night, and more than half reporting that politicians had made them feel less welcome.

A study by the Centre for Media Monitoring entitled "Muslim Women in the Media: Breaking Barriers, Bearing the Burden" published in 2025 uncovered entrenched discrimination in Britain's media industry, with 92% of respondents saying negative attitudes toward Islam and Muslims were embedded within media organizations. Some 72% reported experiencing direct discrimination linked to their Muslim identity, while 85% said coverage of the Gaza war had harmed their mental health. Around 60% had considered leaving journalism altogether, with one respondent stating: "I've never been so ashamed to call myself a journalist."

Muslim women faced particular vulnerability on public transport. Research by Muslim Census and Muslims in Rail conducted in September 2025 with 1,155 respondents found that 45.3% of Muslim women felt unsafe while traveling compared to 8% of women nationally. More than a third (34.3%) reported experiencing Islamophobic or racist abuse. One woman, Marwa, recounted a man masturbating while staring at her reflection in the carriage window while she was in school uniform, with no bystanders intervening. An estimated only 12.5% of incidents were reported, with 69% of those who came forward saying they were not confident their cases would be taken seriously. A petition urging the mayor of London to introduce women-only carriages gained more than 13,000 signatures after its launch on September 30, 2025.

Rabina Khan reported in 2025 that during a routine walk along Chatham High Street one summer afternoon, she was subjected to Islamophobic abuse when a group of children shouted a racist remark at her. Although shocked, she did not respond, explaining that visibly Muslim women often avoided confrontation due to fears for their safety. Bystanders appeared unaware or indifferent, leaving her concerned that such incidents had become normalized in public spaces.

In Norwich, Elvis Vickers, a former soldier accused of murdering his neighbor Abdulkadar Chadli with a single stab wound to the chest in November 2024, faced trial in 2025. He said society was "bowing down to Muslims" and described the victim as a "wrong 'un" who had "pushed his luck." The jury heard he had previously said he was "not letting these terrorists run my street." Body-worn camera footage showed Vickers, who "smelt of alcohol," telling police "I know I'm going down for murder" and that the victim was "a wrong-un, like all them." The prosecutor characterized Vickers as "a man consumed with anger and hatred."

Dominant Anti-Muslim Narratives

Analysis of hate incidents throughout 2024 and 2025 identified consistent anti-Muslim tropes in both street-based and online hate cases, including narratives of a Muslim "take-over" of Europe, demographic surges in "numbers of Muslims" with an associated preconceived plan to Islamize the United Kingdom and "outbreed" the local "indigenous" population. Documentation showed a "stark rise in the intensification of language calling for the banning and removal of British Muslims from the political life of the United Kingdom."

These conspiracy theories were amplified through the "Raise the Colors" social media campaign and associated demonstrations in summer 2025, which the BMT report noted "coincided with incidents where the flag itself became a tool of ethno-nationalist intimidation... For many Muslims, these were not random acts but signals that their belonging in British society was being challenged because of their faith."

Community Initiatives and Resistance

Despite the hostile environment, community organizations launched initiatives to combat Islamophobia. Better Communities Bradford (BCB) launched Project Unity in 2025, a bold initiative to educate against Islamophobia, challenge harmful myths, and build more inclusive communities. The project arrived at a critical time, with the organization noting that Muslims comprise just 6.5% of the UK population yet account for 42% of all religious hate crime victims, and that Islamophobic assaults rose by a staggering 74% in 2024. Analysis found 400% more negative coverage about Muslims in media than about other groups. Over 12 months, Project Unity committed to delivering free interactive workshops and interfaith dialogues across England, reaching schools, universities, community venues, public sector organizations, and workplaces to debunk harmful myths and challenge media narratives.

The Islamophobia Observatory's observation

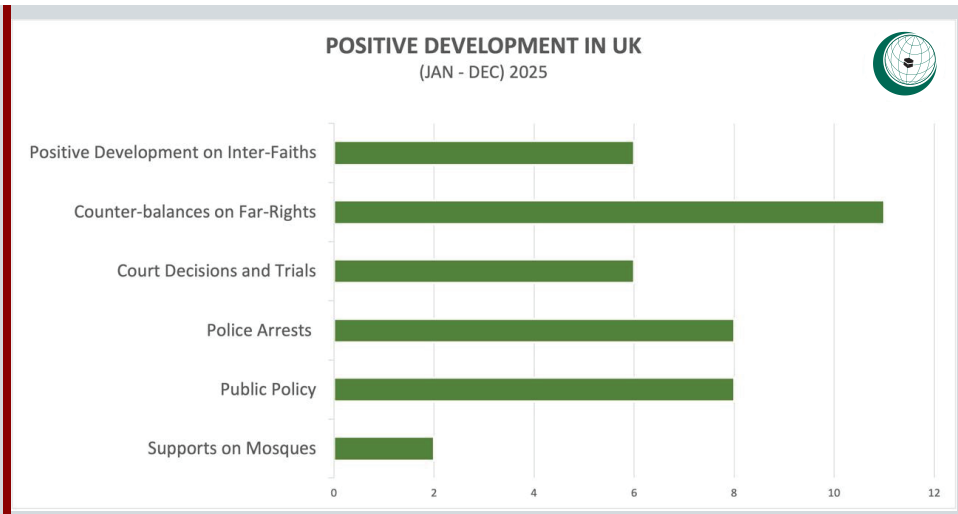
The United Kingdom's 23% share of global Islamophobic manifestations in 2025 represents a profound crisis threatening the safety, dignity, and sense of belonging of Britain's Muslim communities. The convergence of record-breaking hate crimes continuing from 2024 into 2025, coordinated far-right mobilization financed by international networks, toxic political rhetoric from elected officials and former government ministers, institutional discrimination across healthcare,

employment, prisons, and media, algorithmic amplification of conspiracy theories, and systematic targeting of mosques and Islamic institutions has created dangerous period for Muslims in the UK.

The brain drain of talented middle-class Muslims, professionals reconsidering their futures in Britain despite deep roots, and the pervasive fear expressed by Muslim women, healthcare workers, and ordinary citizens demonstrates that Islamophobia has fundamentally undermined the UK's foundational values of equality, tolerance, and social cohesion. The normalization of explicitly racist and Islamophobic language in political discourse, the inadequate accountability for hate speech and violence, and the weaponization of patriotic symbols to intimidate Muslims signal a critical juncture for British democracy and pluralism, demanding urgent and comprehensive intervention to reverse these alarming trends that intensified throughout 2025.

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Despite the alarming surge in Islamophobic incidents throughout 2025, the United Kingdom has demonstrated significant positive developments in addressing anti-Muslim hatred, accounting for 37% of global positive developments according to the Observatory's findings—the highest proportion of any country monitored. These constructive efforts encompass substantial judicial accountability, proactive law enforcement, robust public policy initiatives, meaningful political representation, institutional reforms, and vibrant interfaith solidarity that collectively demonstrate resilience against the forces of hatred and division.



Judicial Accountability and Criminal Prosecutions

The most substantial progress has been made in the judicial system, with numerous court decisions and trials resulting in convictions and significant sentences for those who committed Islamophobic acts and terrorism offenses targeting Muslim communities. These prosecutions demonstrate that the UK's legal framework, when properly applied, can hold perpetrators accountable and send clear messages that anti-Muslim hatred will not be tolerated.

On March 5, 2025, three far-right extremists who "idolized the Nazi regime" and were preparing terrorist attacks on mosques and synagogues faced trial at Sheffield Crown Court. Christopher Ringrose, Marco Pitzettu, and Brogan Stewart had acquired or were attempting to acquire a "wide variety of weapons" including swords, knives, axes, spears, crossbows, explosives, and were completing manufacture of a 3D-printed semi-automatic firearm. All three were convicted of terrorism offenses on May 14, 2025, and were due to be sentenced on July 17, 2025.

A 17-year-old neo-Nazi teenager who planned to carry out a terrorist attack at the Inverclyde Muslim Centre in Greenock was sentenced to 10 years in custody on August 21, 2025. The youth, inspired by Adolf Hitler, had befriended the Imam and mapped out the building's interior on his phone before attempting to gain entry in January 2025 carrying a camouflage military-style rucksack containing a Glock-type air pistol, ammunition, ball bearings, gas cartridges, and aerosol cans. His apprehension before he could execute the attack and his subsequent conviction on two terrorism charges represented crucial intervention by security services.

Neo-Nazi Andrew McIntyre, described in court as a leading organizer of the summer 2024 riots after the Southport stabbings, received a prison sentence of over seven years. The taxi driver created the "Southport Wake Up" Telegram channel, encouraging others to carry out violence and disorder in Southport on July 30, 2024, including targeting the local mosque. He pleaded guilty to encouraging violent disorder, criminal damage, and possession of a bladed article in public. Judge Flewitt stated during sentencing that racism was the key motivator for McIntyre, and "I have no doubt your actions encouraged many people to plan and then to commit offences of both violent disorder and criminal damage."

On June 2, 2025, Hamit Coskun was convicted of a religiously aggravated public order offense after shouting "f*** Islam," "Islam is religion of terrorism," and

"Koran is burning" while holding a flaming Islamic text aloft in Knightsbridge on February 13, 2025. District Judge John McGarva found Coskun guilty of using disorderly behavior motivated by "hostility towards members of a religious group, namely followers of Islam." The judge stated: "After considering the evidence, I find you have a deep-seated hatred of Islam and its followers... Your actions in burning the Koran where you did were highly provocative, and your actions were accompanied by bad language in some cases directed toward the religion and were motivated at least in part by hatred of followers of the religion."

A Catholic priest who admitted discussing bombing mosques and shooting black people in the head in neo-Nazi online chatrooms received a 12-month community order on October 30, 2025. Father Mark Rowles, who used the name "skinheadlad1488" in a chatroom called Aryan Reich Killers, wrote messages including "bomb mosques" and "they should all be strung up or shot." He will serve 150 hours community service, pay £199 in costs, and be bound by a Criminal Behaviour Order for three years.

A teenager was charged after paint was thrown at Aberdeen Mosque and Islamic Centre and a rock smashed a window while worshippers were inside on March 16, 2025. Police treated the incidents as hate crimes and charged a 17-year-old boy, demonstrating swift response to attacks on places of worship.

Law Enforcement Actions and Arrests

Law enforcement demonstrated increased willingness to intervene against far-right activists and hate crime perpetrators, though responses remained inconsistent. Tommy Robinson, the anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant activist whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, was arrested on August 4, 2025, at Luton airport on suspicion of assault after an attack at London's St Pancras station. The arrest came after Robinson had fled to Tenerife in the early hours of July 29 following the incident. British Transport Police said the other man was taken to hospital with serious injuries. This represented accountability for violence perpetrated by a figure who has long promoted anti-Muslim hatred with relative impunity.

On February 1, 2025, six people were arrested after thousands of Tommy Robinson supporters marched in central London under the "Stop the Isolation" or "Unite the Kingdom" banner. Hundreds of police officers were deployed in response to both the far-right protest and a counter-demonstration organized by Stand Up To Racism that marched to Whitehall "together against racism,

Islamophobia and antisemitism and to say that we won't let the far right divide us."

Sussex Police investigating the October 4, 2025, arson attack on a mosque in Peacehaven arrested three people in addition to four previously arrested, with two men from Seaford held in custody on suspicion of arson with intent to endanger life. This multi-suspect arrest demonstrated serious investigative commitment to a particularly dangerous attack that the Muslim Council of Britain warned followed a "disturbing pattern of violence and intimidation."

A 16-year-old boy arrested outside the Inver Clyde Islamic Centre on January 23, 2025, was charged with terrorism offenses, representing proactive intervention before an attack could be carried out.

A Metropolitan Police officer became the seventh sacked over an undercover BBC Panorama documentary that exposed unacceptable behavior. PC Sean Park, based at Charing Cross Police Station, expressed "appalling" discriminatory and disrespectful views about Muslims and boasted about pretending not to see alleged excessive use of force by another officer. Commander Simon Messinger stated: "PC Park's conduct fell very far below the high standard we expect of all our officers. His comments were appalling, along with his apparent condonement of inappropriate use of force against a detainee, and it is entirely right he has now lost his job." This internal accountability, while limited in scope, demonstrated that some mechanisms existed to address Islamophobia within policing.

Public Policy Initiatives and Government Actions

The UK government and local authorities implemented several public policy measures to protect Muslim communities and address extremism. On April 25, 2025, the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, announced a new £875,000 investment to support community projects tackling extremism, hate, intolerance, and radicalization across London. This was part of the Mayor's record £15.9 million investment to combat hatred, intolerance, and extremism in all forms and support grassroots community groups to stand up to hate.

Police forces were given new powers to manage protests near sites of worship in response to a series of "intimidating protests" near synagogues and mosques in recent months. The Home Office said the new measures would make it easier for police to impose conditions on protests—including on route and timing of marches—that might disrupt worshippers attempting to visit religious sites.

On October 21, 2025, the Metropolitan Police imposed Public Order Act

conditions banning a UKIP demonstration from Whitechapel or anywhere else in the borough of Tower Hamlets. The event was part of a series promoted as a "mass deportations tour," with organizers calling on attendees to "reclaim Whitechapel from the Islamists." Commander Nick John stated: "Tower Hamlets has the largest percentage of Muslim residents anywhere in the UK and the prospect of this protest taking place in the heart of the borough has been the cause of significant concern locally. It is our assessment that there is a realistic prospect of serious disorder if it was to go ahead in the proposed location." This represented proactive use of legal powers to prevent intimidation of Muslim communities.

Health Secretary Wes Streeting warned that inflammatory language over grooming gangs risks vilifying entire communities and could lead to atrocities such as the Christchurch mosque massacre that killed more than 50 people. While criticizing political correctness for letting down children, he emphasized: "At the same time, there are people in my community who have either Pakistani heritage or look different, who are now more fearful today than they were before." This acknowledgment from a senior government minister of the dangers of inflammatory rhetoric represented important recognition of the real-world consequences of hate speech.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer told his cabinet on September 16, 2025, that the UK faces "the fight of our times" against the division exemplified by the Tommy Robinson-led far-right march in London, calling the scenes "shocking" and saying they "sent a chill through the spines of people around the country, and particularly many ethnic minority Britons." Downing Street extended criticism to Elon Musk, saying many Britons, particularly from minority backgrounds, would have felt intimidated by "calls to violence from foreign billionaire" after Musk told the crowd at Robinson's rally that "violence is coming" and "you either fight back or you die."

The BBC's outgoing director, Tim Davie, ordered on December 3, 2025, that BBC staff undergo courses on antisemitism and anti-Muslim prejudice within six months. "The BBC Academy has spent the last few months developing new anti-discrimination training. We're starting with e-learning modules on antisemitism and Islamophobia, which we expect staff across the BBC to complete," he wrote to staff. This institutional commitment to addressing prejudice within one of the world's most influential media organizations represented meaningful acknowledgment of the problem.

Political Representation and Leadership

Historic appointments and political stands demonstrated progress in Muslim representation and willingness to challenge Islamophobia within political institutions. On May 19, 2025, Labour's Safiya Saeed made history as the first black woman wearing a hijab to be appointed Lord Mayor of Sheffield, the city's 128th Lord Mayor. Saeed stated: "I am honored to be the first black woman wearing a hijab to take this role. I came to Sheffield in 1985, and this city has truly become my home, a place where I have always felt I belong." The single mother of five, first elected as councillor for Burngreave in 2021, founded Reach Up Youth, a community project supporting young people, particularly those from Black and ethnic minority backgrounds.

The Muslim Council of Britain on January 28, 2025, called on the Conservative Party to remove Robert Jenrick from his position as shadow justice secretary over leaked messages showing his admiration for a far-right social media account. MCB Secretary General Zara Mohammed said it seemed "impossible" for the shadow justice secretary to have not seen the account's regular Islamophobic and far-right hate posts. While the Conservative Party did not remove Jenrick, the MCB's public stand represented important advocacy holding political figures accountable.

Zia Yusuf, the Muslim chairman of Reform UK, resigned on June 5, 2025, after denouncing a call from within party ranks to ban the burqa as "dumb." His resignation following Reform UK lawmaker Sarah Pochin's question to Prime Minister Keir Starmer about banning the burqa "in the interests of public safety" represented a principled stand against Islamophobic policy proposals even within his own party. Yusuf stated: "I do think it's dumb for a party to ask the PM if they would do something the party itself wouldn't do."

Interfaith Initiatives and Community Solidarity

Interfaith initiatives played a crucial role in countering Islamophobia and building community cohesion throughout 2025. For the first time in Windsor Castle's 1,000-year history, an open Iftar event was hosted in the State Apartments on March 2, 2025. More than 350 people gathered in St George's Hall to break their Ramadan fast. Simon Maples, visitor operations director at Windsor Castle, said King Charles III had been "championing religious diversity and encouraging interfaith conversation" for many years. The call to prayer echoed throughout the building to signal the time to break the fast—a powerful symbolic gesture of inclusion and respect.

King Charles III and Queen Camilla helped mark the Muslim holy month by packing food donation boxes at a restaurant in Soho, demonstrating royal family engagement with Muslim communities. For the third year running, Ramadan Lights were installed at Piccadilly Circus in central London, organized by the Aziz Foundation and switched on by Mayor Sadiq Khan on February 26, 2025.

Salaam Shalom Kitchen, established in 2016 as a collaboration between Tanya Sakhnovich, rabbi at Nottingham's Liberal Synagogue, and Sajid Mohammed, director of Muslim social justice charity Himmah, celebrated its 10th anniversary in June 2025. The food bank, which now serves about 150 people weekly compared to 30 when it opened, represents sustained Muslim-Jewish cooperation to address poverty and isolation. Volunteers from the Nottingham Muslim Women's Network, including Zainab Asghar, Ferda Ozcan, and Shanaz Din, worked alongside Jewish volunteers to provide meals. "We need to build more understanding," said Asghar, adding that the project remained vital as Nottinghamshire had become scarier for Muslims since the Reform party gained county council control in May.

Residents in Swindon organized by Stand-up to Racism painted over Islamophobic, antisemitic, and far-right graffiti, including a swastika, from an alleyway in September 2025. Solicitor Repi Begum, one of 12 volunteers who participated in the clean-up, said she was "astonished that society still has this kind of hatred," calling it "abhorrent." This grassroots community action demonstrated local solidarity against hate.

Community Education and Awareness Initiatives

Better Communities Bradford (BCB) launched Project Unity in 2025, a bold initiative to educate against Islamophobia, challenge harmful myths, and build more inclusive communities. The project arrived at a critical time, with the organization noting that Muslims comprise just 6.5% of the UK population yet account for 42% of all religious hate crime victims, and that Islamophobic assaults rose by 74% in 2024, while analysis found 400% more negative coverage about Muslims in media than about other groups. Over 12 months, Project Unity committed to delivering free interactive workshops and interfaith dialogues across England, reaching schools, universities, community venues, public sector organizations, and workplaces to debunk harmful myths, challenge media narratives, and give people tools to engage thoughtfully and honestly.

London's Newham Council presented "Flip the Script" marking Islamophobia Awareness Month with comedy, workshops, storytelling, and art events promoting dialogue, unity, and respect across the borough. The borough-wide programme brought together artists, performers, community leaders, and residents to reflect on the impact of Islamophobia, celebrate Muslim heritage, and create spaces for dialogue, creativity, and solidarity. Councillor Charlene McLean stated: "The events of the past year have tragically highlighted the horrific consequences of hate. Islamophobia Awareness Month offers a significant opportunity to show solidarity with our Muslim communities in Newham."

The Islamophobia Observatory's observation

The United Kingdom's 37% share of global positive developments—the highest of any country monitored—demonstrates that despite the unprecedented surge in Islamophobic incidents, significant countervailing forces exist within British society and institutions. Judicial accountability through terrorism convictions and hate crime prosecutions, law enforcement actions against far-right activists and hate crime perpetrators, public policy initiatives protecting Muslim communities, historic political representation, institutional reforms within the BBC and police, and vibrant interfaith solidarity collectively represent meaningful resistance to the normalization of anti-Muslim hatred.

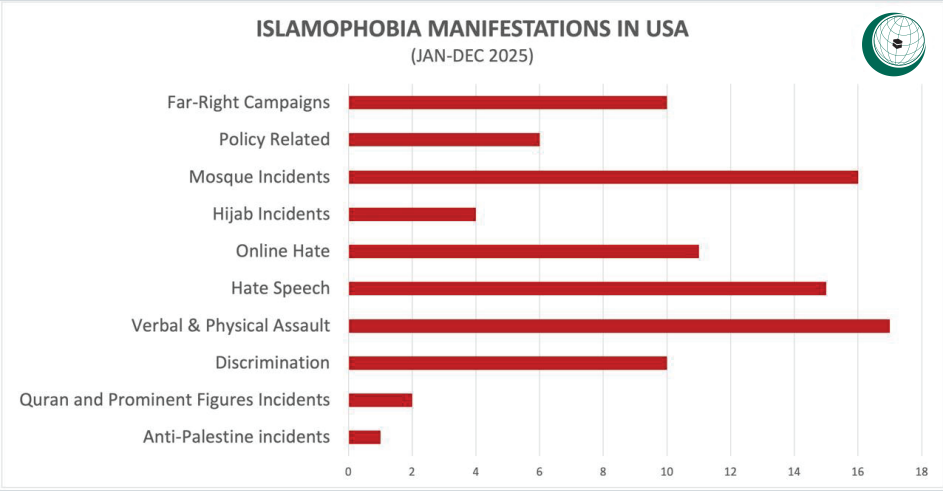
However, these positive developments must be contextualized against the UK's 23% share of global Islamophobic manifestations. The gap between positive initiatives (37%) and negative incidents (23%) suggests that while Britain possesses robust mechanisms for challenging Islamophobia, the scale and intensity of anti-Muslim hatred remain deeply troubling. The effectiveness of judicial and law enforcement responses depends on consistent application, adequate resources, and political will that can fluctuate. Interfaith initiatives, while inspiring, reach limited audiences compared to the mass amplification of hate through social media platforms and far-right networks financed by international actors.

Nevertheless, these positive developments demonstrate that alternative narratives and practices of inclusion, accountability, and solidarity persist despite political attempts to mainstream Islamophobia. They provide evidence that with sustained civil society pressure, political leadership, judicial vigilance, law enforcement accountability, institutional reforms, and grassroots community organizing, the trajectory of anti-Muslim hatred can be challenged and the

UK's foundational commitments to equality, diversity, and human dignity can be defended and strengthened. The substantial proportion of global positive developments originating in the UK offers hope that the nation retains the institutional, political, and social resources necessary to confront and ultimately overcome the crisis of Islamophobia threatening its Muslim communities and its democratic values.

The United States

The United States emerged as a major hotspot for Islamophobia in 2025, accounting for 20% of documented cases globally—a significant increase from the previous year's 14%. This positioned the US as the second most prevalent location for anti-Muslim incidents worldwide, behind only India (34%) and ahead of the United Kingdom (23%). The sharp rise reflects an alarming normalization of anti-Muslim hatred across multiple sectors of American society, from political discourse and educational institutions to social media platforms and street-level violence.



Unprecedented Surge in Civil Rights Violations

Civil rights organizations documented record-breaking numbers of complaints throughout 2024 and into 2025. National monitoring revealed 8,658 civil rights complaints in 2024—the highest number ever recorded since systematic reporting began in 1996, representing a 7.4% increase from 2023. The state of Florida experienced particularly troubling developments, with complaints rising by 22%—nearly three times the national rate. For the first time in more than two decades of monitoring, viewpoint discrimination became the leading cause of complaints, with individuals who criticized Israeli government policies, expressed solidarity with Palestinians, or condemned alleged war crimes in Gaza

facing accusations of antisemitism or even terrorism.

These accusations proved not merely defamatory but dangerous, contributing to an atmosphere where Muslim Americans and their allies faced professional retaliation, educational sanctions, and physical threats for exercising constitutionally protected speech. The spike in complaints following the October 7, 2023 Hamas attacks on Israel and Israel's subsequent assault on Gaza demonstrated how international conflicts directly translated into domestic persecution of American Muslims.

Discrimination in Educational Institutions

Educational settings emerged as particularly hostile environments for Muslim students and faculty throughout 2025. A Harvard University report released on April 29, 2025, found that students and staff faced significant anti-Muslim bias alongside anti-Israeli and antisemitic bias. The findings, produced by a task force on combating "Anti-Muslim, Anti-Arab, and Anti-Palestinian Bias," revealed that "Muslim, Arab, Palestinian, and pro-Palestinian community members reported feeling judged, misrepresented, and silenced." Muslim women wearing hijab and pro-Palestinian students wearing keffiyehs spoke about facing verbal harassment, being called "terrorists," and even being spat upon.

Nearly half of Muslim students and staff surveyed reported feeling physically unsafe on campus, while 92% believed they would face professional or academic penalties for expressing political views. One unnamed student described the climate starkly: "As Muslim students we have been living in constant fear...There have been trucks driving around campus for months, displaying the faces of Muslim students... my peers who have lost their jobs simply for being in the leadership of Muslim faith organisations have been left out to dry once they had their offers revoked... If there were antisemitic trucks driving around campus and planes flying over with antisemitic slogans, I cannot help but believe Harvard would have done more to stop it."

The case of Umaymah Mohammad exemplified institutional retaliation against Muslim students. Perhaps the only student in the US suspended from medical school for remarks about Israel and Gaza, Mohammad filed a federal lawsuit on August 4, 2025, against Atlanta's Emory University, alleging discrimination under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. The lawsuit centered on Emory's "intentional discrimination and retaliation" during disciplinary proceedings after Mohammad spoke on Democracy Now! in April 2024 about the climate

on campus for protesters and expressed concern about an Emory medical school professor who had volunteered as a medic in the Israeli military. Emory found that Mohammad "violated 'the standards and expectations of the medical profession'" and suspended her from medical school for one year, pushing her graduation to 2029. Her appeal was denied.

Systematic bullying plagued Muslim students across the country. A Tennessee survey of 201 student and family responses found that more than a third of students experienced bullying, with adults at school making comments causing discomfort. Elementary students reported Islamophobic bullying at higher rates than older students, including events involving hitting or pushing. Alarmingly, 47% of elementary students and 13% of middle and high school students changed their appearance, behavior, or other qualities to hide that they were Muslim, while only 26% of caregivers knew their children had been bullied or harassed. When students reported incidents to adults, 28% said nothing changed at elementary schools and 16% said the situation worsened.

California data released on October 31, 2025, revealed that half of Muslim students ages 11-18 experienced bullying at school from peers due to religious identity—twice the national average. The comprehensive survey reaching 1,802 students from 48 counties found that 67% of bullied students did not report their experiences to school staff because they felt undervalued, afraid, or faced unclear reporting processes. Additionally, 43% of surveyed students reported missing school due to bullying, greatly exceeding the national average for absenteeism.

Long-Term Health Impacts of Discriminatory Policies

Research published in 2025 documented the lasting harmful effects of discriminatory policies on Muslim communities. A study evaluating the impact of the 2017 "Muslim Ban" on preventive care use among Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) ancestry children found decreased well-visits and associated vaccinations. Prior to the policy, MENA children had higher rates of well-visits compared to non-Hispanic white children. The monthly frequency of these visits declined by 20% after January 2017, resulting in a 6% cumulative decrease. The study also revealed a 12.5% decrease in total vaccinations for MENA children compared to non-Hispanic white children after the policy.

Researchers found surprisingly nuanced results: rather than avoiding appointments altogether, families took children to providers but were more likely to opt out of vaccination—a manifestation of increased distrust in authority

shaped by government surveillance during the Bush and Obama administrations that deepened mistrust of civic authorities and medical providers. This demonstrated how discriminatory policies create long-term public health consequences extending far beyond their initial implementation.

Toxic Political Rhetoric and Extremist Mobilization

Political discourse throughout 2025 contributed substantially to the hostile environment facing American Muslims, with elected officials and candidates openly promoting Islamophobic narratives. Florida Congressman Randy Fine was designated an "anti-Muslim extremist" and placed on an "Islamophobia hate list" on June 10, 2025, after using "unceasingly violent rhetoric directed at Muslims and Palestinians." When asked about his Fox News comments some interpreted as supporting nuclear weapons use in Gaza, Fine responded: "It shows the sophistication of the Muslim-terror media that they are able to convince people like you to interpret (it that way)... Now I recognize that half of people in Gaza are married to their cousins, so you're going to find a lot of people with mental defects." Organizations characterized these comments about Gazans as "racist and dehumanizing," noting that Fine had "invoked Islamophobic and anti-Palestinian stereotypes and incited violence against Muslims and Palestinians at home and abroad with impunity" for years.

On December 6, 2025, during a congressional hearing, Fine suggested that "mainstream Muslims" should be destroyed, boasting that he was not afraid to be called Islamophobic. He cited the myth that Israelis were banned from going to some areas in the occupied West Bank due to "apartheid" imposed against Israeli settlers, distorting the reality that Israeli military signs warned settlers against entering Palestinian towns for safety concerns—even as settlers, often armed and protected by Israeli forces, regularly stormed and ransacked Palestinian villages, killing at least two US citizens in settler attacks in 2025.

Utah Republican Congressman Burgess Owens sparked controversy on July 25, 2025, after sharing an anti-Muslim video from an account on X/Twitter that frequently posted hateful white supremacist content. The inflammatory video, which remained on Owens' profile for over 14 hours before deletion, featured a woman making false xenophobic claims including that Islam "doesn't even see rape as a crime" and that "The UK and now America are sacrificing their wives and daughters for diversity credit." The video claimed Muslim immigrants "hate women, children, white people, America, and Western civilization."

Chandler Langevin, a Republican city councilperson in Palm Bay, Florida, refused to apologize in January 2025 after writing on X that Islam "exists for the sole purpose of conquering Christendom and ending the Jewish people" and therefore "they" do not belong in America. Texas Agricultural Commissioner Sid Miller doubled down on an Islamophobic social media post depicting Islam as a snake squeezing a cowboy's leg with a knife labeled "solution" being used to kill the serpent, captioned "It's about that time..." sparking outrage among Texas Muslims.

Far-right political campaigns reached unprecedented extremes. Valentina Gomez Noriega, a former Missouri candidate for secretary of state who finished sixth in the primary, entered the race for U.S. House in Texas' 31st Congressional District with a platform focused on removing Muslims from the state. In a campaign announcement video, she stated: "Vote for me so we can kick every dirty Muslim out of Texas... I will make Texas the worst place for terrorist muslims & illegals so help me God." She posted an anti-Islamic campaign ad, in which she set fire to the Quran with a flamethrower, stating: "Your daughters will be raped and your sons beheaded, unless we stop Islam once and for all." Noriega claimed that New York had "fell to Islam," possibly referring to Zohran Mamdani's election victory, and that Michigan and Minnesota had also "fallen," warning that if Texas "falls to Islam," it would be because people did not vote correctly.

Republican gubernatorial candidate Anthony Hudson called for a protest march in Dearborn on November 18, 2025, under the slogan of an "American Crusade" to ban Islamic law and "protect Christians." Hudson falsely accused the city of enforcing sharia law and vowed to deploy the Michigan National Guard to Dearborn "to protect residents from sharia law and all the nonsense happening there." On November 18, white nationalist and right-wing agitators descended on Dearborn to hold an anti-Islam rally at which they attempted to burn a Qur'an, with popular conservative influencers shouting racist abuse, unfurling a banner reading "Americans Against Islamification," and smacking a Qur'an with a slab of bacon. One participant later went to a city council meeting and, while live streaming, yelled at council members: "Get the f**k out of my country. We don't want you here."

Violent Attacks and Hate Crimes

Physical violence represented the most alarming manifestation of Islamophobia throughout 2025. Three Muslim women were violently verbally attacked while praying in an Alpharetta, Georgia, parking lot at the Avalon Shopping Pavilion.

The women said a man went out of his way cursing and hurling racist remarks, following them despite attempts to walk away. "You're worshiping a false god," he could be heard saying in recordings. "Go back to your country."

On March 20, 2025, a Somali Muslim woman was assaulted by four people at 8 a.m. at the Southpark Apartments in Franklinton, Ohio, while returning from dropping her kids at the bus stop for school. Video showed the woman surrounded by two women and a man, with one woman charging and punching the victim before a second woman began attacking from behind. The man also joined, with footage showing three assailants beating the Muslim woman lying on the ground as she was pummeled. Advocacy organizations called for investigation and criminal charges for what they characterized as a possible hate crime.

Terrorism charges were filed against Joseph Fisher, a Stewart County teenager arrested at the end of December 2024, for communicating threats to commit mass violence. The investigation began when Meta Platforms tipped off the FBI about an Instagram account sending messages about planning a mass shooting. Fisher was driven by hatred of Jews, African Americans, and Muslims, believing he was "bound to murder." Like other mass shooters he admired, Fisher posed for a photo with a long gun, prepared a testimonial video, and began work on his manifesto. In early December 2024, Fisher chose a mosque in Nashville as his target, stating: "I changed to a mosque like Brenton," referencing Christchurch terrorist Brenton Tarrant.

A Florida man charged with attempted murder over the shooting of two Israeli visitors believed the victims were Palestinians. Mordechai Brafman was charged with two counts of attempted murder after the Miami Beach shooting, with police alleging he had "spontaneously stated that while he was driving his truck, he saw two Palestinians and shot and killed both." Both victims, a Jewish father and son visiting from Israel, survived. This case demonstrated how anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim hatred could lead to violence against anyone perceived as belonging to targeted groups.

After a spate of vandalism involving graffiti at mosques in Texas and California, Muslim leaders stepped up efforts to keep sacred spaces and community members safe. Security video at Nueces Mosque in Austin showed someone spray-painting what appeared to be Star of David symbols at the property. Someone also spray-painted graffiti at the Islamic Center of Southern California in Los Angeles, including the Star of David on an outer wall. Spokesperson Omar

Ricci, also a reserve Los Angeles Police Department officer, stated: "In light of what's going on within Palestine and the genocide in Gaza, it felt like an attack."

Online Hate and Algorithmic Amplification

Social media platforms, particularly X (formerly Twitter), played central roles in amplifying Islamophobic narratives throughout 2025. Billionaire Elon Musk, who heads the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) under President Trump, accused USAID of supporting terrorism by funding 18 charitable organizations, foundations, and institutions linked to Islam, Arabs, or with Arabic-sounding names. Musk reshared a tweet claiming USAID allocated $165 million to organizations falsely accused of being "terrorist organizations," adding: "As many have said, why are we paying terrorist organizations and certain countries to hate us?" The post was viewed by approximately 13 million people and retweeted around 48,000 times. Musk labeled these organizations as "terrorist" simply because their names included the words "Islam," "Islamic," or "Palestine," as well as those with Arabic names—none had ever been linked or investigated for terrorism connections.

Research analyzing 1,365 posts with over 1.5 billion engagements found that Musk's personal interventions—alongside far-right channels—played pivotal roles in "weaponising" grooming gang discourse to scapegoat Muslims in the UK, particularly British Pakistani men, despite police chiefs saying most grooming gang offenses were carried out by white men. Analysis of X's open-source code revealed that its recommender system systematically prioritized content that sparked outrage and provoked heated exchanges without adequate safeguards to prevent harm.

Following the tragic murder of three young girls in Southport, UK, an account called "Europe Invasion" known for publishing anti-immigrant and Islamophobic content posted that the suspect was "alleged to be a Muslim immigrant," garnering over four million views. Within 24 hours, all X posts speculating the perpetrator was Muslim, a refugee, a foreign national, or arrived by boat were tracked to have an estimated 27 million impressions. Tommy Robinson told his 840,000 X followers that there was "more evidence to suggest Islam is a mental health issue rather than a religion of peace." In two weeks after the Southport attack, Robinson's posts received over 580 million views—unprecedented reach for a figure banned on most mainstream platforms for breaching hate speech rules.

Online Islamophobia spiked sharply following Zohran Mamdani's victory in New York City's Democratic mayoral primary. Research tracked 6,669 posts mentioning Mamdani and related themes between June 13-30, generating 419.2 million total engagements. From June 13-23, hate-related posts averaged between 56-264 per day. On June 24, the primary day, that number jumped to 899 posts. By June 25, it exploded to 2,173 posts in a single day. Of 1,933 posts examined most closely, 39.4% contained explicit anti-Muslim language targeting either Mamdani specifically or Muslims broadly, frequently portraying Islam as incompatible with public office with phrases like "radical Muslim candidate" and warnings about "Sharia law takeover." Posts invoked 9/11 imagery, described Mamdani as a "jihadi," "radical Muslim," or "terrorist sympathizer," and called for deportation with language like "send him back."

Revelations on social media showed how anti-Muslim hatred was being manufactured, monetized, and deliberately pushed into feeds of Western audiences. X's updated "About this account" panel exposed that many loudest anti-Muslim accounts claiming to be British or American patriots were actually run from countries in Asia and Africa. Operators learned to capitalize on people's fears and prejudice by posting Islamophobic content that reliably went viral—and viral posts meant income. Investigation revealed that a Sri Lankan content creator reportedly earned $300,000 producing anti-immigrant and Islamophobic posts designed to appeal to audiences, openly admitting targeting older British audiences because "they don't like immigrants." His network of pages had more than a million followers promoting anti-Labour and anti-Muslim narratives while supporting figures like Nigel Farage.

AI-generated hateful content "sharply rose" since mid-2024, with research compiling 1,326 publicly available AI-generated images and videos from 297 accounts across three platforms uploaded between May 2023 and May 2025. Nearly 187 posts across X, Facebook, and Instagram considered to violate community guidelines were reported, but none were removed, highlighting persistent failure of platforms to enforce policies. AI-generated hateful content primarily revolved around four themes: sexualization of Muslim women, exclusionary and dehumanizing rhetoric, conspiratorial narratives, and aestheticization of violence. Posts featuring sexualized depiction of Muslim women had the highest engagements—6.7 million—frequently portraying Muslim women in burqas surrounded by groups of men with captions insinuating incestuous family ties.

Even gaming platforms became vectors for Islamophobia. Investigation of Roblox, which boasts over 100 million average daily users, found hateful and discriminatory rhetoric exposing children to racist and blasphemous statements through gaming chats and user-generated content. Content mocking God and glorifying violence against Palestinians stemmed from "Italian brain rot" viral memes depicting absurd AI-generated images with pseudo-Italian narration, including Bombardiro Crocodilo, a military bomber with a crocodile's head that sparked outrage for mocking the killing of children in Gaza. Advocacy organizations noted: "It is normalizing this as fun and trendy and cool, but it ends up hurting marginalized communities and creating an unsafe environment for them."

Normalization of Extremism

Paradoxically, while documented hate and extremist groups dropped from 1,430 in 2023 to 1,371 in 2024—a 5% decrease—research attributed this not to declining influence but because many proponents felt their beliefs had become normalized in government and mainstream society. These groups use "political, communication, violent, and online tactics to build strategies and training infrastructure to divide the country, demoralize people, and dismantle democracy." The drop in organized groups reflected a lesser sense of urgency to organize separately because extremist beliefs had infiltrated politics, education, and society in general.

British columnist Melanie Phillips declared at a "Rage Against the Hate" conference in New York City, one week before the city voted for its first Muslim mayor in history, that "the West is facing a death cult in the forces of Islam." The remark, reiterated by British, European, American, and Israeli voices, drew approving nods without requiring evidence despite being historically unfounded. This demonstrated the architecture making such statements legible and even comforting to audiences seeing no problem in labeling a global religion as inherently homicidal.

The Islamophobia Observatory's observation

The United States' 20% share of global Islamophobic manifestations in 2025 represents a profound crisis threatening the constitutional rights, physical safety, and sense of belonging of American Muslims. The convergence of record-breaking civil rights violations, systematic educational discrimination and bullying, toxic political rhetoric from elected officials and candidates, violent hate crimes, algorithmic amplification of conspiracy theories on social media platforms,

AI-generated dehumanizing content, and the normalization of extremist beliefs in mainstream discourse has created an environment where anti-Muslim hatred operates with unprecedented scope and impunity.

The weaponization of accusations of terrorism or antisemitism to silence criticism of Israeli government policies, the suspension of students and dismissal of faculty for pro-Palestinian advocacy, the targeting of Muslim charitable organizations, the long-term health consequences of discriminatory policies, and the manufacturing of Islamophobic content for profit demonstrate that anti-Muslim hatred has become systematically embedded across multiple sectors of American society. The fact that hate group numbers declined not because extremism decreased but because extremist beliefs became normalized in government and society signals a critical juncture for American democracy, pluralism, and the foundational principle that all citizens regardless of faith deserve equal protection, dignity, and the freedom to participate fully in civic life without fear of persecution or violence.

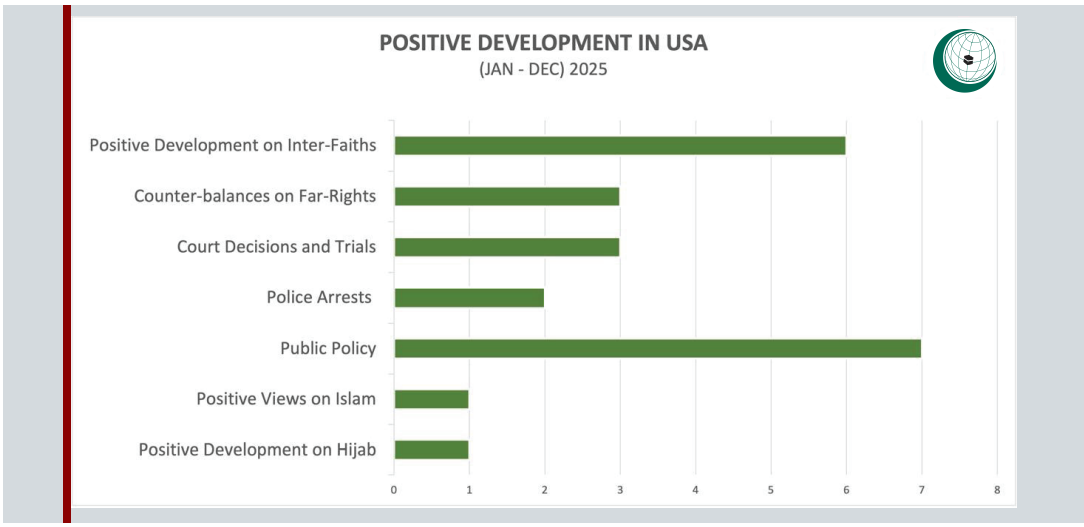
POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES

Despite the alarming surge in Islamophobic incidents throughout 2025, the United States demonstrated significant progress in addressing anti-Muslim hatred, accounting for 31% of global positive developments according to the Observatory's findings. This substantial proportion highlights the country's multifaceted approach to combating anti-Muslim sentiment through institutional, legal, community-based, and policy initiatives. The developments are particularly noteworthy given the tensions that emerged following the October 7, 2023 Hamas attacks and Israel's subsequent assault on Gaza, which triggered increased hostility toward Muslim and Arab communities across the country.

Judicial Accountability and Criminal Prosecutions

The judicial system emerged as a critical bulwark against Islamophobia, with multiple significant cases resulting in accountability for perpetrators of anti-Muslim hate crimes throughout 2025. On February 11, 2025, a California teenager who threatened a mass shooting at a Sanford mosque was sentenced in an Orlando courtroom to four years in prison. Alan Winston Filion, of Lancaster, California, admitted in federal court to making the threat against Masjid Al Hayy Mosque in May 2023. Filion had contacted the Seminole County Sheriff's Office claiming he was going to conduct a mass shooting in the name of Satan,

stating he had an AR-15 and pipe bombs, and playing a recording of gunfire in the background.



On March 21, 2025, a 12-year-old student faced a hate crime charge in juvenile court after allegedly being part of a group that attacked twin seventh grade Muslim students at their middle school in Waterbury, Connecticut. The girl was charged with intimidation based on bigotry and bias in the first and second degree. Investigators determined that the altercation—in which twin 13-year-old girls had their hijabs pulled off and were kicked and punched in the girls' locker room during gym period—was motivated by religion and/or ethnicity, meeting the legal definition of a hate crime.

The Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office charged a Morgan Hill man with a hate crime after verbally and physically assaulting a group of Muslim worshippers during Ramadan. Civil rights organizations noted that despite the Bay Area being one of the most culturally diverse communities in the country, hate remained very much present, leading to attacks on people of different races and religions. Legal authorities' willingness to prosecute such cases as hate crimes sent important messages about accountability.

Law enforcement also demonstrated proactive intervention. On March 24, 2025, war veteran Michael Hanson was arrested after allegedly threatening to kill Muslims at the West Valley Islamic Center. According to police documents, Hanson said he was watching the film "American Sniper" when he decided to look for the nearest Muslim center "as a 'show of force.'" Officers found Hanson, who appeared intoxicated, heckling worshippers before leaving, then returning to attempt hiding near a dumpster. His arrest before he could carry out threatened violence represented crucial preventive action.

Comprehensive Public Policy Initiatives

Public policy initiatives across various levels of government created structural protections for Muslim communities throughout 2025. The continuation of efforts stemming from December 2024's first-ever national strategy to counter Islamophobia—outlining more than 100 actions to combat hate, violence, bias, and discrimination against Muslims and Arab Americans—provided a comprehensive framework addressing awareness, safety, religious accommodation, and cross-community solidarity.

Legislative initiatives demonstrated growing institutional support for Muslim civil rights. On February 1, 2025, Representative Ilhan Omar announced that Senator Cory Booker, Representative Jan Schakowsky, and herself were "re-introducing the Combating International Islamophobia Act to create a Special Envoy at the State Department dedicated to fighting this dangerous hate." The bill, which had passed the House in December 2021 by 219-212 but stalled in the Senate, would establish a Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Islamophobia within the U.S. State Department. Senator Booker emphasized: "By establishing a Special Envoy at the State Department, we can develop a comprehensive plan to counter Islamophobia and help combat hate wherever and whenever it occurs... Ensuring that people can practice their faith without fear of discrimination or violence is one of our nation's core values."

Representative Judy Chu and Senator Chris Coons reintroduced the National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants (NO BAN) Act in 2025, which would prevent future bans on people of Islamic faith or any other religious group by strengthening the Immigration and Nationality Act to prohibit discrimination based on religion. The bill would require that any suspension of entry into the United States be narrowly tailored, backed by credible evidence, and subject to appropriate consultation with Congress.

On January 23, 2025, Nevada Attorney General Aaron Ford's office announced the launch of a statewide hate crime reporting hotline, after receiving $1,164,424 in federal funding. Nevada was the only state to receive this grant cycle for operating this type of program. Victims could report hate crimes and learn about services providing assistance, representing important infrastructure for documenting and responding to hate incidents.

Educational Recognition and Accommodation

Educational institutions took significant steps toward acknowledging Muslim

Americans' religious needs. The Prince William County School Board made significant adjustments to its 2025-26 academic calendar to reflect the growing diversity of its community. On January 22, 2025, the board unanimously voted to add Eid al-Adha as an official school holiday and moved the start of the school year up by one day. Eid al-Adha for the 2025-26 school year falls on May 27, 2026.

The Anaheim Union High School District (AUHSD) announced on February 27, 2025, an initiative to provide free to-go meal kits for Muslim students observing fasting during Ramadan. Free meal kits were available for students from March 3 to March 21, 2025. The meal kits were meatless and included both breakfast and lunch components. In its press release, AUHSD stated: "Offering meals to students observing Ramadan is an act of respect and support, while also ensuring they can maintain their energy levels and be active participants in their academic and social lives."

The University of Toronto announced on November 29, 2025, that it would commission a Presidential, Provostial, and Vice-Presidential Working Group—the Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian Discrimination Working Group (MAP DWG). The group would review the university's programs, activities, processes, and practices and make recommendations to support the university's response to anti-Muslim, anti-Arab, and anti-Palestinian discrimination.

Disciplinary action was taken when educators violated students' rights. A Pennsylvania public teacher was put on administrative leave on January 25, 2025, after calling a Palestinian American middle school student an extremist. The Central Dauphin School District said it had learned about allegations that the teacher made the derogatory comment the week before in an after-school program, stating it had no tolerance for racist speech. Similarly, a Maryland elementary school teacher was disciplined after accusations of mistreating an 8-year-old Muslim student at Cabin Branch Elementary School in Clarksburg. Montgomery County Public Schools allegedly removed the teacher from his classroom and ensured he had no more contact with the student after reports that he humiliated, threatened, and intimidated the child regarding her hijab, allegedly urging her to "remove her hijab" and subjecting her to harsher disciplinary measures, which led to significant anxiety including multiple panic attacks requiring medical attention.

Cultural Recognition and Symbolic Gestures

Cultural recognition initiatives demonstrated growing acknowledgment of Muslim Americans' place in society. On January 29, 2025, the New York State Senate passed a resolution officially recognizing February 1, 2025, as World Hijab Day. The resolution, introduced by Senator Roxanne Persaud, aimed to "encourage religious tolerance, cultural understanding and international solidarity." Advocacy organizations noted that "World Hijab Day, in its 12th year, is a platform to promote understanding, dismantle stereotypes, and celebrate the empowerment of women who choose to wear the hijab."

The Texas House Representative Salman Bhojani filed House Resolution 85, recognizing March 15th as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia in Texas. March 15th marks the anniversary of the 2019 Christchurch mosque attacks in New Zealand, where 51 Muslim worshippers were murdered in an act of terror. This formal recognition demonstrated state-level commitment to acknowledging and combating Islamophobia.

Accountability for Hate Incidents

When Islamophobic incidents occurred, accountability mechanisms sometimes functioned effectively. Perry Greene, ex-husband of U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, publicly apologized on April 4, 2025, to three Muslim women he verbally attacked during a press conference organized by the Georgia chapter of advocacy organizations. The confrontation had occurred on March 30, 2025, at the Avalon mall in Alpharetta when three women wearing hijabs pulled into a quiet parking lot area to pray. Video showed the man leaning out of a Tesla Cybertruck directing hateful comments at the women. After the video spread online prompting community outrage, the apology took place at the women's place of worship in Johns Creek during Friday prayer services. Greene stated: "I just wanted them to know I humbly apologize to them because nobody should be treated that way, and that's not the way to treat anyone with differences... Hopefully they find it in their hearts to forgive me and we shouldn't allow that in our society."

Meta blamed a technical glitch after an individual who reported an alleged threat against a Sydney mosque on Instagram received notification saying it had not breached community standards on violence. After a 16-year-old's arrest in Bunbury following an alleged threat referencing "Christchurch 2.0"—an apparent reference to the 2019 massacre of 51 worshippers—Meta provided

notification to the reporting individual saying its team found the content "does not go against our community standards." On March 7, 2025, Meta apologized, stating: "The threatening Christchurch 2.0 comment was removed as soon as we became aware... We are aware of one user who mistakenly received an incorrect automated response a day after the content had already been actioned, most likely due to a technical error." While the initial response was inadequate, Meta's eventual acknowledgment and correction represented some level of accountability.

Interfaith Solidarity and Coalition Building

Interfaith solidarity emerged as a powerful counterforce to Islamophobia throughout 2025. More than a dozen Christian and Jewish faith leaders sent demand letters on August 22, 2025, to local elected officials urging them to denounce Tarrant County GOP chair Bo French's "hateful rhetoric" toward Muslim state representative Salman Bhojani. French had called on federal officials to "denaturalize and deport" Bhojani, who is Muslim and Pakistani. The clergy-based leaders wrote they were deeply troubled by French's comments and asked elected officials to speak out against "Islamophobia and all forms of bigotry."

When Texas Republican congressional candidate Valentina Gomez sparked outrage after burning a Quran with a flamethrower in a campaign ad claiming the act was "powered by Jesus Christ," Christian pastor Michael Woolf of Lake Street Church of Evanston condemned the desecration as a distortion of Jesus' message. The pastor noted that Islam reveres Jesus and shares many stories with the Bible, warning that such acts reflect a surge in anti-Muslim hate and can fuel real-world violence. Drawing from his experience co-founding an interfaith initiative, he urged Christians to counter prejudice by building solidarity with Muslims and fostering understanding through dialogue, emphasizing that true Christian faith lies not in destruction but in love, respect, and standing alongside those facing hate.

A coalition of progressive Jewish organizations condemned the Anti-Defamation League in 2025 for what it called "Islamophobic and racist" attacks on New York City mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani. Organizations including New York Jewish Agenda, Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, IfNotNow, J Street NYC, Jews for Racial & Economic Justice, and T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights criticized the ADL's creation of a "Mamdani Monitor" to track policies and personnel

appointments. The signatories stated: "Regardless of how we voted or what our views are on Israel and Palestine, we stand firmly against the Islamophobic and racist attacks from the institutions claiming to represent our communities." The groups said they intended to work with Mamdani in his pledge to combat antisemitism and all forms of hate, declaring: "Together, we can help build a city grounded in justice, dignity, and care for every New Yorker."

Prominent media figures also pushed back against anti-Muslim rhetoric. Piers Morgan and Tucker Carlson discussed religion and cultural identity during a recent conversation, with Morgan noting that public debate around Muslims in Britain had often been distorted, stating: "There are nearly 4 million Muslims in the country, and that represents about 6 percent of the population... the over-amplification of the Islam problem, as people put it, or the Muslim problem has been massively overstated." Carlson agreed, saying hostile narratives about Muslims were manufactured: "That's an op obviously. Hate the Muslims. No, we know where that's coming from." When Morgan said he disliked such framing of blaming Muslims, Carlson replied: "I hate it." Carlson argued that hostility toward any religious group was wrong, saying hatred of Muslims was "the same" as hatred of Christians or Jews.

The Islamophobia Observatory's observation

The United States' 31% share of global positive developments demonstrates that despite the sharp increase in Islamophobic incidents—rising from 14% to 20% of global manifestations—significant countervailing forces exist within American society and institutions. Judicial accountability through criminal prosecutions and hate crime charges, comprehensive legislative initiatives addressing Islamophobia domestically and internationally, educational accommodations and recognition of Muslim holidays, disciplinary action against educators who discriminate, cultural recognition through official resolutions, corporate accountability for platform failures, and vibrant interfaith solidarity collectively represent meaningful resistance to the normalization of anti-Muslim hatred.

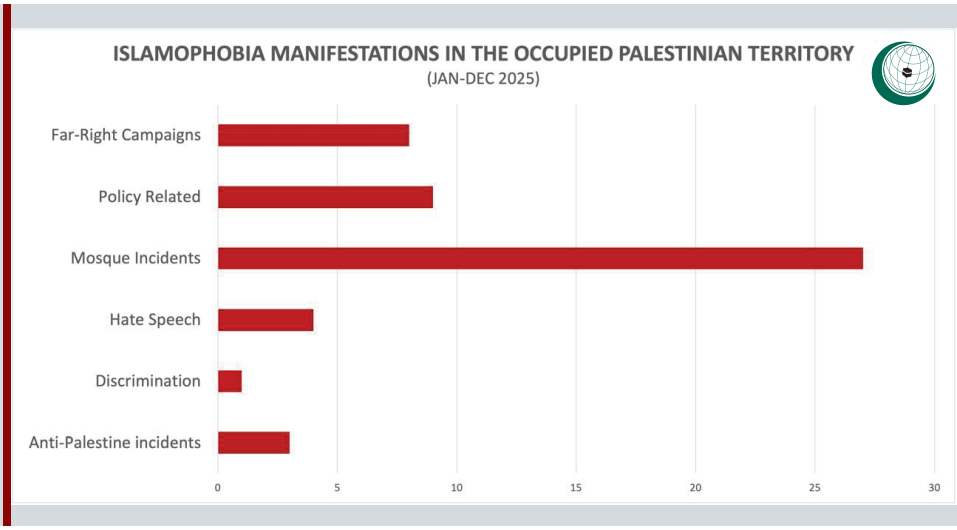
However, these positive developments must be contextualized against the unprecedented surge in civil rights violations, systematic educational bullying, and toxic political rhetoric from elected officials, violent hate crimes, as well as algorithmic amplification of conspiracy theories. The effectiveness of judicial and legislative responses depends on consistent implementation, adequate resources, and sustained political will. Interfaith initiatives and individual acts

of accountability, while inspiring, reach limited audiences compared to mass amplification of hate through social media platforms and political campaigns.

Nevertheless, these developments demonstrate that alternative narratives and practices of inclusion, accountability, and solidarity persist despite attempts to mainstream Islamophobia for political and financial gain. They provide evidence that with sustained advocacy, political courage, judicial vigilance, educational leadership, corporate responsibility, and grassroots organizing across faith communities, the trajectory of anti-Muslim hatred can be challenged and the United States' constitutional commitments to religious freedom, equal protection, and human dignity can be defended and strengthened. The substantial proportion of global positive developments originating in the US offers hope that the nation retains the institutional, political, and social resources necessary to confront the crisis of Islamophobia threatening its Muslim communities and its foundational democratic values

THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

The Occupied Palestinian Territory accounted for 13% of global Islamophobia manifestations in 2025, representing a dramatic increase from the previous year's 6%. This sharp escalation positioned the territory as the fourth most significant hotspot globally, behind India (34%), the United Kingdom (23%), and the United States (20%). The situation warrants urgent international attention due to its systematic, state-sanctioned nature and the intensification of policies and practices specifically targeting Islamic religious sites, practices, and worshippers throughout 2025.



Systematic Appropriation of the Ibrahimi Mosque

The Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, south of the occupied West Bank, became the focal point of an escalating campaign of religious appropriation and administrative seizure throughout 2025. On February 26, 2025, Israeli occupation authorities informed the mosque administration that its management had been transferred from the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Endowments to the Israeli Civil Planning Authority. This represented a fundamental shift in control over one of Islam's holiest sites, where the Biblical patriarch Abraham (Ibrahim in Arabic) is believed to be buried.

The transfer of authority followed years of incremental encroachment. Settlers had set up a tent in the mosque courtyard 20 years earlier, designating it as a place of worship, and it had remained there since. Settlers had been calling for the area to be permanently roofed to turn it into a dedicated prayer space. Israeli forces began building a roof over the courtyard on July 9, 2024, but halted the work two days later after public protests in Hebron, which included sit-ins and demonstrations. The Palestinian Ministry of Endowments rejected the Israeli decision, asserting its authority over the Ibrahimi Mosque.

The administrative seizure intensified throughout 2025. Israeli occupation authorities refused to hand over the administration of the Ibrahimi Mosque to the Palestinian Ministry of Endowment during Ramadan, breaking with the custom established each year. The Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs announced that Israeli occupation authorities refused to hand over authority over the mosque in the Old City of Hebron, including its halls, squares, and facilities, to the Endowment Administration, as had always been done on Fridays of the holy month of Ramadan every year. The ministry stated: "This is a dangerous and unprecedented step, in terms of its timing as it comes in the blessed month of Ramadan as part of Israeli systematic plan to obstruct the opening of the entire mosque for Muslims."

Israel prevented the Muslim call to prayer from being made from the Ibrahimi Mosque 44 times in February 2025 alone, according to new figures released by the Palestinian Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs. On March 2, 2025, the Ministry explained that Israeli occupation forces and settlers had intensified their attacks against Islamic sanctities under the pretext of tourism. Occupation forces expelled a number of ministry employees from the Ibrahimi Mosque for no reason and banned them from entering it, emphasizing that these

measures came as part of Israeli attempts to empty the mosque of worshippers and workers, after its director was deported from it the week before.

On July 15, 2025, Israeli authorities completed the administrative seizure by stripping the Palestinian-run Hebron municipality of administrative powers over the Ibrahimi Mosque and transferring them to a settler religious council. According to reports, the Israeli Civil Administration reassigned authority over the holy site to the religious council of the Kiryat Arba settlement, adjacent to Hebron in the occupied West Bank. The scope of powers transferred aimed to facilitate "structural changes" at the site, marking the first major shift in the mosque's status since the 1994 recommendations of the Shamgar Commission, which divided access, allocating 63% of the site to Jewish worshippers and 37% to Muslims. That division had followed the 1994 massacre by extremist settler Baruch Goldstein, who killed 29 Palestinian worshippers during dawn prayers. The 2025 administrative transfer effectively completed the transformation of the Ibrahimi Mosque from a Muslim holy site with partial Jewish access to a site under settler religious council control.

Escalating Violations at Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound

The Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem experienced record-breaking levels of settler intrusions and systematic violations throughout 2024 and into 2025. Illegal Israeli settlers staged 22 intrusions into the flashpoint complex in December 2024 alone, according to Palestinian authorities. Monitoring documented that 2024 witnessed a record-breaking 58,000 settlers entering Al-Aqsa Mosque, marking a 13% increase from the previous record set in 2023, when 51,483 settlers conducted similar incursions.

Throughout 2024 and into 2025, the courtyards of Al-Aqsa Mosque saw a series of violations by extremist Israeli officials and settler groups, who swiftly responded to calls from "Temple Mount" organizations inciting mass stormings, particularly during Jewish and Zionist holidays. These incursions took place against the backdrop of Israel's ongoing assault on Gaza and military operations in the occupied West Bank since October 7, 2023. Authorities explained that Israeli occupation forces and settlers escalated attacks on the mosque, with intrusions aiming to create a new reality by allowing settlers to perform Jewish religious rituals. Israeli police provided protection for the settler raids, hindered the work of mosque guards, and restricted Muslim worshippers through arrests and searches.

The most provocative violation occurred on August 3, 2025, when National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir—previously convicted for supporting terrorism and inciting anti-Arab racism in Israel—sparked outrage after leading a group of worshippers in prayer at the most sensitive holy site in Jerusalem, despite a decades-old agreement that bars Jews from worshipping there. Ben Gvir commemorated Tisha B'Av, a Jewish day of mourning, in the Al Aqsa Mosque compound, known to Jews as Temple Mount. While there, he called for his country to "conquer" Gaza and "encourage" Palestinians to leave the enclave.

While anyone can visit the site, only Muslims are allowed to pray there according to an understanding known as the 'status quo agreement,' which has existed since Israel captured the Old City of Jerusalem from Jordan in 1967. Ben Gvir had visited the complex numerous times before, including on previous Tisha B'Av commemorations, but had not previously led a congregation in prayer there. This violation of the status quo agreement represented a dangerous escalation that threatened to ignite religious conflict far beyond the immediate site.

State-Sponsored Anti-Arab and Anti-Muslim Incitement

State-sponsored incitement against Arabs and Muslims reached alarming levels throughout 2025, with government officials and state-funded events normalizing anti-Muslim hatred. Thousands of Israelis joined a state-funded march through the Muslim quarter of the Old City in Jerusalem, where large groups chanted racist slogans including "Gaza is ours," "death to the Arabs," and "may their villages burn." The annual march, paid for and promoted by the Jerusalem city government, celebrates Israel's capture and occupation of East Jerusalem and its holy sites in the war of 1967. The Israeli takeover was not recognized internationally. The Jerusalem municipality advertises the event, known as the flag march, as a "festive procession," part of a broader programme of events celebrating the "liberation" of the city.

On July 19, 2025, dozens of Jewish youths were filmed trashing a Jerusalem movie theater while chanting "Death to Arabs" and throwing objects at Arab employees behind the concession stand counter. Footage showed masses of young men throwing floor signs, disposable cups, and what appeared to be a motorcycle helmet at Arab employees at Jerusalem's Cinema City Theater. Police said they had not arrested anyone in connection to the anti-Arab riot, demonstrating systemic impunity for anti-Arab violence.

Israeli government officials legitimized far-right anti-Muslim activism. In mid-October 2025, Amichai Chikli, Israel's minister for the diaspora and combating antisemitism, said he was "proud to host British patriot" Tommy Robinson after the terror attack at a Manchester synagogue. He lauded the far-right activist as a "courageous leader on the front line against radical Islam." Former Tory cabinet minister Baroness Sayeeda Warsi criticized the "irresponsible and deeply dangerous behaviour" by Israel in inviting "a man with multiple convictions for violence and fraud." This official embrace of an internationally notorious Islamophobe demonstrated the Israeli government's comfort with anti-Muslim extremism when aligned with pro-Israel political positions.

Systematic Destruction of Islamic Religious Infrastructure in Gaza

The Israeli military's assault on Gaza resulted in unprecedented destruction of Islamic religious infrastructure. Between October 7, 2023, and January 19, 2025, the Israeli military destroyed 1,109 mosques and 3 churches in Gaza, according to the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs in Gaza. Of the mosques targeted, 834 were completely destroyed, and 275 sustained partial or severe damage. The three churches, all located in Gaza City, were also demolished.

The ministry reported that at least 315 mosque officials and employees were killed, while 27 others were detained. The destruction extended beyond houses of worship to the broader religious infrastructure. The ministry claimed that Israeli forces targeted 40 of Gaza's 60 cemeteries, with 21 completely destroyed, accusing soldiers of exhuming and mutilating bodies in what it described as "barbaric" acts. In addition, 643 religious endowment properties were reportedly destroyed, along with 30 legal institutions and 30 administrative buildings, including the ministry's headquarters and Holy Quran Radio. The ministry also stated that Israeli forces damaged or destroyed 20 ministry-owned vehicles.

The scale and systematic nature of destruction—1,109 mosques destroyed in approximately 15 months—represents an average of more than two mosques destroyed every day. This pattern of destruction, combined with the targeting of cemetery sites and religious officials, suggests deliberate erasure of Islamic religious and cultural infrastructure rather than collateral damage from military operations.

In response to the destruction, the ministry launched the Minarets Coalition, an initiative aimed at rebuilding mosques and religious institutions in Gaza.

The coalition includes religious and charitable leaders from over 30 countries, who will work to support reconstruction efforts and endowment projects in the region. However, the ongoing nature of the conflict and the continuing destruction make reconstruction impossible while hostilities persist.

Intersection with Broader Patterns of Occupation and Settler Colonialism

The Islamophobic manifestations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory cannot be separated from the broader context of military occupation and settler colonialism. The administrative seizure of the Ibrahimi Mosque, the systematic violations at Al-Aqsa, the state-sponsored incitement during the flag march, and the wholesale destruction of mosques in Gaza represent not isolated incidents of religious prejudice but systematic policies designed to assert exclusive Jewish sovereignty over sites, cities, and territories that have been home to Muslim populations for centuries.

The transfer of the Ibrahimi Mosque from Palestinian to Israeli settler control, the violation of the Al-Aqsa status quo agreement by a government minister, and the destruction of over 1,100 mosques in Gaza all serve the same political objective: the erasure or subordination of Muslim religious presence in territories Israel seeks to control. The fact that these actions are carried out or sanctioned by state authorities, funded by government budgets, and met with impunity from law enforcement distinguishes the Occupied Palestinian Territory from other Islamophobia hotspots where such acts are typically perpetrated by non-state actors and condemned (at least nominally) by governments.

Normalization of Anti-Muslim Hatred through Official Channels

The Jerusalem municipality's funding and promotion of the flag march through the Muslim Quarter—where participants chant: "death to the Arabs" and "may their villages burn"—represents official normalization of anti-Muslim hatred. Describing an event featuring such chants as a "festive procession" celebrating "liberation" demonstrates how deeply anti-Muslim sentiment has been embedded in official Israeli discourse and policy.

Similarly, the minister for combating antisemitism hosting Tommy Robinson and praising him as a "courageous leader on the front line against radical Islam" demonstrates that anti-Muslim hatred has become not merely tolerated but actively celebrated by elements of the Israeli government when such hatred

aligns with pro-Israel political positions. This creates international networks linking Israeli officials with far-right anti-Muslim activists in Europe and North America, legitimizing Islamophobia as a shared cause.

The Islamophobia Observatory's observation

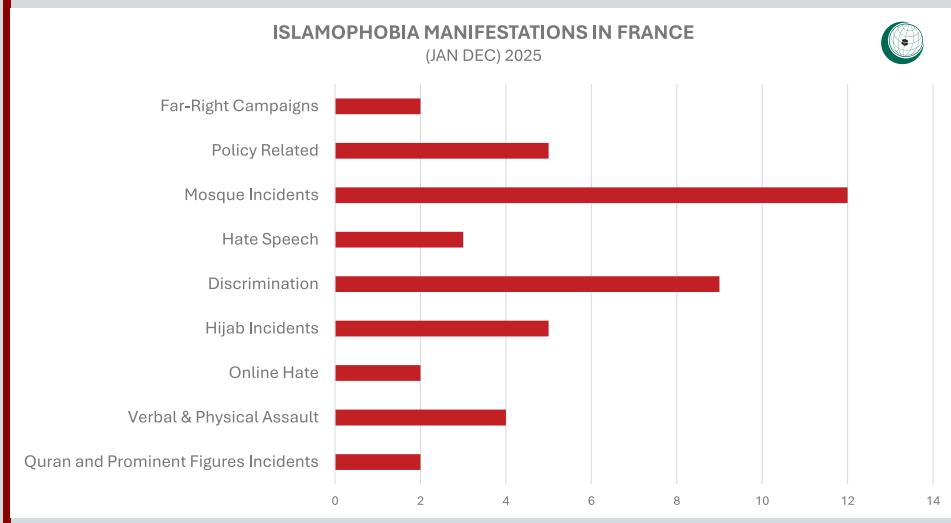
The Occupied Palestinian Territory's 13% share of global Islamophobic manifestations in 2025—more than double the previous year's proportion—represents a qualitatively different phenomenon than Islamophobia in other hotspots. While India, the United Kingdom, and the United States experience Islamophobia primarily through non-state actors (though often encouraged by political rhetoric and inadequate government responses), the Occupied Palestinian Territory experiences Islamophobia as deliberate state policy executed through military force, administrative seizure, legislative action, and official incitement.

The administrative transfer of the Ibrahimi Mosque to settler religious council control, the violation of the Al-Aqsa status quo agreement by a government minister leading Jewish prayer at the site, the state-funded flag march featuring genocidal chants, the systematic destruction of 1,109 mosques in Gaza, the killing of 315 religious officials, the desecration of cemeteries, and the official embrace of international anti-Muslim extremists collectively demonstrate that Islamophobia in the Occupied Palestinian Territory functions as an instrument of territorial control and demographic engineering rather than merely as prejudice or discrimination.

This systematic, state-sanctioned nature—combined with the scale of religious infrastructure destruction in Gaza and the incremental seizure of historic Islamic holy sites in the West Bank and East Jerusalem—positions the Occupied Palestinian Territory as a unique and particularly alarming Islamophobia hotspot requiring urgent international intervention to protect both Muslim religious sites of global significance and the Palestinian Muslim population living under occupation

FRANCE

France accounted for 10% of global Islamophobic manifestations in 2025, representing a dramatic increase from the previous year's 2%. This fivefold escalation positioned France among the world's most concerning hotspots for anti-Muslim sentiment, reflecting both an actual surge in incidents and improved reporting mechanisms. The nature of these occurrences reveals systemic concerns rooted in state policies, political rhetoric, and societal attitudes that have created an increasingly hostile environment for France's Muslim population—the largest in Western Europe.



Dramatic Surge in Anti-Muslim Incidents

Official data from the National Directorate of Territorial Intelligence (DNRT) documented a dramatic 72% increase in anti-Muslim acts during the first quarter of 2025 compared to the same period in 2024. The ministry recorded 79 anti-Muslim acts between January and March 2025: 26 in January, 17 in February, and 36 in March, compared to 46 incidents over the same period in 2024 (14 in January, 11 in February, 21 in March). By May 2025, authorities had recorded 145 anti-Muslim acts in the first five months of the year—a 75% increase compared to 83 incidents during the same period in 2024.

Most alarmingly, violence targeting individuals more than tripled. Direct assaults on people accounted for 99 cases in the first five months of 2025, compared to just 32 in 2024, representing more than two-thirds of all Islamophobic acts. The data confirmed a sharp escalation in attacks that were no longer limited to property damage or insults but increasingly turned violent and lethal.

The Interior Ministry acknowledged that these figures likely represented underestimates because victims do not necessarily file complaints. Partnership between intelligence services and advocacy organizations was gradually being built to allow for improved reporting of Islamophobic acts. Over all of 2024, 173 anti-Muslim incidents were recorded, representing a 29% decrease compared to 2023's 242 incidents, though this decline proved temporary as the dramatic surge in early 2025 demonstrated.

Lethal Violence and Inadequate Government Response

Two murders in spring 2025 demonstrated the deadly consequences of France's toxic climate toward Muslims and exposed troubling government indifference. On April 25, 2025, Aboubakar Cissé, a Malian national, was stabbed to death in a mosque in La Grand-Combe by a French citizen. The attack was captured on video, showing vile Islamophobia in action. Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau, also responsible for religious affairs, posted only a brief message of solidarity with the Muslim community on the day of the killing but did not cancel any public engagements—numerous, as he was campaigning for leadership of the conservative party Les Républicains—to immediately visit the town as he had done after other violent incidents.

It took a full 24 hours for Prime Minister François Bayrou to condemn the "vile Islamophobia… shown on video," and another day after that for President Emmanuel Macron to publicly comment, expressing condemnation of "racism" and "religious hatred" in France. Macron was quicker to express solidarity following an attack in Vancouver—where a driver rammed a crowd during a Filipino cultural event—even though that tragedy occurred a day after the mosque attack in France.

No member of the government nor any representative of the state took part in a silent march in La Grand-Combe. When Retailleau eventually showed up in the town on April 27—a delay criticized even within his own party—he limited his presence to closed-door talks at the sub-prefecture and announced security protection for mosques. He neither went to the mosque nor met the victim's family. Asked in a TV interview about the delay, Retailleau blamed his caution on uncertainty about the motivation for the crime, despite the video and the anti-Muslim sentiment the suspect had allegedly posted online. Throughout, Retailleau referred to the victim simply as "the individual," never using his name, and later blamed the murder on France's "multicultural society."

Muslim community leaders criticized the way Muslims in France were stigmatized and expressed shock at the slow response of authorities after the young man's murder. The rector of the Sud-Nîmes mosque and vice-president of the Muslim representative body noted the stark contrast with government responses to other violent incidents.

On May 31, 2025, Hichem Miraoui, a Tunisian hairdresser living in the village of Puget-sur-Argents near Fréjus, was shot five times near his home and died at the scene. The suspected killer, a French man believed to be Miraoui's neighbor and a sports shooting enthusiast, fled by car and was arrested nearby after his partner alerted police. He had also wounded a Turkish man in the hand. Regional prosecutor Pierre Couttenier said the alleged killer "posted two videos on his social media account containing racist and hateful content before and after his attack." French media reported that the man had sworn allegiance to the French flag and called on French people to seek out and shoot people of foreign origin.

Specialized prosecutors opened an investigation into a "terrorist plot" motivated by the race or religion of the victims, determining that the suspect wanted to "disrupt public order through terror." A lawyer for Miraoui's family stated: "Hichem's death is the direct consequence of an atmosphere fed by stigmatisation… and the trivialisation of racist violence." The murder occurred just days after the French government released its controversial report on the Muslim Brotherhood and "political Islamism" in France.

State-Sponsored Stigmatization through the Muslim Brotherhood Report

In May 2025, the French government released a report titled "The Muslim Brotherhood and Political Islamism in France," which claimed that the Muslim Brotherhood and "political Islamism" were infiltrating French institutions and threatening social cohesion. The report named various Muslim organizations and mosques as having links to the group and argued that campaigning against Islamophobia was itself a tool of the Muslim Brotherhood. According to the report, anti-Islamophobia activism was used to discredit secular policies and portray the state as racist.

This framing was designed to invalidate legitimate critiques of discriminatory laws and practices and framed any public recognition of anti-Muslim racism as a covert Islamist agenda. The implication was clear: Muslim visibility and dissent were not just suspect—they were dangerous. The report was commissioned under

hardline former Interior Minister and now Justice Minister Gérald Darmanin, who in 2021 accused far-right leader Marine Le Pen of being "too soft" on Islam.

The French Council of the Muslim Faith (CFCM) warned on May 21, 2025, that Muslim citizens in France felt increasingly exposed to "constant suspicion" after publication of excerpts from the report. "Many Muslim citizens today feel that they are no longer safe from constant suspicion," the CFCM stated, expressing alarm over potential consequences. The council criticized the report for "fueling widespread suspicion" and called for a more nuanced and data-driven approach to evaluating threats linked to extremism.

The report came out just days before Miraoui was shot dead and two weeks after French authorities raided the homes of several founding members of the Brussels-based Collective Against Islamophobia in Europe (CCIE) living in France. With the rise of anti-Muslim attacks and discrimination, it became increasingly difficult to believe that the French state's obsession with "Islamist separatism" was not inciting violence against the French Muslim population.

Analysis of the report revealed it was not aimed at clarifying policy or ensuring legal precision but at politicizing Muslim identity, delegitimizing political dissent, and facilitating a new wave of state attacks on Muslim civil society. Like many official statements and initiatives, it served to portray Muslim visibility and advocacy as existential threats to the French Republic.

Attacks on Mosques and Religious Sites

Physical attacks on mosques intensified throughout 2025. On June 27, 2025, El Hidaya Mosque in Roussillon in Southern France was attacked and vandalized, with windows smashed, furniture overturned, and walls plastered with racist flyers. Earlier the same month, a burned Quran was placed at the entrance of a mosque in Villeurbanne of Lyon.

On September 8, 2025, nine severed pig heads were scattered on the doorsteps of mosques across Paris and its nearby suburbs in what French authorities investigated as an act of foreign interference. According to the Paris prosecutor's office, two individuals driving a car with Serbian license plates approached a farmer in Normandy to buy "about 10" pig heads. CCTV footage showed them arriving in Paris's Oberkampf neighborhood. After depositing the pig heads in front of nine mosques, the vehicle crossed the French border with Belgium on September 9, 2025.

The Paris Public Prosecutor's Office stated: "The pig heads left in front of mosques in the Paris region were placed there by foreign nationals who immediately left the country, with the clear intention of causing unrest within the nation." Paris prosecutor Laure Beccuau explained: "The aim is to unsettle our fellow citizens, ultimately raising questions about the country we live in, about their safety, and then, of course, creating divisions between communities." While this particular incident involved foreign actors, it occurred within a broader context of domestic anti-Muslim hostility that made such provocations particularly dangerous.

Discriminatory Policies and Legislative Proposals

Policy-related Islamophobia manifested through multiple discriminatory measures and proposals throughout 2025. The French Football Federation (FFF) banned Muslim players from fasting during Ramadan while training with the national squad, sparking accusations of discrimination and dividing the team. Players observing Ramadan were told they could not fast at Clairefontaine training camp and could only make up for missed fasting days after international fixtures ended.

Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau called for Muslim women to be barred from wearing hijabs when accompanying children on school outings to help stem what he characterized as an Islamist drive to impose sharia law in France. The measure was proposed as France marked the tenth anniversary of the 2015 Charlie Hebdo terrorist attack. For the past decade there had been demands for such a ban on Muslim dress worn by mothers who volunteer to accompany children on class outings from state schools, beyond the existing ban on wearing religious head coverings in state schools themselves. In 2019, the Senate approved a bill requiring women to remove headscarves on such outings, though it did not become law.

In May 2025, before a high-level government meeting to discuss what it called "political Islamism" in France, Gabriel Attal—former prime minister and head of Macron's party, Renaissance—proposed a ban on "minors under 15 wearing the veil in public spaces." He said the Muslim head covering worn by young girls "seriously undermines gender equality and the protection of children." Attal told Le Parisien he also wanted to introduce a criminal offense of coercion for parents who make their daughters aged under 18 wear the veil.

Attal's proposals were criticized by some on the left. Socialist party lawmaker Jérôme Guedj said Attal was "chasing the far right" and turning French secularism

against Muslims. These legislative proposals demonstrated how anti-Muslim policies were increasingly normalized across the political spectrum, from the center to the far right.

Rising Discrimination and Societal Hostility

A survey released by a French rights group on December 4, 2025, revealed an increase in religion-based discrimination, particularly against Muslims. According to the 2024 edition of the Access to Rights survey, 7% of more than 5,000 respondents reported experiencing discrimination based on religion in the past five years, up from 5% in 2016. The survey found that 31% of respondents reported witnessing discrimination based on religion in 2024, compared with 21% in 2016.

Most significantly, 34% of Muslims reported experiencing religion-based discrimination, up from 27% in 2016. In comparison, 19% of people who identified with another religion and only 4% of Christians reported being discriminated against for their religious beliefs. During the 2024 legislative elections, the defender of rights also observed a 53% spike between May and June in calls to the hotline dedicated to combating discrimination.

The French Council of the Muslim Faith on November 20, 2025, criticized a new poll on Muslims in France, accusing it of reinforcing "stigma" and contributing to a climate of rising Islamophobia. The council said the survey was presented as "a snapshot of the relationship between Muslims in France and Islam and Islamism" but in reality amounted to "yet another attempt to stigmatize French citizens of Muslim faith and their religious practices."

The council warned that some poll findings and interpretations were "questionable," noting they had been "widely adopted and exploited by Islamophobic circles" to portray Muslims as an "internal and existential threat" to French society. The council pointed out that the poll itself contradicted narratives promoted by far-right groups: "Other data, notably the fact that Muslims do not represent more than 7% of the French population, particularly undermine the 'great replacement' theory."

International Dimension: French Far-Right Attacks on British Muslim Educator

French far-right politicians and media commentators unexpectedly joined attacks on Sir Hamid Patel, a distinguished British school leader knighted in

2021 for services to education, when he was appointed interim chair of the UK's school regulator Ofsted in March 2025. Patel is chief executive of Star Academies, a hugely successful multi-academy trust running 36 schools across the UK, largely in deprived areas.

François-Xavier Bellamy, a member of the European Parliament and vice-president of the right-wing Les Républicains party, promoted a false conspiracy theory on March 15, 2025, that Patel was part of an "Islamist project" to take over British institutions, writing: "The Islamist project involves taking control of institutions, starting with schools." There was no evidence that Patel had ever advocated a religious or political ideology.

Jean Messiha, a prominent figure on the French far right and former spokesperson for 2022 presidential candidate Eric Zemmour's Reconquête party, posted a photo of Patel with nearly 300,000 followers on X, captioned: "I present to you the Inspector General of National Education of Great Britain." This international dimension of French Islamophobia demonstrated how French far-right actors sought to export their particular brand of anti-Muslim politics beyond national borders.

The Islamophobia Observatory's observation

France's 10% share of global Islamophobic manifestations in 2025—a fivefold increase from the previous year—represents a profound crisis driven by state policies, political rhetoric, and societal attitudes that have created an increasingly dangerous environment for French Muslims. The lethal violence claiming the lives of Aboubakar Cissé and Hichem Miraoui, the inadequate government response to these murders, the state-sponsored stigmatization through the Muslim Brotherhood report, the 75% surge in anti-Muslim incidents with violence tripling, the discriminatory policies targeting religious practices from Ramadan fasting to hijab wearing, and the rising societal discrimination documented in surveys collectively demonstrate that Islamophobia in France operates with state sanction and political normalization.

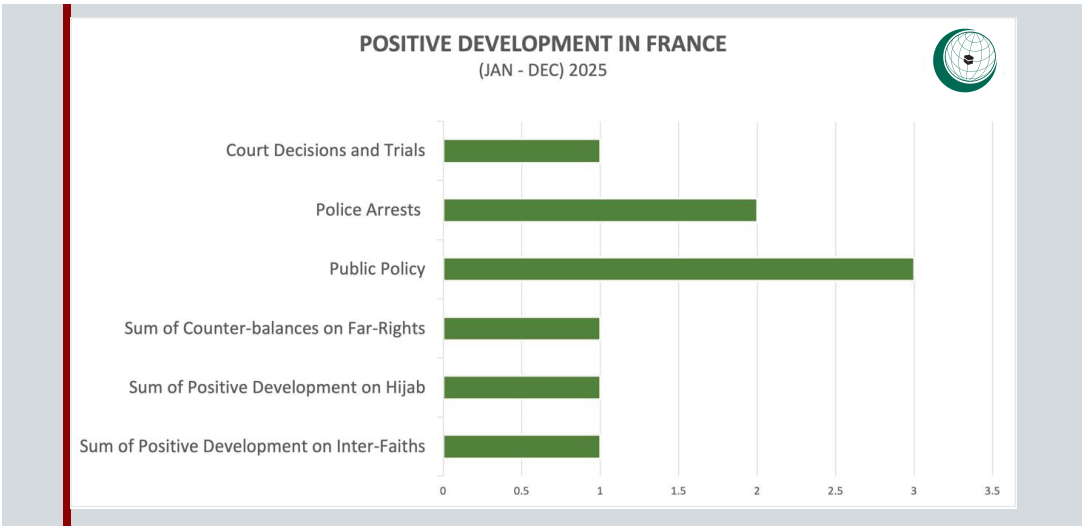
The French government's framing of anti-Islamophobia activism itself as an Islamist threat, the Interior Minister's reference to the murder victim simply as "the individual" while blaming "multicultural society," the proposals to ban hijab for girls under 15 in all public spaces, and the Football Federation's ban on Ramadan fasting demonstrate how thoroughly anti-Muslim sentiment has penetrated French institutions and political discourse across the spectrum from

center to far right.

The fact that Muslims constitute only 7% of France's population yet account for 34% of those experiencing religion-based discrimination—nearly five times the rate of Christians—and that two-thirds of all anti-Muslim acts in early 2025 involved direct violence against individuals signals an escalating crisis threatening not only French Muslims' safety and dignity but France's foundational republican values of liberty, equality, and fraternity. The killings of Cissé and Miraoui, occurring within weeks of each other in a climate of state-sponsored stigmatization, represent the deadly endpoint of a trajectory that demands urgent reversal through political leadership, institutional reform, and societal reckoning with the consequences of normalizing anti-Muslim hatred.

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN FRANCE

Despite the alarming 72-75% surge in anti-Muslim incidents throughout 2025 and France's dramatic increase to 10% of global Islamophobic manifestations, the country demonstrated important countervailing forces through public policy initiatives, judicial interventions, law enforcement actions, and political pushback against discriminatory proposals. According to the Observatory's data, positive developments in France were led by public policy measures, followed by police arrests and court decisions, with additional contributions from counter-balances to far-right extremism, positive hijab-related developments, and interfaith initiatives. These developments, while insufficient to reverse the overall trajectory of rising Islamophobia, demonstrated that mechanisms for accountability, protection, and resistance to discrimination remained operative within French institutions and society.



Public Policy Initiatives and Political Leadership

The most significant public policy development occurred on April 29, 2025, when French lawmakers observed a minute of silence for Aboubakar Cissé, who was fatally stabbed at a mosque in the southern Gard region. The tribute was announced by National Assembly President Yaël Braun-Pivet, who described the killing as a "cowardly assassination" that "shocked the nation." Braun-Pivet said the decision to hold the tribute was made after consultations with several parliamentary group leaders, despite the absence of initial consensus. This formal parliamentary recognition of an Islamophobic murder as a national tragedy represented important symbolic acknowledgment of anti-Muslim violence and the dignity of Muslim victims, standing in stark contrast to the executive branch's delayed and inadequate response.

Perhaps the most significant political intervention came from Prime Minister François Bayrou, who on May 27, 2025, delivered a scathing critique of his predecessor and centrist ally Gabriel Attal's proposal to ban Muslim headscarves for minors under 15. Attal, the leader of President Emmanuel Macron's Renaissance political party, had publicly floated the proposal after a controversial government report on alleged attempts by groups supposedly tied to the Muslim Brotherhood to "infiltrate" French society. While Bayrou acknowledged that the document contained useful elements, he stated in an interview that the "scale" of the issue still needed to be assessed and the government must tread carefully out of respect for France's law-abiding Muslim community.

Most significantly, Bayrou declared: "I don't want to make Islam a subject of fixation for French society." He hinted that Attal's proposal could alienate many French Muslims and would be nearly impossible to enforce, questioning:

"Does it mean that, in the streets, police officers will tell young women, show me your ID so I can see if you're old enough?" This public pushback from the sitting Prime Minister against a discriminatory proposal from the former Prime Minister and head of the President's own party represented a rare moment of political courage and pragmatic recognition that the escalating focus on Muslims risked fundamentally alienating a substantial portion of French citizens. Bayrou's intervention demonstrated that even within the centrist political establishment, some leaders recognized the dangers of making "Islam a subject of fixation" and were willing to publicly resist the rightward drift on Muslim issues.

Judicial Protection and Court Decisions

The French judicial system provided crucial protection against discriminatory state actions targeting Muslim educational institutions. In mid-October 2025, a French administrative appeals court in Marseille overturned the government's decision to close the Ibn Sina Islamic middle school in Nice, ruling that the alleged financial irregularities were too minor to justify such action. The case had originated in March 2024, when authorities ordered the school's closure under France's controversial anti-separatism law.

Founded in 2016, Ibn Sina serves around 130 students in a disadvantaged neighborhood of Nice and follows the national curriculum with added Arabic and Islamic ethics lessons. The court deemed the closure disproportionate and suggested lighter corrective measures would have been more appropriate. Issued in mid-October 2025, the ruling marked the school's third legal victory and reignited debate over religious freedom and the treatment of Islamic institutions in France.

This judicial intervention was particularly significant given the broader context of pressure on Muslim educational institutions. The court's finding that closure was "disproportionate" for minor financial irregularities suggested judicial recognition that Muslim institutions were being held to different—and discriminatory—standards compared to other educational establishments. The fact that this represented the school's third legal victory demonstrated both the persistence of government efforts to close the institution and the resilience of judicial protections when properly invoked. The ruling provided hope that French courts could serve as bulwarks against discriminatory application of anti-separatism legislation, even as executive and legislative branches promoted increasingly restrictive policies.

Law Enforcement Accountability

Law enforcement demonstrated some responsiveness to anti-Muslim violence through arrests and investigations, though the adequacy of these responses remained subject to debate. Following the September 8, 2025, incident in which nine severed pig heads were scattered on doorsteps of mosques across Paris and its suburbs, authorities conducted investigations that identified the perpetrators as foreign nationals driving a car with Serbian license plates. The Paris prosecutor's office characterized the incident as an act of foreign interference with "the clear intention of causing unrest within the nation."

While the perpetrators had fled to Belgium before they could be arrested, the investigation demonstrated law enforcement capacity to identify culprits and frame the incident appropriately as an attempt to "create divisions between communities." Paris prosecutor Laure Beccuau's public statement acknowledging the aim to "unsettle our fellow citizens, ultimately raising questions about the country we live in, about their safety" represented official recognition of how such acts threaten social cohesion and Muslim community security.

Following the murders of Aboubakar Cissé and Hichem Miraoui, law enforcement arrested suspects in both cases. In Miraoui's case, specialized prosecutors opened an investigation into a "terrorist plot" motivated by the race or religion of victims, determining that the suspect—who had posted racist and hateful content on social media calling on French people to seek out and shoot people of foreign origin—wanted to "disrupt public order through terror." This proper characterization of anti-Muslim violence as terrorism when it meets the legal definition represented important prosecutorial recognition that such violence threatens public order and should be treated with appropriate seriousness.

Improved Reporting Mechanisms and Acknowledgment of Underreporting

The Interior Ministry's acknowledgment that official figures likely represented underestimates because victims do not necessarily file complaints, and its statement that partnership with advocacy organizations was "gradually being built" to "allow for improved reporting of Islamophobic acts," represented important institutional recognition of systemic problems in documenting anti-Muslim incidents. This transparency about limitations in current data collection and commitment to improvement suggested some official willingness

to take the problem seriously rather than minimize its scope.

The ministry's explanation that the 72% increase in reported incidents during the first quarter of 2025 was partially "the result of work that is gradually being built up" with advocacy organizations and "allows for better identification of anti-Muslim acts and encourages victims to file complaints" demonstrated recognition that improved reporting mechanisms could reveal previously hidden patterns of discrimination and violence. This acknowledgment, while not addressing the underlying causes of increased incidents, at least suggested institutional commitment to better understanding the scope and nature of Islamophobia in France.

Counter-Narratives and Data Challenging Far-Right Conspiracy Theories

The French Council of the Muslim Faith's November 20, 2025, statement criticizing polling on Muslims in France noted that data showing Muslims represent no more than 7% of the French population "particularly undermine the 'great replacement' theory" promoted by far-right groups. While the council criticized how poll findings were exploited by Islamophobic circles, the public availability of accurate demographic data provided empirical counter-narratives to conspiracy theories driving anti-Muslim sentiment.

Similarly, survey data released by the defender of rights on December 4, 2025, documenting that 34% of Muslims reported experiencing religion-based discrimination—compared to only 4% of Christians—provided statistical evidence of disproportionate targeting that could inform policy responses and public discourse. The 53% spike in calls to the anti-discrimination hotline during the 2024 legislative elections demonstrated both the reality of increased discrimination and the existence of reporting mechanisms that could document patterns requiring intervention.

Limitations and Ongoing Challenges

These positive developments must be contextualized within the broader crisis of rising Islamophobia in France. Prime Minister Bayrou's critique of Attal's hijab ban proposal, while welcome, did not prevent Attal from making the proposal in the first place or address the government report stigmatizing Muslim organizations that precipitated it. The parliamentary minute of silence for Cissé, while symbolically important, could not compensate for the executive branch's delayed and inadequate response to his murder or Interior Minister Retailleau's refusal to even use the victim's name.

The judicial victory for Ibn Sina Islamic middle school, while significant, represented the institution's third legal battle—demonstrating persistent government efforts to close it despite repeated court findings in its favor. Law enforcement arrests of suspects in anti-Muslim murders, while necessary, could not reverse the climate of stigmatization that contributed to the violence or address the Interior Minister's characterization of such violence as a consequence of "multicultural society" rather than anti-Muslim hatred.

The acknowledgment of underreporting and improved data collection mechanisms, while positive steps, revealed the extent to which anti-Muslim incidents had previously gone undocumented and unaddressed. The availability of demographic data undermining "great replacement" conspiracy theories had not prevented such theories from influencing political discourse and policy proposals across the political spectrum from center to far right.

The Islamophobia Observatory's observation

France's positive developments—led by public policy initiatives including Prime Minister Bayrou's rejection of hijab ban proposals and parliamentary recognition of Islamophobic murder, followed by judicial protection of Muslim institutions, law enforcement investigations of anti-Muslim violence, and improved reporting mechanisms—demonstrated that countervailing forces existed within French institutions capable of resisting the normalization of anti-Muslim discrimination and violence.

However, these developments remained insufficient to reverse the overall trajectory evidenced by the 75% surge in anti-Muslim incidents, the tripling of violence targeting individuals, the two murders within weeks of each other, the state-sponsored stigmatization through the Muslim Brotherhood report, and the systematic proposals for increasingly restrictive policies targeting Muslim religious practices. The gap between these limited positive developments and the scale of the crisis highlighted the urgent need for more comprehensive political leadership, institutional reform, robust judicial intervention, and societal reckoning with the consequences of treating Islam as a "subject of fixation" for French society—precisely what Prime Minister Bayrou warned against but what the broader trajectory of French politics and policy continued to promote.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

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Islamophobia has emerged as a pressing global challenge that intersects with issues of religious freedom, human rights, discrimination, and social cohesion. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation recognizes that effectively addressing Islamophobia requires coordinated, multi-dimensional approaches involving governments, international organizations, civil society, religious leaders, and media. The following policy recommendations aim to provide a comprehensive framework for combating Islamophobia through legal, educational, media-related, and collaborative initiatives.

Legal and Policy Frameworks

- **Implement** UN Resolution 16/18 and 53/1: Urge national governments to fully implement the recommendations and action points outlined in UN Resolution 16/18 and 53/1, which address religious intolerance and discrimination. Revitalize the Istanbul Process as a follow-up mechanism to ensure consistent implementation and accountability. The OIC should actively work to reinvigorate this critical mechanism, which has seen diminished visibility since 2019, by exploring collaborative opportunities with international organizations, particularly the European Union, to organize joint events and strategic engagements.
- **Develop** Anti-Islamophobia Legislation: Establish an OIC Ad Hoc Legal Experts' Group to develop model legislation that explicitly defines and prohibits Islamophobia, incitement to religious hatred, and the desecration of religious symbols. This model law should comply with international human rights standards while addressing the specific challenges of anti-Muslim discrimination. Member States are expected to approve the comprehensive OIC Strategy to Combat Islamophobia prepared by the Special Envoy on Combatting Islamophobia in collaboration with the General Secretariat.
- **Criminalize** Hate Speech and Incitement: Advocate for laws that criminalize hate speech and incitement to violence against Muslims, with clear penalties for violations. These laws should balance freedom of expression with protection against discrimination. States should be encouraged to criminalize

incitement to violence based on religion or belief, while maintaining open, constructive dialogue and mutual understanding.

- **Establish** National Mechanisms for Accountability: Encourage countries to establish national mechanisms to hold accountable media organizations that perpetuate hate speech and religious intolerance, while respecting press freedom.
- **Prevent** Religious Defamation and Desecration: Advocate within the international community for comprehensive legal and administrative measures to prevent, prohibit, and penalize defamation of Islam and desecration of religious symbols, particularly the Holy Qur'an. The OIC should continue diplomatic and legal follow-up actions, including formal communications to governments where such incidents occur, demanding robust preventive measures and pursuing international legal consultations to raise global awareness about the sensitivity of such provocative actions.

Monitoring and Data Collection

- **Strengthen** the OIC Islamophobia Observatory: Enhance the resources, staffing, and capabilities of the OIC Islamophobia Observatory to systematically monitor, analyze, and report on Islamophobic incidents worldwide. The Observatory should continue its vital work of monitoring incidents of hatred, discrimination, hostility, violence and intolerance against Muslims and acts of defamation of Islam or its revered figures, publishing periodic reports including monthly monitoring reports on the OIC website.
- **Create** a Global Incident Reporting Portal: Develop a user-friendly, multilingual online platform where individuals and communities can report Islamophobic incidents. This centralized database should collect detailed information on incidents, victim demographics, and legal outcomes.
- **Conduct** Fact-Finding Missions: Authorize the Special Envoy on Combating Islamophobia to conduct fact-finding missions in collaboration with the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) to investigate severe instances of Islamophobia and discrimination.
- **Analysis** and Risk Assessment: Analyze collected data to identify patterns, root causes, and emerging trends in Islamophobia. Develop risk assessment models to forecast potential spikes in Islamophobic incidents based on social, political, and media trends. Continue producing comprehensive

quarterly assessments that provide critical insights to inform policy-making processes, strategically integrating these analytical findings into the OIC's official statements and speeches.

- **Maintain** and Update 'Countries of Concern' List: Continue updating and refining the list of countries where Islamophobic policies and actions are prevalent, particularly those endangering the safety of religious sites. This list should be regularly reviewed and updated in annual reports to Member States.

Education and Awareness

- **Promote** Educational Reforms: Advocate for educational reforms in schools and universities to include comprehensive modules on religious tolerance, respect for religious symbols, and combating Islamophobia.
- **Develop** Training Programs: Design toolkits and training modules for law enforcement, educators, and community leaders on identifying, preventing, and responding to Islamophobic incidents.
- **Launch** Public Awareness Campaigns: Develop materials for public awareness campaigns, including infographics and fact sheets that dispel myths and misconceptions about Islam. Continue efforts to raise global awareness about the danger of hatred and intolerance perpetrated on the basis of religion or belief, expressing concern about the significant threats posed by far-right and extreme-right ideologies.
- **Create** Digital Resources: Develop an interactive website with educational resources, data visualizations, and personal narratives that promote understanding of Islam and counter stereotypes. Produce short, shareable video content highlighting the true character of Islam and promoting principles of moderation.

Media Engagement

- **Promote** Responsible Journalism: Work with media outlets to promote the understanding of responsible use of freedom of speech, emphasizing ethical reporting standards concerning religion.
- **Host** Journalist Briefings: Organize regular briefings with journalists to share data and insights on Islamophobia, encouraging accurate and responsible reporting.

- **Coordinate** Media Strategy: Establish cross-border coordination to share tactics and create a cohesive media strategy for combating Islamophobia.
- **Monitor** Media Coverage: Track how Islamophobia is covered in the media and analyze the media's role in promoting or countering Islamophobic narratives.

Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue

- **Promote** Dialogue Initiatives: Support interfaith, intercultural, and inter-civilizational dialogue as essential components of combating religious intolerance and discrimination. Emphasize the critical importance of maintaining open, constructive dialogue, mutual understanding, respect for religious diversity, and meaningful interfaith engagement among different communities and stakeholders.
- **Engage** Religious Leaders: Work closely with religious leaders from various faiths to carry out unified advocacy against religious intolerance and the desecration of sacred symbols.
- **Support** Grassroots Peace Initiatives: Continue supporting peace initiatives at the grassroots level in areas of conflict, promoting tolerance, peaceful coexistence, and mutual understanding.
- **Organize** Cultural Exchange Programs: Facilitate cultural exchange programs and virtual exhibitions celebrating Islamic culture, history, and achievements to counter negative stereotypes.
- **Organize** International Conferences on Islamophobia. Such conferences should highlight freedom of expression and belief, promote interfaith dialogue and understanding, and raise awareness of the threat of Islamophobia.

International Collaboration

- **Strengthen** Partnerships: Establish partnerships with international organizations such as the United Nations, European Union, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and human rights groups to enhance advocacy efforts. Pursue targeted diplomatic efforts in international forums to advance strategic consultation and cooperation to address complex challenges related to Islamophobia, religious defamation, and discrimination.
- **Commemorate** International Day to Combat Islamophobia: Encourage global commemoration of March 15 as the International Day to Combat

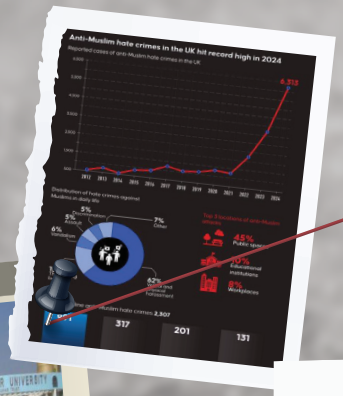
Islamophobia to renew commitment and galvanize support for combating Islamophobia. The OIC Permanent Observer Missions to the United Nations in New York and Geneva should continue organizing high-visibility events, co-organizing annual events with the United Nations aimed at increasing awareness and addressing anti-Muslim hatred at all levels. Encourage Member States and other international and regional organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders to organize various events on March 15 as follow-up to UN Resolution 76/254.

- **Support** UN Special Envoy on Islamophobia: Welcome and support the appointment of the United Nations Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia as a pivotal step towards promoting tolerance, peaceful coexistence, and harmonious life among different religions, as well as protection of religious minorities and places of worship. The OIC should engage actively with the UN Special Envoy to coordinate efforts and share resources.
- **Support** Muslim Communities in Non-OIC Countries: Encourage governments and non-governmental actors to expand development programs to help Muslim minorities in non-OIC countries, addressing discrimination in employment, opportunities, and social integration. Encourage the enactment of laws and elaboration of policies restricting any religious profiling measures leading to discrimination against specific religions.
- **Foster** Academic Collaboration: Collaborate with universities and academic institutions to conduct joint research on Islamophobia, religious tolerance, and racism, with a focus on identifying solutions.
- **Engage** with Technology Companies: Intensify engagement with technology companies to address online hate speech, algorithmic bias, and AI-generated anti-Muslim content. Work collaboratively to develop mechanisms for rapid identification and removal of Islamophobic content while respecting freedom of expression.
- **Enhance** Role of the Special Envoy: Support the active engagement of the Special Envoy on Combatting Islamophobia with international stakeholders, particularly through participation in international events related to combating Islamophobia and the promotion of dialogue among religions and civilizations. Member States should consider hosting future Sessions of the Istanbul Process to restore its momentum and significance as the premier international forum for addressing Islamophobia.

Implementation and Monitoring

- **Develop** Country-Specific Action Plans: Work with Member States to develop country-specific action plans for implementing these policy recommendations, taking into account local contexts and challenges.
- **Establish** Performance Indicators: Create clear performance indicators to measure progress in combating Islamophobia, with regular reporting and evaluation.
- **Resource** Mobilization: Mobilize financial and human resources to support the implementation of these policy recommendations, potentially establishing a dedicated fund for combating Islamophobia. Express appreciation to Member States that provide generous financial contributions to support international conferences and initiatives.
- **Regular** Review Meetings: Convene regular meetings to review progress, share best practices, and adjust strategies as needed to ensure effectiveness.
- **Engage** in Direct Diplomatic Communications: The Secretary General should continue engaging in direct communications with leaders of countries where Islamophobic incidents occur, consistently emphasizing the OIC's position and urging governments to implement robust preventive measures. Formal letters should be addressed to the UN Secretary General and UN Security Council President to reiterate the organization's concerns on international platforms.

By implementing these policy recommendations, it is expected that the OIC, its Member States, and the international community can move in the same direction in addressing the root causes of Islamophobia, promote religious freedom and tolerance, and create societies where people of all faiths can live together in peace and mutual respect.



MANIFESTATION OF ISLAMOPHOBIA

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(January - December 2025)

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Islamophobia represents a complex phenomenon characterized by fear, hostility, and prejudice directed not only toward Islam as a faith system but also toward Muslim individuals and Islamic cultural symbols, institutions, and practices. It manifests through multifaceted expressions of intolerance, ranging from subtle discriminatory attitudes in everyday interactions to institutionalized forms of marginalization in media portrayals, workplace environments, and political discourse. This pervasive sentiment, rooted in misconceptions and stereotypes, often materializes in disturbing physical demonstrations of hate—including vandalism of mosques, desecration of religious texts, harassment of women in Islamic dress, and deliberate disrespect toward revered Islamic figures and symbols.

This chapter presents a systematic codification of Islamophobic incidents and indicators documented across multiple countries during the period under review. It offers a cataloging of these manifestations, organized into distinct categories: systemic discrimination, implementation of Islamophobic policies, far-right activities, verbal and physical assaults, proliferation of hate speech (particularly in online spaces), and specific targeting of Islamic dress practices including hijab, niqab, and burqa. Through this structured documentation, the chapter aims to provide a clear record of the varied expressions of Islamophobia as experienced by Muslim communities worldwide.

Discrimination

Discrimination involves unjust or prejudicial treatment of people based on their association or perceived connection with specific social groups or identities. In modern societies, this unfair treatment emerges when individuals encounter unequal treatment due to attributes including race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, or religious affiliation. Such unjust practices typically prevent those affected from obtaining opportunities, resources, services, or fundamental rights that are readily accessible to members of more privileged or majority groups. In the context of anti-Muslim prejudice, discrimination assumes a distinctly focused character, as Muslims encounter systematic disadvantages and

exclusionary practices specifically due to their religious identity or perceived connections to Islam. These discriminatory actions can infiltrate multiple life domains—from employment and housing to education and public services—establishing substantial obstacles to complete societal participation. The cases documented in this section demonstrate how anti-Muslim discrimination functions through both explicit rejections and more subtle, institutionalized systems that collectively marginalize Muslim communities and individuals, withholding equal treatment and opportunity based solely on their faith identity or cultural practices linked to Islam.

In the US, Umaymah Mohammad, potentially the only student in the United States suspended from medical school for statements about Israel and Gaza, filed a federal lawsuit against Emory University in Atlanta, claiming discrimination under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, along with supplementary complaints under state law. The lawsuit, submitted on the morning of August 4, 2025 in federal district court focuses on Emory's purported 'intentional discrimination and retaliation' during disciplinary procedures against the medical-sociology dual degree student the previous year. It identified the university, its board of trustees and John William Eley, a dean at the medical school, as defendants. The suit contended that the school's disciplinary reaction to remarks Mohammad made on the news program Democracy Now! in April 2024 demonstrated unequal, discriminatory treatment. On the program, Mohammad discussed the campus climate for protesters—including at Emory, where police deployed tasers on students the day before during a demonstration against Israel's ongoing assault on Gaza. She voiced concern about an unnamed Emory medical school professor who returned from volunteering as a medic in the Israeli military and was 'now back at Emory so-called 'teaching'; medical students and residents how to take care of patients'. Emory determined that Mohammad 'violated' the standards and expectations of the medical profession', according to the lawsuit, and suspended her from medical school for one year, delaying her graduation to 2029. Mohammad's appeal of the suspension was rejected. Both Mahmood and Grant stated they knew of no other medical school student suspended for speech on Israel and Gaza.[1]

In Canada, a Canadian airline faced criticism after a Muslim woman was allegedly compelled to remove her hijab, or headscarf, publicly at Toronto Pearson Airport on June 20, 2025 before boarding a flight to Winnipeg. Afsara Raidah, the woman's daughter, publicized the incident on social media, stating

her mother was 'humiliated' by 'a Flair Airlines employee' at the gate for flight F8641. 'Flair Airlines, you violated my mother's rights and humiliated her at Toronto Pearson Airport today. We will not stay silent,' she wrote. 'This was Islamophobia. This was a violation of my mother's religious freedom and basic human rights. It happened in Canada, a country that claims to value diversity, inclusion, and respect,' she stated. Raidah also indicated the employee demanded that her mother remove her hijab because her passport photo was taken before she commenced wearing it, even though her face was completely visible. When her father objected, the staff member allegedly responded: 'Well, you should've updated your passport picture.' Transport Canada regulations state that religious head coverings such as the hijab do not need to be removed as long as the person's face is visible.[2]

In the Netherland, Students across the Netherlands reported prohibitions on prayer during school hours, with some even experiencing punishments for attempting to pray at school. More than 180 secondary schools had been identified by students who said they were not permitted to pray during breaks or between classes. Many of the reports highlighted that Muslim students were most affected by the prohibition, as their prayers must be conducted at specific times and involve a ritual. Christian students also reported experiencing difficulty, as they were not allowed to pray during school hours either. The College voor de Rechten van de Mens (Dutch Human Rights Council) stated that schools were typically not within their legal rights to forbid prayer. The Landelijk Aktie Komitee Scholieren (National Student Committee, or LAKS) conveyed concern, characterizing the practice of banning prayer as discriminatory. 'Not allowing students to pray is absolute discrimination,' said LAKS president Puk Donken. 'In the society we live in, with people from various backgrounds, we don't believe this has a place.'[3]

In the UK, two NHS professionals were investigated and prohibited from their workplace for expressing interest in organizing a peaceful protest supporting Palestine during their lunch break. The therapist and nurse were accused of presenting a threat to the 'personal safety' of the staff at Kensington and Chelsea child and adolescent mental health service, and of 'bringing the trust into disrepute' for considering the demonstration. The pair, whom the Guardian was calling Layla and Maya, were informed they were to be investigated and could not enter the building they worked at before being redeployed to new NHS workplaces in London. A three-month investigation into the pair's conduct

determined they had no case to answer and that the trust had violated its own disciplinary policy in its treatment of them..[4]

In France, in August 2025, controversy emerged at a Quick fast-food restaurant in Mérignac, near Bordeaux, France, after its new owner, Mahdi Smain, instituted a workplace policy prohibiting employees from wearing the hijab, keeping beards, applying henna, or taking breakfast breaks during Ramadan. The rules, distributed to staff shortly after the change in ownership, were characterized by workers—many of them young Muslim students—as discriminatory and demeaning. One employee resigned, while others accused the management of targeting their cultural and religious identity. When the story emerged in late September 2025, it triggered national outcry and prompted Quick's head office to intervene, emphasizing that appearance restrictions must be justified by health or safety requirements rather than religious neutrality. Facing public and legal pressure, Smain retracted his decision, claiming the rules were never enforced and promising an independent social audit. Legal experts stated the case clearly constitutes workplace discrimination, highlighting the persistent tension in France between secularism policies and freedom of religious expression.[5]

Israeli security forces stand guard as Israeli settlers tour the old market on the Palestinian side of Hebron in the occupied West Bank, Sept. 6, 2025. (AFP)

In India, precisely in Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh, the administration demolished a 40-year-old madrasa in Bakhuwa village on December 26, 2024. The madrasa, named Islamia Anwarul Uloom, was constructed 40 years ago by two residents, Wasim and Samiuddin. The madrasa was built unlawfully on government land designated for a threshing ground and had no registration or official recognition, according to the authorities. Wasim, one of the founders of the madrasa, conveyed frustration over the demolition. 'This madrasa has been here for over 40 years, serving the people. The government's sudden action is unfair and unjust, especially when no alternative has been provided to us,' Waseem was quoted as saying by Clarion. 'Why is this happening only to our madrasa? Why doesn't the government take similar action against illegal constructions in other areas?' questioned a resident, speaking on condition of anonymity. The Uttar Pradesh government's use of bulldozers for anti-encroachment drives has sparked controversy, despite a 2022 Supreme Court ruling that called for a halt

to such demolitions. The government continues to defend the practice, claiming it is essential to address illegal encroachments and uphold public order.[6]

In India, the Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation (GSRTC) took the controversial step of canceling the licenses of 27 hotels owned by Muslims but registered under Hindu names, further intensifying concerns of religious bias and discrimination in the state. Muslim entrepreneurs across Gujarat were left contending with the repercussions of this action, which they viewed as an unfair attack on their livelihoods, religious identity, and business operations. The decision follows an investigation by GSRTC, prompted by complaints alleging that some private hotels were using Hindu names to attract a larger Hindu clientele while being Muslim-run establishments. In a move that has drawn widespread condemnation, GSRTC revoked the permission for buses to stop at these hotels. Now, 27 hotels in various districts—Vadodara, Rajkot, Palanpur, Godhra, Nadiad, Ahmedabad, and Bharuch—will no longer be frequented by state buses. This decision is being viewed by many within the Muslim community as a deeply troubling form of religious profiling, aimed at marginalizing Muslim businesses and undermining their right to thrive in a competitive marketplace.[7]

In India, on February 22, 2025, in a dramatic midnight operation, Assam Police's Special Task Force—allegedly tasked with counter-terrorism operations—raided the Guwahati residence of prominent educationist Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor of Meghalaya's reputed University of Science and Technology (USTM), arresting him over allegations of exam malpractice. The same day, Rajasthan Police arrested Mohammad Atiq Gauri, the chairperson of Maulana Azad University, Jodhpur. This crackdown occurred at a time when the Muslim community

remains at the bottom of India's educational hierarchy. The Sachar Committee report highlighted that only 4% of Muslim students reach higher education. Instead of encouraging progress, BJP-led governments appear to be targeting Muslim-owned educational institutions. In August 2024, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma escalated his attacks on USTM and its founder Mahbubul Hoque. First, he accused Hoque of promoting 'flood jihad'; then, he absurdly claimed that the university's domed gate resembled a 'Makka-like structure' and was a sign of 'jihad.' He even declared that USTM graduates would be scrutinized and denied jobs in Assam. Now, without providing evidence, Sarma has accused the private institution of massive fraud, issuing fake degrees, and financial misconduct. Rejecting these baseless allegations, USTM asserted that such statements not only tarnish the reputation of a credible educational institution but also demoralize thousands of students, faculty members, and researchers dedicated to academic excellence. Contrary to the propaganda, USTM is a diverse institution with over 80 students and staff from Hindu and tribal communities. It is recognized as the best private university in the entire Northeast region and was accredited with an 'A' grade by NAAC in 2024, becoming the first private university from NE to achieve the feat. In Uttar Pradesh, the BJP government is doing everything possible to shut down Mohammad Ali Jauhar University. Its founder, Azam Khan, had been languishing in Sitapur Jail since 2019. More than 90 cases were lodged against him in 2019 and 2020, with absurd allegations ranging from the theft of buffalo to goats.[8]

In India, in Uttarakhand, Pushkar Singh Dhami-led government was facing intense criticism for what many see as a deliberate and unlawful campaign against Muslims. Under the pretext of administrative action, the government had been targeting Muslim institutions, with educational establishments now at the forefront of this controversial move. The most recent development occurred on March 3, 2025, when the administration declared five Muslim madrasas illegal and sealed them, triggering widespread protests across the state. On the same day, people from the Muslim community gathered at the office of the Dehradun District Magistrate to lodge their protest and submit a memorandum opposing the action. The crackdown on madrasas in Uttarakhand had raised alarm over the state's treatment of Muslim communities. The administration, acting on the orders of Chief Minister Dhami, had been inspecting madrasas in a purported effort to ensure they are operating within the law. However, on Monday, the Uttarakhand government sealed five madrasas and issued notices declaring them

illegal. In response, Muslim organizations, including Muslim Seva Tanzeem and Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, have denounced the closures as discriminatory and unjust, filing a formal protest with the district authorities. 'This action has been taken without following due process and without any legal foundation,' said one of the protesting leaders. 'The administration is using the law as a tool to target Muslim institutions, and this is not something we will tolerate.'[9]

In India, the city of Samastipur in Bihar witnessed horrific incidents of communal outbreak on Maha Shivratri. What should have been a normal business day for the Muslim shopkeepers quickly turned into communal turmoil when a group of 20-25 hoodlums stormed into the local market and targeted Muslim-owned shops with threats and abuse. 'My chicken shop was open as usual when they rushed in, hurling anti-Muslim slurs and forcing us to shut down,' narrated Mohammad Imtiaz, one of the survivors of the attack. The incident occurred

during the peak hours of the festival's fair, and Muslim shopkeepers soon realized they were being selectively targeted. Although there were over 16 meat shops in the area—mostly owned by Hindus—eyewitnesses alleged the attackers only went after those belonging to Muslims. The 'deliberate' act, they continued, followed a 'well-known pattern' of right-wing extremist aggression. 'They did not just threaten to ruin our shops; they also mistreated us,' Imtiaz added. 'Why did they ignore the open chicken and mutton stalls of Hindu shopkeepers? It is obvious—they wanted to harm our businesses and disrupt our lives simply because we are Muslims. They cannot tolerate our success and happiness.' The mob, allegedly composed of Hindutva extremists, began recording videos and taking photographs of the shops with an aim to spread them on social media. The vendors were allegedly given no chance to resist or reason with them.[10]

In India, a complaint was lodged at the Maheshtala PS and West Bengal Medical Council on April 24, 2025 against a gynecologist for refusing to treat a seven-month pregnant woman allegedly for her being a Muslim, post Pahalgam attack. The doctor lodged a complaint on April 25, claiming defamation and denying commenting on religion. According to the complaint, the doctor, who had been treating the woman for seven months, knew her by her first name—Konkona. On seeing her surname—Khatun—the doctor allegedly said she would not treat a Muslim patient, referred to attacks, and made allegations of religious bigotry.[11]

In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Israeli forces closed the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron to Palestinian worshipers until Thursday evening, October 9, 2025, due to the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, which lasts for a week. Amjad Karajeh, director of Hebron Endowments Department, condemned the measure as 'a blatant violation of its (the mosque's) sanctity and a provocative assault on the right of Muslims to access their places of worship,' according to Wafa news agency. Karajeh added that Israeli forces increased military measures, closing all checkpoints and electronic gates to the Ibrahimi Mosque to secure settlers during the Sukkot celebration.[12]

In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Israeli leaders facing isolation over the Gaza war are increasingly pointing the finger at Muslim populations in the West to explain rising anti-Semitism and a string of diplomatic defeats. They claimed the West's Muslim population was engaged in an organized push to incite hatred against Israel and Jews, using their votes to influence policy and colluding with far-left politicians. Critics of the trend told The National it was a

racist attempt to absolve politicians of responsibility for Israel's current position and make sense of a massive drop in global support for the country, as it bombed Palestinians and inflicts famine on Gaza. Amichai Chikli, Israel's Minister of Diaspora Affairs, had repeated the claim throughout 2025. In one interview he described some European leaders as 'useful idiots' for trying to 'appease' Muslim voters by adopting anti-Israel policies.[13]

Islamophobic Policy

Policy represents a deliberate framework of guidelines designed to steer decisions toward specific intended outcomes. Unlike laws, which directly compel or prohibit particular behaviors through enforcement mechanisms, policies function as formalized statements of intent that guide actions and establish operational protocols within various institutional contexts. These directive frameworks can emerge from multiple sources of authority—governmental bodies, public sector organizations, private institutions, and even influential individuals—manifesting as executive orders, organizational protocols, parliamentary procedures, or institutional regulations. When Islamophobic sentiment infiltrates policy formation, it transforms diffuse prejudice into structured, systematic discrimination with far-reaching consequences for Muslim communities. Such policies may not explicitly target Muslims by name, yet they disproportionately restrict Islamic practices, limit Muslim representation, or create barriers specifically affecting those who practice Islam. These measures often employ seemingly neutral language while producing discriminatory outcomes, effectively institutionalizing anti-Muslim bias within legal and organizational frameworks. The examples documented in this section illustrate how Islamophobic intent has been embedded within formal policies across various jurisdictions during the review period, demonstrating how prejudice against Islam becomes codified into operational guidelines that systematically disadvantage Muslim communities through official channels and institutional mechanisms.

In Canada, an advisory committee's 50 recommendations to Quebec, including extending the province's religious symbols ban to subsidized daycares and requiring people to uncover their faces when receiving public services, were drawing criticism from some community leaders. 'We really have to ask some serious questions about the legitimacy of this report,' said Stephen Brown, president of the National Council of Canadian Muslims. He said the

nearly 300-page report released on August 26, 2025 offering recommendations to strengthen secularism in Quebec was not suggesting that the government 'proceed in the spectrum of neutrality.' 'Neutrality is the absence of an opinion. In this case, what we're really looking at is recommendations for the government to take away the rights of religious people and to impose uniformity on them,' he said. The committee was co-chaired by lawyers Guillaume Rousseau and Christiane Pelchat. They had each defended Quebec's secularism law, Bill 21, in court while representing groups who promote secularism in Quebec.[14]

In Austria, lawmakers voted overwhelmingly to ban headscarves in schools for girls under the age of 14, despite concerns the legislation would deepen societal divisions and marginalize Muslims. The law could also be struck down by the country's constitutional court. The ban was proposed earlier this year by Austria's conservative-led government, which took office in March after a far-right party came first in the elections but failed to form a government. Before the vote, Yannick Shetty, the parliamentary leader of the liberal Neos, the most junior party in the ruling coalition, defended the ban. He told the lower house: 'This is not about restricting freedom, but about protecting the freedom of girls up to 14. It [the headscarf] is not just an item of clothing. It serves, particularly with minors, to shield girls from the male gaze. It sexualizes girls,' he said. The ban is expected to take effect at the start of the new school year in September, with families facing fines of up to €800 (£700) for repeated non-compliance. A soft launch of the legislation would begin in February as the new rules were explained to educators, parents and children.[15]

In France, the French Football Federation (FFF) banned Muslim players from fasting during Ramadan while training with the national squad. A decision which sparked accusations of discrimination and dividing the team. FFF reportedly told players observing Ramadan they can't fast at Clairefontaine training camp. They can only make up for missed fasting days after international fixtures end.[16]

Bruno Retailleau said: "The veil is a banner for Islamism, a marker of the subordination of women"
LUDOVIC MARIN//REUTERS

Muslim women should be barred from wearing hijabs when they accompany

Also in France, Muslim women should be barred from wearing hijabs when they accompany children on school outings to help stem an Islamist drive to impose sharia law in France, the interior minister had said. Bruno Retailleau, a conservative, called for the measure as France marked the tenth anniversary of the 2015 terrorist assault at Charlie Hebdo magazine. For the past decade there had been demands for a ban on Muslim dress worn by mothers who volunteer to accompany children on class outings from state schools. There was already in place a ban on wearing religious head coverings in state schools. In 2019, the Senate approved a bill requiring women to remove headscarves on such outings. It did not become law.[17]

In Italy, the ruling Brothers of Italy party put forward legislation on October 8, 2025 to ban the burqa and niqab in public spaces, part of a broader bill aimed at combating what it called 'cultural separatism' linked to Islam. The bill, presented to parliament by lawmakers from Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's party, would prohibit garments covering the face in all public places, schools, universities, shops, and offices nationwide.[18]

In Sweden, appeals court on October 6, 2025 partially acquitted a far-right activist convicted in 2022 of hate crimes against Muslims over statements he made whilst burning the Koran, and suspended his four-month prison sentence. The Skane and Blekinge appeal court acquitted Rasmus Paludan of one of two charges, ruling he had criticized Islam as an idea, and not its followers. It suspended his sentence and fined him 50 daily fines of 50 crowns ($5.31).[19]

In Portugal, parliament approved a bill banning face veils worn for 'gender or religious' reasons in public, in a move seen as targeting Muslim women who wear face coverings. The measure was proposed by the far-right Chega party and would prohibit coverings such as burqas (a full-body garment that covers a woman from head to foot) and niqabs (the full-face Islamic veil with space around the eyes) from being worn in most public places. Face veils would still be allowed in airplanes, diplomatic premises and places of worship. The bill stipulated fines for those wearing face veils in public ranging between 200 euros and 4,000 euros (£175 and £3,475). President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa still has to approve the bill. He could veto it or send it to the constitutional court for review.[20]

In The Occupied Palestinian Territory, Israeli occupation authorities have informed the administration of the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, south of the occupied West Bank, that its management had been transferred from the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Endowments to the Israeli Civil Planning Authority, Quds Press reported on February 26, 2025. Settlers set up a tent in the courtyard 20 years ago, designating it as a place of worship, and it had remained there since. They had been calling for the area to be permanently roofed to turn it into a dedicated prayer space. Israeli forces began building a roof over the courtyard on July 9, 2024 but halted the work two days later after public protests in Hebron, which included sit-ins and demonstrations. The Palestinian Ministry of Endowments has rejected the Israeli decision, asserting its authority over the Ibrahimi Mosque.[21]

In The Occupied Palestinian Territory, Israeli occupation authorities refused to hand over the administration of the Ibrahimi Mosque in occupied Hebron to the Palestinian Ministry of Endowment during Ramadan as is the custom each year, the Palestinian Information Centre had reported. The Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs announced that Israeli occupation authorities refused to hand over the authority over the Ibrahimi Mosque in the Old City of Hebron, including its halls, squares and facilities, to the Endowment Administration, as it had always been done on Fridays of the holy month of Ramadan every year. The ministry said, in a statement today: 'This is a dangerous and unprecedented step, in terms of its timing as it comes in the blessed month of Ramadan as part of Israeli systematic plan to obstruct the opening of the entire mosque for Muslims.'[22]

In The Occupied Palestinian Territory, Israel prevented the Muslim call to prayer from being made from the Ibrahimi Mosque in occupied Hebron 44 times in February 2025, new figures released by the Palestinian Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs showed. According to the Palestinian Information Centre, the Ministry explained, in a statement on March 2, 2025, that Israeli occupation forces and settlers had intensified their attacks against Islamic sanctities under the pretext of tourism. Occupation forces expelled a number of its ministry employees from the Ibrahimi Mosque for no reason and banned them from entering it, stressing that these measures come as part of the Israeli attempts to empty the mosque of worshippers and workers, after its director was deported from it the week before.[23]

In The Occupied Palestinian Territory, Israeli authorities stripped the Palestinian-run Hebron municipality of administrative powers over the Ibrahimi Mosque and transferred them to a settler religious council, according to a report published on July 15, 2025 by the Israel Hayom daily. Describing the move as a 'historic and unprecedented change,' the newspaper said Israel's Civil Administration had reassigned authority over the holy site to the religious council of the Kiryat Arba settlement, adjacent to Hebron in the occupied West Bank. The report did not specify the scope of powers transferred but said the move aimed to facilitate 'structural changes' at the site. It marked the first major shift in the status of the mosque since the 1994 recommendations of the Shamgar Commission, which divided access, allocating 63% of the site to Jewish worshippers and 37% to Muslims. That division was after the 1994 massacre by extremist settler Baruch Goldstein, who killed 29 Palestinian worshippers during dawn prayers.[24]

In India, a sub-inspector was suspended for allegedly organizing an iftar party at a newly inaugurated police chowki in Meerut's City Kotwali area on March 26, 2025, officials said. The matter came to light after a participant shared a video on social media, purportedly showing nearly 20 men sitting with police personnel and having refreshments. Taking cognizance of the video, SSP Dr Vipin Tada, who inaugurated the chowki on March 17, 2025, ordered Singh's suspension and initiated a departmental inquiry. Kotwali CO Ashutosh Kumar said, 'Shailendra Pratap Singh, 52, in charge of the Zakir Colony police chowki, has been suspended. Such an act is considered a violation of duty protocol and appropriate action has been taken.' Singh's suspension follows a similar action the week before against a headmistress of a govt primary school in Bulandshahr. She was suspended for 'extreme negligence and acting contrary to school rules' after a video surfaced showing nearly 100 villagers sitting in rows and having refreshments in a classroom during an iftar party.[25]

In India, the Uttarakhand government intensified its crackdown on illegal madrasas, sealing 52 such religious institutions across the state in the last 15 days. The move sparked strong opposition from the Muslim community, which labeled the actions unconstitutional. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, commenting on the action, reiterated his government's commitment to identifying and taking

action against illegal religious institutions and encroachments, stating that the process will continue. BSP chief Mayawati criticized the Uttarakhand government over the sealing of madrasas in Dehradun, saying the government must refrain from such 'prejudiced' and 'non-secular moves' that hurt religious sentiments.[26]

In India, the security measures come against the backdrop of simmering tensions in Sambhal over the Hindutva campaign against the city's historic Shahi Mosque. Last year, police violence against local Muslims who protested the mosque survey resulted in the killing of at least five Muslims and the arrest of dozens more. The security measures ahead of Holi were often criticized as reflecting the Hindu bias and Islamophobia of the administration by the Opposition and Muslim groups. Critics point to statements from police officers, BJP leaders and the state chief minister, who urged that Muslims should either stay indoors or skip Friday prayers on Holi if they do not want to be colored. Earlier this week, a row erupted after senior Sambhal police officer Anuj Kumar Chaudhary urged Muslims to stay indoors during Holi as it comes only once a year. The Sambhal cop's remarks were backed by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. 'The festival of colors comes only once a year, while Friday (for namaz) comes 52 times in one year… We have given a direct message that when people play Holi, and if they (Muslims) don't want colors to fall on them, then they should stay at home,' Chaudhary said. With Holi coinciding with Friday prayers, several right-wing Hindu leaders have attracted controversy with their Islamophobic remarks. On Tuesday, BJP leader Raghuraj Singh suggested that Muslim men wear hijabs made of tarpaulin to avoid inconvenience during Holi celebrations.[27]

In India, the government took a controversial step by passing amendments to the waqf (Islamic endowment) law, which appeared to be a blatant attempt to seize control of waqf properties, including mosques and other religious sites. The new Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, passed by both Houses of Parliament on April 2 and 3, 2025, introduced significant changes to the management and regulation of waqf properties—endowments made by Muslims for religious, charitable or pious purposes under Islamic law. It awaits the presidential assent to become law. The amendment was part of a broader pattern of discriminatory policies and actions, which had been escalating in the past years, targeting Muslims. The move has sparked widespread concern among the Muslim community, who see it as a brazen attack on their rights and freedoms. The Waqf Bill aimed to reform the Waqf Act of 1995, which governs the management of properties endowed by Muslims for religious, charitable or community purposes under Islamic law. Waqf properties—estimated to span over 940,000 acres of land and include mosques, madrasas, graveyards and other community assets—are a vital part of Muslim religious and cultural life in India. According to India's Waqf Assets Management System, the country has 872,324 immovable waqf properties, making it one of the world's largest repositories of religious and community-owned land. The government contended that the amendments were intended to enhance transparency and efficiency in the administration of these properties, addressing issues like mismanagement and encroachment. When the controversial bill was tabled in the House in 2024, the opposition demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to investigate the matter. Though the committee was set up in August, the entire exercise was done in an unconstitutional manner, as all the recommendations submitted by the JPC members of the opposition parties were rejected. The new amendments had strange inclusions, such as mandating the inclusion of non-Muslims on waqf boards, shifting dispute resolution authority from waqf tribunals to government officials and restricting property dedication to Muslims who have practiced Islam for at least five years. Opposition leaders, Muslim organizations and civil society groups fiercely contested these changes, viewing them as an assault on Muslim autonomy and religious freedom. They argued that the inclusion of non-Muslims in waqf boards undermines the community's right to manage its own religious affairs, a right protected under Articles 25 and 26 of the Indian Constitution, which guarantees freedom of religion and the ability of religious groups to administer their institutions. Critics also highlight the removal of the 'waqf by user' provision—a mechanism that historically recognized properties

as waqf based on long-standing use—as a move that could jeopardize the status of centuries-old mosques and shrines. Furthermore, the shift of authority to government bureaucrats is seen as a power grab, potentially enabling the state to claim or repurpose waqf lands under the guise of administrative oversight. The amendment grants the government undue power to regulate the management of the endowments and determine whether a property qualifies as 'waqf'.[28]

In India, several Muslim youths were arrested in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur, allegedly for waving the Palestinian flag after Eid prayers. A video of the incident, which took place at Ghanta Ghar, had gone viral on social media. The footage showed a group of young Muslim men holding both Indian and Palestinian flags while chanting slogans in support of Palestine. Based on the video, police registered a case and launched an investigation. Saharanpur SP City Vyom Bindal said the video, which surfaced on social media, showed a group of youths waving a foreign flag and raising slogans. He added that authorities have taken note of the incident and are pursuing further action. Maktoob spoke to the families of those arrested in Janak Nagar, who claimed their sons had no involvement in the demonstration and were taken by police without justification.[29]

Police officers detain alleged undocumented Bangladeshi nationals after they were arrested during raids in Ahmedabad, India, April 26, 2025. © 2025 Amit Dave/Reuters

In, India, authorities expelled hundreds of ethnic Bengali Muslims to Bangladesh in the past weeks without due process, claiming they were 'illegal immigrants,' Human Rights Watch said on July 23, 2025. Many of them were Indian citizens from states bordering Bangladesh. Since May 2025, the Bharatiya

Janata Party (BJP)-led government intensified operations to expel ethnic Bengali Muslims to Bangladesh, ostensibly to deter people from entering India without legal authorization. The government should stop unlawfully deporting people without due process and instead ensure everyone's access to procedural safeguards to protect against arbitrary detention and expulsion. Human Rights Watch interviewed 18 people in June, including affected individuals and family members in 9 cases. Those interviewed include Indian citizens who returned to India after being expelled to Bangladesh and family members of those who were detained and were still missing. On July 8, Human Rights Watch wrote to India's Ministry of Home Affairs with our findings but received no response. The Indian government has provided no official data on the number of people expelled, but Border Guard Bangladesh has reported that India expelled more than 1,500 Muslim men, women, and children to Bangladesh between May 7 and June 15, including about 100 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. Authorities in the BJP-run states of Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Odisha, and Rajasthan have rounded up Muslims, mostly impoverished migrant workers, and turned them over to Indian border guards. In some cases, the border guards allegedly threatened and beat the detainees to force them to cross into Bangladesh without adequately verifying their citizenship claims. The Indian government has had to readmit dozens of people who eventually proved their Indian citizenship.[30]

In India, the 'I Love Muhammad' controversy began in the first week of September 2025 during the celebration of Milad-un-Nabi, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh. It's a manufactured controversy when Muslim youths displayed an 'I Love Muhammad' banner along the traditional route, immediately provoking objections from local Hindu groups who claimed that the display signaled the introduction of a 'new tradition.' Over two dozen Muslims were charged with disrupting communal harmony as a result of the prompt police response. The incident sparked massive demonstrations throughout India, particularly when well-known Muslim leaders and social media users claimed that showing love or devotion to the Prophet Muhammad is neither illegal nor unconstitutional. As the 'controversy' spread, Bareilly became a flashpoint with over 1,000 demonstrators clashing with police, resulting in stone-pelting, lathi charges, tear gas, dozens injured, and sweeping arrests, including prominent clerics like Maulana Tauqeer Raza Khan. This was accompanied by as usual protocol, shutting down of markets, multiple FIRs, preventive arrests, suspension of internet and heavy police presence in so-called 'sensitive' areas.[31]

In India, the Sambhal district administration on January 13, 2025 issued notices to 12 shop owners giving them a 24-hour deadline to remove the structures or their shops will be demolished. The shops were allegedly built on encroached government land near a mosque—known as Thanewali Masjid as it is located in front of the Kotwali police station—in Sambhal city. As per the officials, the 'illegal shops' have to be removed so that a 'road widening' project can go ahead, reported The Times of India. Sambhal sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) Vandana Mishra said, 'The mosque committee, which has been collecting rent from these shops for years, claims the structures were built on Waqf land and has sought time to present relevant documents as they have to be brought in from Lucknow.[32]

FAR RIGHT

Far-right politics embodies a multifaceted ideological stance that reaches beyond conventional conservative positions on the political spectrum, distinguished by specific characteristics such as extreme nationalism, nativism, authoritarian tendencies, and strong anti-immigration positions. While traditional political discourse in numerous countries historically focused on economic questions concerning state intervention versus market liberties, recent decades have seen a substantial shift toward identity-centered politics that emphasize ethnic, religious, and cultural affiliations over comprehensive policy considerations. This transformation signifies a significant realignment of political divisions, particularly throughout Europe and North America, where populist movements have accumulated considerable traction by exploiting public concerns related to globalization's disruptive effects, migration patterns, and perceived dangers to traditional cultural identities. Within this changing political environment, Islam and Muslim communities have increasingly become focal points of far-right discourse and mobilization, with extremist parties and personalities strategically manipulating anxieties about cultural preservation, national security, and social harmony to advance their political objectives. The refugee crisis emerging from conflicts in predominantly Muslim nations, coupled with isolated terrorist attacks attributed to Islamic extremists, has regrettably provided fertile territory for the spread of Islamophobic narratives within far-right rhetoric. These movements actively portray Muslims as cultural and security hazards, positioning Islam as fundamentally incompatible with Western values and institutions. As evidenced in this section, far-right organizations, political parties, and prominent personalities have systematically weaponized anti-Islam

sentiment to mobilize support, normalize extremist perspectives, and promote exclusionary policies that disproportionately affect Muslim communities. The cases cataloged here reveal how far-right actors have progressed beyond simple rhetoric to organize demonstrations, disseminate propaganda, and participate in coordinated activities specifically targeting Muslims and Islamic institutions during the review period.

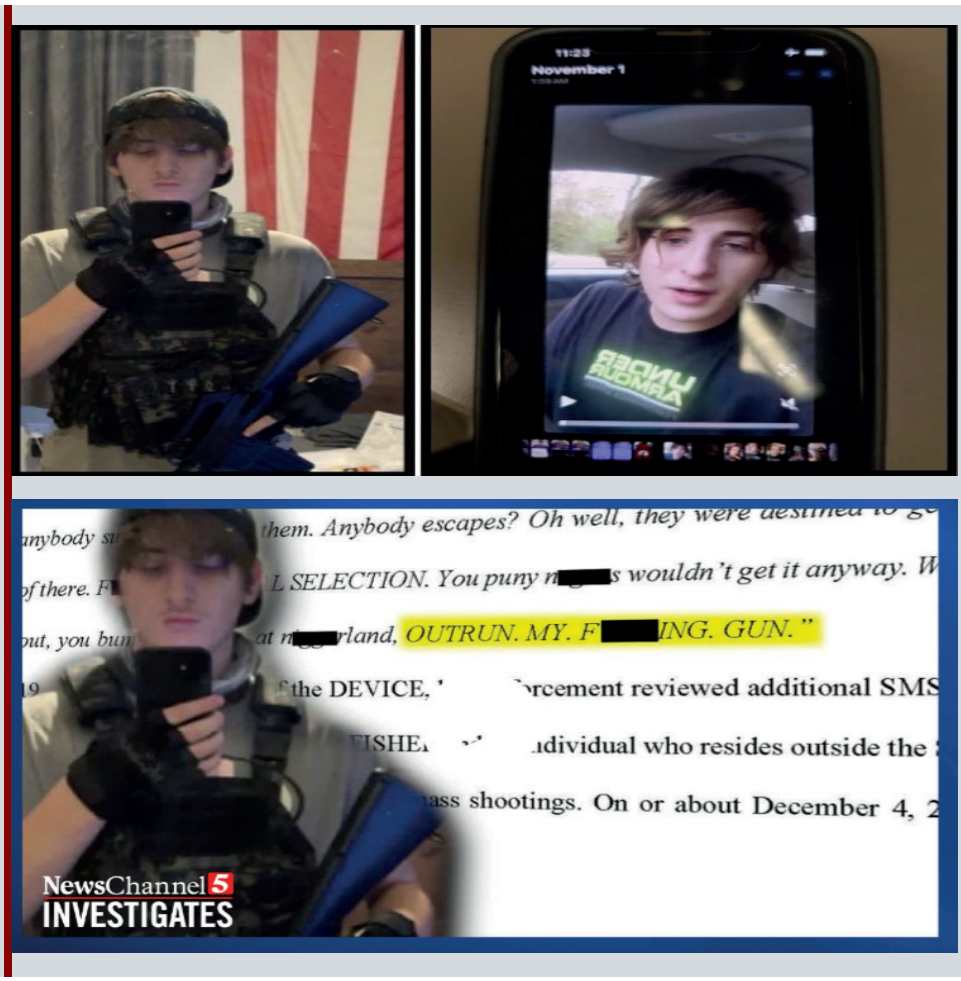
In the United States, Elon Musk called for the release of imprisoned UK far-right activist and anti-Islam campaigner 'Tommy Robinson'. Musk had also advocated for a new UK election, as he intensified his support for European far-right and anti-immigration leaders. This transatlantic support for far-right causes marked a concerning pattern of influential figures legitimizing extremist movements.[33]

Adding to this climate of hostility, a city councilperson in Palm Bay, Florida, refused to apologize to outraged members of his community for claiming those who follow Islam 'do not belong' in the United States. Chandler Langevin, a

Republican, offended some people in the community in January 2025 after writing on X that Islam 'exists for the sole purpose of conquering Christendom and ending the Jewish people' and, therefore 'they' do not belong in America. Langevin was responding to a post from a Florida state senator who is supporting a bill that would protect public officials' privacy by removing their addresses from public records. The state senator claimed two 'Muslim terrorists' made 'death threats' on his home.[34]

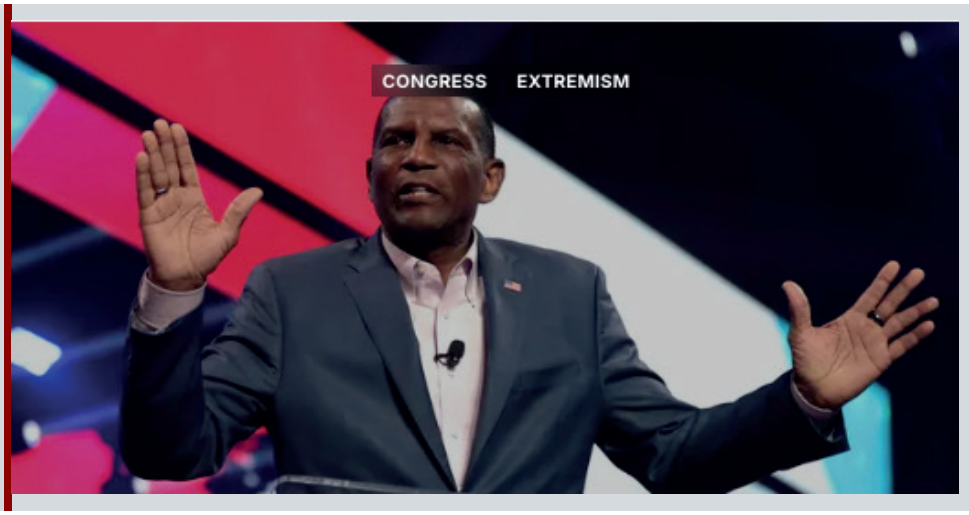
Such inflammatory rhetoric appeared to have real-world consequences. A man charged with attempted murder over the shooting of two Israeli visitors in Florida believed the victims were Palestinians, police have said. Mordechai Brafman was on Sunday charged with two counts of attempted murder and booked after the shooting at Miami Beach the previous night, according to the website of Miami-Dade County Corrections. In an arrest report, police alleged that Brafman had 'spontaneously stated that while he was driving his truck, he saw two Palestinians and shot and killed both'. Both victims, identified in local media as a Jewish father and son visiting Miami from Israel, survived.[35]

The weaponization of anti-Muslim sentiment extended to the highest levels of influence. Billionaire Elon Musk accused the US Agency for International Development (USAID) of supporting terrorism by funding 18 charitable organizations, foundations and institutions linked to Islam, Arabs or simply ones with Arabic-sounding names. Musk, who heads up the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) under the administration of US President Donald Trump, reshared a tweet claiming that the USAID allocated $165 million to the organization that were falsely accused of being 'terrorist organizations', adding: 'As many have said, why are we paying terrorist organizations and certain countries to hate us?' 'The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) gave $164.7 million to these organizations linked to terrorism,' repeating, '165 million… Thanks to the Government Efficiency Administration for coming in and uncovering all this madness,' the original tweet, posted by a Republican Party supporter, read. The post included a financial expenditure breakdown for these organizations, none of which have ever been linked or even investigated for connections to terrorism. However, Musk, who owns X, reshared the tweet and endorsed it, with his repost viewed by approximately 13 million people and retweeted around 48,000 times. Musk has labeled these organizations as 'terrorist' simply because their names included the words 'Islam', 'Islamic', or 'Palestine', as well as those with Arabic names.[36]



The far-right's targeting of Muslims also manifested in violent plots. At the end of December 2024, FBI agents arrested Joseph Fisher, a Stewart County teen on charges of communicating a threat to commit mass violence. According to that affidavit, the investigation began when Meta Platforms tipped off the FBI about an Instagram account that was 'sending messages to another user that he or she was planning to conduct a mass shooting.' Agent Potts traced an Instagram account to Gunner Fisher. 'Fisher also created content where he indicated that he had purchased multiple weapons, including an AR-15, extended magazines for the AR-15, a rifle scope and a Saiga-12 shotgun,' Potts wrote. The young man 'posted pictures of firearms and other weapons which he claimed to have in his possession, including a machete and tactical vest … Fisher also posted that he was suicidal and violent,' the agent added. Fisher was driven by a hatred of Jews, African Americans and Muslims, Fisher believed he was 'bound to murder.' And like other mass shooters he admired, the young man had posed for a photo with a long gun of some sort, prepared a testimonial video and had begun work on his manifesto. In early December 2024, Fisher came up with a new target. 'I changed to a mosque like Brenton.' Fisher chose a mosque located in Nashville.[37]

Elected officials continued to amplify anti-Muslim extremism. A national Muslim organization said on June 10, 2025, that it had designated Florida Congressman Randy Fine as an 'anti-Muslim extremist' and put him on its 'Islamophobia hate list.' The nonprofit, said Fine, who represented part of Volusia County and all of Flagler County as part of District 6, had used 'unceasingly violent rhetoric directed at Muslims and Palestinians.' The group's announcement focused in part on Fine's recent comments to the News-Journal. The News-Journal asked him about his comments about Gaza on Fox News, which some interpreted to mean that he supported using nuclear weapons there. Fine said, 'It shows the sophistication of the Muslim-terror media that they are able to convince people like you to interpret (it that way). ... Now I recognize that half of people in Gaza are married to their cousins, so you're going to find a lot of people with mental defects. But you've got to have a mental defect to interpret the comment that way.' CAIR called the comments about Gazans 'racist and dehumanizing.' 'For years, [Rep. Fine] has invoked Islamophobic and anti-Palestinian stereotypes and incited violence against Muslims and Palestinians at home and abroad with impunity,' the organization said.[38]



This pattern of anti-Muslim rhetoric extended beyond individual politicians. Utah Republican Congressman Burgess Owens sparked controversy on July 25, 2025 after sharing an anti-Muslim video from an account on X/Twitter that frequently posted hateful White supremacist content. The inflammatory video, which remained on Owens' profile for over 14 hours before being deleted, featured a woman making false and xenophobic claims about Islam and Western society. The video promoted numerous false claims about Muslims and Islam, including the false assertion that the religion 'doesn't even see rape as a crime'—a statement contradicted by Islamic law. The speaker also claimed that 'The UK

and now America are sacrificing their wives and daughters for diversity credit.' The video continued with a string of inflammatory accusations against Muslim immigrants, claiming they 'hate women, children, white people, America, and Western civilization.'[39]

Some political candidates took anti-Muslim extremism to shocking new levels. There has been a furious reaction to an anti-Islamic campaign ad posted by a far-right MAGA congressional candidate in which she sets fire to the Quran with a flamethrower. Valentina Gomez, who was running for Texas' 31st District in 2026 as a Republican, shared the extreme video on X as part of her vow to 'end Islam' in the Lone Star State. Approximately one percent of Texas's population is Muslim. Gomez had a history of posting violent stunts and using hateful rhetoric against Muslims, Black people, and immigrants, in an attempt to gain notoriety to further a flailing attempt at a political career that has so far gone nowhere. 'Your daughters will be raped and your sons beheaded, unless we stop Islam once and for all,' Gomez said before setting fire to a copy of the holy book.[40]

State-level officials also contributed to this hostile environment. Republican Texas Agricultural Commissioner Sid Miller doubled down on an Islamophobic social media post. The week before, Miller posted a meme on his official Facebook account that depicts Islam as a snake squeezing a cowboy's leg with a knife labeled 'solution' being used to kill the serpent. 'It's about that time…' Miller captioned the post, sparking outrage among Texas Muslims.[41]

Anthony Hudson, a truck driver from Grand Blanc Township and self-described "America First" candidate, has used social media platforms to portray Dearborn as a threat by falsely suggesting the Detroit suburb is facing "Muslim infiltration" and "Sharia law."

The targeting of Muslim-majority communities became a focal point for far-right mobilization. Under the slogan of what he calls an 'American Crusade' to ban Islamic law and 'protect Christians', little-known Republican gubernatorial candidate Anthony Hudson called for a protest march in Dearborn on November 18, 2025. Hudson, a truck driver who markets himself as a conservative, pro-Trump candidate, was using rising online hostility toward the Arab and Muslim majority city to draw attention to his otherwise insignificant campaign. Hudson first made Dearborn a political target during a late-October televised Republican debate with five other GOP contenders. He falsely accused the city of enforcing sharia law and vowed to deploy the Michigan National Guard to Dearborn 'to protect residents from sharia law and all the nonsense happening there.'[42]

Jake Lang, a rightwing activist jailed for beating a police officer on January 6, leads an anti-Islam protest in Dearborn, Michigan, on 18 November 2025. Photograph: Rebecca Cook/Reuters

This rally materialized with disturbing displays of hatred. White nationalist and rightwing agitators descended on Dearborn, Michigan, to hold an anti-Islam rally at which they attempted to burn a Qur'an and manufacture controversy over the city's large Arab American population. However, the protest had been dismissed by local leaders as a cheap publicity stunt aimed at generating money and clicks for far-right influencers. But there was little doubt the Michigan city had become a repeated target for the publicity-hungry far-right because it holds the US's highest percentage of Arab American residents. Similar provocateurs have marched with a pig's head on a pole at an Arab American fair. Popular conservative influencers like Cam Higby, Jake Lang, and members of Charlie

Kirk's Turning Point USA partook in the November 18 rally at which some shouted racist abuse, unfurled a banner that read 'Americans Against Islamification', or smacked a Qur'an with a slab of bacon. Lang later went to a meeting of Dearborn's Arab-American-majority city council, and, while live streaming, yelled at council members: 'Get the f**k out of my country. We don't want you here.'[43]

Local officials also openly embraced anti-Muslim positions. A Spokane Valley city councilwoman, Jessica Yaeger, sparked widespread backlash after declaring herself a 'proud Islamophobe' in a post on her personal Facebook page and stating that Islam is not a religion but a form of government oppressive to women, comments that drew condemnation from civil rights leaders, several fellow council members, and city officials.[44]

Randy Fine, then a member of the Florida Senate, answers a question on April 20, 2022, at the state capitol in Tallahassee, Florida [File: Phil Sears/AP]

Congressional hearings provided platforms for additional anti-Muslim rhetoric. Congressman Randy Fine suggested that 'mainstream Muslims' should be destroyed, boasting that he was not afraid to be called Islamophobic. During a congressional hearing on December 6, 2025, Fine—who had a long history of Islamophobic and anti-Palestinian statements—cited the myth that Israelis were banned from going to some areas in the occupied West Bank due to 'apartheid' imposed against Israeli settlers. In reality, the Israeli military, which controls the Palestinian territory, had signs warning settlers against entering Palestinian towns for safety concerns. But settlers, often armed and protected by Israeli forces, regularly storm and ransack Palestinian villages. At least two US citizens have been killed in settler attacks in 2025.[45]

The extremism in political campaigning reached new depths. A former Missouri candidate for secretary of state has entered the race for U.S. House in Texas' 31st Congressional District with a platform focused on removing Muslims from the state. Valentina Gomez Noriega, who ran for Missouri secretary of state and finished sixth in the primary with 48,003 votes, according to Ballotpedia, was running on the Republican ticket against incumbent Rep. John Carter. Danny Hoskins, who beat her in the Missouri primary by about 100,000 votes, went on to win the race. In a campaign announcement video, Noriega said, 'Vote for me so we can kick every dirty Muslim out of Texas.' In the post accompanying the video, she wrote, 'I will make Texas the worst place for terrorist muslims & illegals so help me God. For me, this is just an election, but for you, this is YOUR life. Jesus is King.' She also said in the video, 'Save your daughters from getting raped by Muhammad.' Noriega added that New York has 'fell to Islam,' possibly referring to Zohran Mamdani's election victory, and claimed that Michigan and Minnesota have also 'fallen.' She said if Texas 'falls to Islam,' it would be because the people did not vote correctly.[46]

The normalization of anti-Muslim rhetoric extended into public forums. In New York City, just one week before it voted for its first Muslim mayor in history, British columnist Melanie Phillips declared that 'the West is facing a death cult in the forces of Islam.' The remark, reiterated repeatedly by British, European, American and Israeli voices, was made at a conference titled 'Rage Against the Hate,' ironically patterned after the anti-racist 1990s band Rage Against the Machine, known for its politically active anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist members who openly protested state violence. The statement drew approving nods—it didn't require evidence despite being historically unfounded. Such a sentence does not stand alone; it condenses a worldview built since the Second World War through war, repression, and the recasting of Islam as a civilizational threat. The remark was not interesting in itself; what matters is the architecture that made it legible, even comforting to an audience that sees no problem in labeling a global religion as inherently homicidal.[47]

In Canada, a Toronto man had been charged with assault causing bodily harm and uttering threats after a hotel employee in Markham was beaten the month before in what police called a 'violent, hate-motivated' attack. The victim was a Muslim man, according to the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM). In a post on social media on October 6, 2025, the NCCM said a hotel guest had asked the man about his ethnic and religious identity, and when he

said he was Muslim, he was attacked and beaten. His injuries were 'gruesome and life-altering,' the NCCM said. In a news release on October 8, 2025, York Regional Police said the alleged assault happened at a hotel near Highway 7 E. and Commerce Valley Drive W. on September 28, 2025. Police said they were called to the hotel shortly after 3 a.m. for a report of an assault in progress. An employee had reported that an intoxicated guest had become aggressive, police said. When police arrived, they found the injured employee, and arrested the suspect nearby. Police said the employee suffered serious head injuries and paramedics took him to a trauma center. Police said they learned through their investigation that the suspect was trying to pay for his room when his credit card was declined. 'A verbal altercation ensued and the suspect's demeanor changed when he learned the victim was Muslim,' police said in the release. 'The suspect became upset, told the victim he was going to kill him and chased him to a room where he was violently assaulted.'[48]

Garrett Pollock, 35, was among two men to appear before a special sitting of Portlaoise District Court on Friday

Karolis Peckauskas also appeared before a court in Portlaoise

In Ireland, a right-wing extremist group threatened to attack a Galway mosque, hotels housing migrants and International Protection Accommodation Service centers in a video, a court had heard. Two men, one from Northern Ireland

and the other from the Republic of Ireland, appeared before a special sitting of Portlaoise District Court on November 7, 2025 after explosives were discovered by police in County Down and County Laois. Garrett Pollock was arrested by the Portlaoise drugs unit on November 4. He was charged with the alleged possession of explosives at O'Moore Place in Portlaoise and at an address at Kilhorne Green, County Down. The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and An Garda Síochána (Irish police) made the discoveries as part of a cross-border counter-terror operation. During evidence from Det Declan O'Connor, it was alleged that a video was made by four masked men who indicated their intention to take violent action against certain targets, Irish broadcaster RTÉ had reported. The video was believed to have been recorded in a house in Portlaoise and gardaí (Irish police) do not believe it had been shared. A document, which was also found during searches, had been described as a 'manifesto' for the group. Judge Andrew Cody said that in the video, which was played after court, the men spoke of attacking what they called 'Ireland's first mosque' in Galway as well as further plans to attack other mosques, IPAS centers and hotels housing migrants. He said the video was a 'practice of a statement being released subsequent to a successful terrorist attack'. Judge Cody said that after seeing the video, police suspicions that one of these men was Mr Pollock were well founded and he refused bail. Karolis Peckauskas, of Newfoundwell Road in Drogheda, County Louth, also appeared in court. He was charged with knowingly having in his possession an explosive substance at O'Moore Place in Portlaoise, County Laois on Tuesday.[49]

In the United Kingdom, former Home Secretary Suella Braverman told a delegation in Washington that Britain could become the first Islamist nation in possession of nuclear weapons. According to Bill Curtis of The London Economic, she warned that Britain could 'fall into the hands of Muslim fundamentalism' and become an Iran-style enemy of America in the next 20 years. Braverman said: 'Vice-president JD Vance said at the National Conservatism conference, at which I also spoke in the summer that the UK was going to be the first Islamist nation with nuclear weapons. I don't think he was joking … Is it an impossibility that 20 years from now it will be the UK, not China or Russia, that will emerge as the greatest strategic threat to the USA? … Born out of a broken relationship and weak leadership. What happens if the UK falls into the hands of Muslim fundamentalism, our legal system gets substituted for Sharia Law and our nuclear capabilities vest in a regime not too dissimilar to that of Iran today?'[50]

This rhetoric from senior political figures was accompanied by explicit denials of anti-Muslim prejudice. Reform MP Lee Anderson claimed there was 'no such thing as Islamophobia' and that it was a 'made-up word'. Mr Anderson made his comments during a speech at a Reform rally in Birmingham on March 28, 2025, at the launch of the party's local election campaign.[51]

Brogan Stewart, Christopher Ringrose and Marco Pitzettu were intent on carrying out a violent attack, counter-terror police said

Beyond rhetoric, far-right extremists were actively planning violence. Three far-right extremists who amassed hundreds of weapons and planned to carry out attacks on targets including a mosque had been convicted of terrorism offenses. Brogan Stewart, from West Yorkshire, Christopher Ringrose, from Staffordshire, and Marco Pitzettu, from Derbyshire, were part of an online group who 'idolized the Nazi regime'. Sheffield Crown Court was told how Stewart had detailed torturing a Muslim leader using an 'information extraction kit'. All three were found guilty of terrorism offenses at the same court on May 14, 2025 and are due to be sentenced on July 17, 2025.[52]

The spread of misinformation about Muslims continued to fuel violence and unrest. The English city of Liverpool awoke on May 27, 2025 to a blizzard of questions about a vehicle that rammed a crowd of people in a sports parade the previous evening, injuring dozens, two seriously. But amid all of the horror and confusion, one fact emerged: The car's driver was a white British man, and he had been arrested at the scene. The local Merseyside Police released that information less than two hours after the episode occurred, as posts on social media were already erupting with alternative theories about what might have happened, and why. The decision to disclose the driver's race and nationality so quickly appeared calculated to defuse the rumors and misinformation that had

spread after other recent violent episodes in Britain. In the summer of 2024, after a British-born man with parents from Rwanda fatally stabbed three young girls at a dance studio in Southport, a town north of Liverpool, false reports that the assailant was an undocumented Muslim migrant spread rapidly online. The next day, a riot broke out in Southport, the first of several in cities and towns across England. By the time the police announced that the assailant, Axel Rudakubana, had been born in Britain, the erroneous reports had reached millions of people. A false name, 'Ali Al-Shakati,' circulated online for a day before the clarification from the authorities. In that case, the police were legally barred from disclosing the suspect's identity and received 'inconsistent advice' from prosecutors about whether they could confirm that he was not Muslim. Afterward, a parliamentary committee report into the riots, which far-right figures had fomented online, concluded that restrictions on what the police can say in criminal cases were 'not fit for the social media age.'[53]

The incident took place at the Islamic Centre on University Road on Friday night

Direct attacks on Muslim institutions also occurred. A man was facing explosives charges after an attack at the Belfast Islamic Centre may require psychiatric assessment, a court had heard. About 30 people were praying inside the building when an explosive device was thrown through the window on Friday night. The incident took place at the Islamic Centre on University Road on June 20, 2025. Jonathan Robert Bell, from Chester Manor, Belfast, was accused of attempting to cause an explosion and attempted arson which could endanger life.[54]

The far-right infrastructure in the UK received significant international support. Tommy Robinson was suddenly flush with US funds that transformed him from rightwing agitator to self-styled 'citizen journalist', with slick videos and a vast social media following that helped his Unite the Kingdom demonstration draw

110,000 protesters to the streets of London on September 13, 2025. Money from one man—US tech billionaire Robert Shillman—ties Robinson to a Who's Who of far-right influencers with millions of followers online. Among them was US conservative activist Charlie Kirk, who was murdered in Utah the week before. Robinson's reinvention for the social media age, which expanded his heavy focus on Muslims allegedly involved in child sexual abuse, was the result of his 'Shillman fellowship' in 2017 to rightwing Canadian website Rebel Media—now called Rebel News—to the tune of about £85,000 over a year. Shillman, who calls himself 'Dr Bob', is said to be a key figure in the transatlantic 'counter-jihad' movement. He has invested in about 20 fellowships, working with Rebel News and rightwing thinktank the David Horowitz Freedom Center (DHFC), where the aim is 'to promote freedom and to expose the lies of the radical left, the Islamist movement, and their allies in the media'. At about the same time Shillman's money was flowing to Robinson, Hopkins and Loomer, he paid more than $200,000 towards the legal fees of Dutch far-right politician Geert Wilders in his successful defense against allegations of hate speech directed at Muslims and Moroccans. Wilders spoke at two 'free Tommy' rallies in 2018 and Robinson visited him in the Netherlands.[55]

Abdulkadar Chadli died from a single stab wound

Elvis Vickers, 48, claimed he had attacked Chadli in self-defence, but a jury convicted him of murder
Credit: Norfolk Police

A police car on Mousehold Street, Norwich, after a man was found dead in a property on the street in November last year
Credit: ITV News Anglia

Anti-Muslim sentiment also manifested in deadly violence. A former soldier accused of murdering his neighbor said society was 'bowing down to Muslims' and described the victim as a 'wrong 'un' who had 'pushed his luck', his trial heard. Abdulkadar Chadli was found dead with a single stab wound to the chest at a property on Mousehold Street, Norwich, in November 2024. The jury was shown police body-worn camera footage from officers who first attended the

home of Elvis Vickers, 48, and discovered Mr Chadli lying on the bathroom floor. Mr Vickers, who denies murder, could be heard on the footage saying it was 'self-defense'. Officers who arrived at the address told the court there was a knife, which was about five inches long, stained with blood, next to the television. Body-worn footage from PC Daniel Hughes showed Mr Vickers handcuffed and recounting events as another officer tried to save Mr Chadli's life. 'I know I'm going down for murder,' Mr Vickers could be heard to say as the swearword-peppered recording was played to the jury. While talking about what had just happened, the defendant said the victim was a 'wrong-un, like all them' and he 'pushed his luck, didn't he?'. PC Hughes said Mr Vickers 'smelt of alcohol' and when prosecuting barrister Matthew Sorel-Cameron asked if his eyes were 'somewhat glazed', he replied 'yes'. The jury had previously heard Mr Vickers had said he was 'not letting these terrorists run my street' ahead of the alleged attack. At Norwich Crown Court, Christopher Paxton KC, said Mr Vickers 'was a man consumed with anger and hatred.'[56]

Mainstream media personalities also contributed to the normalization of anti-Muslim prejudice. GB News was called to cut ties with a regular contributor who had been accused of racism after claiming that the House of Commons deputy speaker, Nusrat Ghani, should not be allowed in the house because she was born in Pakistan. The comments by Lucy White, a rightwing activist, had drawn criticism from across the political spectrum amid warnings that explicitly racist language was becoming increasingly normalized in British life. White, described as a public policy expert during appearances on GB News and Rupert Murdoch's TalkTV, said on her X account on November 26: 'Today, the Deputy Speaker presiding over the Budget Statement in the UK House of Commons is Nus Ghani. Nus Ghani was born in Kashmir, Pakistan. There should not be a single person born in Pakistan in the UK House of Commons.'[57]

Political figures at the local level also openly embraced anti-Muslim positions. A Scottish Tory councilor claimed Islamophobia was 'made up' and referred to asylum seekers as 'animals', The National revealed. Gordon Lang, a local government representative in Aberdeenshire for Russell Findlay's party, had been urged to resign by an MSP after his 'abhorrent' tweets came to light. Posting on Twitter/X in response to the news Labour would abandon a definition of Islamophobia, Lang wrote: "I've been saying it for year's. 'islamophobia' (made up word) gives protection for one group over others." In a tweet about plans to bring students to Britain from Gaza, he wrote: "Father = hamas Uncle = hamas

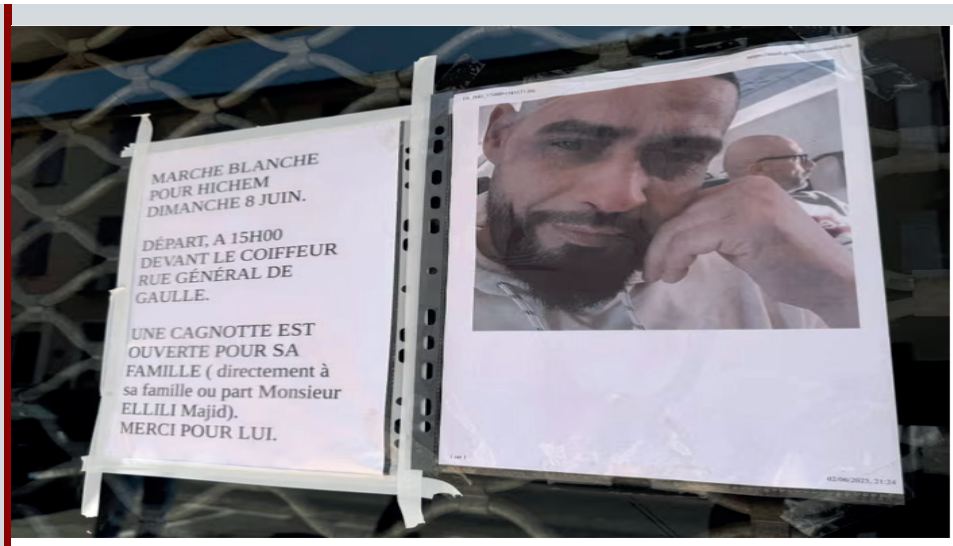
Older brother = hamas Younger brother = hamas Mother = feeds father, uncle and 2 brothers".[58]

Sir Mufti Hamid Patel CBE will be interim chair of Ofsted for five months from March. Photograph by Jon Thompson

In France, when Sir Hamid Patel was appointed interim chair of the UK's school regulator Ofsted the week before, few in the country thought it would become international news. Patel, a distinguished British school leader who was knighted in 2021 for services to education, was not an unusual choice for Ofsted chair. He is chief executive of Star Academies, a hugely successful multi-academy trust that runs 36 schools across the country, largely in deprived areas. Yet almost immediately a barrage of racist and anti-Muslim posts began attacking him on social media platform X, formerly, but still commonly, known as Twitter. Most criticism of his appointment has come from anonymous far-right accounts, focused purely on his Muslim faith and Arab-style clerical clothing. Over the weekend, a flurry of news reported revealed that Patel had encouraged Muslim students at his faith-based schools to read the Quran and wear hijabs, and had allowed a school visit in 2010 from the chief imam of the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Sheikh Abdul-Rahman al-Sudais. Despite online attacks, British politicians have not been among those criticizing Patel. Politicians from a neighboring country, however, have unexpectedly joined the criticism. Politicians and media commentators in France had expressed outrage over the British Muslim educator's appointment. Francois-Xavier Bellamy is a member of the European Parliament and vice-president of the right-wing Les Republicains party. In a post in French on X on March 15, 2025, Bellamy promoted a false

conspiracy theory that Patel was part of an 'Islamist project' to take over British institutions. 'The Islamist project involves taking control of institutions, starting with schools'. There is no evidence that Patel has ever advocated a religious or political ideology. Jean Messiha, a prominent figure on the French far right and the former spokesperson for 2022 presidential candidate Eric Zemmour's Reconquete party, added his voice to the mix. Messiha, who has nearly 300,000 followers on X, posted a photo of Patel, captioned: 'I present to you the Inspector General of National Education of Great Britain.'59

The French government's response to anti-Muslim violence also drew criticism. The government was accused of being slow to react to the murder of Aboubakar Cissé on April 25, 2025. In the wake of this stabbing Mediapart spoke to Abdallah Zekri, the rector of the Sud-Nîmes mosque in southern France and vice-president of the Muslim representative body the Conseil français du culte musulman (CFCM). He criticized the way Muslims in France were stigmatized and said he, too, was shocked by the slow response of the authorities after the young man's murder. Bruno Retailleau, The interior minister who was also responsible for religious affairs, posted a brief message of solidarity with the Muslim community on the day of the killing. But he did not cancel any public engagements (numerous, as he is campaigning for the leadership of the conservative party Les Republicains) to immediately visit the town as he has done after other violent incidents. It took another full 24 hours for the prime minister, François Bayrou, to condemn the 'vile Islamophobia … shown on video' and another day after that for the president, Emmanuel Macron, to publicly comment, expressing condemnation of 'racism' and 'religious hatred' in France. He was quicker to express solidarity following an attack in Vancouver—where a driver rammed a crowd—even though that tragedy, during a Filipino cultural event, occurred a day after the mosque attack in France. According to Mediapart, no member of the government nor any representative of the state took part in a silent march in La Grand-Combe. When Retailleau eventually showed up in the town on April 27, a lack of urgency criticized even within his own party, he limited his presence to closed-door talks at the sub-prefecture and announced security protection for mosques. He neither went to the mosque nor met the victim's family. Asked in a TV interview about the delay, Retailleau blamed his caution on uncertainty about the motivation for the crime, despite the video and the anti-Muslim sentiment the suspect had allegedly posted online. Throughout, Retailleau referred to the victim simply as 'the individual', never using his name, and later blamed the murder on our 'multicultural society'.[60]



A notice at the salon where Hichem Miraoui worked advertises an anti-racist march. His alleged killer reportedly posted racist videos on social media. Photograph: Viken Kantarci/AFP/Getty Images

Fatal violence motivated by anti-Muslim hatred continued. Prosecutors have opened a terrorism investigation after a man in the south of France, who they said posted racist videos online, allegedly shot dead his Tunisian neighbor. Hichem Miraoui, a Tunisian hairdresser who lived in the village of Puget-sur-Argents, near the Mediterranean town of Fréjus, was shot five times near his home late on May 31, 2025 and died at the scene. The suspected killer, a French man believed to be Miraoui's neighbor, was thought to have fled by car and was arrested nearby after his partner alerted police. He was also thought to have wounded a Turkish man in the hand. The regional prosecutor, Pierre Couttenier, said the alleged killer, a sports shooting enthusiast, 'posted two videos on his social media account containing racist and hateful content before and after his attack'. French media reported that the man had sworn allegiance to the French flag and had called on French people to seek out and shoot people of foreign origin. Specialized prosecutors said they had opened an investigation into a 'terrorist plot' motivated by the race or religion of the victims. The suspect wanted to 'disrupt public order through terror', a source close to the case told Agence France-Presse. Mourad Battikh, a lawyer for Miraoui's family, said: 'Hichem's death is the direct consequence of an atmosphere fed by stigmatization … and the trivialization of racist violence.'[61]

In Spain, Vox party, the third-largest parliamentary force with 33 seats, launched a vicious anti-migrant campaign targeting Spain's 2.5 million Muslims. Exploiting the PSOE-Sumar government's anti-migrant policies, Vox was reviving the most reactionary traditions of the Spanish ruling class. In July 2025, Vox national spokesperson Rocío De Meer demanded the mass deportation of

migrants, including naturalized citizens, declaring: 'All the millions of people who have recently arrived and have not adapted to our customs and in many cases have contributed to insecurity in our neighborhoods ... will have to return to their countries.' Vox leader Santiago Abascal called to deport 'everyone who came to commit crimes, who tries to impose a foreign religion [i.e., Islam], who mistreats or demeans women, who wants to live off the work of others, and all unaccompanied minors.'

This rhetoric quickly translated into violence and discriminatory policies. Within weeks, fascist violence escalated. In July, several hundred far-right militants launched a pogrom in Torre Pacheco, Murcia, attacking Moroccan agricultural workers with bats and pepper spray, smashing cars, and vandalizing immigrant-owned shops. Abascal reacted by blaming 'mass immigration,' claiming it had 'stolen our borders, stolen our peace, and stolen our prosperity.' In Catalonia, a mosque ready to open its doors was set on fire, burning it down. The campaign continued in August. The week before in Jumilla, Murcia, a Vox-sponsored motion was passed prohibiting the use of public sports facilities 'for religious, cultural or social activities that do not reflect the identity of the city, unless they are organized by the local authorities.' The measure was aimed at Muslims, blocking them from celebrating their two main annual festivities: Eid al-Fitr, marking the end of Ramadan, and Eid al-Adha. Vox tweeted: 'Thanks to Vox, the first decree prohibiting Islamic celebrations in public spaces in Spain has been approved. Spain has been and will continue to be the land of the Christian people.'

Even religious authorities joined the anti-Muslim campaign. Amid public outcry, even the Catholic Church was forced to rebuke Vox. Abascal responded by accusing the Church hierarchy of being compromised by 'public funds they receive' from the state, by their role in administering aid for migrants and even suggested that the pedophilia scandals had 'gagged' it. On August 20, 2025, Jesús Sanz, Archbishop of Oviedo, aligned himself with Vox. On X, he referred to Spanish Muslims as 'little Moors' (moritos)—a racial slur dating back to the Inquisition—and railed against Muslim celebrations in public spaces. He demanded 'reciprocity' for Christians murdered in 'their territories,' and denounced those 'citing ecclesiastical texts to look good, so they keep killing us.'

The targeting of Muslim practices extended to schools. Vox was whipping up a campaign to ban the hijab and halal food in public schools. In Parla, a working class suburb of Madrid, two schools have already banned the hijab,

with at least two more expected to follow. These prohibitions were rarely made explicit. Instead, they were camouflaged in regulations banning 'head coverings', whilst Christian symbols such as crosses, medals, or images of the Virgin Mary are permitted.[62]

In Germany, senior figures at Deutsche Welle (DW), Germany's international broadcaster, had been accused of fostering a culture of fear and bias among journalists covering Israel's genocidal war on Gaza. At least 13 current staff and freelancers, along with a former correspondent have said that the network leans pro-Israel, with some alleging Islamophobic and dehumanizing remarks about Palestinians were tolerated in its Berlin newsroom, according to the Qatar-based Al Jazeera. Internal documents obtained by Al Jazeera included a DW style guide explicitly barring the use of 'Palestine' in coverage, stating the term 'has not yet gained the status of a state.' DW rejected the claims made in the article, specifically saying that they do not prohibit the use of the word 'Palestine' in their reporting. 'Palestine' is used in connection with Palestinian activities in international bodies and the actions of the Palestinian Authority: the Palestinian flag, the Palestinian prime minister, the Palestinian representation. However, we do not refer to the territory itself as Palestine, as it has not yet attained the status of a state. As territory we refer specifically to the West Bank or Gaza/the Gaza Strip or the Palestinian Territories in relation to both,' the German news outlet said in an email. A former senior producer described working at DW as 'a constant sense of fear' under management's scrutiny. 'Deutsche Welle fills its mouth with grand concepts like freedom of the press, but it's clear this is just being used as mouthwash,' the producer told the Doha-based broadcaster.[63]

In the Netherlands, fourteen Muslim organizations in the Netherlands filed a joint criminal complaint against far-right politician Geert Wilders, accusing

him of inciting hatred, discrimination, and violence against Muslims. The legal action, filed on August 11, 2025, was after a controversial post Wilders shared on the social media platform X on August 4, 2025. The image showed the left half of a young blonde woman labeled as 'good' and the right half of an angry, elderly woman wearing a headscarf labeled as 'bad.' Muslim Rights Watch, one of the signatory groups, said the imagery portrays Muslims as 'dangerous and unwanted' and closely resembles Nazi-era propaganda that depicted Jews as 'inhuman, threatening, and unwanted…. This image is suspiciously similar to those used in Nazi Germany to dehumanize Jews,' Muslim Rights Watch said in a Facebook statement. Wilders—leader of the far-right Party for Freedom (PVV)—is notorious for his anti-Islam rhetoric, and has made the fight against Islam a central pillar of his political platform.[64]

In Europe, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban and France's Marine Le Pen headlined a rally in Madrid on February 8, 2025 by Europe's biggest far-right bloc, buoyed by Donald Trump's return to power and calling for 'a 180-degree pivot'. Patriots for Europe had realigned extreme-right forces in the European Union. It became the European Parliament's third-largest force after Orban helped launch it in 2025 to pull the bloc towards the far right. 'Yesterday we were the heretics. Today we are the mainstream... We are the future,' proclaimed Orban, sharing the stage with other leading extreme-right nationalists including Dutch anti-Islam firebrand Geert Wilders, Italian Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini and former Czech premier Andrej Babis.[65]

In India, Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav of the Allahabad high court, who was earlier called by the Supreme Court over his remarks targeting Muslims at an event organized by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), had written to the Chief Justice of the high court, saying that he stands by his remarks which according to him did not violate any principle of judicial conduct. Justice Yadav had reportedly written in his response to Allahabad high court Chief Justice Arun Bhansali that

his speech was an expression of thoughts on societal issues consistent with values enshrined in the Constitution, and not to create hatred towards any community, reported The Indian Express. In a controversial speech on the subject of Uniform Civil Code delivered in the library hall of the Allahabad high court on December 8, 2024, Justice Yadav used the derogatory term 'kathmulla' and said that Muslim children could not be expected to be 'tolerant' and 'generous' as they are exposed to violence—'the slaughter of animals'—from an early stage. In comparison, Yadav added, Hindus were taught about kindness from an early age and their children had non-violence and tolerance ingrained in them. Referring to the Hindu community, he said that India would function only as per the wishes of the 'majority'.[66]

Religious extremist figures continued to promote hatred despite legal restrictions. Despite the Supreme Court order to ensure no hate speech was made by Dasna temple head Yati Narsinghanand, the ultra-right leader was heard spewing hatred targeting the Muslim community at the World's Religion Parliament held in Haridwar on December 20, 2024. The saffron-clad priest, flanked by right-wing members, issued a veiled threat of violence, alluding to a controversial statement made years ago by All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader Akbaruddin Owaisi. This comment, made by Owaisi in 2012, had sparked outrage when he allegedly challenged the police to leave for 15 minutes, allowing the Muslim community to demonstrate its strength, siasat.com reported. During the event, he called for the 'destruction' of individuals who had hindered the original program. Addressing a gathering of followers, he declared, 'The biggest reason for the misery of us Hindus is that we do not have a

country of our own,' reiterating his demand for a Hindu Rashtra. Narsinghanand further said about his vision of a 'Sanatan Vedic Nation,' one that, according to him, would have 'no room for a single mosque, a single madrasa, or a single jihadi.' Drawing a comparison with Israel's 'protective' stance towards Jews, he claimed that such a nation would serve as a global guardian for Hindus.[67]

Political leaders who engaged in hate speech were rewarded rather than punished. Nitesh Rane called Muslims Pakistani pimps, green pigs and green snakes; threatens to strip, beat them and urges Hindus to boycott them and demolish mosques. The police had filed—on court directions—20 first information reports against him, 19 over the last two years. But they have never questioned or acted against three-time Maharashtra MLA Nitesh Rane, in the process violating Supreme Court orders to act against hate speech. On December 15, 2024, was sworn in as cabinet minister, conforming to a BJP pattern of reward for anti-Muslim hate speech.[68]

Senior government officials also contributed to anti-Muslim rhetoric. Amid a series of temple-mosque disputes, with several suits pending before various courts, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on January 10, 2025 that any disputed structure should not be called a mosque. 'Kisi bhi vivadit dhaanche ko masjid nahi bolna chahiye. Hum jis din masjid bolna bandh kar denge, uss din log jaana bhi bandh kar denge. Waise bhi yeh Islam ke sidhhanto ke khilaaf hai ki kisi ki bhi aastha ko thais pahuncha kar wahan masjid-numa dhaancha khada kar diya ho, aise sthaan par kisi prakaar ki hone waali ibaadat Khuda ko bhi manzoor nahi hoti hai. Islam me upasana ke liye structure ki zaroorat nahi hai, jab ki yeh Sanatan Dharma me hai,' he said. ('Any disputed structure should not

be called a mosque. The day we stop calling it a mosque, people will stop going there. Hurting anyone's faith by constructing a mosque-like structure does not align with Islamic principles, worship at such sites is not acceptable to God too. Islam does not mandate the construction of a structure for worship, but Sanatan Dharma does.')[69]

Extremist women's groups also engaged in provocative actions. The all-woman outfit of the right-wing organizations Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Durga Vahini conducted a massive rally in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain where female workers echoed communal and Islamophobic slogans by the female activists in front of a mosque. In a video filmed and spread among the Hindutva outfits, women were seen walking on the streets chanting aggressive slogans while wielding weapons including swords and sticks. Upon reaching the mosque, the saffron-clad women chanted dog whistles including 'Mein Durga banungi, Kaali banuungi per burkha wali nahi banungi (I will become goddess Durga, goddess Kaali but not a burqa-wearing woman).'[70]

Hate speech from religious figures continued unabated. Hindutva proponent Yeti Narsinghanand had again targeted the Muslim community with inflammatory remarks, claiming that 'Muslims are giving birth like pigs.' The Hindu priest's vitriolic comments made on January 23, 2025 during a meeting here on the Shahi Eidgah Masjid-Krishna Janmabhoomi issue in Mathura, have drawn widespread condemnation for inciting communal disharmony. Narsinghanand further labeled Islam as 'the biggest threat to India and the world,' attempting to stoke fears over the perceived growth in the country's Muslim population.[71]

Elected officials made explicit threats against Muslims. BJP MLA from Goshamahal constituency in Hyderabad T Raja Singh sparked outrage with his latest incendiary remarks, threatening the Muslim community while referencing the controversial 15-minute statement made by AIMIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi. Singh's comments, made during a gathering at the ongoing Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, had once again stoked communal tensions in the region. In a video posted on social media platform X, Singh responded to Owaisi's previous remarks and said, 'What are you telling us, give us 15 minutes, remove the police, and we will eliminate 100 crore Hindus?' The BJP leader went on to make specific threats against Muslims in Uttar Pradesh and Hyderabad, stating that if Naga Sadhus, who gather during the Maha Kumbh, were sent to Hyderabad, the city would witness a drastic shift. He added, 'Those who speak of 15 minutes will go to Pakistan; there will be no clash with Hindus, when Hindus rise, history is written.'[72]

The government honored individuals with a history of inciting violence against Muslims. Sadhvi Rithambara, a right-wing Hindu figure known for her hate speeches and genocidal slogans against Muslims, was among the winners of the Padma Awards, one of the highest civilian honors in India. Rithambara was the founder-chairperson of Durga Vahini, the women's wing of the Hindu militant group Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP). Rithambara gained prominence among Hindu nationalists with the VHP in the late 1980s through the Jan Jagran Abhiyan and in the 1990s during the run-up to the Babri Masjid demolition. She was later named an accused in the Liberhan Commission report but was acquitted by a CBI court in 2020. Between 1989 and 1992, Rithambara delivered multiple public speeches calling for war against Muslims. Cassettes of her genocidal rhetoric were widely circulated and played at temples and public gatherings

across India. The Liberhan Commission, which investigated the Babri Masjid demolition, found Rithambara and 68 others individually culpable for leading the country to the brink of communal discord for their role in the destruction of the mosque on December 6, 1992. A CBI court framed criminal charges against her in May 2017. However, on September 30, 2020, she and 32 others were acquitted in the Babri Masjid Demolition Case by a CBI special court. In September 2022, a fundraising event in the United States featuring Hindutva figure Sadhvi Rithambara was canceled in New Jersey following an outcry and calls from Indian American groups. The Indian American Muslim Council, Hindus for Human Rights, and other organizations had urged the cancellation and organized a letter-writing campaign to the church through an online action alert titled 'Reject hate, say no to Hindu Nationalism in New Jersey.'[73]

Extremist figures called for arming the Hindu majority. Yati Narsinghanand, notoriously known for his constant attacks on Muslims, in his letter to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath appealed to make it easier for Hindus to get a licensed gun. The letter was written by BJP leader Udita Tyagi on behalf of Narsinghanand. In a video, Udita Tyagi could be seen writing the letter with Yati's blood. Narsinghanand had previously organized an emergency meeting at The Dasna Devi Temple in which he said that Hindus must own weapons. He had also made a revelation that he will soon write a letter to CM Yogi and other Hindu leaders in different countries about the dangers Muslims pose. He urged 1 lakh Hindus to sign the letter he wishes to send to CM.[74]

The call for violence escalated to explicit advocacy for terrorism. Infamous hate monger and controversial priest Yati Narsinghanand, who had several cases registered against him for his vitriolic comments against Islam and Muslims, had again harped on his pet Islamophobic narrative. In a video message from his temple in Dasna in Uttar Pradesh's city of Ghaziabad, the staunch Hindutva protagonist exhorted the majority community to pick up arms and form terrorist

groups like ISIS in the Middle East. The video had gone viral and it showed Narsinghanand's willingness to have a meeting with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to ask him about the weapons. Claiming that Hindus are being attacked by Muslims and then the police, the priest said Hindus must stand up to save 'your religion, your family, your existence. Take up arms. If needed, form your own organization, like the Muslims do, like ISIS.'[75]

In India, religious accommodations for Muslim legislators were eliminated. The decades-old Assam Assembly tradition of a two-hour break to facilitate Muslim legislators to offer namaz on Fridays was discontinued for the first time during the ongoing budget session. The decision to do away with the break was taken in the last session of the House in August 2024, but implemented from this sitting. Expressing dissatisfaction over it, AIUDF MLA Rafiqul Islam maintained that it was a decision imposed on the strength of numbers. There are about 30 Muslim MLAs in the assembly. We had expressed our views against the move. But they (the BJP) have the numbers and are imposing it on the basis of that, Islam said. Speaker Biswajit Daimary, in view of the secular nature of the Constitution, had proposed that the Assam Legislative Assembly must conduct its proceedings on Fridays like any other day, which was placed before the Rules Committee and passed unanimously. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had welcomed the decision, stating that it was a practice introduced by the Muslim League's Syed Saadulla in 1937, and the decision to discontinue the break prioritized productivity and shed another vestige of colonial baggage.[76]

Alleged crimes involving Muslims triggered collective punishment. Communal tensions escalated in Rajasthan following the arrest of 10 Muslim youths in connection with an alleged case of blackmail and molestation of five non-Muslim girls in Vijaynagar, Bhiwaar district. Hindutva organizations have staged protests, observing a bandh in Bhiwaar, Bhilwara, and Ajmer on February 24, 2025, demanding stringent action against the accused. The protests have taken a communal turn, leading to threats of further state-wide shutdowns if their demands are not met. After the protests, the local administration initiated a bulldozer action drive against the township where the accused reside. Notices for demolition have been issued to the families of the accused, including local corporator Hakeem Qureshi, who was arrested on February 23. Three of the 10 arrested individuals are minors. The court has sent the accused to five-day police remand.[77]

Chief Ministers continued to disparage Muslim education. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had again harped on his favorite Islamophobic and anti-Muslim subject denigrating the entire community and accusing the opposition of continuing with its appeasement policies. In his controversial comments in the state's Legislative Council on February 25, 2025, the chief minister sharply criticized opposition parties, particularly the Samajwadi Party (SP), on the direction of education in the state. 'We want to make children scientists, not Mullahs and Maulvis,' Yogi Adityanath said casting aspersions on the quality of education imparted in madrasas and the community-run schools. Known for making anti Muslim and Islamophobic rhetoric, Yogi Adityanath, raked up a controversy earlier this month (February 18) criticizing the Samajwadi Party for advocating the preservation and promotion of the Urdu language. Yogi accused them of wanting to make children 'maulvis' and promoting 'kathmulla-pan' (orthodoxy).[78]

Extremist groups directly targeted mosques with provocative rallies. Hindutva outfit, Hindu Raksha Dal took a rally and shouted provocative rally against the Azan (call to prayer) given from the local Jama Masjid in Uttarakhand's Dehradun city. On February 25, 2025, Members of the Hindu Raksha Dal shouted provocative and controversial slogans like 'Ayodhya was just a glimpse, Kashi and Mathura are next' and 'one must chant 'Jai Shri Ram' to live in India'. They were demanding to recite 'Hanuman Chalisa' in the mosque. 'It's not just Uttarakhand but the whole country, Hindu Raksha Dal will recite 'Hanuman Chalisa' infront of all those mosques from where voice of Azan in high decibel comes out. Now, we have submitted a memorandum. If the loudspeakers would not be shut down, we will resort to other actions against them,' said Hindutva leader while talking to a local reporter. He said that they were stopped by the police from reciting 'Hanuman Chalisa' inside the mosque. Next time, they will

not be stopped and will do it at any cost. A leader of the mosque lauded the police for not allowing the Hindtuva rally near the mosque saying it could incite riots in the area.[79]

Political figures made offensive remarks about Muslim military personnel. An Indian lawmaker was facing criticism for making offensive remarks against an army spokesperson in the aftermath of the conflict with Pakistan, with opposition leaders calling for his apology and resignation. In a public speech on May 13, 2025, Vijay Shah, member of Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), suggested that Colonel Sofiya Qureshi was from the community of people who had attacked India. Colonel Qureshi, assigned to brief the media along with foreign secretary Vikram Misri after the conflict broke out, was from the minority Muslim community. India and Pakistan came perilously close to a full-scale war the week before after the Indian military conducted missile attacks on what it alleged were terrorist training camps across the border. Pakistan retaliated and, for four straight days, the two sides exchanged heavy firing across the border as well as drone and missile attacks on military installations. Speaking at a public event in Indore city, Mr Shah said Mr Modi had sent a 'sister of their community' to teach the Kashmir attackers a lesson. 'They killed our Hindu brothers by making them remove their clothes,' the minister said, meaning the gunmen. 'They made our sisters widows, so Modiji sent a sister of their community to strip them and teach them a lesson.' Mr Shah drew immediate condemnation from opposition leaders who called his remarks 'derogatory and shameful'. 'A minister of the BJP government of Madhya Pradesh had made a very derogatory, shameful and cheap remark about our brave daughter Colonel Sofia Qureshi. The terrorists of Pahalgam wanted to divide the country, but the country was united during the entire Operation Sindoor to give a befitting reply to the terrorists,' said Mallikarjun Kharge, head of the main opposition Congress party.[80]

AI-generated propaganda portrayed Muslims as threats. The ruling party had been accused of 'open hate-mongering' after releasing an AI-generated video targeting Muslims in the election-bound northeastern state of Assam. The video, shared by the official X account of the Narendra Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP's) Assam state chapter, portrayed Muslims as illegal immigrants who seize land owned by the government across the northeastern Indian state. The video showed Muslims, mostly men wearing an Islamic skull cap, a traditional tunic and a loongi or a traditional South Asian sarong, at government

establishments such as airports, tea estates, heritage sites, and the stadium in the capital, Guwahati. Muslim women in the video were depicted wearing a hijab or burqa. Captions on the video said it portrayed 'Assam without [the] BJP' and called it the 'dream' of opposition deputy leader Gaurav Gogoi, who is Assamese. It also claimed an unspecified 'link' between Mr Gogoi's opposition Congress party and Pakistan, showing opposition leader Rahul Gandhi addressing a crowd alongside the Pakistani flag. The video falsely claimed that the state's Muslim population would rise to 90 per cent over an unspecified period—a nod to the wider so-called 'replacement theory', stoked by right-wing groups, that Muslims will one day replace Hindus as India's majority religion. Muslims currently comprise 34.22 per cent of Assam's total population of 10.7 million, according to the most recent census conducted in 2011.[81]

Elected officials engaged in 'purification' rituals against Muslim prayers. Medha Kulkarni, from prime minister Narendra Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), marched with some Hindu activists to the historical Shaiwarwada fort in Pune, Maharashtra after video of Muslim women visitors offering prayers at the site was shared widely on social media. The lawmaker was seen 'cleaning' the spot with urine and dung from a cow—an animal held sacred by many Hindus—as part of a 'purification' ritual against Muslim prayers. She also chanted a prayer to a Hindu deity in her protest. 'This site is not just a historical monument but a symbol of Maratha pride. No one should indulge in acts that hurt the sentiments of the Hindu community,' she said during the act, on October 19, 2025.[82]

In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, thousands of Israelis have joined a state-funded march through the Muslim quarter of the Old City in Jerusalem, where large groups chanted racist slogans including 'Gaza is ours', 'death to the Arabs' and 'may their villages burn'. The annual march, paid for and promoted by the Jerusalem city government, celebrates Israel's capture and occupation of East Jerusalem and its holy sites in the war of 1967. The Israeli takeover was not recognized internationally. The Jerusalem municipality advertises the event, known as the flag march, as a 'festive procession', part of a broader program of events celebrating the 'liberation' of the city.[83]

Jerusalem Islamic Waqf/Handout/Anadolu/Getty Images

Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir (3rd R) led a large group of worshippers into the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem on Sunday.

Far-right government ministers violated sacred agreements. On August 3, 2025, National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, A far-right Israeli minister, sparked outrage after leading a group of worshippers in prayer at the most sensitive holy site in Jerusalem, despite a decades-old agreement that bars Jews from worshipping there. Ben Gvir, who had previously been convicted for supporting terrorism and inciting anti-Arab racism in Israel, commemorated Tisha B'Av, a Jewish day of mourning, in the Al Aqsa Mosque compound, known to Jews as Temple Mount. While there, he called for his country to 'conquer' Gaza and 'encourage' Palestinians to leave the enclave. Anyone can visit the site, but only Muslims were allowed to pray there, according to an understanding known as the 'status quo agreement,' which had existed since Israel captured the Old City of Jerusalem from Jordan in 1967. Ben Gvir had visited the complex a number of times before, including on previous Tisha B'Av commemorations, but hadn't before led a congregation in prayer there.[84]

Israeli officials also provided international support for far-right extremists. Amichai Chikli, Israel's minister for the diaspora and combating antisemitism, said he was 'proud to host British patriot' Robinson in mid-October, after the terror attack at a Manchester synagogue. He lauded the far-right activist as a 'courageous

leader on the front line against radical Islam'. Former Tory cabinet minister Baroness Sayeeda Warsi criticized the 'irresponsible and deeply dangerous behavior' by Israel in inviting 'a man with multiple convictions for violence and fraud'.[85]

In Australia, Sky News was reviewing its new Sunday night program Freya Fires Up, hosted by Freya Leach, after removing an interview with a guest who appeared with bacon draped over his shirt and told the host it was to 'protect him' from terrorists, as he made further Islamophobic comments before being cut off. While the interview on September 21, 2025 evening was removed from the full episode uploaded onto Sky's online platform, guest Ryan Williams reposted his appearance on Instagram. The post has since been liked 90,000 times. Williams' social media accounts feature multiple videos of him wearing bacon across his chest. He asks followers online to donate to his cause of inflicting 'maximum damage on Islam' and keeping 'Europe Christian at all costs'. Leach introduced Williams as a 'social media sensation' and a conservative political strategist. She later made a brief on-air apology for the interview. 'The reason I've got

bacon on my shoulders is because the terrorists are a charming lot, and they threaten to behead me every single day, so a little bit of protection,' Williams said appearing to laugh. During his Sky appearance, he said the UK faced the threat of Islamic invasion every day, and wrongly said that Britain's second-biggest city, Birmingham, has a Muslim majority. According to the 2021 census, 34 per cent of Birmingham residents identify as Christian, while 29.9 per cent identify as Muslim. A Sky spokesperson told this masthead the broadcaster apologized unreservedly for the offensive comments made by Williams on Sunday. 'These remarks were wholly inappropriate and unacceptable and have no place on our network. The guest responsible should never have appeared,' the spokesperson said. 'We recognize the harm such rhetoric can cause and take full responsibility for this failure in our editorial processes.'[86]

In New Zealand, a military court on August 18, 2025 convicted a soldier of espionage and possessing a restricted video of the 2019 Christchurch Mosque attacks, state media reported. This was the first-ever military prosecution for espionage or attempted espionage in the country's history. The soldier, with ties to far-right groups, admitted to handing over and attempting to hand over sensitive military information to someone he believed to be a foreign agent, as well as to dishonestly accessing a computer system and possessing an objectionable publication, according to Radio New Zealand. Along with the restricted video of the live-streamed Christchurch Mosque attacks, in which 51 people were killed, the soldier also possessed the attacker's manifesto titled The Great Replacement. The espionage attempt occurred in December 2019, when the soldier tried to pass classified material to an undercover agent, believing they represented a foreign government. The sensitive information included maps, access codes and internal phone directories for several military camps, which, according to the charge, were likely to prejudice New Zealand's security and defense. The names of the foreign country and the soldier, who was caught in an undercover sting operation, have not been revealed. The soldier is reported to have been affiliated with far-right groups, including the Dominion Movement and Action Zealandia.[87]

VERBAL AND PHYSICAL ASSAULT

Verbal and physical assaults represent direct, confrontational manifestations of Islamophobia that target Muslims and Islamic institutions with immediate harmful intent. Verbal assault encompasses a spectrum of threatening

communications—including spoken words, written messages, and digital communications—that create reasonable apprehension of imminent harm or deeply offensive engagement based specifically on religious identity. These verbal aggressions range from intimidating threats and slurs to sustained patterns of harassment, bullying, and public humiliation directed at individuals because of their actual or perceived Muslim identity. Physical assault, by comparison, constitutes the tangible escalation of anti-Muslim hostility into bodily violence, where perpetrators intentionally cause or attempt to cause physical harm through direct force against Muslim individuals or groups. Both forms of assault reflect the most overt and immediate expressions of Islamophobic sentiment, often occurring in public spaces, educational institutions, transportation systems, or other community settings where Muslims are visibly identifiable through cultural markers such as traditional dress or religious practice. Unlike more institutional forms of discrimination, these interpersonal assaults typically represent spontaneous or premeditated acts carried out by individuals or small groups motivated by religious prejudice. The incidents documented in this section illustrate the alarming frequency and severity with which Muslims face direct verbal intimidation and physical violence solely because of their faith identity or cultural practices associated with Islam. These assaults not only cause immediate harm to their victims but also generate widespread fear within Muslim communities, restricting their free movement and full participation in public life through the implied threat of continued violence.

In the US, three Muslim women said they were violently verbally attacked by a man while they were praying in an Alpharetta parking lot. The women said the man went out of his way cursing and hurling racist remarks at them in the parking lot of the Avalon Shopping Pavilion on Sunday. They want action taken. 'We came here just to enjoy some desserts,' a victim, Nesrine, said. 'It was time for one of the prayers to end, so we wanted to make sure we reached it. We set our carpet up, our prayer rug, right next to our car in an empty parking spot tucked away in the corner.' The women say they tried to walk away but said the man kept following them. 'You're worshiping a false god,' the man could be heard saying in the recording. 'Go back to your country.'[88]

In the US, a Muslim advocacy group was calling for an investigation and the filing of criminal charges by Columbus police after video captured a Somali Muslim woman being assaulted by her neighbors in what the organization was calling a possible hate crime. The Ohio chapter of the Council on American-Islamic

Relations posted a video to its YouTube channel on Tuesday showing a Muslim woman being assaulted by four people on March 20, 2025 at around 8 a.m. at the Southpark Apartments in Franklinton. The woman was returning from dropping off her kids at the bus stop for school. The beginning of the video showed the Muslim woman surrounded by two women and a man as she argues with the man, who was standing on the landing of some stairs. One of the women then charged and punched the victim, and they briefly exchange blows before a second woman begins attacking the victim from behind. The man also joins in the attack, and the video showed the three assailants beating on the Muslim woman, who was lying on the ground as she was pummeled.[89]

In the US, after a spate of vandalism reports involving graffiti at mosques in Texas and California, Muslim leaders there stepped up efforts to keep their sacred spaces and community members safe. The incidents and subsequent hyper-vigilance add to what many American Muslims say had already been a charged climate amid the fallout in the U.S. from the Israel-Hamas war that had killed tens of thousands of Palestinians and devastated the Gaza Strip. 'Since October 2023, we've definitely seen rise in Islamophobia,' said Rawand Abdelghani, who is on the board of directors of Nueces Mosque, one of the affected mosques in Austin, Texas. 'Anti-Palestinian, anti-immigrant, all of that rhetoric that's being said … it has contributed to things like this happening.' Nueces security video showed someone, their face partially covered, spray-painting what appears to be Star of David symbols at the property. Next, someone had spray-painted graffiti at the Islamic Center of Southern California in Los Angeles, including the Star of David on an outer wall, center spokesperson Omar Ricci said. 'In light of what's going on within Palestine and the genocide in Gaza, it felt like an attack,' said Ricci, who's also a reserve Los Angeles Police Department officer.[90]

In the UK, on April 12, 2025, Muslim burial sites were ripped out of the ground or destroyed in Carpenders Park Lawn cemetery in Watford, sparking grief and outrage from families and the local community. All of the graves vandalized were in a section reserved for Muslim burials, police said as they investigate. No arrests were made.[91]

Dr Balvinder Mehat is senior partner at Bakersfield Medical Centre in Nottingham

In the UK, a doctor who accidentally recorded himself making derogatory comments about two Muslim patients in a voicemail had been given a warning by a medical tribunal. Dr Balvinder Mehat left the comments inadvertently after he phoned a different patient and failed to disconnect the call. The GP, who was senior partner at Bakersfield Medical Centre in Nottingham, was also been investigated by the General Medical Council for circumcising a boy without his father's consent. Dr Mehat told the BBC he regretted his comments and

the warning was 'a necessary, appropriate, and proportionate outcome'. The comments were made in the strongest language and included a claim that 'these Muslims are very bad' and made a reference to incest.[92]

In the UK, Better Communities Bradford (BCB) launched Project Unity, a bold initiative to educate against Islamophobia, challenge harmful myths, and build more inclusive communities. The Project Unity aimed to tackle hate, challenge misinformation, and promote genuine inclusion across Yorkshire and North England with anti-Muslim hate reaching record levels in the UK. The project arrived at a critical time. Muslims comprise just 6.5% of the UK population, yet account for 42% of all religious hate crime victims. In 2024, Islamophobic assaults rose by a staggering 74%. A recent analysis found that there was 400% more negative coverage about Muslims media than about other groups in the media. In the workplace, 40% of Muslims report facing discrimination in performance reviews and promotions while 60% of Conservative Party members believe Islam 'threatens British life'. Over the next 12 months, Project Unity will deliver free interactive workshops and interfaith dialogues across England, reaching schools, universities, community venues, public sector organizations, and workplaces. Each session is designed to debunk harmful myths, challenge media narratives, and give people the tools to engage thoughtfully and honestly.[93]

In the UK, Rabina Khan reported that during a routine walk along Chatham High Street one summer afternoon, she was subjected to Islamophobic abuse when a group of children shouted a racist remark at her. Although she was shocked, she did not respond, explaining that visibly Muslim women often avoided confrontation due to fears for their safety. She continued with her day as bystanders appeared unaware or indifferent, leaving her concerned that such incidents had become normalized in public spaces.[94]

In The Occupied Palestinian Territory, thousands of Israelis have joined a state-funded march through the Muslim quarter of the Old City in Jerusalem, where large groups chanted racist slogans including 'Gaza is ours', 'death to the Arabs' and 'may their villages burn'. The annual march, paid for and promoted by the Jerusalem city government, celebrates Israel's capture and occupation of East Jerusalem and its holy sites in the war of 1967. The Israeli takeover was not recognized internationally. The Jerusalem municipality advertises the event, known as the flag march, as a 'festive procession', part of a broader program of events celebrating the 'liberation' of the city.[95]

In The Occupied Palestinian Territory, Police said they have not arrested anyone in connection to an anti-Arab riot in which dozens of Jewish youths were filmed trashing a Jerusalem movie theater while chanting 'Death to Arabs' and throwing objects at the employees behind the concession stand counter. The incident occurred on July 19, 2025. Footage showed masses of young men throwing floor signs, disposable cups and what appeared to be a motorcycle helmet at Arab employees at Jerusalem's Cinema City Theater.[96]

In India, a Muslim man claimed that he was forcefully converted to Hinduism while in police custody on December 14, 2024. Fateh Uddin, a resident of Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh, said he was coerced into the conversion by Sitapur Superintendent of Police and a prominent Hindutva leader. The two allegedly threatened Fateh Uddin with implicating him on false charges of possessing arms. He claims that he was also threatened with the destruction of his whole family if he refused to obey their dictates. In a video that had gone viral on various social media platforms, Fateh Uddin said he staunchly resisted their overtures but gave in to their intense pressure and manipulation. He asserted that the conversion violated his personal beliefs and religious freedom.[97]

In India, right-wing members associated with a cow vigilante group brutally attacked a Muslim truck driver transporting bulls in his vehicle in Haryana's Nuh. The incident occurred on December 18, 2024 but came to light when the video of the attack went viral on December 21, 2024. The video on different social media platforms showed the extremist group forcing truck driver Arman Khan to kneel while interrogating him. The assailants beat Khan and dragged him by his hair, compelling him to repeatedly chant 'gau hamari mata hai' (the cow is our mother) and 'bail hamara baap hai' (the bull is our father).98

In India, a 13-year-old Muslim boy was assaulted by three other minors in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur for refusing to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' on April 17, 2025, reported The New Indian Express. The assault took place when the boy, a resident of Sarsaul, was walking towards a bus stop in the area. The accused minors allegedly asked him to bow down and touch their feet. When he refused, the accused minors told the boy to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'. They broke a bottle and allegedly stabbed the boy's leg with broken glass as he refused to comply with their demand.[99]

HATE SPEECH AND ONLINE HATE

Hate speech directed at Muslims constitutes a deliberate form of expression that seeks to vilify, demean, or incite animosity against individuals and communities based specifically on their Islamic faith or perceived Muslim identity. This harmful rhetoric encompasses a broad spectrum of communication that intentionally dehumanizes Muslims, promotes negative stereotypes, spreads misinformation

about Islamic beliefs, or calls for discriminatory actions against those who practice Islam. The digital era has significantly transformed how anti-Islam hate speech propagates, with online platforms providing unprecedented opportunities for the rapid dissemination of Islamophobic content across geographic boundaries with minimal accountability. Social media networks, messaging applications, forums, and comment sections have become particularly problematic venues where anti-Islam sentiment flourishes, allowing anonymous users to spread harmful content that might otherwise face social consequences in offline environments. Online hate speech targeting Islam and Muslims frequently employs dehumanizing language, fabricated narratives, manipulated statistics, and conspiracy theories that frame Islam and its adherents as inherently violent, culturally incompatible, or existentially threatening to Western societies. The incidents documented in this section illustrate the pervasive nature of anti-Islam digital hate during the review period, highlighting how traditional hate speech has evolved and amplified through technological platforms, creating sustained environments of hostility that significantly impact Muslim communities' sense of security and belonging, even when physically removed from the source of such rhetoric. This digital dimension of Islamophobia presents unique challenges for monitoring, regulation, and intervention due to its borderless nature, anonymous character, and the tension between addressing harmful content while preserving principles of free expression.

In the US, Elon Musk and his platform X played a central role in amplifying Islamophobic narratives around grooming gangs in the UK, a report said. The Centre for the Study of Organized Hate (CSOH) said X had become a 'high-velocity distribution channel' for hate speech and conspiracy theories, particularly targeting British-Pakistani men and other South Asian and immigrant communities. The CSOH report 'Racialized Grooming Gangs: Elon Musk, X, and Amplification of Islamophobia in the UK' looks at the tech billionaire's influence in the debate around grooming gangs earlier this year. In January 2025, Musk repeatedly posted or reposted about child grooming in the UK, accusing the Labour government of not doing enough to tackle it and calling for safeguarding minister Jess Phillips 'to go to prison'. Based on an analysis of 1,365 posts with over 1.5 billion engagements, the report found that Musk's personal interventions—alongside far-right channels—played a pivotal role in 'weaponizing' the grooming gang discourse to scapegoat Muslims in the country, particularly British Pakistani men. That is despite police chiefs saying

that most grooming gang offences in the UK were carried out by white men. 'The discourse surrounding the ‘grooming gangs’—amplified at unprecedented scale by Elon Musk's interventions on X—illustrates a dangerous convergence between far-right ideologies and the failure of digital platforms to enforce even basic content moderation policies,' the report said.[100]

In the US, social media platform X, formerly Twitter, played a central role in the spread of false narratives and harmful content which contributed to racist violence against Muslim and migrant communities in the UK, after the tragic murder of three young girls in the town of Southport, Amnesty International established in a technical explainer which was published on August 6, 2025. A technical analysis of X's open-source code (or publicly available software) revealed that its recommender system (or content-ranking algorithms), which drives the 'For You' page, systematically prioritizes content that sparked outrage, provoked heated exchanges, reactions and engagement, without adequate safeguards to prevent or mitigate harm. 'Our analysis shows that X's algorithmic design and policy choices contributed to heightened risks amid a wave of anti-Muslim and anti-migrant violence observed in several locations across the UK last year, and which continues to present a serious human rights risk today,' said Pat de Brún, Head of Big Tech Accountability at Amnesty International. An account on X called 'Europe Invasion', known to publish anti-immigrant and Islamophobic content, posted shortly after news of the attack emerged that the suspect was 'alleged to be a Muslim immigrant'. That post garnered over four million views. Within 24 hours, all X posts speculating that the perpetrator was Muslim, a refugee, a foreign national, or arrived by boat, were tracked to have an estimated 27 million impressions. Tommy Robinson told his 840,000 X followers that there was 'more evidence to suggest Islam is a mental health issue rather than a religion of peace' further stoking hostility against Muslims. Amnesty International's analysis showed that in the two weeks after the Southport attack, Tommy Robinson's posts on X received over 580 million views—an unprecedented reach for a figure banned on most mainstream platforms for breaching hate speech rules. X's owner Elon Musk—who has 140 million X followers on his personal account—also notably amplified the false narratives that were exchanged regarding the Southport attack. On August 5, 2024, as the riots were spreading, he commented on a video posted by Ashley St Clair, saying 'civil war is inevitable.'[101]

In the US, one of the world's most popular video games said it is investigating reported anti-Muslim and hateful content on its platform, after it received a

letter from the Maryland office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations. The letter alleged that Roblox, which boasts over 100 million average daily users, has exposed children to racist and blasphemous statements through gaming chats and user-generated content. 'There is hateful and discriminatory rhetoric that is being put into these spaces that children are consuming,' CAIR Maryland Director Zainab Chaudry told Religion News Service on October 16. 'It is normalizing this as fun and trendy and cool, but it ends up hurting marginalized communities and creating an unsafe environment for them.' Chaudry said content in the gaming platform mocking God and glorifying violence against Palestinians stems from what is known as 'Italian brain rot,' a series of viral memes that surged in popularity this year depicting absurd AI-generated images and videos with pseudo-Italian narration. The unrealistic characters include Tralalero Tralala, a shark wearing blue Nike shoes, and Bombardiro Crocodilo, a military bomber with the head of a crocodile that sparked outrage for mocking the killing of children in Gaza. Roblox was currently facing over a dozen lawsuits nationwide alleging inappropriate content on its games. A complaint brought by Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman on October 7 alleged 'that grossly inappropriate, sexually explicit, and dangerous experiences pervade Roblox' and that the gaming platform's protections were inadequate. In a statement to RNS, a Roblox spokesperson said the platform's strict community standards do not allow users to discriminate, promote hate or mock individuals or groups on the basis of religion. The company said it uses a combination of AI detection, proactive monitoring and a 24/7 team of thousands of moderators to identify and remove content that violates standards.[102]

In the UK, on June 16, 2025, The Times published a cartoon by Peter Brookes. Brookes' cartoon does not rely on any evidence of the regime firing missiles from mosques or that mosques had been a front for the launch of such weapons in the conflict between Iran and Israel. The cartoon was reminiscent of the Swiss People Party's successful 2009 referendum campaign against minarets which led to far right groups channeling anxieties about demographic change in the country into leaflets that associated mosque minarets to missile launches. We are clear that those leaflets were an example of anti-Muslim prejudice and tropes being played out and virtually comparable to the Brookes cartoon. Whilst we acknowledge that Brookes was trying to associate missile launches to the Iranian regime, associating them with mosques played on anti-Muslim tropes and prejudice that had been seen, documented and highlighted before by others, as well as us within Tell MAMA. Mosques and minarets are not missile launchers, nor are they places of danger. They are legitimate religious spaces where worshippers deserve to pray in peace. Neither, should we say, has any evidence emerged that Iran, which is a predominantly Muslim country, launched rockets from mosques.[103]

The mosque in Essex was vandalised amid a nationwide flag-raising campaign that followed a wave of protests against asylum seekers [Courtesy: South Essex Islamic Trust]

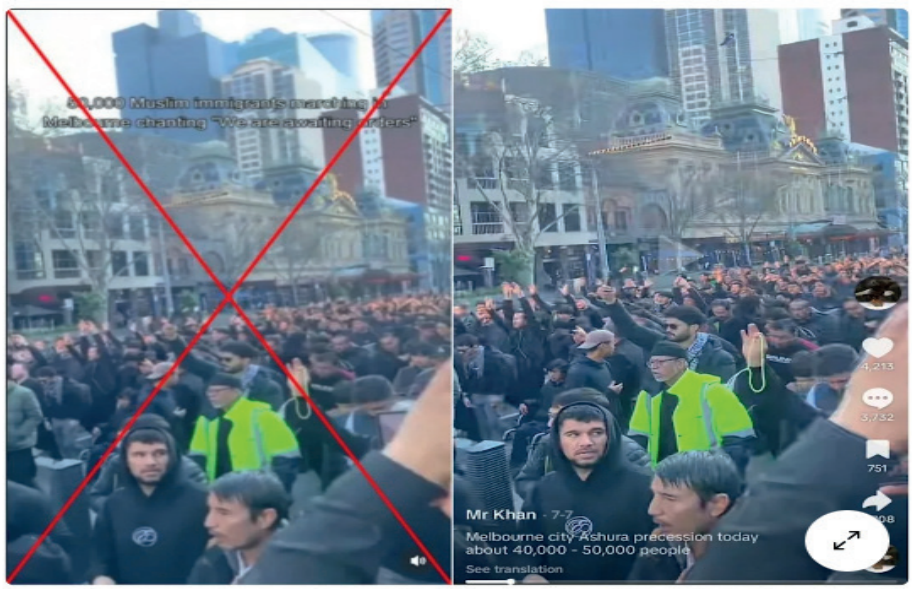
In the UK, agitators targeted a mosque and assaulted Muslims as the St George flag was flown widely after protests against asylum seekers. The South Essex Islamic Centre in Basildon was defaced shortly before midnight on August 28, 2025. Red crosses were daubed across its walls alongside the words 'Christ is

King' and 'This is England'. The timing, the night before Friday prayers, appeared to many as calculated—an attempt to intimidate a flurry of worshippers in the southeastern English county. Gavin Callaghan, the leader of Basildon Council, described it as 'pathetic criminal cowardice'. 'Don't dress it up. Don't excuse it. It's scum behavior, and it shames our town … The cowards who did this will be caught,' he said. 'To do this right before Friday prayers is no coincidence. That's targeted. That's intimidation. And it's criminal.' Council staff and volunteers worked in the early hours of the morning to remove the graffiti before worshippers arrived, but a sense of fear was still lingering. Local bishops decried the misuse of Christian imagery in the attack. They issued a joint statement calling the vandalism 'scandalous and profoundly misguided', saying that invoking Christianity to justify racism is 'theologically false and morally dangerous'. The vandalism took place amid a tense atmosphere in the United Kingdom, amid protests against asylum seekers and a social media campaign dubbed #OperationRaisetheColours.[104]

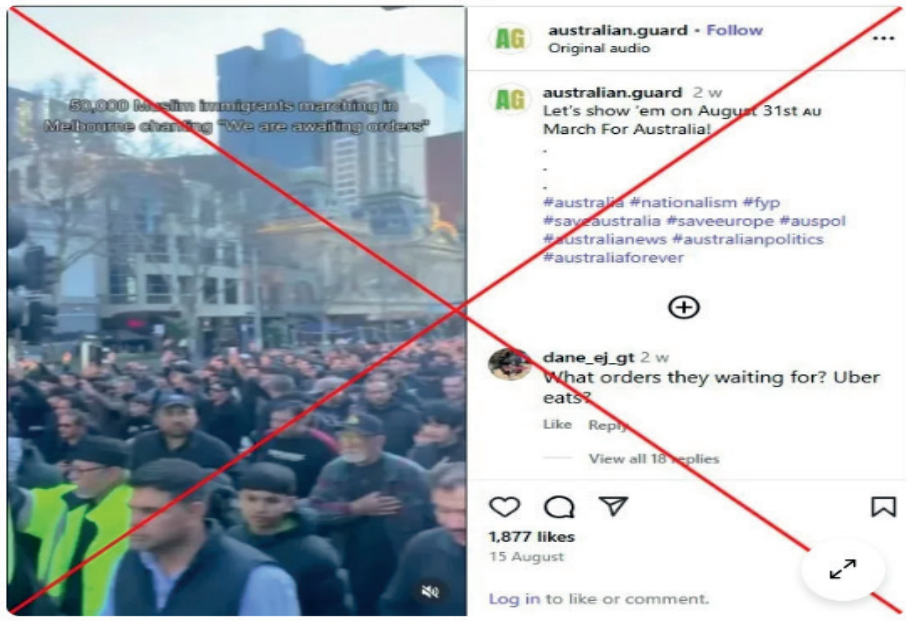
In the UK, academic research has warned that the continued normalization of anti-Muslim stereotypes and racist conspiracy theories via AI-generated materials on social media was pushing some into targeting hotels with protests in past weeks, according to a The Times newspaper article on the research. The London School of Economics study analyzed 622 posts from notable far-right sources, detailing how visualizations of racist conspiracies gained more amplification (around 30 per cent) than other content. That academic submission appeared online in response to a House of Commons Home Affairs Committee that was investigating new forms of extremism, and it also drew attention to forms of racialized dehumanization and algorithmic bias. That submission contrasted how the GenAI-generated images depicted Muslim men as dirty and of carrying weapons in contrast to 'heroic' white men and 'vulnerable' white women threatened by racialized migrants, imagery informed by algorithmic bias. They attributed the mobilization of far-right violence after the murders and stabbings in Southport to a mixture of extremist content, fake news and conspiracy content circulating online. One recommendation called for Ofcom to develop a specialized unit to monitor AI extremism and combat any disinformation it spreads. Other submissions, however, including from The Alan Turing Institute, highlighted how AI could also help counter extremism. Recent research had also raised concerns that automated detection tools on social media were inconsistent in classifying hate speech.[105]

In India, former Miss India Ishika Taneja sparked a huge controversy after delivering a deeply inflammatory and provocative speech that explicitly targeted the Indian Muslim community. Taneja peddled the hate-filled narrative while speaking at a religious gathering attended by several prominent Hindu religious priests during the ongoing Maha Kumbh in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj. She delivered derogatory descriptions that perpetuated untrue stereotypes about Indian Muslims. In a video that has surfaced on social media platforms the former Miss India was heard referring to Muslims as 'Babur ki aulad' (children of Mughal emperor founder Babur) and claiming that a 'pinch of vermilion' could protect against social issues she associated with Muslims, including 'halala, triple talaq and love jihad'..[106]

In India, a wave of incendiary music tracks was heightening Islamophobic hate, serving as the background score to violence against Muslims. Less than 24 hours after news broke of the April 22, 2025 attack, in which gunmen killed 25 tourists and a local pony rider in the Indian-administered Kashmir region, a new song surfaced on Indian YouTube. The song, titled 'Pehle Dharam Pocha' (They Asked About Religion First) targeted Indian Muslims, insisted they were conspiring against Hindus and asked them to leave India. In less than a week, the song has garnered more than 140,000 views on YouTube. And it is not the only song. The killings in the picturesque resort town of Pahalgam marked the worst attack against tourists in Kashmir in a quarter of a century. But even as New Delhi hits back against Pakistan, which it accused of links to the attack—a charge Islamabad denies—a wave of incendiary music tracks, crafted and circulated within hours, has set off an anti-Muslim backlash in India. Set to pulsing beats and catchy rhymes, these songs, part of a genre that has come to be known as Hindutva Pop, were calling for violent retribution for the attack. From songs that label Indian Muslims as 'traitors' to songs that advocate their boycott, the country's smartphones are buzzing. Hindutva was the Hindu majoritarian political ideology of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies. Al Jazeera found at least 20 songs that carried and amplified such Islamophobic themes at a time when Indians were anxiously scrolling through their digital feeds for more information on the aftermath of the attack.[107]



Comparison between screenshots of the false post shared by an Australian user and a TikTok video, both taken on September 2 with the red X added by AFP



Screenshot of the false Instagram post captured on September 2, 2025, with the red X added by AFP

In Australia, a video viewed tens of thousands of times on social media shows the peaceful commemoration of a Muslim holy day in Melbourne, contrary to claims from right-wing groups that it shows immigrants chanting 'we are awaiting orders'. The footage, which surfaced ahead of planned anti-immigration marches across Australia, previously circulated a month earlier in a post about the annual Ashura procession that local police and religious leaders said passed peacefully. '50,000 Muslim immigrants marching in Melbourne chanting 'we are awaiting orders,' reads text overlaid on an Instagram video shared on August 15,

2025. The clip, which was viewed more than 88,100 times, showed a crowd of people mostly clad in black marching past Parliament House in Melbourne while chanting in Arabic. Its caption reads: 'Let's show them on August 31st... March for Australia!' The video was also shared in similar Facebook and Instagram posts, with one claiming Muslim migrants were 'living next door' and 'ready to attack us'. 'When will people wake up and realize it's an invasion?' read a comment on one of the posts, while another said: 'They are going to start a war in a Christian country.' However, it does not show a march organized by immigrants, nor are the people chanting about 'awaiting orders'. There have also been no official reports about such a march in Melbourne. A reverse image search on Google using key frames from the falsely shared video led to the same footage posted on July 7, 2025 on TikTok, where it was captioned 'Melbourne city Ashura procession today'. On the Muslim holy day of Ashura, Shia Muslims commemorate the seventh-century killing of Prophet Mohammed's grandson Imam Hussain. Footage of earlier Ashura processions posted by the same user and Australian broadcaster SBS shows participants marching past the same hotel seen in the falsely circulating video.[108]

DEFAMATION OF VEIL, HIJAB, AND BURQA

Defamation targeting Islamic head and body coverings represents a distinct manifestation of Islamophobia that specifically focuses on visible symbols of Muslim female religious practice. This form of prejudice involves the deliberate misrepresentation, demeaning characterization, or false attribution of negative qualities to religious attire such as the hijab (head covering), niqab (face veil), or burqa (full-body covering), as well as to the women who wear them. Unlike general anti-Islam sentiment, this specific strain of Islamophobia disproportionately affects Muslim women whose religious observance includes modest dress, making them particularly vulnerable to both institutional discrimination and interpersonal harassment in public spaces. The negative portrayal of Islamic dress frequently relies on harmful stereotypes that frame these garments as symbols of oppression, cultural regression, security threats, or resistance to integration, rather than recognizing them as expressions of religious devotion, personal choice, cultural identity, or spiritual commitment. Such defamatory characterizations extend beyond mere criticism to actively stigmatize these religious practices, creating hostile environments for Muslim women in educational institutions, workplaces, and public settings. The incidents cataloged in this section demonstrate how Islamic dress continues to be weaponized in

political discourse, media representations, and institutional policies during the review period, revealing the gendered dimension of Islamophobia that places additional burdens on visibly Muslim women. These documented cases illustrate how the fundamental right to religious expression through dress has been systematically challenged, restricted, and denigrated through both official policies and social attitudes that specifically target Islamic head and body coverings.

In Canada, on March 20, 2025, a bill was introduced by the Quebec government that would ban headscarves for school support staff and students. Bill 94, would cover not just teachers, as was now the case under the existing secularism law, but support staff, volunteers and students as well. The ban not only covers hijab, but also face covering, with the explanatory notes saying Muslim girls will 'have their face uncovered when they are on the premises placed at the disposal of a school.' The same rule applies to Muslim parents picking up their children from school. 'In Quebec, we made the decision that state and the religion are separate,' said Education Minister Bernard Drainville, CBC News reported. 'And today, we say the public schools are separate from religion.' However, the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM), who are challenging in the Supreme Court the original bill that forbids religious symbols been worn by teachers, say the new bill is another infringement on their rights and unfairly targets hijab-wearing Muslims.[109]

In the UK, the newly appointed mayor of a northern English town had been targeted by a racist disinformation campaign on social media by members of the far-right, attacking her for religious beliefs and questioning her abilities to take on the post. Councillor Rukhsana Ismail, who wears the Islamic hijab and is of Pakistani heritage, was named mayor of Rotherham, South Yorkshire, on May 16 and was set to serve during the 2025–2026 civic year. Councillor Ismail had an extensive background in public service and the charity sector, having worked in schools, police services, and non-profit organizations. Her appointment as mayor, however, had subjected her to racist vitriol on X from numerous far-right accounts and trolls, who have used the social media platform to accuse her of being 'fanatical about Islam', 'unable' to speak English and that a 'new legislation was needed to ensure that only 'English people' were allowed to occupy such posts.[110]

In France, Emmanuel Macron's centrist political party suggested banning girls under 15 from wearing the Muslim headscarf in all public places, as the president chaired a high-level government meeting to discuss what it called 'political Islamism' in France. The French president's office said he had asked ministers to come up with proposals before June to address the 'serious' findings of a report that Macron commissioned in 2024 into the presence of the Muslim Brotherhood in France. The report found that the Muslim Brotherhood posed a 'threat to national cohesion' in France and risked undermining 'the fabric of society and republican institutions'. Before the meeting, Gabriel Attal, the former prime minister and now head of Macron's party, Renaissance, proposed a ban on 'minors under 15 wearing the veil in public spaces'. He said the Muslim head covering worn by young girls 'seriously undermines gender equality and the protection of children'. Attal told Le Parisien he also wanted to introduce a criminal offense of coercion for parents who make their daughters aged under 18 wear the veil. Attal's proposals were criticized by some on the left. The Socialist party lawmaker Jérôme Guedj said Attal was 'chasing the far right' and turning French secularism against Muslims.[111]

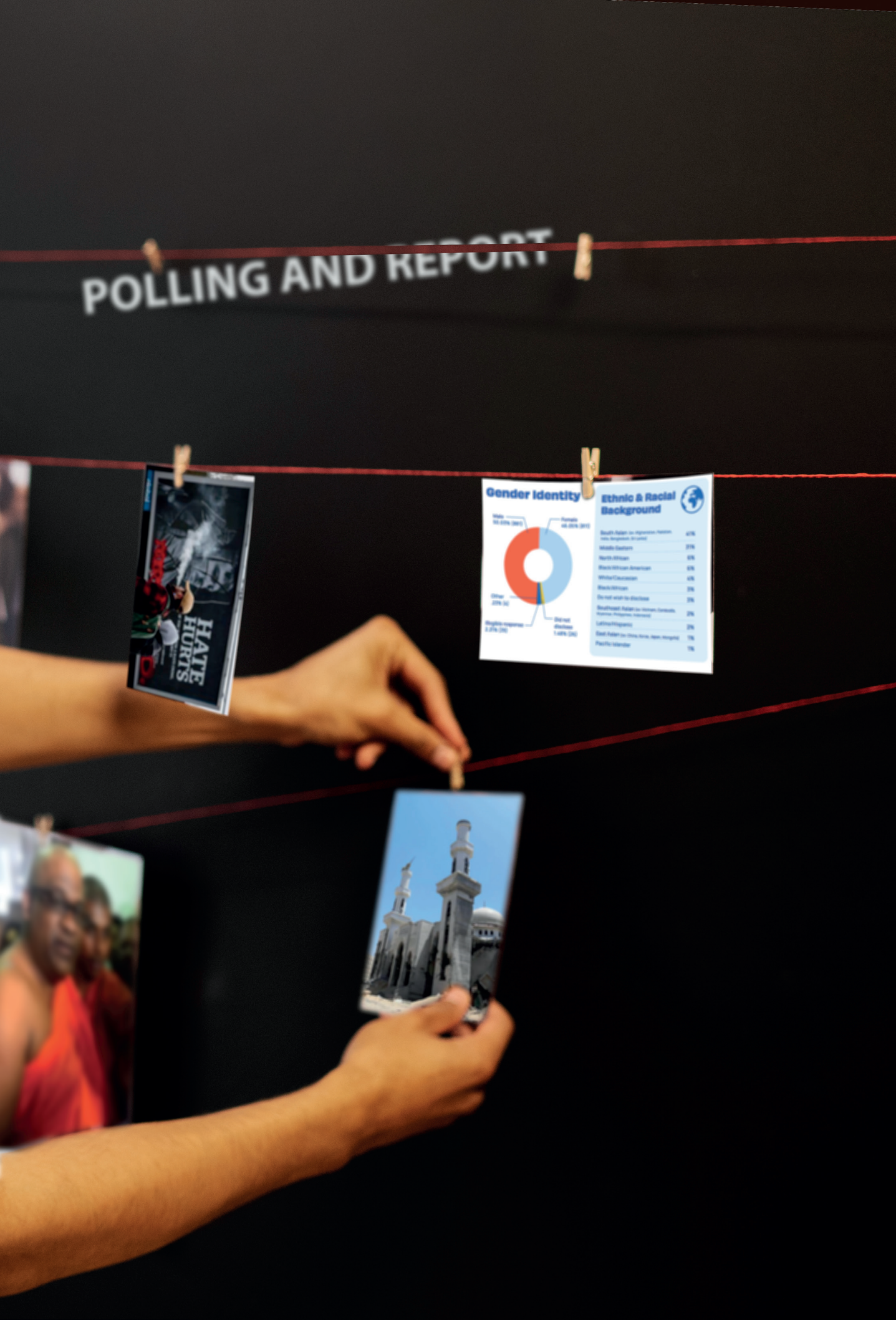
In Italy, Italian coalition government's right-wing populist partner proposed to ban Islamic veil in public places, reported local media on January 20, 2025. Commenting on the law proposal submitted to the Italian parliament by Lega party he leads, Matteo Salvini, also deputy premier said the proposal was 'common sense.' 'A common sense proposal from the Lega against those who do not respect our culture and the principles of Western freedom,' he said, according to state-run ANSA news agency. The bill proposes a ban on wearing in public places clothing 'suitable for hiding the face, as in the case of the burqa or niqab'. It envisions two-year jail terms and a loss of the right to request citizenship for men who force women to wear the veil.[112]

In India, Maharashtra Minister Nitesh Rane urged the state government to ban burqas at examination centers for 10th and 12th board exams, citing concerns about cheating. He wrote a letter to Education Minister Dada Bhuse on January 29, 2025, demanding uniform rules for Hindu and Muslim students. 'Our government, which follows Hindutva ideology, will not tolerate the politics of appeasement,' Rane told ANI. 'The rules that apply to Hindu students should apply to Muslim students as well. Those who want to wear a burqa or hijab can do so at home, but at the examination centers, they should write their exams like other students.'[113]

In Austria, the Islamic Religious Community in Austria (IGGO) on July 21, 2025 criticized Austrian Interior Minister Claudia Plakolm for her controversial statement on a headscarf, in which she called it a 'sign of oppression.' In a press release, the IGGO said: 'We are deeply disturbed by a recent statement by Minister of Culture Claudia Plakolm on the Islamic headscarf.' Earlier on July 20, Plakolm, a member of the ruling coalition Austrian People's Party (OVP), said in an Instagram video: 'The headscarf is a symbol of oppression. Girls are hidden behind headscarves at a critical stage in their personality and physical development, and extremist tendencies, particularly among children, have no place in our schools.' Plakolm's statement was apparently connected to a bill proposed by the Austrian government to prohibit headscarves in kindergartens and schools for girls under 14. According to Plakolm, the law will be passed in the fall of 2025.[114]

In Australia, an Australian senator was suspended for a week after wearing a burka in parliament to push for a ban on the Muslim garment. Pauline Hanson was condemned by fellow senators—and later formally censured—for the stunt on November 24, 2025, with one colleague accusing her of 'blatant racism'. The Queensland senator, of the anti-immigration One Nation party, was seeking to introduce a bill that would outlaw full face coverings in public. It was the second time she had worn the garment—which covered the face and body—in

parliament, and said her actions were in protest at the senate rejecting her bill. Shortly after other lawmakers blocked her from introducing the bill, she returned wearing a black burka. 'This is a racist senator, displaying blatant racism,' said Mehreen Faruqi, a Muslim Greens senator whom the Federal Court in 2024 found was a victim of racial discrimination by Hanson.[115]


POLLING AND REPORT
HATE HURTS
Gender Identity
Ethnic & Racial Background

POLLING AND REPORT

POLLING AND REPORT

The OIC Islamophobia Observatory has witnessed a substantial proliferation of research initiatives, public opinion surveys, and institutional reports documenting the concerning trajectory of anti-Islam sentiment worldwide. These comprehensive studies, conducted by respected research organizations, academic institutions, governmental bodies, and civil society groups, provide empirical evidence of Islamophobia's persistent and evolving nature across diverse geographic and cultural contexts. Through methodologically rigorous approaches including quantitative polling, qualitative interviews, incident documentation, and policy analysis, these reports collectively illuminate the multifaceted dimensions of anti-Islam prejudice as it manifests in public attitudes, institutional practices, media representations, and political discourse.

The findings from these diverse studies reveal troubling patterns that transcend national boundaries and regional particularities, suggesting a transnational character to contemporary Islamophobia despite its locally specific expressions. These reports consistently highlight several concerning trends: growing public suspicion toward Muslim communities, normalization of anti-Islam rhetoric in political spaces, increasing frequency of hate incidents targeting visibly Muslim individuals, and the implementation of policies that disproportionately restrict Islamic religious practices. Particularly noteworthy is the documentation of how Islamophobia intersects with other forms of discrimination, creating compound vulnerabilities for Muslims who simultaneously belong to other marginalized communities.

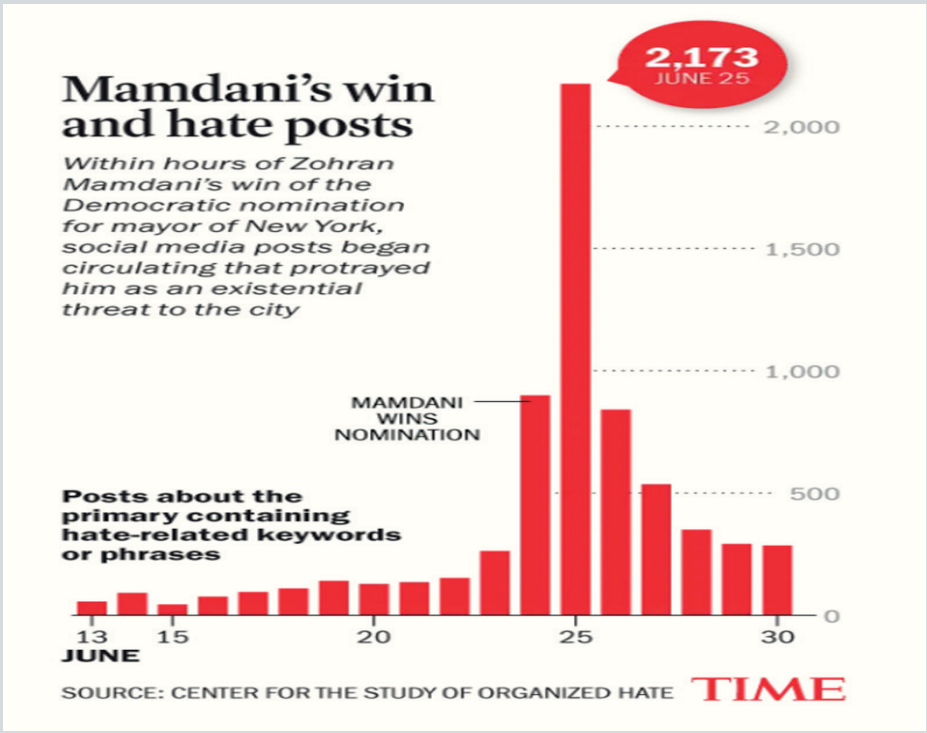
This chapter presents a curated selection of the most significant polling data and institutional reports released during the review period. Rather than providing exhaustive summaries, it highlights key findings that collectively demonstrate the persistence and intensification of Islamophobic attitudes and practices globally. By aggregating these diverse sources of evidence, this section aims to establish a comprehensive picture of contemporary anti-Islam sentiment that extends beyond anecdotal accounts to document systematic patterns across multiple societies. These empirical investigations serve as crucial resources for understanding the scope, severity, and structural dimensions of Islamophobia as a global phenomenon requiring coordinated responses at both national and international levels.

United States

Harvard University released two reports on April 29, 2025, documenting bias against both Muslim and Jewish communities on campus. The findings emerged from task forces established during campus protests over the Gaza conflict and amid a federal funding dispute with the Trump administration. President Alan Garber noted that Muslim, Arab, Palestinian, and pro-Palestinian community members reported feeling marginalized and silenced. Survey results showed nearly half of Muslim respondents felt physically unsafe on campus, with 92 percent believing they would face professional or academic consequences for expressing political views. Muslim women wearing hijab and students wearing keffiyehs reported verbal harassment, being labeled as terrorists, and physical assaults. One student described constant fear from trucks displaying Muslim students' faces around campus and noted that peers lost job offers for leading Muslim faith organizations.[116]

Florida experienced a sharp increase in anti-Muslim discrimination, according to CAIR's 2025 Civil Rights Report. The organization documented 8,658 complaints nationally in 2024—the highest since tracking began in 1996—representing a 7.4% increase from 2023. Florida's complaints rose 22%, nearly triple the national rate. For the first time in CAIR-Florida's 24-year history, viewpoint discrimination became the leading complaint category. Many incidents followed the October 7, 2023 Hamas attacks and subsequent Gaza bombardment, with individuals expressing solidarity with Palestinians or criticizing Israeli policies facing accusations of antisemitism or terrorism.[117]

The Southern Poverty Law Center's May 22, 2025 report documented 1,371 hate and extremist groups nationwide in 2024, down from 1,430 in 2023. However, the 5% decline reflected normalization rather than reduced influence, as many extremists felt their beliefs had become mainstream in government and society. These groups employ political, communication, and online tactics to undermine democratic institutions and polarize communities.[118]



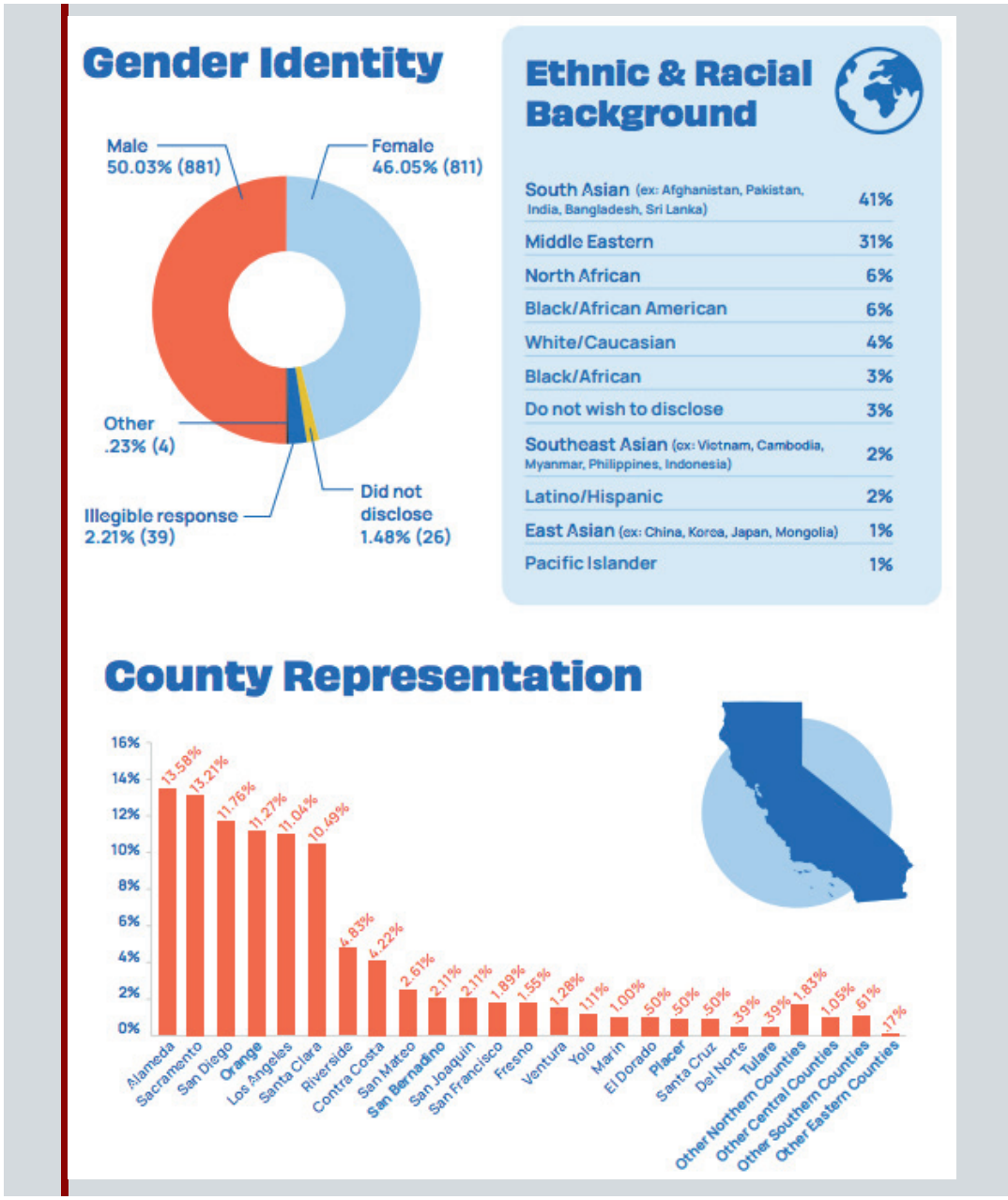
The Center for the Study of Organized Hate documented a surge in online Islamophobia following Zohran Mamdani's Democratic mayoral primary victory in New York City. The Muslim democratic socialist defeated Andrew Cuomo 56% to 44%, but immediately faced coordinated attacks framing his faith and ideology as threats. Between June 13-30, researchers tracked 6,669 posts generating 419.2 million engagements. Anti-Muslim posts spiked from 56-264 daily to 2,173 on June 25. Of closely examined posts, 39.4% contained explicit anti-Muslim language, portraying Islam as incompatible with public office and invoking terms like "jihadi," "radical Muslim," and "terrorist sympathizer." The primary campaign also featured offline Islamophobia, including flyers that darkened and lengthened Mamdani's beard.[119]

Research published in the Forum for Health Economics and Policy examined the 2017 Muslim Ban's impact on preventive healthcare for Middle Eastern and North African children. The study found that while MENA children had higher well-visit rates before the policy, monthly visits declined 20% after January 2017, resulting in a cumulative 6% decrease. Vaccinations dropped 12.5% compared to non-Hispanic white children. Researchers noted that families continued taking children to appointments but increasingly opted out of vaccinations, suggesting nuanced manifestations of increased distrust in governmental authority following the policy.[120]

The American Muslim Advisory Council's September 3, 2025 report surveyed 201 Tennessee families and found over a third of Muslim students experienced bullying, with adults at school making uncomfortable comments. While 100% of elementary students reported feeling they belonged at school, 47% of elementary and 13% of middle/high school students changed their appearance to hide their Muslim identity. Only 26% of caregivers knew about their children's bullying experiences. When elementary students reported incidents to adults, 28% saw no improvement and 16% experienced worsening situations.[121]

Illustration: ThePrint team

The Centre for the Study of Organised Hate documented a sharp increase in AI-generated hateful content since mid-2024. Analyzing 1,326 images and videos from 297 accounts across three platforms between May 2023 and May 2025, researchers found minimal content through early 2024, with surges in September 2024 and March 2025. Despite reporting 187 posts violating community guidelines, platforms removed none. Content centered on sexualizing Muslim women (generating 6.7 million engagements), dehumanizing rhetoric, conspiracy theories, and violence aestheticization.[122]



CAIR-California and the Center for the Prevention of Hate and Bullying's October 31, 2025 report surveyed 1,802 students across 48 California counties. Results showed 50% of Muslim students experienced religious-based bullying from peers, with 67% not reporting incidents due to feeling undervalued, fearful, or facing unclear processes. Additionally, 43% of students missed school due to bullying, significantly exceeding national absenteeism rates. These findings continued a 12-year trend showing 40-55% of Muslim students ages 11-18 consistently report experiencing bullying.[123]

Canada

The Muslim Advisory Council of Canada's annual report documented at least 180 discrimination cases affecting Muslim patients and healthcare professionals, including biased treatment and workplace harassment. The organization engaged with Health Minister Mark Holland to advocate for systemic reforms. In education, the report highlighted suppression of students and families raising concerns about Islamophobia, anti-Arab racism, and anti-Palestinian racism in Ontario's Halton District School Board. [124]

McMaster University doctoral student Kojo Damptey's analysis of Ontario use-of-force data revealed London police disproportionately used force against Black, Middle Eastern, and Indigenous men compared to white men. Among men aged 18-24 experiencing police force, half were Black or Middle Eastern. Overall, 13.8% of those subjected to force were Middle Eastern and 6.5% were Indigenous. This pattern aligned with other Ontario cities, with the data collection enabled by the 2017 Anti-Racism Act. [125]

York University's Islamophobia Research Hub released "Documenting the 'Palestine Exception'" on August 6, 2025, revealing dramatic increases in hate incidents since October 7, 2023. Toronto Police Services recorded a 1,600% year-over-year increase in anti-Palestinian and Islamophobic hate crimes between October 7 and November 20, 2023. Statistics Canada documented a 94% spike in anti-Muslim hate crimes and 52% rise in crimes against Arabs and West Asians in 2023. The National Council of Canadian Muslims reported a 1,300% increase in Islamophobia cases post-October 7, rising to 1,800% over the year. The Muslim Legal Support Centre documented 474 human rights complaints between October 2023 and March 2024, including 345 employment-related cases. [126]

Switzerland

The Swiss Center for Islam and Society published the country's first qualitative baseline study on February 27, 2025, concluding that anti-Muslim racism permeates all areas of Swiss life. Co-author Hansjörg Schmid emphasized this was not merely an individual problem but a structural one deeply embedded in society, manifesting across education, employment, government authorities, policing, and media. The study revealed severe underreporting, with only one person filing a complaint among 2,471 Muslims who experienced discrimination. Over 35% of Muslims reported experiencing racial discrimination in 2019,

while more than two-thirds of the Swiss population held strong reservations about Muslims. The research incorporated expert interviews from specialist agencies, authorities, Muslim organizations, and academia, alongside qualitative interviews with eleven victims of anti-Muslim racism. Authors recommended strengthening advisory services and monitoring systems while fostering better societal understanding.[127]

United Kingdom

A British Islamic Medical Association survey of over 100 Muslim doctors found widespread discrimination in the NHS. Forty-four percent reported regular discrimination since medical school, while 38% experienced it in their current workplace. Religion was the most frequently targeted aspect of identity for 40% of respondents. Despite the NHS workforce reaching 42% ethnic minority representation among doctors, dentists, and consultants in February 2023, the health service doesn't collect religious data. BIMA estimates roughly 10% of doctors identify as Muslim. Dr. Hina Shahid, chair of the Muslim Doctors Association, described these experiences as unsurprising and part of an NHS pattern, urging prioritization of tackling Islamophobia and racism.[128]

The Stratford mosque was vandalised with anti-Islam graffiti

Leyton Jamia Masjid was also targeted

Anti-Muslim graffiti appeared on seven London buildings in January 2025, targeting mosques, community centers, and a primary school. The Metropolitan Police investigated these "shocking" hate crimes occurring between January 6 and 25. Media reports indicated a Telegram hate group offering £100 payments for vandalism fueled the incidents, which targeted: West Norwood Mosque (January 6), South Norwood Islamic Community Centre (January 6), Thornton Heath Islamic Centre (January 16), Stratford mosque (January 23), Leyton Jamia Masjid (January 23), Albirr Foundation mosque (January 23), and Noor Ul Islam Primary School (January 25).[129]

A hate crime billboard in Glasgow. Charities said they were not surprised by the police figures. Photograph: Jeff J Mitchell/Getty Images

Major UK police forces reported increased religious hate crimes following the October 2023 Hamas-Israel conflict and the July 2024 Southport attacks. Greater Manchester Police recorded an average of 39 monthly Islamophobic offenses from January to July 2024, jumping to 85 in August before dropping in September. West Yorkshire Police showed similar patterns, averaging 39 monthly incidents before rising to 94 in August and 73 in September. Tell Mama director Iman Atta expressed no surprise at these findings, noting anti-Muslim hate spikes during international crises and far-right agitation, yet insufficient action addresses the problem.[130]

Baroness Shaista Gohir, head of Muslim Women's Network UK and House of Lords member, reported on January 15, 2025, that one in five Muslim women experienced hate crimes during 2024. She advocated treating racial and faith-based hate crimes equally, both aiming to harm people and generate hostility. Gohir attributed rising "gendered Islamophobia" to negative political rhetoric from previous government politicians, online spaces, and public commentators, noting perpetrators were predominantly white males. She urged classification as gender-based violence.[131]

Tell MAMA director Iman Atta warned this was the "most dangerous" time to be Muslim in the UK, revealing Islamophobic assaults surged 73% in 2024. She cited normalized Islamophobic political rhetoric and the far-right "Great Replacement" conspiracy theory on social media as creating unprecedented anti-Muslim hatred. Right-wing extremists were sharing tactics for targeting Muslim communities, attacking mosques, evading police, and avoiding forensic evidence, even offering financial attack incentives. Tell MAMA recorded its highest-ever annual total with 6,313 reports (43% increase from 2023), verifying 5,837 cases. The organization documented disproportionate hatred toward Muslim politicians, particularly London Mayor Sadiq Khan, former Scottish First Minister Humza Yousaf, and MP Zarah Sultana. Key findings included: 10,719 total cases between 2023-2024 with 9,604 verified; a 165% increase in verified cases since 2022; 120% increase in street-based incidents since 2022; 103% rise in targeted hate against visibly Muslim individuals; and 715% increase in threatening behavior. Online hate post-October 7th showed a 1,619% increase, with 2,307 verified online cases in 2024 (34% increase from 2023). X remained the most toxic platform. AI-generated anti-Muslim imagery became notably prevalent in 2024. Anti-Muslim tropes emphasized European "take-over" narratives, demographic fears, and calls for banning Muslims from UK political life.[132]

Tell MAMA recorded men being targeted more than women for the first time since its 2012 founding, with 6,313 total reports in 2024 (up from 4,406 in 2023 and 2,651 in 2022). After verification, figures showed 5,837 incidents for 2024 versus 3,767 in 2023 and 2,201 in 2022. The shift reflected deepening harmful stereotypes fueling societal divisions. Offline incidents reached 3,680, a 72% increase since 2022.[133]

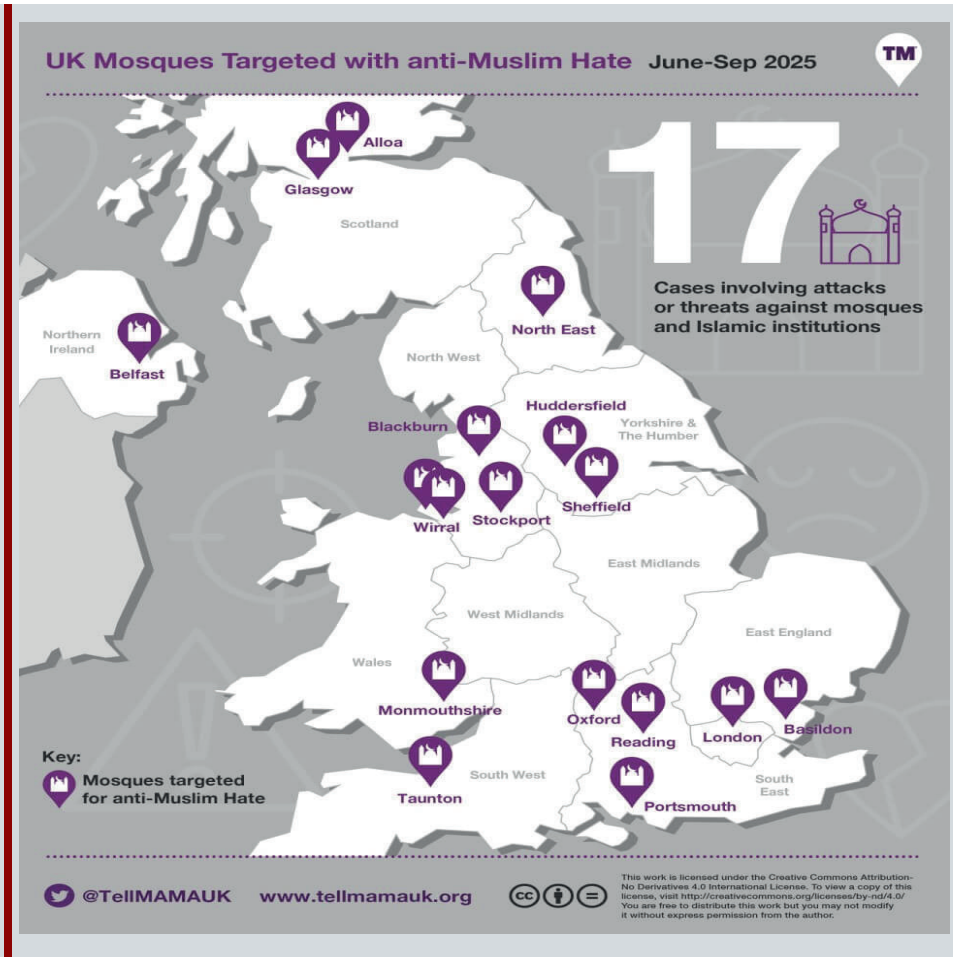
Tell MAMA verified nearly 6,000 anti-Muslim incidents in 2024, doubling the 2022 figure, with men targeted more than women for the first time. The organization documented a "surge in rhetoric falsely portraying Muslims as terrorists or terrorist sympathizers" following the Israel-Gaza conflict and Southport murders. The government called findings "extremely concerning." Of 6,313 recorded cases (43% annual increase), 5,837 were verified. Offline incidents comprised 3,680 cases (72% increase from two years prior), mostly involving abusive behavior, with physical assaults, discrimination, and vandalism also documented. Most attacks occurred in public areas like streets and parks, with workplace incidents forming a minority.[134]

Queens Road Medical Centre in Walthamstow experienced hate crimes including Islamophobic graffiti and vandalism in late January 2025. The practice discovered obscene graffiti alongside damaged locks, letterbox, intercom system, and outdoor lighting. Metropolitan Police confirmed investigating two January incidents without arrests. GP principal Dr. Abdul Sheikh described staff fear of recurrence, particularly concerning given 10pm closing times on some days, leaving staff feeling unsafe when departing. He noted targeting a GP practice was unusual and alarming.[135]

Freedom of information requests revealed that in eight of nine high-Muslim-population prisons, Muslim men faced disproportionate use of force including batons, rigid bar handcuffs, and pain-inducing techniques. The 2023 data from Maslaha, a social justice charity, showed: At Belmarsh, Muslims comprised 32% of prisoners but 43% of rigid bar handcuff incidents and 61% of pain-inducing technique incidents. At Whitemoor, Muslims were 43% of the population but subjected to 55% of such force uses. At Isis, Muslims represented 45% of inmates but experienced 57% of baton incidents and 56% of pain-inducing techniques. At Feltham B, Muslims were 42% of prisoners but subjected to 53% of rigid bar cuffs, 57% of baton drawings, and 64% of pain-inducing techniques. At Woodhill, Muslims constituted 37% but experienced 49% of rigid bar handcuffs, 63% of baton drawings, and 64% of pain-inducing techniques. Only at HMP The Mount was force use lower for Muslims than the overall population.[136]

A poll found almost half of British Muslim women felt less safe than a year ago, attributing this to rising Islamophobia. Thirty percent of Muslim respondents felt unsafe going out at night, while over half reported politicians made them feel less welcome. Londoner Hina Khan described regularly encountering online Islamophobia, including extremism accusations, making her feel unwelcome in the UK.[137]

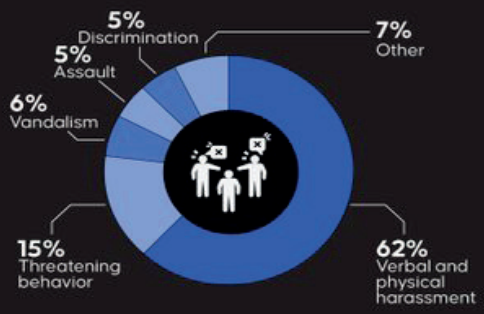
The Centre for Media Monitoring's report "Muslim Women in the Media: Breaking Barriers, Bearing the Burden" exposed entrenched discrimination against Muslim women in Britain's media industry, revealing toxic workplace cultures, limited career progression, and emotional tolls from covering conflicts like Gaza. The study drew on anonymous responses from 102 Muslim women across print, broadcast, and online media, finding widespread Islamophobia, stereotyping, and structural exclusion. One respondent stated shame at calling herself a journalist regarding Gaza coverage. Ninety-two percent reported negative attitudes toward Islam and Muslims were embedded organizationally, while 72% experienced direct identity-linked discrimination. Gaza war coverage harmed 85% mentally, with approximately 60% considering leaving journalism entirely.[138]



Anti-Muslim hate crimes in the UK hit record high in 2024

Reported cases of anti-Muslim hate crimes in the UK

Distribution of hate crimes against Muslims in daily life



Top 3 locations of anti-Muslim attacks

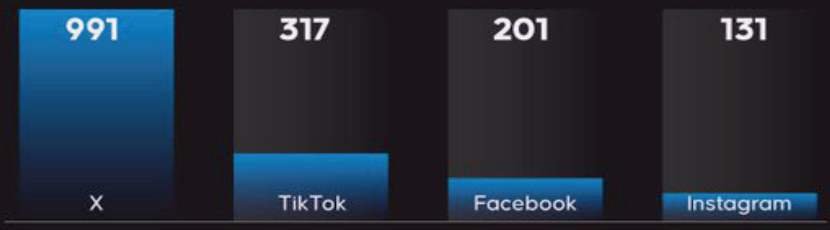
45% Public spaces

10% Educational institutions

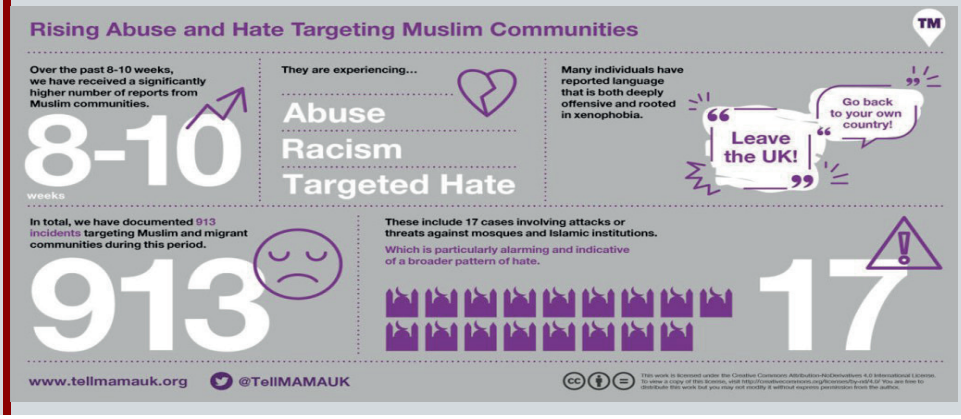
8% Workplaces

2024

Reported online anti-Muslim hate crimes **2,307**



February 20, 2025 Source: Tell MAMA



Tell MAMA documented significant anti-Muslim hate increases between July and September 2025. Victims reported abuse, racism, and targeted hate, frequently being told to "leave the UK" or "go back to their own country"—language rooted in xenophobia. Between June and September, 17 mosque or Islamic institution attacks were reported, averaging four monthly over four months. The organization received 913 cases targeting UK Muslims, many involving individuals not born in the country who were visibly different from the majority population.[139]

Over 150 anti-Muslim hate reports reached Tell Mama following Tommy Robinson's September 2025 Unite the Kingdom rally. Victims recalled being told to "leave the UK" and "go back to your country" amid heightened aggression and community anxiety. Between June and September, 913 cases were reported with 17 mosque and Islamic institution attacks. In the seven days post-rally—which drew over 100,000 attendees and 5,000 anti-racism demonstrators on September 13—Tell MAMA received 157 anti-Muslim hate reports. The organization linked "leave the UK" comments to political migration discourse.[140]

The British Muslim Trust documented a sharp mosque attack increase over three months, with religious and national symbols increasingly used for intimidation. At least 27 verified attacks targeted mosques between July 26 and October's end, including three repeat-targeted sites. Incidents included attempted arson endangering life, projectile attacks, and numerous graffiti, hate signage, and flag/cross placements. BMT found no evidence of more than four mosque attacks in the previous six months. The report described a "nationwide surge" in anti-Muslim hate from August to October, with 25 mosques attacked in 27 incidents across 23 locations. Over 40% involved British or English flags or Christian symbols/slogans, while 11% featured other graffiti or hate signage. More than a quarter were violent or destructive. After one July incident, attacks spiked to seven in August, nine in September, and nine in October, escalating from vandalism to "coordinated symbolic intimidation and violent attacks," culminating in arson and repeat targeting. The BMT contextualized the surge within the Raise the Colors campaign and Unite the Kingdom Rally, which organizers presented as national unity calls, but the BMT found coincided with the flag becoming an ethno-nationalist intimidation tool, challenging Muslims' belonging in British society.[141]

Home Office figures showed hate crimes recorded by English and Welsh police rose for the first time in three years, including increased race and religiously

motivated offenses. There were 115,990 hate crime offenses in the year ending March 2025, up 2% from 113,166 the previous year—though Metropolitan Police offenses weren't included due to crime recording changes. Religious hate crimes targeting Muslims rose 19%, with a spike following the Southport murders and subsequent summer 2024 riots.[142]

The British Muslim Trust's first report documented growing threats as Islamophobic incidents escalated over summer, leading to 27 verified mosque attacks. "The Summer of Division: The Nationwide Surge in Anti-Muslim Hate" provided an early snapshot of the growing threat faced by Muslim communities. Between July and October, at least 27 mosque attacks were recorded, including an arson attack endangering life, projectile attack, multiple cross and flag affixations, and widespread graffiti and hate signs. Attack timing coincided with Raise the Colours and Unite the Kingdom campaigns displaying patriotism with significant anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim sentiments. Flag use was particularly prominent, affecting 25 mosques across 23 towns and cities. Of verified incidents, 41% involved crosses, Union Jacks, St. George's flags, or Christian slogans/symbols for intimidation, with phrasing including "Christ is King," "Jesus is King," and "Devils" with upside-down crucifixes. At least 26% involved violence or destruction including smashed windows and assaults. One Peacehaven, East Sussex arson attack occurred without injuries, though the Muslim Council of Britain warned it followed a "disturbing pattern of violence and intimidation."[143]

Muslim Census and Muslims in Rail research found Muslim women and girls five times as likely to feel unsafe on public transport as the wider UK population. Among Muslim women respondents, 45.3% felt unsafe while traveling versus 8% of women nationally. The survey of 1,155 Muslim women found over a third (34.3%) experienced Islamophobic or racist abuse. A petition urging London Mayor Sadiq Khan to introduce women-only carriages gained over 13,000 signatures since its September 30 launch by Camile Brown, a 21-year-old UCL student, following a British Transport Police report finding over a third of UK women experienced public transport harassment. Transport for London opposed the proposal. Women interviewed described severe incidents, including Marwa, a 19-year-old retail assistant, recalling a man masturbating while staring at her reflection in her school uniform while others ignored it. She didn't report this or several other incidents, wanting to forget. BBC reporting showed over 2,400 sexual offenses on the network between February 2023 and January 2024, representing a 10.5% year-on-year rise, though unreported incidents like Marwa's

suggest higher true numbers. The Muslim Census survey estimated 12.5% of incidents were reported, with 69% of reporters lacking confidence their cases would be taken seriously.[144]

France

France's Interior Ministry informed Le Parisien on April 29, 2025, that the National Directorate of Territorial Intelligence recorded 79 anti-Muslim acts between January and March 2025: 26 in January, 17 in February, and 36 in March. This represented a nearly 72% increase from the first quarter of 2024 (46 total) and exceeded the 54 incidents in the same 2023 period. The Ministry attributed the increase to developing partnerships with the Association for Defense Against Discrimination and Anti-Muslim Acts (ADDAM) and improved police work enabling better incident identification and encouraging victim complaints. For all of 2024, 173 anti-Muslim incidents were recorded (29% decrease from 2023's 242), representing 7% of all anti-religious incidents. The Ministry acknowledged likely underestimation due to victims not filing complaints, noting the DNRT-ADDAM partnership would gradually improve Islamophobic act reporting.[145]

El Hidaya Mosque in Roussillon, Southern France, was attacked and vandalized on June 27, 2025, with smashed windows, overturned furniture, and racist flyers plastering walls. Earlier that month, a burned Quran was placed at a Villeurbanne mosque entrance near Lyon. On May 31, Hichem Miraoui, a Tunisian national, was shot dead by his French neighbor near the French Riviera; another Muslim man survived shooting. In April, Aboubakar Cisse, a Malian national, was fatally stabbed in a La Grand-Combe mosque by a French citizen. A significant Islamophobic act spike occurred in France—something authorities remained reluctant to publicly address. One report showed a 72% increase in such incidents between January-March 2025 compared to the same 2024 period. Contributing factors centered on the French state's Islamophobic rhetoric and anti-Muslim policies, recently manifested in the government report "The Muslim Brotherhood and Political Islamism in France." The document claimed Muslim Brotherhood and "political Islamism" were infiltrating French institutions and threatening social cohesion, naming organizations and mosques with alleged group links. The report emerged days before Miraoui's shooting and two weeks after French authorities raided Brussels-based Collective Against Islamophobia in Europe founding members' homes in France. With rising anti-Muslim

attacks and discrimination, it was increasingly difficult to believe the French state and government's "Islamist separatism" obsession wasn't inciting violence against French Muslims. The May 2025 report, like many official statements and initiatives, aimed not to clarify policy or ensure legal precision but to politicize Muslim identity, delegitimize political dissent, and facilitate new state attacks on Muslim civil society. The report named various Muslim organizations with alleged Muslim Brotherhood links, arguing anti-Islamophobia campaigning was an organizational tool. It claimed the Muslim Brotherhood used anti-Islamophobia activism to discredit secular policies and portray the state as racist—framing aimed to invalidate legitimate discriminatory law and practice critiques while presenting public anti-Muslim racism recognition as covert Islamist agenda. The implication was clear: Muslim visibility and dissent weren't just suspect—they were dangerous. The report was commissioned under hardline former Interior Minister and current Justice Minister Gerald Darmanin, who in 2021 accused far-right leader Marine Le Pen of being "too soft" on Islam.[146]

The French Council of the Muslim Faith warned on May 21, 2025, that Muslim citizens felt increasingly exposed to "constant suspicion" following excerpts publication from a government-commissioned political Islam and Muslim Brotherhood report. "Many Muslim citizens today feel that they are no longer safe from constant suspicion," the CFCM stated, expressing alarm over potential consequences. Le Figaro published excerpts May 21 from the Defense Council-presented report titled "Political Islamism and the Muslim Brotherhood," prepared by two senior civil servants. The CFCM criticized the report for "fueling widespread suspicion" and called for more nuanced, data-driven extremism threat evaluation approaches.[147]

The French Interior Ministry reported a dramatic anti-Muslim incident surge in 2025's first five months, with a 75% increase from 2024's same period. Violence targeting individuals more than tripled, raising fresh religious minority hostility concerns. Between January and May, authorities recorded 145 anti-Muslim acts, up from 83 in 2024. The majority were direct personal assaults—99 cases total versus just 32 in 2024—now representing over two-thirds of all Islamophobic acts. The data confirmed sharp escalation in attacks no longer limited to property or insults but often turning violent.[148]

A French rights group survey released December 4, 2025, revealed increased religion-based discrimination, particularly against Muslims. The Defenseur des droits 2024 Access to Rights survey found 7% of over 5,000 respondents

experienced religion-based discrimination in the past five years, up from 5% in 2016. During 2024 legislative elections, the Defender of Rights observed a 53% May-to-June spike in calls to the 3928 anti-discrimination hotline. The survey found 31% of respondents witnessed religion-based discrimination in 2024 versus 21% in 2016. Among Muslims, 34% reported experiencing religion-based discrimination, up from 27% in 2016. In 2024, 19% of people identifying with another religion and 4% of Christians reported religious belief discrimination.[149]

The French Council of the Muslim Faith criticized a November 20, 2025, Ifop poll on French Muslims, accusing it of reinforcing "stigma" and contributing to rising Islamophobia climate. The council stated the Ecran de veille-commissioned survey, presented as "a snapshot of the relationship between Muslims in France and Islam and Islamism," actually represented "yet another attempt to stigmatize French citizens of Muslim faith and their religious practices." The CFCM warned some poll findings and interpretations were "questionable," noting "Islamophobic circles" had widely adopted and exploited them to portray Muslims as an "internal and existential threat" to French society. The council noted the poll contradicted far-right narratives, particularly data showing Muslims represent no more than 7% of the French population, undermining "great replacement" theory.[150]

Germany

Nonprofit group EkŌ released research showing X and Meta approved hate speech advertising against Jews and Muslims targeting German users before the February 23, 2025, federal elections. The organization submitted 10 German-language ads intended for German voters. Meta approved half while X allowed all 10. EkŌ canceled all approved ads before publication. Meta's five approved ads referred to Muslim immigrants as a "virus," "vermin," "rodents," or "rapists," advocating sterilization, burning, or gassing. Another Meta-approved ad called for synagogue arson attacks to "stop the globalist Jewish rat agenda." An EkŌ spokesperson told TechCrunch that "Meta's AI-driven ad moderation systems remain fundamentally broken, despite the Digital Services Act (DSA) now being in full effect," adding "rather than strengthening its ad review process or hate speech policies, Meta appears to be backtracking across the board." Meta spokeswoman Lara Hesse noted "these ads violate our policies. None of them were published and our systems detected and disabled the advertiser's page before we became aware of this research." EkŌ's report stated all ads "broke Meta and X's own policies, and several may have also breached German national laws.

Meta rejected five ads on the basis that they may qualify as social issue, electoral or politics ads, but they were not rejected on the basis of hate speech or inciting violence." Beyond Meta's five ads, X approved and scheduled five more labeling immigrants as rodents and claiming Muslims were "flooding" Germany to "steal our democracy."[151]

Germany recorded over 1,550 anti-Muslim hate crimes in 2024 according to February 21, 2025, official figures. At least 54 mosques were attacked between January and December, with 53 people suffering Islamophobic violence injuries. The Interior Ministry released these figures responding to opposition Left Party lawmaker Petra Pau's parliamentary inquiry. Incidents included social media harassment, threatening letters, religious practice disruption, physical assaults, and property damage.[152]

Germany's domestic intelligence agency (BFV) report highlighted the far-right Alternative for Germany's strong xenophobic and anti-Islamic stance, according to May 8, 2025, local media. The BfV report referenced "ongoing agitation" against migrants, refugees, and Muslims by party officials. The AfD portrays migrants as a "threatening collective." According to Der Spiegel, the approximately 400-page report attributed an "increased propensity for violence" to entire groups based on origins, containing nationalist, racist, anti-minority, and anti-Muslim statements by party officials. The report cited an AfD leader Alice Weidel statement at a mid-September 2024 Werder campaign event claiming a "religious war against the German population" was being waged on German streets.[153]

Nearly half of Germans support banning the far-right Alternative for Germany party following its "extremist" designation by the domestic intelligence agency, according to a latest poll. The Insa polling institute survey for Bild am Sonntag found 48% of respondents favor banning the AfD. The poll, surveying 1,001 people between May 2-3, 2025, revealed 37% oppose a ban and 15% are undecided. The poll also showed 61% of Germans consider the AfD "a right-wing extremist" party. For 79% of surveyed individuals, the intelligence agency's assessment didn't change their existing party perception. Some 10% said they changed their party view after the intelligence agency's warning.[154]

Anti-Muslim attacks and discrimination hit record 2024 highs, with Hanano's organization documenting 3,080 anti-Muslim hate incidents—a dramatic 60% increase from 1,926 in 2023. According to Hanano, the far-right Alternative for Germany party and other right-wing movements' rise, along with increasingly

inflammatory political rhetoric, emboldened individuals to become more aggressive and "feel justified" attacking Muslims. CLAIM's annual report revealed alarming physical attack escalation: two homicides, three attempted murders, and 198 assault cases. The organization documented 122 property damage instances and over 70 mosque attacks. Muslim-owned markets and restaurants were frequent threat and violence targets. German authorities must take anti-Muslim racism more seriously and implement stronger measures combating rising attacks and discriminatory practices, according to the leading rights group. "We currently see extremely anti-Muslim sentiments in society. Every second person agrees with anti-Muslim statements," CLAIM co-director Rima Hanano told Anadolu. Recent surveys showed Muslims were Germany's least accepted minority—the EU's largest economy and 84 million-person country with over 5 million Muslims. Many Germans harbored negative stereotypes and prejudices toward Muslims, while media coverage of international conflicts and terrorism further fueled Muslim community suspicion. Hanano, researching anti-Muslim hate crimes over a decade, believes actual incident numbers far exceed reports since many victims don't file them. "Those affected often simply don't report anti-Muslim racism, their own experiences of racism. We know that only 4% of Muslims who experience discrimination actually report it," she said. Official police records also fail capturing full crime scope since authorities often categorize them merely as general offenses or insults.[155]

German young people suspected of committing far-right motivated crimes doubled, October 8, 2025, media reports said. Since 2020, young right-wing extremist suspect numbers rose steadily. In 2024, it doubled from 2023, said Chancellor Friedrich Merz's center-right government responding to opposition Green faction parliamentary inquiry. The increase was particularly significant among 14-17-year-olds. The previous year saw 3,854 suspects versus 1,785 in 2023. In both years, almost 90% were male. There was also significant increase among those 13 and under. One-quarter of 204 suspects were girls. According to figures, "right-wing politically motivated crime" also climbed among those 24 and under. There are now "a large number of right-wing extremist youth groups and other organizations with links to minors and young people" operating throughout Germany, some in networks and some independently, said the government. They exist near right-wing extremist parties such as Alternative for Germany, Heimat (formerly NPD), and Third Way, in nationalist-influenced right-wing extremism, and in "new violence-oriented youth groups." Germany

witnessed growing racism and Islamophobia in recent years fueled by far-right parties and movements, including the right-wing populist AfD exploiting refugee crisis fears.[156]

European Union

The European Islamophobia Report 2023 exposed deep-rooted, systemic anti-Muslim racism across Europe, revealing impact through discriminatory laws, hate crimes, and fundamental rights erosion while calling for urgent action dismantling entrenched injustices. The report touched on numerous issues and called on European governments to adopt Islamophobia-combating measures. EIR 2023 stands out as a vital policymaker, researcher, and civil society tool, delivering comprehensive insights and practical Islamophobia-tackling strategies. The report noted that despite UN declaration of an International Day to Combat Islamophobia, only Spain designated such a day, with no other European government recognizing it in 2023. Ongoing Israeli Gaza attacks exacerbated European anti-Muslim rhetoric, wrongly portraying Palestine solidarity as extremism, prohibiting protests and imposing other restrictive measures in Germany, France, and Denmark. Senior figures at Deutsche Welle, Germany's international broadcaster, were accused of fostering fear and bias culture among journalists covering Israel's genocidal Gaza war. The report highlighted institutional discrimination, where legal and educational systems foster Muslim bias.[157]

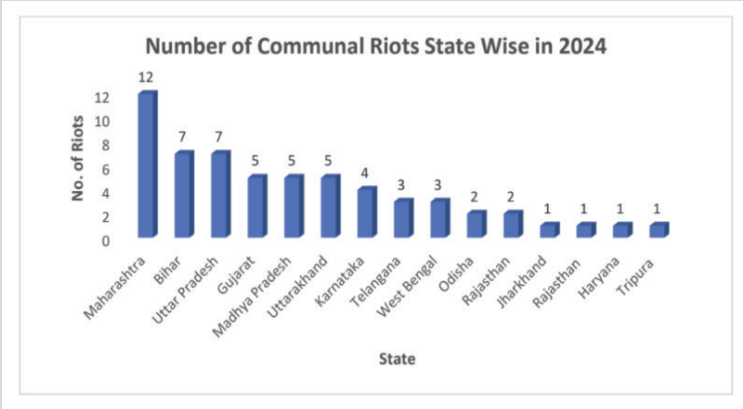
As divisive, anti-immigrant, and anti-Muslim policies gained global traction, European countries saw a racist incident surge in recent years. Anadolu compiled racial attack and rhetoric data across Europe ahead of March 21, 2025, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. While racist attacks increased in France and the UK, political rhetoric in the Netherlands and Bosnia and Herzegovina risked fueling anti-Muslim discrimination. According to France's Interior Ministry Statistics Service, 16,000 racist, xenophobic, and anti-religious crimes occurred in 2024, up 11% from 2023. Of these, 9,400 were classified as high or medium-level offenses. Most victims were men aged 25-54, often of African descent. The report noted Paris racist crime rates were three to four times higher than in the rest of the country.[158]

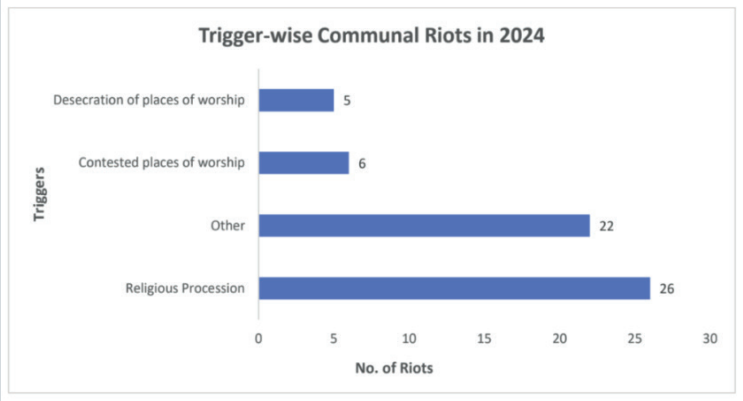
Spain

Muslim migrants and residents in Spain faced a large Islamophobic attack and anti-migrant sentiment wave, and slander. Far-right rhetoric gained ground as

parties like Vox weaponized a recent Spanish man attack to portray all migrants as potential criminals. Torre Pacheco in southeastern Spain witnessed increased tension and violent incidents, with Vox members calling on Spaniards to hunt North African migrants, particularly from Morocco. This followed an isolated attack against a Spaniard on July 11, 2025, with converging reports suggesting three North African-origin youths beat him up. Police subsequently arrested dozens, including three for alleged attack involvement. Seven detainees were arrested for assault, public disorder, and hate crimes. Suspects included six Spaniards and one North African-origin person. Despite investigation to identify main assault suspects against the retiree, far-right members and media blamed North African immigrants living in the town. The news outlet said the regional assault was the product of attackers who were not local residents but radical outsiders, "reportedly influenced by far-right leaders from parties like Vox and alt-right social media influencers promoting white nationalism." Social media was swept by posts targeting Spanish Muslims, blaming the government for "allowing migrants in." Far-right narrative and rhetoric caused flaring tension, with many targeting Muslims and regional mosques.[159]

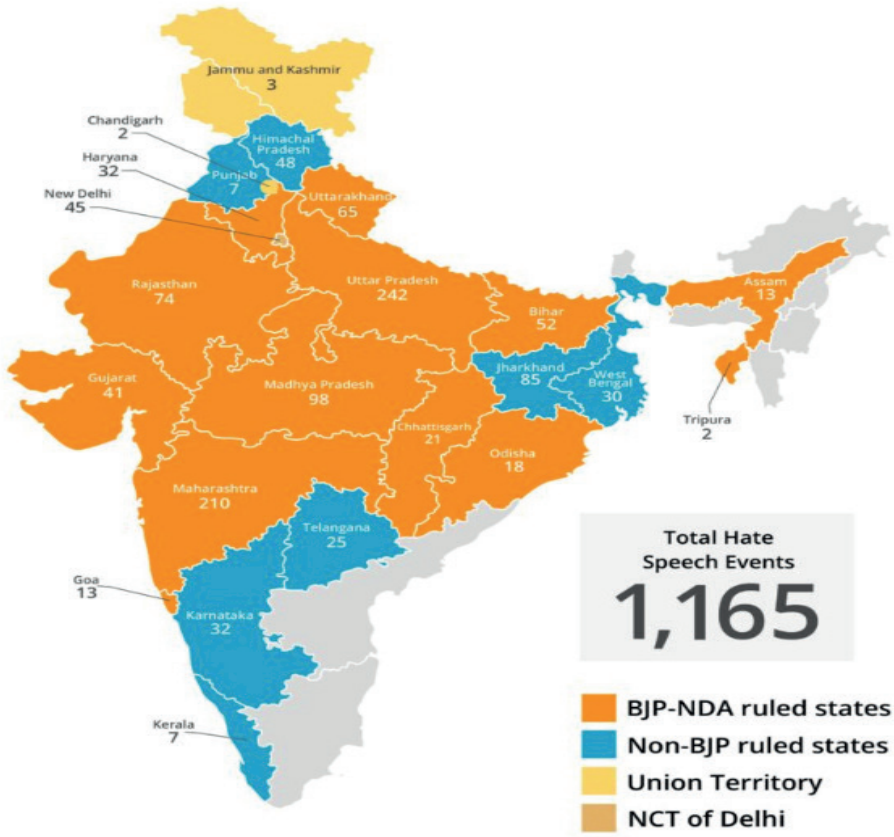
India





Communal riots in India rose 84% in 2024 with Muslims the biggest target. In "Hegemony and Demolitions: The Tale of Communal Riots in India in 2024," the Centre for Study of Society and Secularism revealed 59 communal riot cases in 2024, significantly rising from 32 in 2023. A total of 13 deaths were reported—10 Muslims and 3 Hindus. Maharashtra emerged as the conflict epicenter with 12 of 59 riots, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Bihar reporting seven each. CSSS monitoring was based on Mumbai edition reports from five leading newspapers—The Hindu, Times of India, Indian Express, Shahafat, and Inquilab. Human rights activists Irfan Engineer, Neha Dabhade, and Mithila Raut authored the report. Citing newspaper selection over government data, the CSSS team stated, "The Ministry of Home Affairs and National Crime Records Bureau maintains comprehensive communal riot records but has stopped publishing data regularly." According to the report, incidents were largely triggered during religious festivals and processions, accounting for 26 of 59 cases, highlighting how religious celebrations were increasingly used to fuel communal tensions and political mobilization. These included four riots during the Pran Pratishthan ceremony at Ram Mandir in Ayodhya in January, seven during Saraswati Puja idol immersions in February, four during Ganesh festivals, and two during Bakri Eid. Meanwhile, six communal riots occurred over contested worship places, mainly triggered by the state and right-wing fringe groups alleging mosques and dargahs were illegal or built on Hindu worship places. Five communal riots occurred due to worship place desecration. Notably, 49 of 59 communal riot cases occurred in BJP-ruled states either independently or in coalition. Meanwhile, seven occurred in Congress-ruled states and three in West Bengal, ruled by Trinamool Congress. Additionally, 13 mob lynching incidents were reported in 2024, resulting in 11 deaths—one Hindu, one Christian, and nine Muslims. Seven incidents were linked to cow vigilantism or cow slaughter accusations, while other cases involved "love jihad" allegations and assaults targeting Muslims for religious identity.[160]

Hate speech against religious minorities in India rose 74% in 2024, with 98% targeting Muslims, according to new findings. The ruling BJP was linked to 30% of cases, with party leaders' hate speech increasing 350%, mostly during elections. The report warns of growing religious intolerance and political influence fueling tensions.[161]



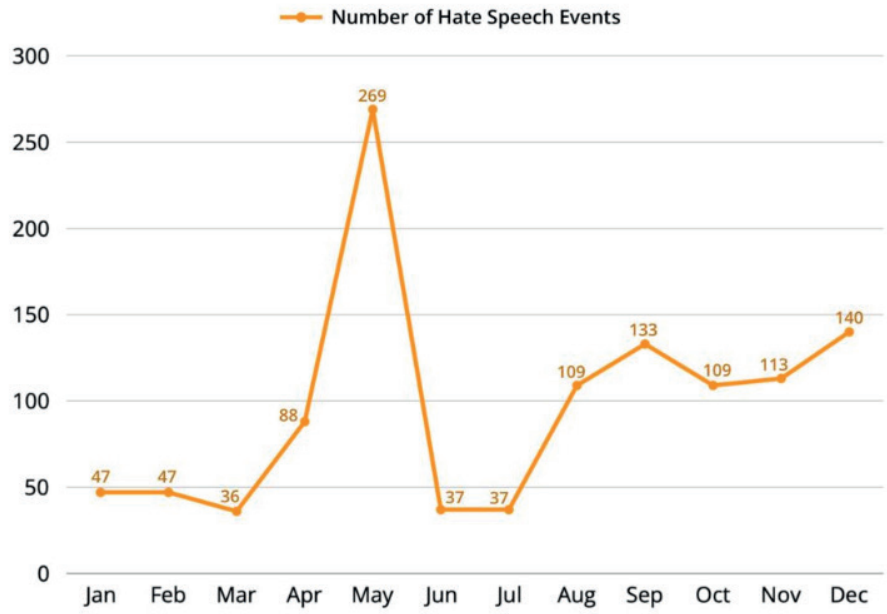
Source: India Hate Lab (IHL)

	Name	Position/Affiliation	Hate Speech
1	Yogi Adityanath	Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh	86
2	Narendra Modi	Prime Minister	67
3	Amit Shah	Home Minister	58
4	Himanta Biswa Sarma	Chief Minister of Assam	36
5	Suresh Chavhanke	Sudharshan News Owner	36
6	T Raja Singh	BJP Legislator, Telangana	32
7	Pravin Togadia	Chief of Antarrashtriya Hindu Parishad	31
8	Nitesh Rane	Minister of Fisheries and Ports, Maharashtra	29
9	Kajal Hindustani	Far-right Influencer	23
10	Dhananjay Desai	Chief of Hindu Rashtra Sena	18

Source: India Hate Lab (IHL)

	Name	Position/Affiliation	Hate Speech
1	Mahant Raju Das	Priest at Hanuman Garhi Temple	14
2	Yati Narsinghanand Saraswati	Religious preacher	12
3	Sadhvi Saraswati	Religious preacher	8
4	Swami Sachidanand	Arya Samaj preacher	8
5	Madhuram Sharan Shiva	Chief of Shiv Shakti Akhada	4
6	Swami Darshan Bharti	Devbhoomi Raksha Abhiyan Sangathan	4
7	Acharya Ramswaroopbhramchari	Religious preacher	3
8	Dhirendra Shastri	Religious preacher	3
9	Kalicharan Maharaj	Religious preacher	3
10	Swami Dipankar	Spiritual Guru	2

Source: India Hate Lab (IHL)



Source: India Hate Lab (IHL)

India's religious minorities faced a "staggering" hate speech rise over the past year, including from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Hindu nationalist party top leaders, according to a February 10, 2025, report. The India Hate Lab report, a Washington, DC-based Center for the Study of Organized Hate think tank project, found hate speech incidents targeting Muslim and Christian minorities rose to 1,165 in 2024 from 668 the prior year, a 74% increase. The majority, around 98%, targeted Muslims explicitly or alongside Christians. "Hate

speech in India in 2024 followed an alarming trajectory, deeply intertwined with the ideological ambitions of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and the broader Hindu nationalist movement," the report stated. According to the report, last year's hate speech reinforced "longstanding Hindu nationalist tropes" portraying Muslims and Christians as "outsiders," "foreigners," and "invaders" lacking legitimate Indian belonging claims. It found the BJP organized around 30% of last year's hate speech events, nearly six-fold from the prior year, with party leaders delivering 452 hate speeches, a 350% rise. The majority were recorded during general election campaigns.[162]

The released Chhaava movie, a historical action film depicting Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj's life (also known as Shambhuraje), who ruled from 1681 to 1689 as the Maratha Empire's second king, inadvertently generated hate and hostility waves against Indian Muslims across India. The movie was expected to honor Maratha warrior legacy, yet its Mughal ruler Aurangzeb portrayal ignited a dangerous anti-Muslim social media hate campaign. Far-right politicians, Hindutva outfit members, and supporters started intense social media warfare, disseminating memes and posts calling Indian Muslims "Aurangzeb ki aulad" (children of Aurangzeb). The new wave fueled already existing Muslim community hostility and hate in India. Extremist factions and supporters exploited the film's Aurangzeb violent treatment depiction of Sambhaji Maharaj and vowed to "revenge" past atrocities. This exaggeration ultimately resulted in hate and rhetorical sentiment amplified through WhatsApp forwards, X threads, Facebook posts, and Instagram reels. The Chhaava movie was theatrically released February 14 and earned Rs 342.74 crore, making it 2025's highest-grossing Indian and Hindi film.[163]

On January 27, 2025, the SPECT Foundation released "Neglected Citizens: Lack of Civic Amenities in Muslim-Dominated Areas of Delhi." The report focused on areas like Jamia Nagar, Zakir Nagar, and Abul Fazal Enclave, where basic civic facility shortages and government negligence existed. According to the report, these areas had been systematically transformed into "Muslim ghettos," leading to rapid population increase but no essential infrastructure development. There was a lack of schools, mohalla clinics, and government hospitals, and existing ones were under-resourced. The report highlighted poor waste management, unsanitary conditions, and ongoing road, open drain, water, and electricity issues. Senior journalist Prashant Tandon stated, "This report can serve as a basis for future plans. The lack of facilities here is more apparent

compared to other areas. It's not just a civic issue but also a political one." Social activist Syeda Hameed, an area resident since 1969, said, "This area was more diverse before, but after the Babri demolition, Gujarat riots, and Delhi violence, it became a ghetto. The report clearly shows that the residents have been isolated, with increased police surveillance and pressure."[164]

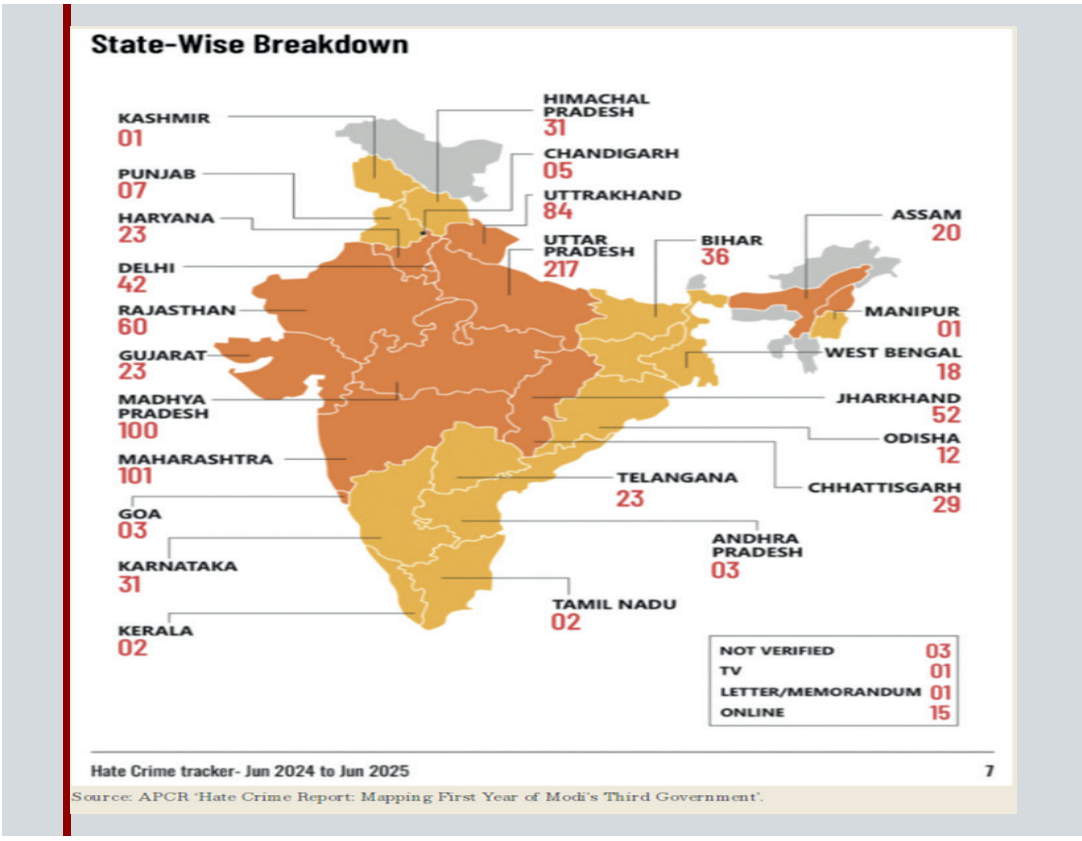
A leaked UK Home Office report stated "Hindu nationalist extremism" played a part in the 2022 Leicester riots, identifying it as a proposed British counter-extremism effort target for the first time. Details of the leaked internal British government counter-extremism strategy review were published January 27, 2025, by Policy Exchange, a right-wing think tank. The Home Office review called for counter-extremism work scope widening to cover various causes and activities including Hindutva (Hindu nationalism), extreme misogyny, and violence fascination. It advocated focusing on "behaviors and activity of concern" rather than ideologies. But January 28, 2025, reporting indicated Home Secretary Yvette Cooper disagreed with her department's review recommendations and would order policy focus to remain directed toward Islamist and far-right extremism.[165]

In the deadly Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir terror attack's immediate aftermath—which killed 26—Hindu far-right groups launched a coordinated nationwide Muslim hate and intimidation campaign. These groups exploited the tragedy to inflame communal tensions and mobilize violence calls, social exclusion, and economic boycotts. Between April 22 and May 2, India Hate Lab documented 64 in-person hate speech events across 9 states and Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory. Among states, Maharashtra recorded 17 hate speech events, Uttar Pradesh (13), Uttarakhand (6), Haryana (6), Rajasthan (5), Madhya Pradesh (5), Himachal Pradesh (5), Bihar (4), and Chhattisgarh (2). Most rallies were organized by Hindu nationalist groups such as Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal, Antarrashtriya Hindu Parishad, Rashtriya Bajrang Dal, Hindu Janajagruti Samiti, Sakal Hindu Samaj, Hindu Rashtra Sena, and Hindu Raksha Dal. Event speakers routinely used dehumanizing language, referring to Muslims as "green snakes," "piglets," "keede" (insects), and "mad dogs." In many instances, they called for violence and threatened Muslim locality expulsion. At a Kondagaon, Chhattisgarh event on April 22, 2025, far-right influencer Pushpendra Kulshrestha delivered an incendiary speech declaring, "Don't talk to the mad jihadis in your city; they can't be spoken to, they have to be shot in the head."[166]

At least 184 hate crimes targeting Muslims and Kashmiris were reported across India following the Pahalgam attack, according to April 22-May 8 Association of Protection of Civil Rights compilation. The report mentioned 84 hate speeches, 39 assaults, 19 vandalism incidents, and 3 murders. In Agra, Uttar Pradesh, Kshatriya Gau Raksha Dal members allegedly killed a Muslim man and wounded his cousin retaliating for Pahalgam violence. Another incident reported a Muslim man lynched over an alleged "Pak slogan" in Mangaluru, Karnataka. A third lynching murder of a Muslim man by a Hindu mob was reported in Bokaro, Jharkhand. Incidents involved individuals and groups, including Hindutva outfit and political party affiliates, impacting diverse targets ranging from individuals and students to vendors, businesses, religious places, and entire localities. Assaults were widespread, targeting various individuals. Kashmiri women and students were attacked in Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh, sometimes with reportedly inactive security personnel. Muslim vendors also suffered brutal assaults, including shawl vendors in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand, by Bajrang Dal members, where police reportedly told them to leave afterwards. "Uttar Pradesh bore witness to the highest number of incidents, followed by Bihar, Maharashtra, Delhi, and Telangana. Other states like Karnataka, Punjab, Chandigarh, and West Bengal experienced serious cases," the APCR document stated.[167]

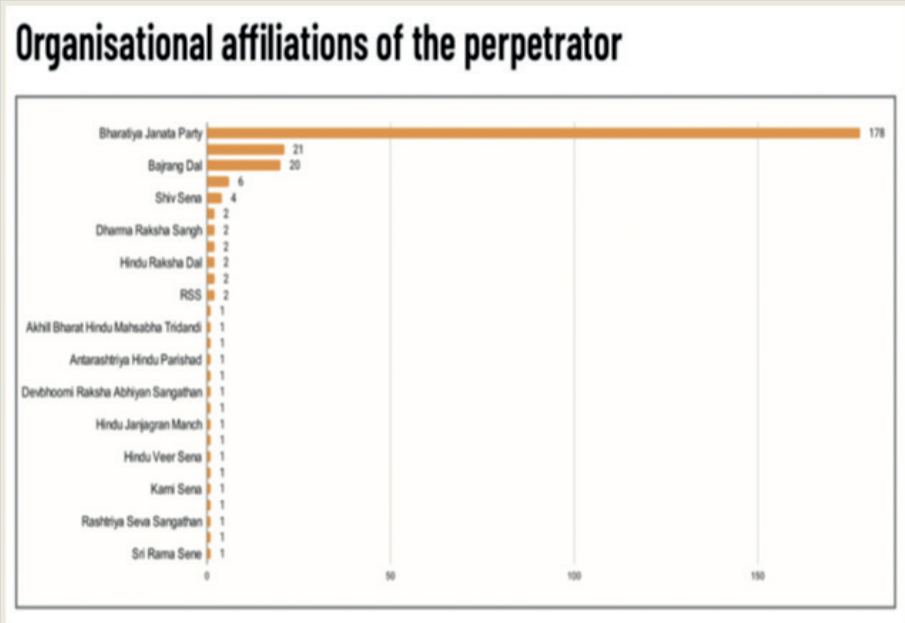
On March 25, 2025, "the Status of Policing in India Report 2025: Police Torture and (Un) Accountability" painted a concerning prevalence picture of police torture and systemic challenges hindering Indian police accountability. The report, a Common Cause and Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies collaborative effort, was based on a survey of 8,276 police personnel across 17 states and a Union Territory, along with in-depth judge, lawyer, and doctor interviews. The report highlighted significant rule of law disregard among a notable police section. Nearly one-third (28%) of police personnel believe the criminal justice system was too weak and slow, preferring extrajudicial measures over due process. It revealed concerning Islamophobia indicators within police. The report highlighted that significant police personnel proportions hold biased Muslim perceptions, with considerable numbers believing Muslims were "naturally prone towards committing crimes." According to the police survey, Hindu police personnel were most likely to believe Muslims were "naturally inclined towards committing crimes," while Sikh police personnel were least likely holding this view. This belief was particularly prevalent among police personnel in states such as Delhi, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Gujarat,

and Jharkhand. In Delhi, police personnel were most likely to believe Muslims are naturally prone to committing crimes to a "great extent." The report also noted Muslims were identified as one of the marginalized communities that were common torture targets. Academic scholarship cited in the report suggested torture tactics employed by police against Muslim men suspected of terrorism deliberately target their religious identity and masculinity to humiliate the entire community. Police respondents in harsh cow slaughter law states such as Gujarat, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra showed high mob punishment support in such cases. Furthermore, despite significant police personnel proportions believing Muslims were predisposed to crime, considerable percentages also perceived Muslims were likely to get justice to a "great extent." However, the report cautioned these were police perceptions, which may be marred by pre-existing biases and could be contrary to Muslim lived realities. Independent prison statistics analysis indicates Muslim over-incarceration, suggesting potential criminal justice system biases.[168]



Maharashtra witnessed 823 communal unrest incidents since January 2025 including Nagpur violence, with demands for Aurangzeb's tomb removal and distorted social media fact spreading fomenting fresh trouble, officials said. Nandurbar, Pune (Rural), Ratnagiri, Sangli, Beed, and Satara districts witnessed

communal unrest besides other regions over right-wing organizations' demand for the Mughal emperor's tomb demolition, located in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district. A total of 156 criminal cases were registered with various state police stations in January 2025 related to communal unrest, 99 in February, and 78 till mid-March, an official said March 24, 2025, adding 102 cases were listed as cognizable crimes due to religious reasons. Maharashtra in 2024 witnessed 4,836 Hindu-Muslim related communal crimes of which 170 incidents were cognizable and 3,106 non-cognizable cases, an official told PTI. Among these cases, 371 incidents were related to religious insults. Mobs went on rampage in several central Nagpur areas on March 17 after a Bajrang Dal and Vishva Hindu Parishad protest demanding Aurangzeb's tomb removal, which they claimed was a "pain and slavery" symbol.[169]



Source: APCR's 'Hate Crime Report: Mapping First Year of Modi's Third Government'

A report tracking hate crimes during Prime Minister Modi's third term recorded 602 incidents in just one year—most targeting Muslims and Christians. Jointly compiled by the Association for Protection of Civil Rights and Quill Foundation, the report linked the surge to BJP-led political rhetoric and institutional complicity, warning of growing impunity and hate normalization. The APCR report found five hate speeches in the last year were delivered by Modi himself, 63 by BJP government chief ministers, and 71 by other elected individuals. The report was titled "Hate Crime Report: Mapping First Year of Modi's Third Government." The Association for Protection of Civil Rights is a non-profit

civil rights organization established in 2006. The group points out that despite rising targeted religious minority attack intensity and frequency, there remains "no systematic or institutional effort to record or document hate crimes."[170]

The deportation drive targeting India's Muslim minority was marked by mass home demolitions, arbitrary detentions, beating allegations, and due process lack, according to Bangladeshi official interviews and over 50 people swept up in the dragnet, as well as Post government data, court document, and video footage review. The crackdown—led by police, cheered by local leaders, and blessed by courts—was most severe in northeastern Assam state and western Gujarat state. Both are governed by Bharatiya Janata Party politicians, the right-wing Hindu nationalist party led by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Between May 7 and July 3, 1,880 people were deported from India to Bangladesh, according to private Bangladeshi government data obtained by The Post. Between May 7 and June 17, 110 people were logged by border officials in Bangladesh as Indians wrongly deported and sent back, a separate document showed. It is unclear how many claimed Indian citizenship or residency but lacked documentation to prove it. Eleven Post-interviewed people said they were detained by Indian police without being given a chance to provide legal status proof. Several said their original identity documents were taken during deportation raids and subsequently provided copies were written off by officials as forgeries.[171]

The Occupied Palestinian Territory

Illegal Israeli settlers staged 22 intrusions into the flashpoint Al-Aqsa Mosque complex in occupied East Jerusalem in December 2024, Palestinian authorities said January 1, 2025. "The Israeli occupation forces and settlers escalated their attacks on Al-Aqsa Mosque in December," the Awqaf Ministry stated. "These intrusion aim to create a new reality in the mosque by allowing settlers to perform Jewish religious rituals," it added. Israeli police, the ministry said,

provide protection for settler raids, hinder mosque guard work, and restrict Muslim worshippers through arrests and searches.[172]

Al-Azhar Observatory for Combating Extremism highlighted continued Al-Aqsa Mosque incursions, revealing 2024 witnessed record-breaking settler storming numbers. According to the Observatory's report, 58,000 settlers entered Al-Aqsa Mosque in 2024, marking a 13% increase from 2023's previous record of 51,483 settlers conducting similar incursions. Throughout 2024, Al-Aqsa Mosque courtyards saw violation series by extremist Israeli officials and settler groups swiftly responding to "Temple Mount" organization calls inciting mass stormings, particularly during Jewish and Zionist holidays. These incursions occurred against Israel's ongoing Gaza war backdrop and occupied West Bank military operations since October 7, 2023.[173]

A view of a partially collapsed mosque as Palestinians in the region migrate to safer areas with their belongings after the Israeli army issues an evacuation warning to Palestinians in the Hamad area of Khan Yunis, Gaza on August 12, 2024 [Ashraf Amra – Anadolu Agency]

The Israeli military destroyed 1,109 mosques and three churches in Gaza between October 7, 2023, and January 19, 2024, according to Gaza's Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs. The ministry also reported at least 315 mosque officials and employees were killed, while 27 others were detained. Of targeted mosques, 834 were completely destroyed and 275 sustained partial or severe damage. The three churches, all located in Gaza City, were also demolished.

The ministry further claimed Israeli forces targeted 40 of Gaza's 60 cemeteries, with 21 completely destroyed. It accused soldiers of exhuming and mutilating bodies in "barbaric" acts. Additionally, 643 religious endowment properties were reportedly destroyed, along with 30 legal institutions and 30 administrative buildings, including the ministry's headquarters and Holy Quran Radio. The ministry also stated Israeli forces damaged or destroyed 20 ministry-owned vehicles. In response, the ministry launched the Minarets Coalition, an initiative aimed at rebuilding Gaza mosques and religious institutions. The coalition includes religious and charitable leaders from over 30 countries working to support reconstruction efforts and endowment projects in the region.[174]

Australia

Islamophobia became normalized and is underreported across Australia, according to Aftab Malik, with Muslims regularly experiencing humiliation, violence, hatred, and discrimination. Malik, who assumed the special envoy to combat Islamophobia role in October 2024, said these incidents were "endemic" in Australia. "My consultations revealed a landscape littered by Islamophobic brushes with humiliation and violence, and hatred and discrimination — and the ordinariness of it was what was very surprising," he said. "Islamophobia is taking place in very normal circumstances, in normal surroundings such as shopping malls, at the beaches, on public transport, even in schools, even amongst neighbourhoods. And so that scale was something that was quite surprising for me." According to the Islamophobia Register Australia, Islamophobic incidents increased by more than 600% since the October 7, 2023, Gaza War. Malik said the register tracked 932 incidents since October 7, 2023—more than the previous eight years combined.[175]

Islamophobic incidents—including physical attacks, verbal harassment, people being spat on, and rape threats—more than doubled in the past two years, with girls and women bearing the brunt of Muslim-directed hatred in Australia, new research shows. The fifth Islamophobia in Australia report details 309 in-person incidents between January 2023 and December 2024—a more than 2.5-fold increase from the previous reporting period. Verified online incidents more than tripled to 366. Girls and women accounted for three-quarters of all incidents and were a third more likely to be physically attacked than boys and men. The Islamophobia Register and Deakin and Monash universities research, released March 6, 2025, represented the largest Islamophobic incident rise since the report began as a Facebook post in 2014. It's released every two years. Children were present in numerous cases and witnessed their mothers being "choked, bashed, punched or called some awful names," Amath said. One mother was allegedly set upon while sitting at a food court in a shopping center with her five children. "An unknown lady yelled out 'fuck Muslims' and punched me in the head, knocking me out in front of my kids. I was admitted to hospital where a CT scan showed my nose was broken," she told researchers. "Me and my kids are seeing a psychologist for the trauma. We don't leave the house unless it's necessary as we have a fear that it will happen again." Another woman recounted: "When walking to get into train station, a man said to me "I'll rip that scarf off your head and smash your head and rape you." Almost half of in-person incidents were in New South Wales, home to Australia's largest Muslim population. More than a quarter occurred on streets or while parking or driving, while the second most common setting was workplaces, alongside schools, shopping centers, universities, and on public transport. Women reported more than three times the workplace Islamophobic incident number than men—a finding authors said was "even more significant" given Muslim women were under-employed compared to Muslim men in Australia. School was the only location where more cases were reported against Muslim boys than girls, with boys comprising 63% of school incidents. There was a spike in incidents in the three weeks after October 7, 2023, Hamas attacks on Israel and during the subsequent Gaza war. There was a 1,300% increase in register reports during that period compared to the same previous year time.[176]

Three in four Muslim healthcare workers surveyed faced discrimination for their religious beliefs, a study found. Researchers said the study highlighted a "hidden crisis" in the Australian healthcare workforce. The research, led by

academics from Federation University Australia, University of Sydney, University of Notre Dame Australia, and Western Sydney University, in partnership with the Australian Islamic Medical Association, was conducted in 2024 as an anonymous cross-sectional study. A total of 358 healthcare professionals participated across the country. Of those, 85% were Muslim and 83% identified as culturally and linguistically diverse community members. Federation University Australia Professor Dr. Muhammad Aziz Rahman, one of the research-leading academics, said it was one of the first Australian studies to systematically explore how Islamophobia, religious discrimination, and cultural bias affected healthcare system workers. "This research clearly shows that Islamophobia and discrimination are experienced by healthcare workers regardless of their faith or background," Professor Rahman said. The study showed Muslim women were among the most Islamophobia-impacted. The study showed female Muslim professionals faced "additional layers of discrimination related to gender, religious identity, and physical appearance."[177]

The Islamic Council of Victoria reported an Islamophobia increase, warning victim numbers were likely far higher than reported. On August 16, 2025, the council held its first Islamophobia conference, with politicians, police, religious leaders, and academics attending the Melbourne event. In a report released coinciding with the conference, it estimated over 85% of Islamophobia incidents were not reported. The council received 96 individual case reports from Islamophobia-affected people since 2021, but 26 came in only six months, from January to July this year. Most reports related to verbal abuse or mockery, followed by workplace discrimination. Islamophobia incidents not directly victim-reported—but could include anti-Muslim racism occurrences such as online "hate comments," emails sent to Muslim organizations, "hostile phone calls," and other material including "dehumanizing media commentary"—also increased. The council reported 3,254 such incidents between January and July. The council said many Muslims didn't report Islamophobia because they feared not being taken seriously and distrusted police and government bodies.[178]

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT

(January - December 2025)

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The period under review has revealed promising advancements in countering Islamophobia through coordinated efforts across multiple sectors of society. Government institutions, civil society organizations, faith communities, educational establishments, and private entities have increasingly recognized the urgent need to address anti-Islam prejudice through systematic interventions and collaborative initiatives. These diverse stakeholders have implemented a range of approaches—from policy reforms and legislative protections to grassroots community engagement and public awareness campaigns—that collectively represent meaningful progress toward fostering environments where Muslim communities can participate fully without facing discrimination or marginalization.

Particularly noteworthy during this period has been the expansion of educational programs designed to enhance religious literacy, challenge stereotypes, and promote accurate understanding of Islamic faith and culture. These initiatives have been complemented by growing interfaith dialogue efforts that create spaces for meaningful exchange between Muslim communities and other religious groups, building relationships that transcend divisive rhetoric. Additionally, several jurisdictions have strengthened legal frameworks protecting religious expression and prohibiting discrimination, while media organizations and technology companies have begun implementing more robust policies against hate speech targeting religious minorities.

The positive developments documented in this chapter should not obscure the significant challenges that remain in addressing deeply entrenched patterns of Islamophobia. However, they provide important evidence that targeted interventions can effectively counter anti-Islam sentiment when implemented with sufficient resources, institutional commitment, and community involvement. By highlighting these constructive approaches, this chapter aims to identify replicable models and promising practices that can inform future efforts to combat Islamophobia and build more inclusive societies founded on principles of religious freedom, mutual respect, and equal dignity for all faith communities.

The following examples illustrate significant positive developments observed during this period:

Counter-balance on Far Rights

In the United States, a public school teacher in Pennsylvania was placed on administrative leave following reports that she referred to a Palestinian American middle school student as an extremist. The Central Dauphin School District confirmed on 25 January 2025 that it had been made aware of allegations that the teacher had directed the derogatory remark at the student during an after-school programme the week prior. In a public statement, the district affirmed its zero-tolerance stance toward racist speech and confirmed the teacher had been suspended pending a formal investigation.[179]

In a separate but related instance of institutional accountability, Meta acknowledged a technical error after a person who had reported an alleged threat against a Sydney mosque on Instagram received an automated notification falsely indicating that the post did not violate the platform's community standards on violence. Western Australian Police had arrested a 16-year-old in Bunbury following the threat, which included a comment referencing the 2019 Christchurch massacre — an attack that claimed the lives of 51 mosque worshippers. In a statement issued on 7 March 2025, Meta clarified that threatening content had been removed promptly upon detection, and expressed regret over the erroneous automated response received by the person who had flagged the post, attributing it to a technical fault.[180]

Meanwhile, a man who was filmed shouting offensive remarks at a group of hijab-wearing Muslim women at a shopping mall in Alpharetta, Georgia, issued a public apology on 4 April 2025. Perry Greene, former husband of U.S. Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene, appeared at a press conference organised by the Georgia chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Georgia) to apologise for the verbal assault that took place on 30 March 2025 at the Avalon mall. The women had parked in a quiet section of the car park to pray when the confrontation occurred. The video of Greene leaning out of a Tesla Cybertruck and directing hateful comments at the women spread rapidly online, drawing widespread condemnation from community members and civil rights organisations. Greene later met privately with the women at their place of worship and expressed remorse. "Nobody should be treated that way," he said, adding that he hoped for their forgiveness and called for greater tolerance in society.[181]

In Canada, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney publicly condemned an Islamophobic assault on a Muslim man in northern Toronto on 8 October 2025. Writing on the social media platform X, Carney described the attack — in which a hotel night auditor in Markham was assaulted after revealing his Muslim faith to two customers — as "appalling," and stressed that "acts of violence and Islamophobia have no place in Canada." The victim, who had been asked about his ethnic and religious background, was left with life-altering injuries after one of the customers returned to the hotel and carried out the attack. Carney expressed his full support for the authorities working to bring the perpetrator to justice.[182]

In Ireland, Ireland's main opposition party, Sinn Féin, expelled one of its members on 13 November 2025 following her suspected links to a conspiracy to bomb a mosque, reaffirming the party's firm stance against far-right extremism within its ranks. While the party declined to name the individual or her partner — who had been arrested on suspicion of involvement in the alleged plot to attack immigrants — Sinn Féin confirmed that both had previously been guests of the party inside Leinster House, Ireland's parliament building. The party stated unequivocally that it would not tolerate far-right racists in its membership.[183]

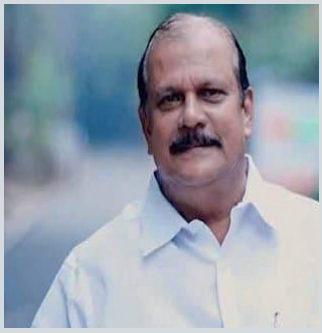
In the United Kingdom, the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) called on 28 January 2025 for the Conservative Party to remove Robert Jenrick from his position as shadow justice secretary, following the leak of messages in which he described himself as a "great admirer" of a far-right social media account widely known for posting Islamophobic content on X. MCB Secretary General Zara Mohammed stated that it was "impossible" to believe that Jenrick had not encountered the account's regular stream of hateful and extremist material, and urged Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch to launch an immediate investigation into his conduct.[184]

In a contrasting and more hopeful development within British public life, Labour's Safiya Saeed made history on 19 May 2025 as the first Black woman wearing a hijab to be inaugurated as Lord Mayor of Sheffield — the city's 128th holder of the role. A community leader who has called Sheffield home since 1985 and was first elected as a councillor in 2021, Saeed also founded Reach Up Youth, a project supporting young people from Black and ethnic minority backgrounds. "I am honoured to be the first black woman wearing a hijab to take this role," she said at her inauguration. "This city has truly become my home."[185]

Further demonstrating the internal tensions within far-right political circles over anti-Muslim sentiment, Zia Yusuf, the Muslim chairman of the radical right-wing Reform UK party, resigned on 5 June 2025, hours after publicly criticising a party lawmaker's call for a burqa ban as "dumb." His resignation followed Reform UK MP Sarah Pochin's debut appearance at Prime Minister's Questions, during which she urged Prime Minister Keir Starmer to consider banning the burqa "in the interests of public safety." Yusuf's departure underscored the growing contradictions within the far right over how explicitly anti-Muslim positions should be embedded in party policy.[186]

In another sign of law enforcement action against far-right figures, anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant activist Tommy Robinson — whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon — was arrested on suspicion of assault on 4 August 2025 at Luton airport, upon his return from Portugal. The arrest came a week after an alleged assault at London's St Pancras station on 29 July, following which Robinson had left the country. British Transport Police confirmed that Robinson had been "wanted for questioning" in connection with the incident. Footage from the station showed Robinson walking near a man left on the ground, whom Robinson claimed to have acted against in self-defence. The victim was taken to hospital with serious, though not life-threatening, injuries.[187]

Continuing the theme of protective action by law enforcement, a planned demonstration by the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) was banned from the London borough of Tower Hamlets on 21 October 2025, after police determined there was a "realistic prospect of serious disorder" if the march proceeded. The event, promoted as part of a "mass deportations tour," had called on attendees to "reclaim Whitechapel from the Islamists" — a borough with the highest percentage of Muslim residents in the country. Metropolitan Police Commander Nick John noted that the prospect of such a protest taking place at the heart of the community had caused "significant concern locally," and cited public order legislation as the basis for the ban.[188]



In India Kerala, a case was registered against a BJP state leader, PC George, for allegedly delivering hate speech against Muslims during a televised debate. Police in Kottayam district initiated the action following a complaint lodged by the Muslim Youth League Municipal Committee, which alleged that George had made inflammatory communal remarks, including telling Muslims to "go to Pakistan" and describing the Muslim community as without conscience. The case highlighted growing legal pushback against public figures who incite religious hatred.[189]

In a related development reflecting action by technology platforms, Meta removed multiple social media accounts linked to Bharatiya Janata Party legislator T. Raja Singh on 20 February 2025, following a report by the India Hate Lab (IHL) documenting Singh's continued amplification of hate speech against Muslims despite an existing ban. A Facebook spokesperson confirmed the removal, stating that the platform had banned Singh for violating policies prohibiting those who promote or engage in violence and hate. The accounts removed — comprising two Facebook pages and three Instagram profiles — had a combined following of over 1.1 million users.[190]

Public Policy

In the United States, Nevada launched a statewide hate crime reporting hotline on 23 January 2025, following nine months of planning and the receipt of over $1.1 million in federal funding secured by Attorney General Aaron Ford. The hotline — reachable at 775-687-4283 — offers victims a direct channel to report hate crimes and access support services, making Nevada the only state in its funding cycle to operate such a programme.[191]

In a parallel effort to institutionalize religious inclusion at the local level, the Prince William County School Board unanimously voted on 22 January 2025 to add Eid al-Adha as an official school holiday and to adjust the 2025–26 academic calendar accordingly, reflecting the growing diversity of its student community.192 The University of Toronto also announced the establishment of a Presidential Working Group on Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian Discrimination (MAP DWG), tasked with reviewing university programmes and practices and making recommendations to strengthen institutional responses to anti-Muslim, anti-Arab, and anti-Palestinian discrimination.[193]

Building on these institutional efforts, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) welcomed a resolution passed by the New York State Senate on 29 January 2025 officially recognising 1 February 2025 as World Hijab Day. Introduced by Senator Roxanne Persaud, the resolution aimed to "encourage religious tolerance, cultural understanding and international solidarity." CAIR described World Hijab Day — now in its twelfth year — as a platform to "promote understanding, dismantle stereotypes, and celebrate the empowerment of women who choose to wear the hijab.[194]

Reinforcing these legislative efforts at the federal level, U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar announced on 1 February 2025 the reintroduction of the Combating International Islamophobia Act — co-sponsored by Senator Cory Booker and Representative Jan Schakowsky — which would establish a dedicated Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Islamophobia within the U.S. State Department. The bill, first introduced in October 2021 and passed by the House in December of that year by a vote of 219 to 212 but stalled in the Senate, was being reintroduced for the third time amid escalating incidents of anti-Muslim violence and discrimination. Senator Booker emphasised that "ensuring that people can practice their faith without fear of discrimination or violence is one of our nation's core values."[195]

Complementing this effort, Representatives Judy Chu and Senator Chris Coons reintroduced the National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants (NO BAN) Act, which would prohibit discrimination based on religion under the Immigration and Nationality Act and require that any suspension of entry into the United States be narrowly tailored, evidence-based, and subject to Congressional oversight — providing a safeguard against religiously discriminatory travel bans targeting Muslims and other faith communities.[196]

At the community level, CAIR's Greater Los Angeles office welcomed an initiative by the Anaheim Union High School District (AUHSD) to provide free meal kits for Muslim students observing Ramadan fasting, available each school day from 3 to 21 March 2025. The meatless kits, which included both breakfast and lunch components, were described by the district as "an act of respect and support," ensuring students could maintain their energy levels and remain active participants in their academic and social lives during the holy month.[197]

Texas also marked progress in this regard, with CAIR-Texas welcoming the filing of House Resolution 85 by state Representative Salman Bhojani, recognising 15 March — the anniversary of the 2019 Christchurch mosque attacks — as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia in Texas.[198]

Separately, a Maryland elementary school teacher was removed from his classroom and barred from further contact with an 8-year-old Muslim student at Cabin Branch Elementary School following allegations that he had harassed the girl over her hijab, subjected her to harsher disciplinary treatment than her peers, and made inappropriate comments urging her to remove her headscarf. The Montgomery County Public Schools' intervention came after advocacy from the Maryland chapter of CAIR, which reported that the mistreatment had caused the child severe anxiety, including multiple panic attacks requiring medical attention.[199]

In Canada, the University of Toronto reinforced its institutional commitment to combating discrimination against Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian students through the establishment of the MAP DWG Working Group, announced by University President Meric Gertler, tasked with reviewing university-wide policies and making actionable recommendations.200

This development was accompanied by the publication of Canada's first-ever government guide on Islamophobia — the Canadian Guide to Understanding and Combatting Islamophobia: For a More Inclusive Canada — announced by Amira Elghawaby, Canada's Special Representative on Combatting Islamophobia. Developed in consultation with Muslim community members, civil society organisations, and experts on Islamophobia, the guide provides practical strategies for countering Islamophobia in everyday life and supports the objectives of Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy 2024–2028.[201]

Building on this commitment, Justice Minister Sean Fraser tabled new legislation on 19 September 2025 — the Combatting Hate Act — introducing four new Criminal Code offences, including one that would criminalise the intentional promotion of hatred through the use of hate- or terrorism-related symbols in public, such as swastikas and SS insignia. The legislation would also create a specific hate-motivated crime offence and introduce tougher measures against wilful intimidation and obstruction of people outside places of worship and other sensitive institutions.[202]

In the United Nations, in a significant multilateral development, the world organization appointed Spanish diplomat Miguel Ángel Moratinos as Secretary-General António Guterres' Special Envoy to combat Islamophobia on 7 May 2025. Moratinos — a seasoned diplomat who served as Spain's Foreign Minister from 2004 to 2010 and has led the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) since 2019 — brings extensive multilateral experience to the role. The UN described him as having "reinforced UNAOC's role as a global platform for dialogue and bridge-building," underscoring the significance of the appointment in the broader international effort to address anti-Muslim discrimination.[203]

In the United Kingdom, a range of government and civil society responses emerged in parallel to address rising Islamophobia. Health Secretary Wes Streeting cautioned that the use of inflammatory language in public debates around grooming gangs risked vilifying entire Muslim communities and could contribute to the kind of atrocities seen in the 2019 Christchurch massacre, in which over 50 worshippers were killed. While condemning the crimes of sexual abuse gangs, Streeting warned that members of his own constituency with Pakistani heritage or visibly different backgrounds had become "more fearful" in the current climate.[204]

On a more celebratory note, Ramadan Lights were switched on at Piccadilly Circus for the third consecutive year on 26 February 2025, organised by the Aziz Foundation and inaugurated by London Mayor Sadiq Khan. King Charles III and Queen Camilla also marked the occasion by helping pack food donation boxes at a restaurant in Soho, signalling continued royal support for Muslim communities during the holy month.[205]

Complementing these cultural gestures with concrete institutional investment, Mayor of London Sadiq Khan announced on 25 April 2025 a new £875,000 funding commitment to support community projects tackling extremism, hate, intolerance, and radicalisation across London — part of a record £15.9 million mayoral investment to combat hatred in all its forms and strengthen grassroots organisations working to counter it.206 [207]

The government also announced new powers for police forces to manage protests near religious sites, following a series of "intimidating protests" near mosques and synagogues. The measures, announced by the Home Office, would

make it easier for police to impose conditions — including on the route and timing of marches — that might otherwise disrupt worshippers at places of religious observance.[208]

Adding to this institutional response, Better Communities Bradford (BCB) launched Project Unity, a broad-based initiative designed to challenge Islamophobia, dismantle misinformation, and promote genuine inclusion across Yorkshire and northern England, arriving at a moment when Islamophobic assaults had risen by 74% in 2024 and Muslims — who make up just 6.5% of the UK population — account for 42% of all religious hate crime victims. Over the course of twelve months, the project will deliver free interactive workshops and interfaith dialogues across schools, universities, workplaces, and public sector organisations throughout England, equipping participants with tools to engage honestly and thoughtfully with issues of religious discrimination.[209]

Prime Minister Keir Starmer also publicly confronted the rising threat of the far right on 16 September 2025, telling his cabinet that the scenes from the Tommy Robinson-led march in London — involving approximately 110,000 participants in what was described as possibly the largest far-right protest in UK history — sent "a chill through the spines of people around the country, and particularly many ethnic minority Britons." Downing Street extended its criticism to Elon Musk, who addressed the crowd via video link and declared "violence is coming," a statement that many Britons from minority backgrounds found deeply intimidating.[210]

Aboubakar Cissé, who was stabbed in a mosque in the French town of La Grande-Combe on 25 April 2025.

In a grassroots response to this climate of hostility, Newham Council launched Flip the Script — a borough-wide programme marking Islamophobia Awareness Month — bringing together artists, performers, community leaders, and residents through workshops, exhibitions, performances, and community gatherings to

reflect on the impact of Islamophobia, celebrate Muslim heritage, and create spaces for dialogue and solidarity. Councillor Charlene McLean emphasised that "the events of the past year have tragically highlighted the horrific consequences of hate," and framed the initiative as an opportunity to stand in solidarity with Muslim communities in Newham.[211]

France's National Assembly observed a minute of silence for Aboubakar Cissé on 29 April 2025 — a young Malian man stabbed dozens of times while attending prayers at a mosque in the southern Gard region. The tribute was announced by National Assembly President Yael Braun-Pivet, who described the killing as a "cowardly assassination" that had "shocked the nation," and was held following consultations with parliamentary group leaders.212 [213]

Demonstrating a further willingness to push back against anti-Muslim policy proposals within French politics, Prime Minister François Bayrou delivered a pointed rebuke on 27 May 2025 to his centrist ally and predecessor Gabriel Attal over the latter's proposal to ban Muslim headscarves for girls under the age of 15. Bayrou acknowledged that some elements of the underlying report were useful, but warned that the proposed measure risked alienating France's law-abiding Muslim community and would be practically impossible to enforce. "I don't want to make Islam a subject of fixation for French society," he stated, hinting that such a proposal could prove both socially divisive and legally unworkable.[214]

In a further legal victory for religious freedom, a French administrative appeals court in Marseille overturned in mid-October 2025 the government's decision to close the Ibn Sina Islamic middle school in Nice — the school's third legal win in an ongoing dispute. The court ruled that the alleged financial irregularities cited under France's anti-separatism law were too minor to justify closure and suggested that lighter corrective measures would have been more proportionate. Founded in 2016, the school serves approximately 130 students in a disadvantaged neighbourhood and follows the national curriculum with supplementary Arabic and Islamic ethics classes, and the ruling reignited broader debate over religious freedom and the treatment of Islamic institutions in France.[215]

Germany's Anti-Racism Commissioner Reem Alabali-Radovan raised the alarm on 27 January 2025 about a surge in anti-Muslim attacks following the car-ramming on a Christmas market in Magdeburg that killed five people and injured more than 200. Counselling centres in and around Magdeburg had reported a "increasingly hostile atmosphere and violent attacks against migrants

and Muslims" in the aftermath. German Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck also publicly urged citizens not to fuel hatred against Muslims and foreigners in the wake of the tragedy.[216]

Taking institutional action in response to this trend, the state of North Rhine-Westphalia announced it would establish Germany's first dedicated anti-Muslim racism reporting centre — MEDAR — in spring 2025. Home to more than 1.7 million Muslims, the state designed the centre to document and report hate crimes and other racist acts targeting Muslims, as well as broader racially motivated incidents affecting non-Muslim foreigners, providing a formal infrastructure for tracking and addressing Islamophobia at the regional level.[217]

The European Union Commission mounted a robust defense of EU-funded research focused on Islam, Islamophobia, and Muslim communities in August 2025, rejecting calls from far-right parliamentarians to justify or curtail such projects. The controversy was triggered by Italian MEP Silvia Sardone and French MEP Jean-Paul Garraud — both from the Patriots for Europe group — who questioned the value of studies they described as promoting Islam or exaggerating the existence of Islamophobia in Europe. In a public response, EU Research Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva stood firmly behind the European Research Council, describing the funded projects as "world-class scholarly undertakings that advance the frontiers of knowledge," awarded through rigorous independent peer review. These included a €2.5 million project mapping the evolution of Sharia law, a €2.3 million study on populist and Islamophobic discourse, and a €2.7 million Oxford University project examining the experiences of Muslim youth in Europe and the UK.[218]

Italy extradited to France the suspect accused of stabbing Aboubakar Cissé to death inside a mosque in the southern French town of La Grand-Combe on 25 April 2025. The suspect, French national Olivier Hadzovic, had turned himself in to Italian authorities after three days as a fugitive. French prosecutor Cécile Gensac confirmed on 9 May 2025 that the case was being investigated as "murder aggravated by premeditation and on the grounds of race or religion," marking a significant step in the pursuit of justice for one of the period's most shocking anti-Muslim attacks.[219]

In Spain, the Spanish central government ordered local officials in the town of Jumilla to rescind a ban on religious gatherings in public sports centers on 11 August 2025, denouncing the measure as "discriminatory" and a violation

of the right to religious freedom. The ban, initially proposed by the far-right Vox party and subsequently modified and backed by the People's Party, was widely seen as targeting the town's estimated 1,500 Muslim residents, who had for years used municipal facilities to celebrate Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. Territorial Policy Minister Ángel Víctor Torres stated that "there can be no half-measures when it comes to intolerance," adding that right-wing parties "cannot decide who has freedom of worship and who does not." Complementing this governmental response, the Spanish government also published a dossier countering anti-immigrant and Islamophobic clichés circulating on social media and in political discourse. The document highlighted the significant economic contribution of immigrants to Spain — including their 10% share of social security revenue — and explicitly rejected narratives of an "Islamic invasion," noting that only 2% of residents in Spain were born in Morocco. Framed as a "positive discourse" on immigration, the dossier was published against a backdrop of growing pressure from conservative and far-right parties calling for stricter migration policies, particularly targeting Muslims.220 [221]

In India Karnataka's state government advanced plans to introduce a Hate Speech and Hate Crime Prohibition Bill, a stringent legislative measure that would impose criminal penalties — ranging from three to five years in prison — on individuals who incite hatred against communities on the basis of caste, religion, or gender. The proposed law would also establish tighter controls over hate-inducing content on social media and prohibit inflammatory rhetoric at public gatherings.[222]

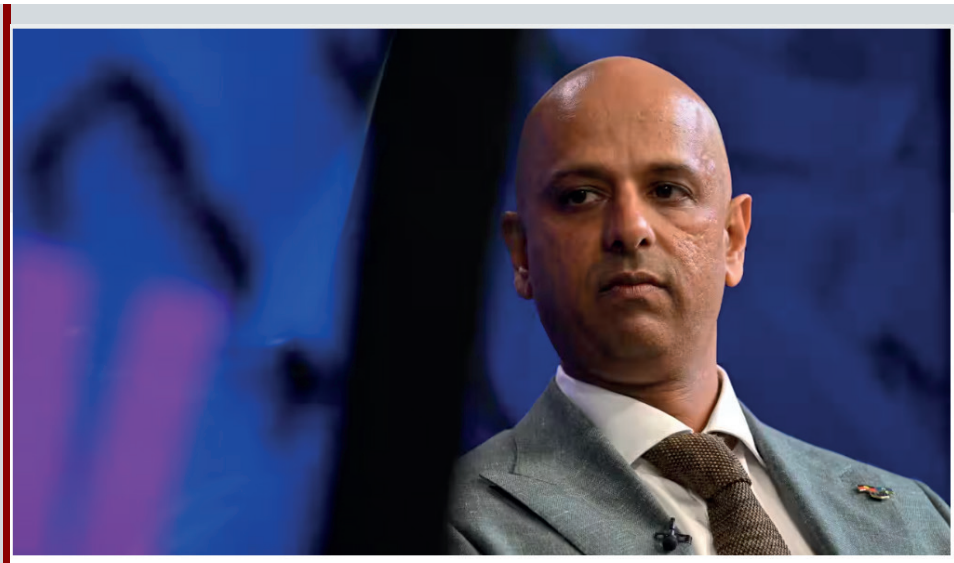
Reinforcing this legislative momentum, independent United Nations human rights experts issued a formal statement on 23 June 2025 calling on India to immediately cease the practice of arbitrary demolitions, which they identified as disproportionately affecting minority communities, including Muslims. The experts — including the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief — described the demolitions as "grave human rights violations" and noted that they continued despite a Supreme Court ruling in the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind case mandating procedural protections against such actions.[223]

India's Supreme Court further reinforced protections for the Muslim community by suspending key provisions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025 — a controversial law altering the ownership and management of properties donated by Muslims for religious, charitable, and educational purposes.

Responding to legal challenges from Muslim groups and opposition parties who argued the legislation infringed on the rights of India's 200 million Muslims, the court's intervention was welcomed as a crucial safeguard for institutions central to Muslim community life, including mosques, madrassas, graveyards, and orphanages.[224]

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese took a firm public stance against Islamophobia on 3 March 2025, declaring that "racism and Islamophobia will not be tolerated" following a threat of violence against a mosque in southwest Sydney. Describing the threat as "abhorrent," Albanese expressed full support for law enforcement authorities investigating the case and stressed that those responsible "must face the full force of the law."[225]

Building on this political commitment with concrete resources, the New South Wales Minns government announced a $1 million programme to combat anti-Muslim hate, including a dedicated support hotline for victims of Islamophobia and a case management system to help authorities and the community better track and respond to incidents of abuse. The initiative will also fund training programmes for police responding to Islamophobic attacks, as well as broader public awareness efforts.[226]



Race Discrimination Commissioner Giridharan Sivaraman is urging a new approach to tackle racism. Source: AAP / Mick Tsikas

These developments were further contextualized by the Australian Human Rights Commission's Race Discrimination Commissioner Giridharan Sivaraman, who in an address to the National Press Club on 6 August 2025 urged the government to act on 63 recommendations contained in the National Anti-Racism Framework, noting that more Australians were experiencing antisemitism, anti-Arab racism, and Islamophobic hate than ever before.[227]

Court Decision and Trial

In the United States, a California teenager who threatened a mass shooting at a Florida mosque in May 2023 was sentenced to four years in federal prison on 11 February 2025. Alan Winston Filion of Lancaster had admitted to contacting authorities and claiming he planned to carry out a mass shooting at Masjid Al Hayy Mosque in the name of Satan, providing details of weapons including an AR-15 and pipe bombs. The conviction marked a significant use of federal law to address Islamophobically motivated threats of mass violence.[228]

In a related development highlighting the persistence of anti-Muslim hate in educational settings, a 12-year-old girl was charged with a hate crime in juvenile court on 21 March 2025 after allegedly participating in an assault on twin 13-year-old Muslim sisters at a middle school in Waterbury, Connecticut. The girls had their hijabs forcibly removed and were kicked and punched in a school changing room. Investigators from the Waterbury State's Attorney's Office and city police confirmed the attack was "motivated by religion and/or ethnicity, meeting the legal definition of a hate crime."[229]

Separately, the Santa Clara County District Attorney charged a Morgan Hill man with a hate crime after he verbally and physically assaulted Muslim worshippers during Ramadan, in a case that CAIR-SFBA civil rights attorney Bismah Jaffer described as symptomatic of a broader climate of fear in which Muslims question whether "it is safe to say you're Muslim."[230]

In the United Kingdom, a neo-Nazi who played a leading organisational role in the violent riots that erupted following the horrific Southport stabbings was sentenced to more than seven years in prison. Andrew McIntyre, a taxi driver, had created the "Southport Wake Up" Telegram channel through which he encouraged others to commit acts of violence and criminal damage in Southport

on 30 July 2024, including targeting the local mosque. He pleaded guilty to encouraging violent disorder, criminal damage, and possession of a bladed article. Sentencing Judge Flewitt identified racism as the primary motivator for McIntyre's actions.[231]

The boy was arrested outside Inverclyde Islamic Centre on Laird Street, Greenock

Demonstrating that law enforcement was equally vigilant in intercepting threats before they could be carried out, a 16-year-old boy was charged with terrorism offences after being arrested outside the Inverclyde Islamic Centre in Greenock on 23 January 2025. [232]

The case was further resolved on 21 August 2025, when a 17-year-old neo-Nazi — inspired by Adolf Hitler and who had befriended the mosque's Imam to map out its interior — was sentenced to 10 years in custody after pleading guilty to two terrorism charges. The teenager had been apprehended in January 2025 carrying a rucksack containing an air pistol, ammunition, ball bearings, gas cartridges, and aerosol cans, after attempting to gain entry to the same Muslim centre. [233] [234]

In a case concerning the desecration of religious texts in a public setting, Hamit Coskun was found guilty on 2 June 2025 of a religiously aggravated public order offence after burning a copy of the Quran in a London street while shouting anti-Islam slurs. District Judge John McGarva concluded that Coskun had exhibited "a deep-seated hatred of Islam and its followers," finding that his actions — which included burning the Quran in a "provocative and taunting" manner — were motivated by hostility toward followers of Islam. Adding to these judicial responses, a 17-year-old was charged in March 2025 after paint was thrown at Aberdeen Mosque and a rock smashed one of its windows while worshippers were inside, with police treating the incidents as hate crimes.[235]

White paint was thrown at the door and pavement area outside

Three far-right extremists who believed a race war was imminent and were

planning terrorist attacks on mosques and synagogues were brought before Sheffield Crown Court in March 2025. Christopher Ringrose, Marco Pitzettu, and Brogan Stewart were accused of preparing to use firearms, explosives, swords, axes, and crossbows in their planned attacks, with prosecutors alleging they had been acquiring weapons and gathering intelligence on explosive devices at the time of their arrest by undercover security service officers. A Catholic priest, Father Mark Rowles, was also sentenced on 30 October 2025 to a 12-month community order after admitting to posting threatening and offensive messages about Muslims — including calls to "bomb mosques" — in neo-Nazi online chatrooms under a pseudonym. He was ordered to complete 150 hours of community service and was bound by a Criminal Behaviour Order for three years.[236]

Father Mark Rowles admitted three counts of sending menacing or offensive messages using the Telegram app in May and June last year.

A Catholic priest who admitted discussing bombing mosques and shooting black people in the head in neo-Nazi online chatrooms had been sentenced to a 12-month community order. Father Mark Rowles, went by the name "skinheadlad1488" in a chatroom called Aryan Reich Killers to write offensive messages about Muslims. On 30 October 2025, Rowles, who gave his address as the presbytery at St John Lloyd Catholic Church in Cardiff, admitted three counts of sending menacing or offensive messages using the Telegram app in May and June 2024. He will serve 150 hours community service, pay £199 in costs, and be bound by a Criminal Behaviour Order for three years. Rowles wrote offensive messages about Muslims, including a message where he said "bomb mosques". In one expletive-filled message which included an extreme

racial slur, he wrote, "they should all be strung up or shot". The court was told he described himself in an online profile as a 16-year-old skinhead neo-Nazi and a loner. His profile photo was of a young white man wearing a face covering, there was a German flag and the words "right hand path always".237

In France, French anti-terrorism prosecutors took the unprecedented step of treating a far-right racist attack as a terrorism offence for the first time since the National Anti-Terrorism Prosecutor's Office was established in 2019. Christophe B., a French national accused of shooting and killing his Tunisian neighbour Hichem Miraoui in Puget-sur-Argens on 31 May 2025 and wounding another neighbour of Turkish nationality, was referred to an anti-terrorism judge on 5 June 2025. Having posted racist videos on social media both before and after the attack, the suspect was described by Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau as having committed a "racist" and "perhaps also a terrorist crime," with prosecutors assessing the case on its individual merits given the absence of links to a designated terrorist organisation.[238]

In India, a special MP-MLA court in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar took significant legal action on 3 January 2025, framing charges against 19 political figures — including senior BJP leaders and religious figures — in connection with the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots, in which approximately 42 Muslims were killed. Among those charged were incumbent and former state ministers and MPs, as well as right-wing religious leaders, including Sadhvi Prachi and the controversial priest Yati Narsinghanand. The charges included inciting communal violence and violating prohibitory orders through hate speech delivered at a communal gathering.[239]

In a further demonstration of judicial accountability, a Delhi court ordered the registration of a First Information Report (FIR) against a former police station head for his alleged role during the 2020 Delhi riots, in which police personnel were filmed assaulting Muslim men and forcing them to sing the national anthem while chanting Hindu nationalist slogans. The officer faced charges including wrongful confinement, criminal intimidation, causing hurt, and religious insult — underscoring the courts' role in ensuring accountability for state actors who participated in or enabled anti-Muslim violence.[240]

Galagodaatte Gnanasara leads a Sinhalese Buddhist nationalist group and is a close ally of ousted former president Rajapaksa

In Sri Lanka, a court jailed prominent Buddhist monk Gnanasara Thera for nine months on 9 January 2025, after he failed to appear before the court that had issued an arrest warrant for him. The monk — a representative of the far-right Bodu Bala Sena organisation — had previously been sentenced to four years in 2024 for anti-Islamic remarks made in 2016 and was released on bail pending an appeal. His re-imprisonment following non-compliance with the court served as a significant legal signal of accountability for religious hate speech in Sri Lanka.[241]

Australian courts and law enforcement agencies demonstrated firm responses to Islamophobically motivated conduct during the review period. In New South Wales, police charged a woman with publicly threatening violence on the grounds of religion and related offences in December 2024 after she verbally abused and intimidated a Muslim woman wearing a pro-Palestinian T-shirt at a Bankstown shopping centre, directing profanity and anti-Islamic language at her.[242]

In a separate incident in Victoria, police on 19 February 2025 charged a woman from Pascoe Vale with intentionally causing injury and aggravated assault after she allegedly attacked a pregnant Muslim woman and a second victim at an Epping shopping centre, with police stating it would be alleged the victims were targeted because of their head coverings — reflecting a pattern of accountability for Islamophobically motivated physical violence.[243]

Probe and Arrest

In the United States, a war veteran was arrested on 24 March 2025 after allegedly threatening to kill Muslims at the West Valley Islamic Center in Utah.

Police documents revealed that the suspect, identified as Michael Hanson, stated he had been watching the film "American Sniper" and decided to seek out the nearest Muslim centre "as a 'show of force.'" Found to be intoxicated and heckling worshippers, Hanson was later detained after returning to the centre and attempting to conceal himself near a dumpster, in an arrest that illustrated both the real-world dangers faced by mosque communities and the responsiveness of local law enforcement.[244]

In Canada a Toronto woman was charged with assault and breach of probation on 10 July 2025 after allegedly making Islamophobic remarks and physically attacking a hijab-wearing Muslim woman near Finch Avenue West and Weston Road in North York, in what police described as a suspected hate-motivated incident.[245]

In a related development weeks later, a Muslim woman was assaulted and subjected to Islamophobic slurs and death threats on an OC Transpo bus in Kanata, Ottawa, on 11 August 2025. Local Muslim community leader Aisha Sherazi described community members as "afraid and angry" in the wake of the incident.[246]

Ottawa police responded swiftly, announcing on 20 August 2025 the arrest and charging of a 30-year-old Ottawa man with three counts of criminal harassment, assault, uttering threats to cause death or bodily harm, and inciting hate in a public place — a comprehensive set of charges that reflected the seriousness with which authorities treated the incident.[247]

In the United Kingdom, metropolitan Police arrested six individuals on 1 February 2025 during a large pro-Tommy Robinson march in central London, in which thousands of supporters gathered under the banner "Stop the Isolation" or "Unite the Kingdom." Hundreds of officers were deployed in response to both the main demonstration and a parallel counter-protest organised by Stand Up to Racism, which marched against racism, Islamophobia, and antisemitism. [248]

A High Court ruling on 28 January 2025 also upheld the lawfulness of Metropolitan Police's earlier arrest of evangelical street preacher Mr Sleeper, who had been detained while carrying signs reading "Love Muslims, Ban Islam, the Religion of Terror." Mr Justice Sweeting found that his human rights had not been breached and that the arrest had been "necessary in the circumstances" — a ruling the Metropolitan Police welcomed as affirmation that officers had "applied the law without fear or favor."[249]

Four people previously arrested have been released without further action, police said

Sussex Police arrested three people in connection with an arson attack on a mosque in Peacehaven, East Sussex, that had been set ablaze on 4 October 2025. Police confirmed that two men from Seaford were held in custody on suspicion of arson with intent to endanger life, as the investigation continued.[250]

In France, the authorities arrested a man on 4 June 2025 on suspicion of entering the Errahma Mosque in Villeurbanne — near Lyon — in the early hours

of 2 June and setting a copy of the Quran alight during morning prayers. The suspect, an adult male, was placed under formal police interrogation following his detention, with the Lyon public prosecutor's office confirming the arrest. The incident was treated as a deliberate act of desecration of a religious site.[251]

In India, five members of the fringe group Kali Sena were booked on 9 February 2025 for delivering provocative speeches inciting locals to assault and evict Muslim tenants in Dehradun, following a gathering of 50 to 60 individuals held on 4 February in response to a sexual assault case. According to the FIR, the group marched through the area vandalising shops owned by people from minority communities and forcibly expelled Muslim vendors from a weekly market, threatening to kill those who returned.[252]

In a case demonstrating accountability within law enforcement, a police inspector in the northern Indian state of Haryana was arrested on 19 April 2025 after a departmental inquiry confirmed he had tortured a Muslim man in custody in December 2024. Radheshyam Sharma, the head of Palwal's city police station, was suspended and taken into custody following an investigation corroborated by CCTV footage and medical testimony. The victim had alleged severe physical abuse including being beaten, made to drink a chilli solution, and subjected to further abuses while in police custody.[253]

In a striking revelation of deliberate provocation, Uttar Pradesh Police arrested four Hindutva activists for writing "I love Muhammad" on the walls of Hindu temples in Aligarh in an attempt to frame members of the Muslim community and stoke communal tensions amid an ongoing land dispute. Senior police officials confirmed that the act was a calculated effort to falsely implicate Muslims

and escalate hostility in the area — an arrest that underscored both the risks of manufactured anti-Muslim incitement and the capacity of law enforcement to uncover and act against it.[254]

Singapore's Internal Security Department announced on 2 April 2025 the detention in March 2025 of a 17-year-old who had planned to carry out mass killings outside multiple mosques following Friday prayers. The teenager — who idolized the Christchurch mosque attacker and identified as an "East Asian Supremacist" — had identified five target mosques across Singapore and had made repeated attempts to obtain a firearm. Home Minister K. Shanmugam revealed that the boy had told investigators he would have carried out the attacks had he successfully obtained a weapon, and had intended to live-stream the killings. His detention was linked to the earlier arrest of an 18-year-old with similar intentions.[255]

Islamophobic graffiti on a footpath in Sydney

In Australia's Victoria, two women were allegedly attacked by the same assailant at an Epping shopping centre on 13 February 2025, with investigators identifying a woman who fled on foot with a male companion as the suspect. The swift launch of investigations reflected law enforcement's readiness to treat such incidents seriously.[256]

Further north, a 16-year-old was arrested in Western Australia on 4 March 2025 after posting an online threat against a recently opened Sydney mosque, making a reference to "Christchurch 2.0" — an apparent allusion to the 2019 terrorist attack in which 51 worshippers were killed. The rapid response by both

state and federal police demonstrated growing institutional vigilance toward online incitement targeting Muslim communities.257

Confirming this trend of proactive law enforcement responses, Victoria Police apprehended a 43-year-old knife-wielding man who had appeared at the Hume Islamic Youth Centre in Coolaroo on 21 July 2025 while shouting Islamophobic slurs, with 20 congregants inside the building. Officers repeatedly ordered the man to drop his weapon before deploying a taser to subdue him. Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan was unequivocal in her response: "There is no place for this hateful behaviour anywhere in our community but most particularly around places of worship."[258]

On Inter-Faiths

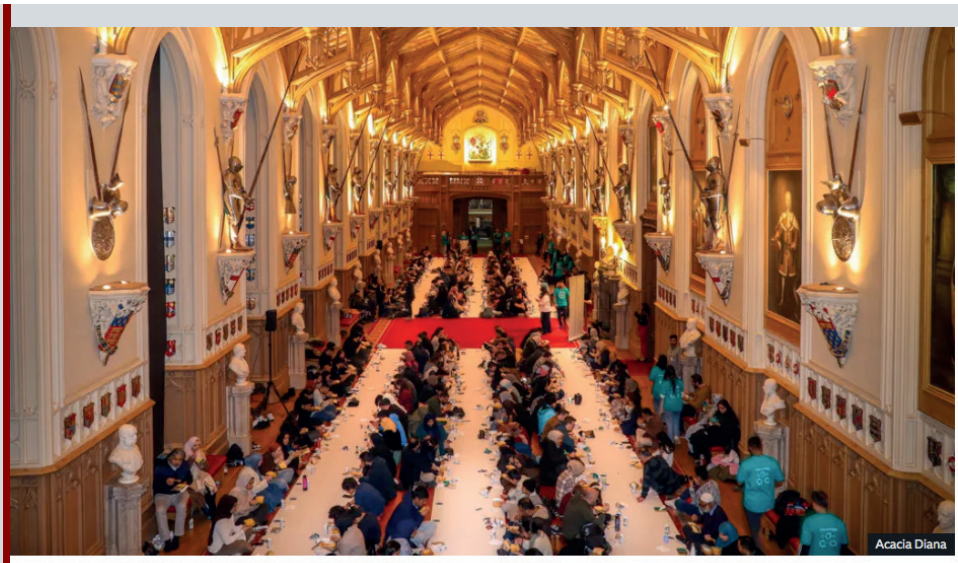
In the United States, more than a dozen Christian and Jewish faith leaders issued formal demand letters on 22 August 2025 to local elected officials in Tarrant County, Texas, urging them to publicly denounce the "hateful rhetoric" directed by county Republican Party chair Bo French toward Muslim state Representative Salman Bhojani, whom French had targeted on social media with calls to "denaturalize and deport" him on the basis of his Pakistani ethnicity and Muslim faith. The clergy leaders affirmed their collective opposition to Islamophobia and all forms of bigotry.[259]

Michael Woolf

Michael Woolf is the senior minister of Lake Street Church of Evanston in Illinois.

In a parallel act of interfaith solidarity, Christian pastor Michael Woolf of Lake Street Church of Evanston publicly condemned a Texas Republican congressional candidate's act of burning a Quran with a flamethrower in a campaign advertisement, calling it a distortion of Jesus' message and a dangerous amplifier of anti-Muslim hatred. Drawing on his co-founding experience with an interfaith initiative, Woolf urged Christians to build solidarity with Muslims through dialogue and to demonstrate that "true Christian faith lies not in destruction but in love, respect, and standing alongside those facing hate."[260]

A coalition of progressive Jewish organisations similarly condemned the Anti-Defamation League's targeting of New York City mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani — a Muslim — as "Islamophobic and racist," with groups including Bend the Arc, Jews for Racial & Economic Justice, and IfNotNow pledging to work alongside Mamdani to combat both antisemitism and Islamophobia. "Together, we can help build a city grounded in justice, dignity, and care for every New Yorker," their joint statement read.[261]

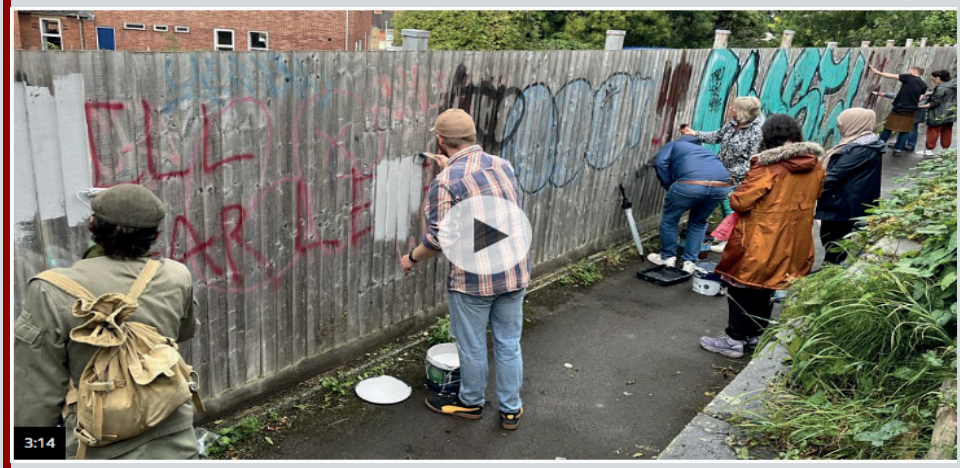


Visitors broke their fast with dates before sharing a meal in St George's Hall

In the United Kingdom, in a historic and deeply symbolic gesture of interfaith hospitality, Windsor Castle's State Apartments hosted an open Iftar event for the first time in their thousand-year history on 2 March 2025. More than 350 guests gathered in St George's Hall — ordinarily reserved for heads of state — to break their Ramadan fast as the call to prayer echoed through the ancient building. Visitor Operations Director Simon Maples noted that King Charles III had long been "championing religious diversity and encouraging

interfaith conversation." The event was greeted with profound emotion by attendees. "We never thought we'd be here breaking Iftar," one attendee told the BBC. "We've come a long way."[262]

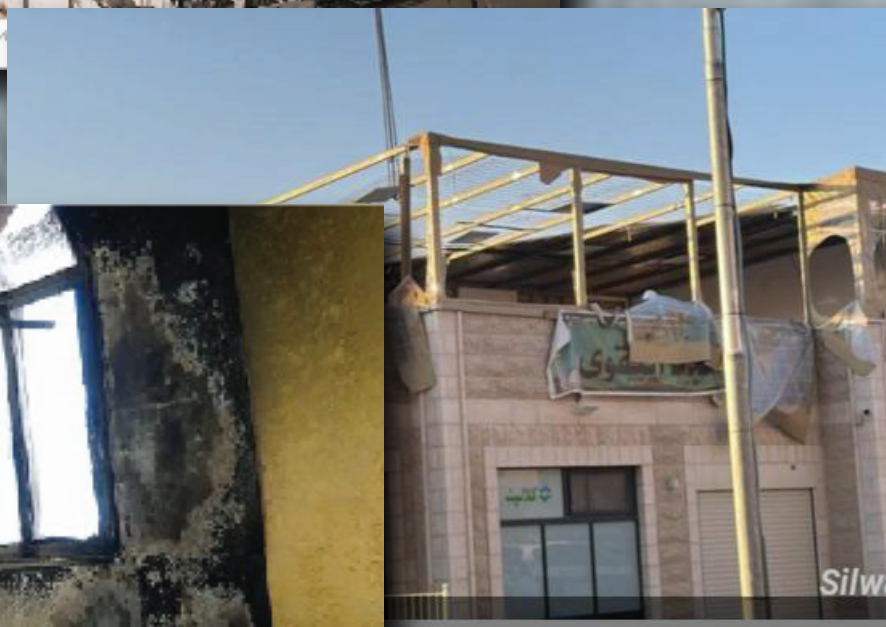
Embodying a more grassroots model of sustained interfaith collaboration, Salaam Shalom Kitchen in Nottingham marked its tenth anniversary in June 2025 — a community food bank co-founded by a rabbi and a Muslim social justice activist that now feeds approximately 150 people each week, serving families with children, elderly residents, and isolated individuals alongside those facing financial hardship. Volunteer Zainab Asghar from the Nottingham Muslim Women's Network reflected that in a county where the rise of the Reform party had made life "scarier" for Muslims, the kitchen's ethos of mutual nourishment — both physical and communal — had never been more necessary. "We need to build more understanding," she said.[263]

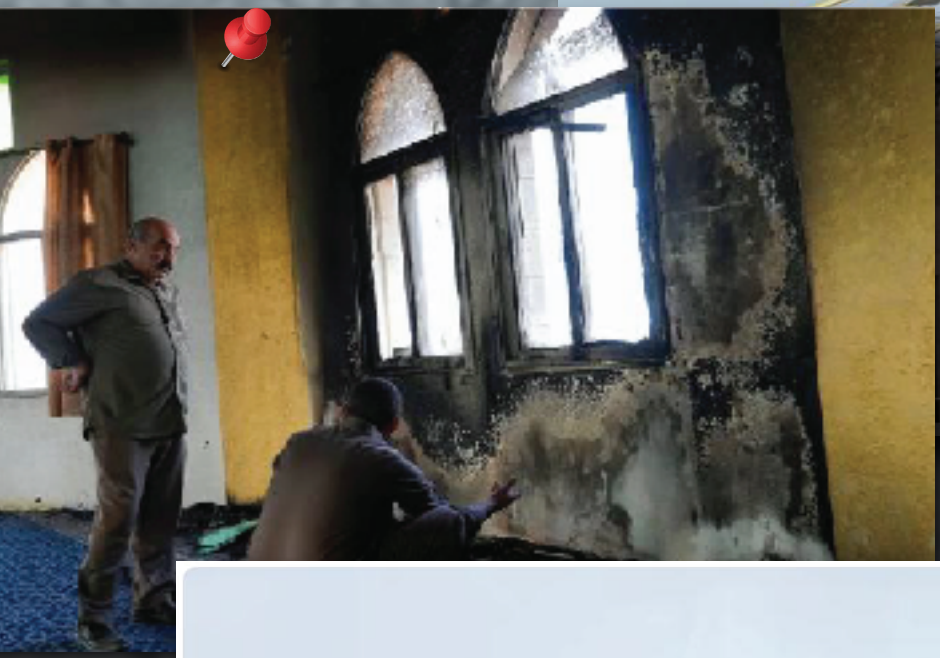


Community members in Swindon, organised by Swindon Stand Up to Racism, came together to paint over Islamophobic, antisemitic, and far-right graffiti — including a swastika — that had appeared in an alleyway in the town. Among the twelve volunteers who took part was solicitor Repi Begum, who expressed both shock and determination: "I am astonished that society still has this kind of hatred," she said, describing the graffiti as "abhorrent." The collective act of erasure and reclamation stood as a powerful symbol of community-led resistance to hatred at the local level.[264]

India's Supreme Court Judge Justice A.S. Oka drew attention to the structural dimension of hate speech in the country during remarks at a Columbia Law School event, noting that the vast majority of hate speech cases reaching the Supreme Court targeted religious minorities and marginalised communities including Scheduled Castes. Describing the continued prevalence of hate speech 75 years after the adoption of India's Constitution as "a matter of great concern," Justice Oka's comments reinforced the judiciary's role as a conscience-keeper on questions of communal dignity and equality.[265]

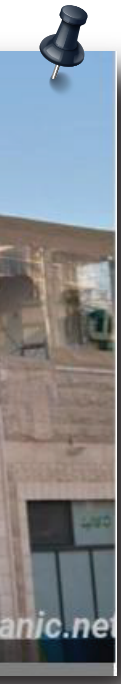
New Zealand's Human Rights Commissioner Stephen Rainbow issued a formal apology for "Islamophobic" remarks on 2 April 2025, following condemnation from both Jewish and Muslim community organisations after he suggested that Muslims posed the greatest threat to the Jewish community — rather than white supremacists. His apology to the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ) and acknowledgement that New Zealand has "no place for Islamophobia" was welcomed as a meaningful act of institutional accountability and a reaffirmation of shared commitment to combating all forms of hatred.[266]





A person stands at a damaged mosque, which according to Palestinians, was burned by Israeli settlers, near Salfit in the Israeli-occupied West Bank [Reuters]

LIST OF INCIDENTS



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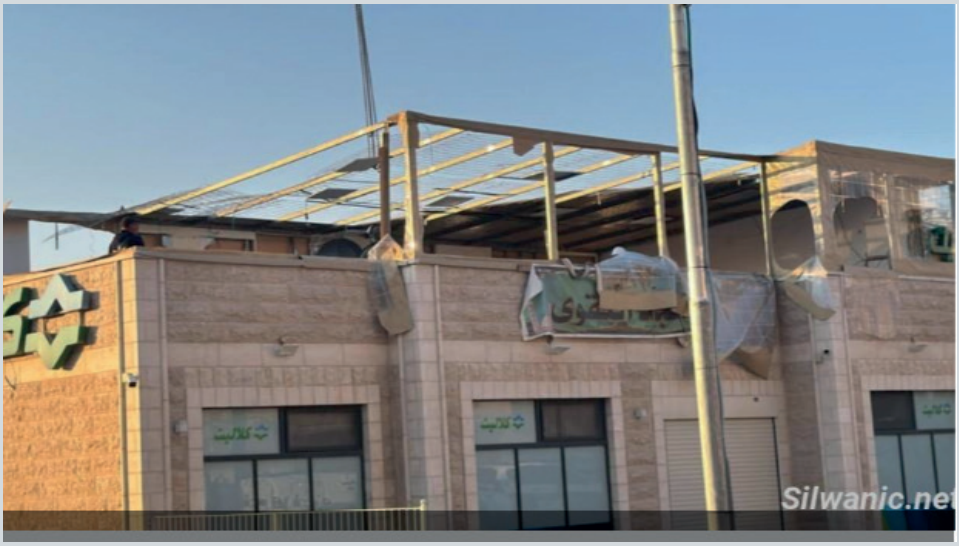
Incident Related to Mosque and Islamic Center



The Occupied Palestinian Territory: On 30 January 2025, Israeli occupation forces demolished Al-Taqwa prayer hall in the village of Sur Baher, south of the city of Jerusalem. Local sources reported that the occupation municipality crews, accompanied by police officers, stormed the village of Sur Baher, surrounded a building, then raided the upper floor where Al-Taqwa prayer hall was located, and demolished it.[267]

A person stands at a damaged mosque, which according to Palestinians, was burned by Israeli settlers, near Salfit in the Israeli-occupied West Bank [Reuters]

A person checks the damaged Bar al-Walidain mosque in the village of Marda following an attack by Israeli settlers near Salfit in the Israeli-occupied West Bank [Stringer/Reuters]

The Occupied Palestinian Territory: Israeli settlers had set fire to a mosque in the occupied West Bank, while also defacing the building's facade with hateful and racist slogans such as "Revenge" and "Death to Arabs" spray-painted in Hebrew. Abdallah Kamil, the governor of Salfit, said on 20 December 2024 that the attack targeted the Bar al-Walidain mosque in the village of Marda, in the latest incident of settler violence. One resident of the village told AFP news agency that the settlers "set fire to the entrance of the mosque and wrote Hebrew slogans on its walls". Another resident said the fire was extinguished before it could engulf the entire structure.[268]

The Turkish Cultural Association in Limoges, southwest France, Dec. 30, 2020

France: A mosque in northwestern France was vandalized with pig head graffiti, a Turkish-Muslim group on 30 December 2024 said, reporting the second such

attack on the region's Muslim community in during the week before. A pig head graffiti was found on 29 December 2024 on the door of a mosque in Cherbourg, operated by the Turkish-Islamic Union of Religious Affairs (DITIB), the group said in a statement.[269]

France: An Islamophobic attack targeting a mosque in northern France had left the local Muslim community rattled. Unknown people left a plaster grenade used in drills outside a mosque managed by the Turkish-Islamic Union of Religious Affairs (DITIB) in the city of Saint-Omer, DITIB said in a statement on Instagram late 21 January 2025.[270]

US: Video shared by the Islamic Center of Federal Way (ICFW), located on the 3300 block of 272nd Street in Kent, showed a man throwing two rocks at the building on 28 December 2024, shattering a window. A Kent Police Department spokesperson told KOMO News detectives were "investigating the circumstances." ICFW President Atif Nazir said he discovered the vandalism when he arrived at the mosque before morning prayers and found the front

window shattered. Nazir told KOMO News he found glass shards inside the center and on the ground below the window.[271]

India: The Uttar Pradesh government launched a bulldozer action on 9 February 2025, against a mosque in the Kata area of Kushinagar district. The demolition followed allegations by Hindutva workers that the mosque had been built on encroached government land. The action came after the expiration of a high court stay order on 8 February 2025. The controversy began on 18 December 2024, when local Hindutva workers filed a complaint on the Uttar Pradesh chief minister's portal, alleging that the mosque was constructed on encroached land. In response, representatives of the mosque committee claimed that the Muslim community had purchased 0.32 acres of land nearly 15 years ago for the construction.[272]

India: A bulldozer operation in Pune's Khed area had resulted in the demolition of a mosque and madrasa, following complaints from Hindu organisations who claimed that the constructions were illegal. The Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority (PMRDA) initiated the action on 23 January 2025, based on allegations that the structures were built without proper permission. Hindu organisations claimed that Shakir Ismail, the individual behind the construction, had erected the mosque and madrasa without authorisation. These places of worship, according to the Hindu groups, attracted a large number of Muslims every Friday for prayers. The organisations voiced their concerns to the state government, demanding action. In response, the bulldozers were deployed to demolish the buildings. The bulldozers roared into action in Pune despite the Supreme Court's directives against arbitrary demolition of buildings. In November, the apex court gave clear instructions against the 'bulldozer justice'

meted out in several BJP-ruled states and said proper procedures, including providing sufficient notice to the property owners, should be followed.273

The Occupied Palestinian Territory: Israeli settlers set fire to a mosque in the Arab al-Mleihat community, northwest of Jericho in the eastern West Bank, at dawn on 2 February 2025, according to local Palestinian sources. Hassan Mleihat, general supervisor of the Al-Baydar Organization for the Defense of Bedouin Rights, stated that settlers "set the entire mosque ablaze and also attempted to burn a farmer's tractor." He condemned the attack as an act of terrorism and a criminal assault by settlers.[274]

The Occupied Palestinian Territory: Israeli municipal authorities demolished the Al-Taqwa prayer hall in the village of Sur Baher, south of Jerusalem, on 29 January 2025, citing a lack of building permits. According to local sources, municipal crews, accompanied by police forces, raided the village, surrounded an entire building, and then stormed its upper floor, which housed the prayer hall.[275]

Military vehicles are seen on a street as the Israeli raids and attacks on Jenin city and its refugee camp continue in Jenin, West Bank on January 28, 2025. [Issam Rimawi – Anadolu Agency]

The Occupied Palestinian Territory: On 28 January 2025, Israeli occupation forces demolished a mosque in Jenin refugee camp, north of the West Bank, the Palestinian Information Centre reported. Local sources said that the occupation forces knocked down the Hamza Mosque in Jenin camp as part of its large-scale demolition campaign and military operation in Jenin, which entered its eighth day.[276]

France: A mosque in northwestern France was desecrated with a pig head graffiti, the Turkish-Muslim umbrella group DITIB said on 27 January 2025. A pig head graffiti was found on 26 January on the door of a mosque in Cherbourg. Condemning the "unacceptable action" targeting the mosque, the group expressed its firm commitment to defend the values of respect and humanity.[277]

Germany: Two mosques in Germany have received threatening and provocative letters, according to a statement from the Turkish-Islamic Union for Religious Affairs (DITIB) on 31 January 2025. One of the letters was addressed to the mosque in Dortmund, while another one was sent to a Moroccan Islamic mosque near Dusseldorf, the statement said. Both incidents, which took place on 30 January 2025, had been reported to the police, it added.[278]

India: A tense atmosphere prevailed in Nacharam Mallapur, Hyderabad on 19 February 2025 night when a group of people participating in a procession waved swords and raised slogans in front of a mosque. The incident occurred in front of Masjid-e-Aashraf, located in Chankyapuri Colony under the Nacharam police station limits. In a video, 10 to 12 people, two of them carrying swords, were seen holding saffron flags and standing in front of the mosque, shouting JSR slogans.[279]

India: On February 15, 2025, Gorakhpur Development Authority (GDA) served a formal notice to Shoaib Ahmed, the son of the late custodian of the mosque. The order stated that the mosque was built without an approved map and that no building plan had been submitted to the authorities. The GDA alleged that the construction violated established building norms. Despite multiple notices issued since May 2024, Shoaib Ahmed had denied these allegations, insisting that all legal requirements were met. According to the GDA, an inspection in May 2024 revealed that the mosque's construction was underway without official approval. The authorities claim that no building plan was presented during the inspection and that Shoaib Ahmed failed to appear at a hearing scheduled for May 30, 2024. Notices issued in February 2025 also went unanswered, prompting the GDA to push for immediate action. Shoaib Ahmed, however, disputed these claims. He stated that he attended the GDA hearing on February 15 and presented his case, submitting a written response to the authorities on February 14. "We are being unfairly targeted," Ahmed said. "The mosque was built as a replacement for an old mosque, and we followed all the required procedures." The dispute over the land dates back to January 2024, when the Nagar Nigam launched a campaign to clear encroached land near the Ghosh Company intersection.

During the operation, several illegal structures, including a dilapidated mosque that had stood for over fifty years, were demolished. Following protests from the local Muslim community, the Nagar Nigam agreed to allocate approximately 60 square meters of land for the construction of a new mosque. The agreement stipulated that the new mosque would be similar in size and shape to the original structure. However, it was this new construction that now faced demolition. The GDA's order had sparked outrage among local Muslims, with community leaders and worshippers voicing strong opposition. Muhammad Naseem Khan, a regular worshipper at the mosque, described the demolition order as part of a broader strategy to harass and intimidate Muslims. "This is all a lie and a deception," Khan said. "It is clear that the real intention is to create division and hatred against Muslims. The mosque cannot be built illegally, and we have followed all the rules."[280]

India: After social media posts showing a group ramming the gates of a mosque in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri, during the annual Shimga procession on 12 March 2025 were shared widely and drew condemnation, police had said there was "no forcible entry." The incident took place in the Rajapur village, where police claimed that aggressive sloganeering took place – and that this was traditional in pre-Holi processions was traditional. Police had booked several young men in a first information report that invoked charges for sloganeering and unlawful assembly but said reports of a Hindu mob trying to forcibly enter a mosque were misleading. "The traditions of the Konkan are different. There was a ritual named 'Madachi miravnuk' where the Holi procession is brought to the doorstep of the masjid and the wood [the trunk of a tree] is touched to the steps of the masjid. Every year, Muslims participate in this procession. The honour of

giving a coconut to welcome this procession is traditionally given to Muslims," Ratnagiri SP Dhananajay Kulkarni told The Hindu. Some said that it is indeed true that by tradition, the trunk is placed for a few minutes on the steps of the mosque, but added that revellers then decided to "ram the trunk into the gate." "In the first attempt, they broke the gate and came in. We pushed them outside and closed the gate, they again dashed the trunk aggressively into the gate. At least two people got injured in this from the mob," an eyewitness, who was standing inside the mosque's gate, told The Hindu. A member of the Rajapur Nagar panchayat also said that this time, the matter escalated.[281]

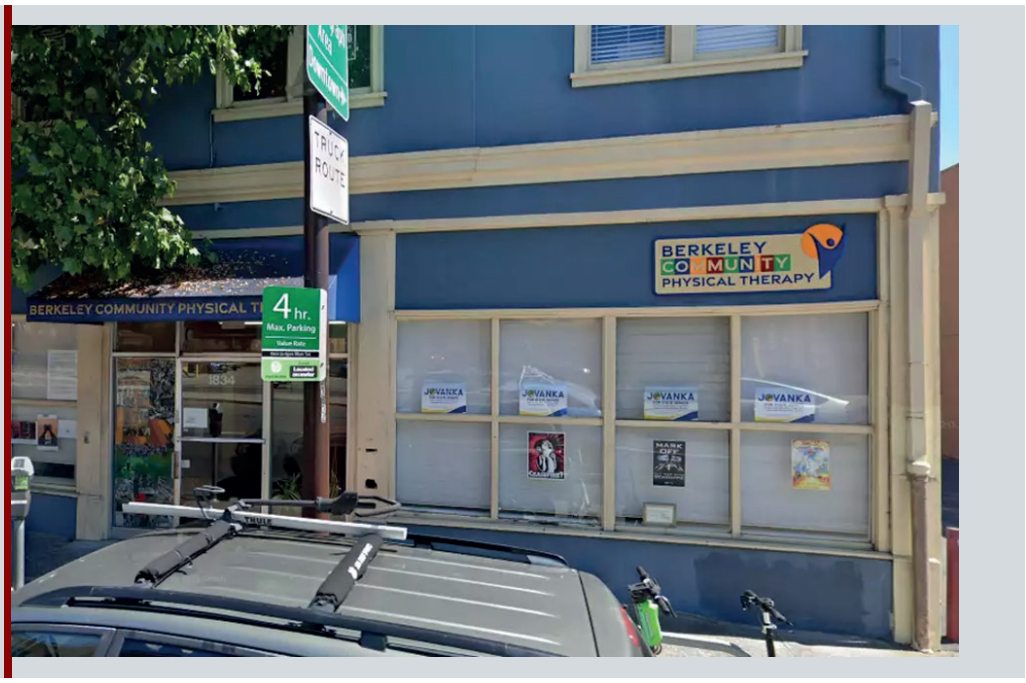
Palestinians check the partially burned al-Nasr Mosque following an Israeli military raid in the old city of Nablus, in the occupied Wes Bank, on March 7, 2025, during Islam's holy month of Ramadan. AFP

The Occupied Palestinian Territory: At dawn on 7 March 2025, Israeli occupation soldiers abducted three Palestinians, invaded and ransacked several mosques, and set one ablaze in the Old City of Nablus in the northern part of the occupied West Bank. Media sources reported that several armored Israeli military vehicles invaded multiple neighborhoods in Nablus and its Old City, firing barrages of live rounds, gas bombs, and concussion grenades. The soldiers stormed and desecrated several mosques in the Old City, including the Al-Yasmina neighborhood mosque, Aj'aj Mosque on Al-Basha Street, the Salahi Al-Kabeer Mosque in the Eastern Market area, At-Teena Mosque in the Al-Qaryoun neighborhood, An-Nasr Mosque in Bab as-Saha area, and Al-Beik Mosque on An-Nasr Street. During the invasions, the soldiers set ablaze several sections of the An-Nasr Mosque in Nablus after desecrating the holy site at dawn.[282]

The Occupied Palestinian Territory: Illegal Israeli settlers stormed a mosque in the northern West Bank during Ramadan prayers on 9 March 2025 evening, assaulting worshippers and vandalizing its contents. Thaer Haneni, a local activist present at the mosque during the attack, told Anadolu that the assault targeted the Beit Sheikh Mosque in Khirbet Tana village, east of Beit Furik town. He described how an unmarked military vehicle carrying four illegal settlers in Israeli military uniforms accompanied by a small cargo vehicle from their settlement's security arrived at the mosque. The settlers then stormed the mosque. "They confiscated our IDs and mobile phones, subjected us to detailed searches, and forced us to sit on the ground in the mosque's courtyard for nearly an hour," Haneni said. The illegal settlers then proceeded to damage the mosque's property, breaking the pulpit and spilling oil, juice and water on the carpets. They also destroyed electrical appliances and lighting inside the mosque.283

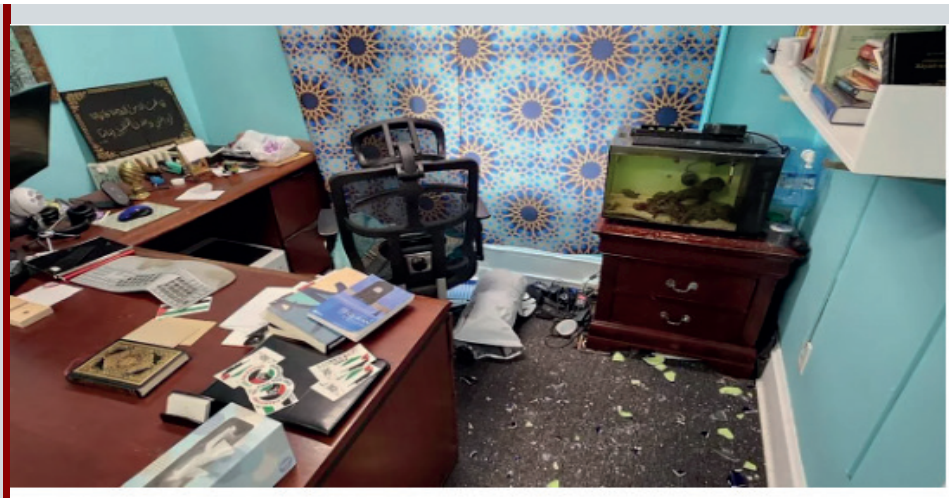
The Occupied Palestinian Territory: Scores of Israeli settlers stormed into the compound of Al-Aqsa Mosque on 19 February 2025 guarded by Israeli occupation forces, according to local sources. Israeli settlers thrusted into the eastern part of Al-Aqsa Mosque - in the form of groups - from the side of the Moroccan Gate (Bab al-Magharib), carried out provocative tours and performed Talmudic rituals in the environs of the mosque, under protection of Israeli occupation forces.[284]

US: The NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force was investigating an anti-Islamic incident outside a Kensington mosque the week before after a man wearing a "Make America Great Again" hat was filmed shouting derogatory rhetoric at the house of worship. A video widely shared online since Feb. 18 shows the suspect standing outside Masjid Nur-Al Islam on Church Avenue with a megaphone, yelling anti-Islamic comments and claiming that the mosque funds the terrorist organization Hezbollah. New York's elected officials had condemned the incident, with Gov. Kathy Hochul vowing to "root out Islamophobic hate in every corner of our state."[285]



US: The Berkeley Physical Therapy Clinic on University was vandalized on 2 March 2025, which was also the first full day of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month. Negeene Mosaed, who owns the clinic, is Muslim and an Iranian American. She said her business had been defaced before with posters calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. A vigil was held in Berkeley on 3 March 2025 to take a stand against hate after a business was targeted with anti-Muslim graffiti.[286]

US: The NYPD's Hate Crime Task Force was investigating an act of vandalism at an Islamic prayer space at New York University. A student who entered the space inside the Elmer Holmes Bobst Library on 3 April 2025 afternoon said they found "urine and obscene, lewd images defacing the walls," according to a statement from Faiyaz Jaffer, the associate chaplain of Global Spiritual Life at the university. "This was not simply an act of vandalism; it was a malicious and deeply disrespectful attack driven by anti-Muslim hatred," Jaffer said in the statement. In a statement, NYU spokesperson John Beckman called the vandalism "vile, reprehensible, and utterly unacceptable … It contravenes every principle of our community, and we condemn this act of Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate," Beckman said.[287]



Jacob Beacher, 24, faces federal hate crime charges From Center for Islamic Life at Rutgers University

US: A suspect had been charged with a federal hate crime after allegedly breaking into and destroying property at Rutgers University's Center for Islamic Life. The

incident took place during Eid al-Fitr, the three-day Islamic religious celebration marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan. Jacob Beacher, was arrested Monday morning and charged with one count of intentional or attempted obstruction of religious practice and one count of making false statements to federal authorities, according to a news release from the US Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey. Beacher broke into the Islamic center around 2:41 a.m. on 10 April 2025, the release said, where he damaged property. He, also allegedly stole a Palestinian flag and a charity box from the center, the release said. The current estimate of the damage is approximately $40,000, court documents showed.[288]

The Occupied Palestinian Territory: On 20 April 2025, Palestine warned of growing incitement by Israeli far-right settler groups calling for the destruction of Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem, Anadolu reported. Palestine's Foreign Ministry condemned an AI-generated video titled "Next Year in Jerusalem," circulating on extremist Hebrew platforms. The video shows Al-Aqsa Mosque being bombed and replaced by a so-called Third Temple. In a statement, the ministry called the video "a systematic provocation aimed at escalating attacks on Islamic and Christian holy sites in occupied Jerusalem."[289]

France: A former Muslim place of worship in northeastern France had been ransacked, with copies of the Holy Quran desecrated, swastika symbols graffitied on the walls, and signs of an attempted arson, local media reported. The attack targeted a building in L'Hopital, near Saint-Avold in the Moselle region, previously managed by the Muslim association, Les Amis du peuple mediterraneen and Le Republicain Lorrain newspapers reported on 28 May 2025. Though no longer used as a mosque since 2021 due to safety regulation issues, the site remained under the association's ownership. Prayer rugs were ripped apart, furniture overturned, and gas bottles, tires, and jerrycans filled with gasoline were found at the scene, suggesting an intent to set the building on fire, the association leaders said.[290]

US: The Muslim community in Austin, Texas, was on edge after three mosques were vandalized in one night. Now they're asking police to step in. Surveillance video captures a subject with his face covered as he spray-painted blue symbols that appear to be Stars of David at the Nueces Mosque in North Austin, on 22 May 2025. Around the same time the Nueces Mosque was targeted, mosque leaders found similar signs of vandalism at the Islamic Association, near the University of Texas at Austin, and the Turkish Diyanet Center.[291]

A still from a security camera inside the lobby of the Canadian Institute of Islamic Civilization in Montreal. Police say no arrests have been made. (Submitted by the Muslim Association of Canada)

Canada: The Montreal police hate crimes unit was investigating after a mosque in the city's downtown was defaced with anti-Palestinian graffiti. The words "F--k Gaza" were painted multiple times on the exterior walls of The Canadian Institute of Islamic Civilization, at the intersection of Belmont Street and Union Avenue, 10 June 2025 evening. The organization that manages the mosque, the Muslim Association of Canada, said no one was injured, and that the incident wasn't an isolated one. It's calling on officials to bring awareness to the growing convergence of Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian racism given heightened tensions due to the situation in Gaza.[292]

The Occupied Palestinian Territory: A leaked recording broadcast by Israel's Channel 12 on 25 May 2025 has revealed incendiary remarks made by Major General David Zini, the newly appointed head of Israel's internal security agency, Shin Bet, in which he openly incites against Muslims. The audio, recorded during a recent meeting with Israeli settlers near the Gaza border, captures Zini claiming that Israeli intelligence regularly detects alleged threats from Muslims planning attacks against Jews. He framed this as a continuous pattern dating "from the birth of Ishmael until further notice," invoking the biblical figure traditionally regarded as the ancestor of Arabs - a claim that was not supported by historical or archaeological evidence.[293]

India: An under-construction mosque was demolished by the Zila Panchayat administration on 29 May in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur. The mosque was located in Bhojpur village of Nakur block. Construction had been on hold for the past month. After the demolition, local Muslims expressed anger, claiming that the authorities had taken down the mosque without any prior notice. Congress MP from Saharanpur, Imran Masood, stated that the SDM had not issued any notice before demolishing the mosque. He further mentioned that the Religious Endowments Act of 1863 does not contain any clause requiring permission for constructing a religious structure.[294]

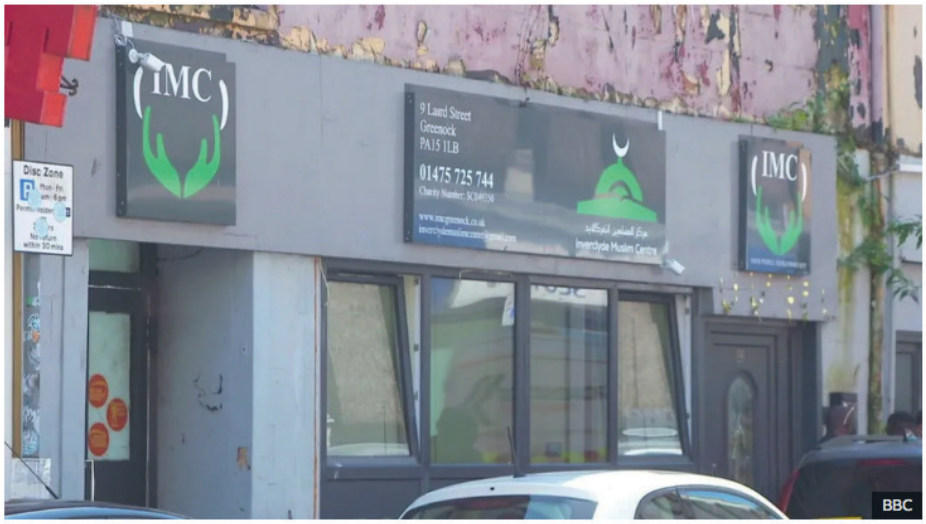
UK: A man released rats outside a mosque in Sheffield as part of a series of racially motivated hate crimes. CCTV footage showed Edmund Fowler, taking cages containing rats from his car boot and dumping them outside Sheffield

Grand Mosque on Grimesthorpe Road, with the vermin appearing to run in through the fence. The 66-year-old repeated this on three other occasions between May and June.[295]

The incident took place at the Islamic Centre on University Road on Friday night

A broken window at the centre in Belfast

UK: On 20 June 2025, a viable device was thrown through the window of the Belfast Islamic Centre during an attack on Friday night, police have said. People from the centre were praying inside the building on University Road when the attack was reported.The incident sparked a security alert and the building was evacuated. Police said a man was arrested under the Terrorism Act.[296]



The boy was arrested outside Inverclyde Muslim Centre in Greenock

UK: A teenager who planned a mass murder by setting fire to a mosque had pleaded guilty to terrorism charges. The 17-year-old was arrested in January 2025 after police caught him with an airgun and aerosol cans outside Inverclyde Muslim Centre in Greenock. The High Court in Glasgow heard that the boy, who was autistic, believed white people were in a race war and had "developed sympathies" with the Nazi party. The boy, had told the mosque's Imam that he wanted to become a Muslim in order to gain access to the building and plan his attack. The court heard that he had initially wanted to plant bombs at his school in December 2024, before deciding to target the mosque. Police intelligence led to officers arresting the boy, who was 16 at the time, outside Inverclyde Muslim Centre. He was carrying a rucksack with an airgun that he planned to use to keep worshippers inside the building after he set it on fire.[297]

France: A Muslim prayer hall was the target of an attempted arson attack in France on the night of August 14–15 in Châtillon-sur-Seine (Côte-d'Or), the prefecture confirmed on 15 August 2025. According to initial findings, "flyers were set on fire and wedged into the entrance door" of the place of worship before passersby quickly extinguished the flames. The religious leader responsible for the site had filed a complaint. So far, no information had been released regarding the perpetrators of the act. It was Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau who announced the incident on the social network X. In a message, he expressed his solidarity: "My thoughts are with the worshippers affected by this profoundly cowardly anti-Muslim act."[298]

India: The Jorhat district administration on 5 August 2025 demolished a madrasa and the boundary wall of an adjoining mosque after members of the Assamese nationalist organisation Bir Lachit Sena alleged that the structures were built illegally. Officials said the demolition was carried out under tight police security to avoid any law-and-order disturbances. The Sena, a regional outfit known for its aggressive anti-immigration stance, claimed the religious structures were encroaching on public land. While the administration has yet to produce official records confirming the "encroachment," a senior official stated the move was part of a "routine drive" to clear unauthorised constructions. The Bir Lachit Sena hailed the demolition as a "victory for indigenous rights" and signalled plans to press for similar actions in other parts of Assam. Critics, however, warned that such moves could deepen anti-Muslim bias.[299]

India: The mosque, located under Irani police station, was over a hundred years old and was regularly attended by the Muslim community for prayer. Nearly 90 percent of residents in Tilabazar and its surrounding areas belong to the Muslim community. According to reports, the mosque's Imam discovered a plastic packet lying on the floor inside the mosque premises. When opened by locals, pork meat along with a handwritten letter was found inside it. The letter claimed that "Tripura was once a Hindu state, Muslims did not live in Tilabazar, and the site originally belonged to Gaur Govinda's temple. Therefore, the mosque must be demolished immediately."[300]

India: In Hyderabad's Balapur, a group of right-wing activists staged a dharna outside Madarsa Noomania, demanding its closure. The seminary, which had been running for seven years, operates inside the Qutb Shahi-era Masjid-e-Hussaini, a nearly 400-year-old mosque where five daily prayers are held. According to Amjedullah Khan, spokesperson of the Majlis Bachao Tehreek (MBT), the protest was staged deliberately to stir tensions. "Communal elements staged a dharna demanding the closure of Madarsa Noomania. This is a 400-year-old Qutb Shahi masjid, and the madrasa has been peacefully functioning here for years. Such actions are meant only to create communal trouble," he said. Khan further accused the Balapur police of remaining passive during the demonstration, allowing protestors to raise anti-Muslim slogans for nearly two hours. The madrasa's management clarified that all its students are locals from Telangana, dismissing claims of outsiders being enrolled.[301]

India: A long-standing madrasa in Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh was again in the eye of a storm after being branded "illegal" by a state commission member, despite official investigations and approval from the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) confirming its legal status. The controversy had sparked deep concern among the local Muslim community, who see it as yet another attempt to discredit minority-run educational institutions. The institution in question, Madrasa Anjuman Islamia Faizul Uloom, located in Ward No. 15, Dhanauji Khurd under Fazilnagar Nagar Panchayat, had been functioning for more than two decades. In 1996, it received a government grant to support its work. But on 27 September 2021, a tehsil-level investigation revealed that the madrasa stood on 0.02480 hectare of land belonging to the Gram Sabha. While these initially raised questions, the same inquiry noted that the Gram Sabha had not raised any objection to the madrasa's presence. The matter seemed settled when on 20 December 2021, the SDM officially approved the transfer of the land in the madrasa's name. "We run this madrasa with full permission from the administration. Everything is in the records," said Serajul, the madrasa manager. "Why is this issue being raked up again when the authorities themselves have regularised it?" However, the calm was broken when Phoolbadan Kushwaha, a member of the Uttar Pradesh State Backward Classes Commission, wrote to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath calling the madrasa illegal. In his letter, he alleged that the institution had illegally occupied Gram Sabha land, built its premises without proper ownership, and even engaged in corruption during recent appointments. "Appointments were made by taking bribes, and the son of the original landowner is drawing a salary without qualification," Kushwaha claimed. These accusations have not only unsettled the madrasa administration but also alarmed the students and parents. "We come here to learn. Now we are worried about our future. If the madrasa is shut, where will we go?" said Mohammad Danish, a Class 8 student.[302]

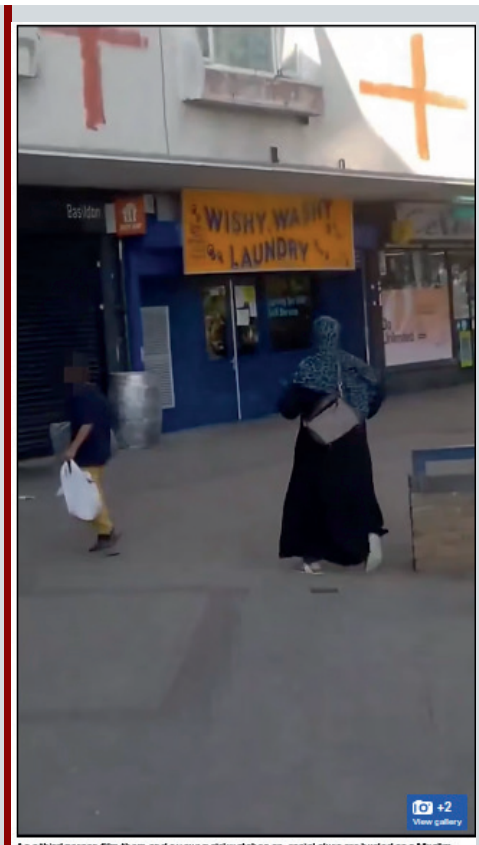
Two people wearing masks were caught on CCTV throwing paving slabs at the mosque

UK: Two attacks on a mosque in Greater Manchester in past months had left the Muslim community there feeling unsafe, an imam has said. Dr Ibrahim, from Elaf Mosque in Cheadle Heath, Stockport, said two people wearing masks were captured on CCTV throwing large chunks of paving slabs through the mosque's windows just before 03:00 BST on 4 September 2025 morning. In April 2025, some attackers threw rubbish and pork meat through the door on to the carpet inside, he said. Greater Manchester Police said the force had been investigating both incidents.[303]

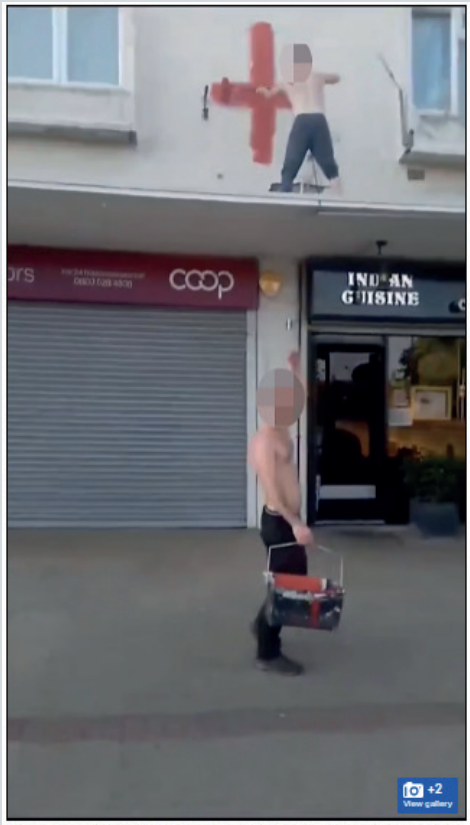
Police are seeking to speak to two people (one pictured, left) in connection with the incident, which they said they were treating as a hate crime. Right, close up of the damage to the mosque. (Screenshot/Avon and Somerset Police/ITV News)

UK: A mosque in Taunton, in southwest England, had its windows smashed in an act of vandalism, prompting police to appeal for information, it was reported on 11 September 2025. The incident occurred in the early hours of the morning on 6 September at the Taunton Central Mosque and Islamic Centre. Sajjad Jabarkhel, who worked at the mosque, said the attack had left the community feeling "hurt." He told ITV News: "There's a sense of hurt and disappointed that this has happened and it comes at a cost, most people have lived here for years and when something like this happens it is painful. In terms of the spirit of the community, they see Taunton as their home."[304]

UK: A deceased pig and an Israeli flag had been found at the entrance of a mosque. The Muslim community at Central Oxford Mosque was left "heartbroken" after the incident. Police had pledged to "do everything" in their power to locate the perpetrator. They report that a solitary man, dressed in a grey tracksuit and balaclava, scaled the Masid fence of the place of worship around 12.35am on 19 August 2025. He is alleged to have affixed pork to the Masjid door handles and hung an Israeli flag on the central door.[305]



As a third person film them and a young girl watches on, racial slurs are hurled as a Muslim woman wearing a headscarf gets out of her car and walks past with a child



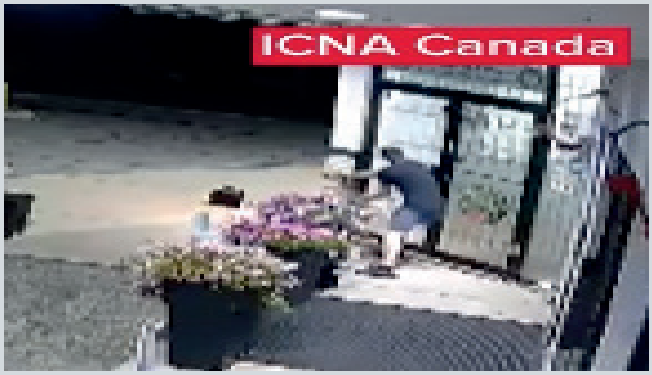
Police have arrested a man after a Muslim woman and her child were allegedly racially abused by people painting St George's crosses on buildings

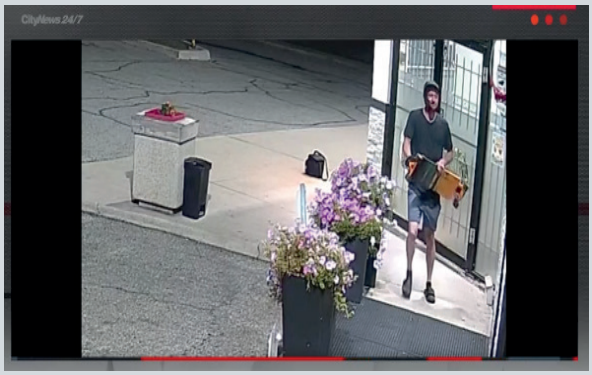
UK: Police have arrested a man after a Muslim woman and her child were allegedly racially abused by people painting St George's crosses on buildings. Footage widely circulated on social media shows two topless men painting red crosses on the white walls of flats above a row of shops and restaurants on a high street in Basildon, Essex. As a third person filmed them and a young girl watches on, racial slurs were claimed to have been hurled as a Muslim woman wearing a headscarf gets out of her car and walks past with a child. The row of shops, off Whitmore Way, features venues such as an Indian restaurant, a Chinese takeaway and a burger bar. Essex Police has confirmed that a man, from Basildon, had been arrested on suspicion of a racially aggravated public order offence and conspiracy to commit criminal damage.[306]

The Islah mosque, in Montreuil, Seine-Saint-Denis, on the outskirts of Paris, was one of the mosques where pigs' heads were discovered. Photograph: Bertrand Guay/AFP/Getty Images

France: At least nine pigs' heads were found outside several mosques in the Paris region on 9 September 2025, the city's police chief said, prompting alarm over rising anti-Muslim hatred. "Pigs' heads have been left in front of certain mosques ... Four in Paris and five in the inner suburbs," Laurent Nuñez told a press conference, adding that officers were not "ruling out the possibility of finding more". Police have opened an investigation into incitement to hatred aggravated by racial or religious discrimination, Nuñez said, calling the acts "despicable".[307]

Netherlands: Nine mosques in the Netherlands had received hate-filled letters smeared with what appeared to be blood, sparking shock and concern among Muslim communities, local media reported on 12 September 2025. The mosques targeted were located in Rotterdam, Eindhoven, Arnhem, Tilburg, and The Hague, according to Dutch daily AD. The letters contained defamatory language, insults, and cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad – seeking to insult by flouting Islam's ban on such representations. "This is a form of intimidation and threat," Joram van Klaveren of the national mosque association K9 told public broadcaster NOS. "The letters are full of hate rhetoric. In Rotterdam, one letter even referred to the 'last days of Islam in Europe'."[308]





Canada: Police in Peel Region were investigating an alleged hate-motivated incident after a Mississauga Islamic centre was vandalized. Surveillance video shows a man using his skateboard in the early hours of 15 August 2025 to break the glass doors of the Mississauga chapter of the Islamic Circle of North America. The president of the centre told OMNI News the man in the video had been seen passing by the location several times and waving at them in a friendly manner prior to the incident. "They told us that they saw this person a number of times here on his skates, and even some people said he said hello to them," said Minhaj Quershi, who adds the Muslim community remains concerned for their safety in the wake of the attack. "This is a hate crime and Islamophobia, because we had nothing before this. After this, the community feels very harassed …even the number of children not coming here for evening schools, for the morning Quran classes, they are afraid."[309]

Canada: It was an emotional rollercoaster at the Stittsville Muslim Association (SMA) on 1 September 2025, with tears, frustration and glimmers of hope. Dozens of community members gathered at their headquarters for a public meeting to address the recent racial slur spray-painted on one of SMA's buildings. The shed-like structure behind their headquarters was targeted on the night of 26 August 2025. Security camera footage shared by the SMA showed a person scrawling something on a wall, then hurrying away. In photos taken the next day, the N-word could be seen on the side of the building, near where kids line their bikes and play basketball. Amir Siddiqi, the SMA's president, said Monday that it's just the latest in a slew of Islamophobic incidents members in the community had faced. The week before vandalism was also one of several recent hateful acts being investigated by Ottawa police. Others have included the assault of a young Muslim woman on an OC Transpo bus and the stabbing of an elderly Jewish woman at a grocery store.[310]

Canada: Police were looking for information after more anti-Muslim graffiti was found on a bench along the waterfront trail in Ajax on 2 September 2025. Durham Regional Police said they were called to the area of Lakeview Boulevard and Poplar Avenue, where officers later discovered the graffiti. A similar hate-motivated graffiti was reported at the same location on August 2025, police said. "We recognize the impact these incidents can have on our community, particularly the Muslim community. Acts that target or instill fear in any group are unacceptable and are taken very seriously," police said in a news release on 3 September 2025.[311]

A car was destroyed in the attack on the mosque, which is being treated as a hate crime *(Sky News)*

Two people Sussex Police want to identify in connects with the suspected arson attack on a mosque in Peacehaven *(Sussex Police/PA Wire)*

UK: Police were treating a fire that caused significant damage to a mosque in East Sussex as suspected arson attack and a hate crime - as detectives released images of two people they wish to identify. The blaze, which broke out shortly before 10pm on 4 October 2025 at a mosque in Peacehaven, damaged the building's front entrance and a vehicle parked outside. No one was injured in the incident, Sussex Police confirmed. The force said footage showed two people wearing masks and dark clothing appearing to approach the front door before spraying accelerant on the entrance of the mosque and igniting a fire.[312]

Muslims in France are shaken after heads of pigs, considered impure in Islam, were found on September 9, 2025 at several mosques in Paris [File: Bertrand Guay/AFP]

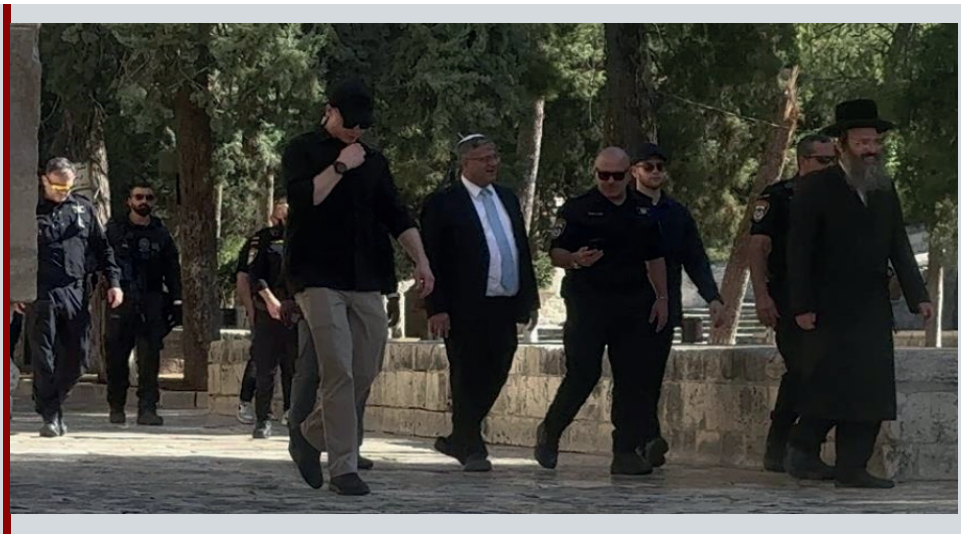
France: On September 8, 2025, nine severed pig heads were scattered on mosque doorsteps across Paris and nearby suburbs in what French authorities investigated as foreign interference. The Paris prosecutor's office reported two individuals in a Serbian-plated car approached a Normandy farmer the evening of September 8 to buy "about 10" pig heads. CCTV footage showed them arriving in Paris's Oberkampf neighborhood. After depositing pig heads at nine mosques, the vehicle crossed into Belgium on September 9. "The pig heads left in front of mosques in the Paris region were placed there by foreign nationals who immediately left the country, with the clear intention of causing unrest within the nation," the Paris Public Prosecutor's Office stated. "The aim is to unsettle our fellow citizens, ultimately raising questions about the country we live in, about their safety, and then, of course, creating divisions between communities," Paris prosecutor Laure Beccuau said.[313]

Australia: A Gold Coast mosque was allegedly targeted in a September 7, 2025, bomb hoax, while the week before a bomb threat forced the Islamic College of Brisbane to evacuate 1,700 students. Muslim community leaders across southern Queensland said they're alarmed by recent weeks' Islamophobia rise, including bomb threats and child-directed abuse.[314]

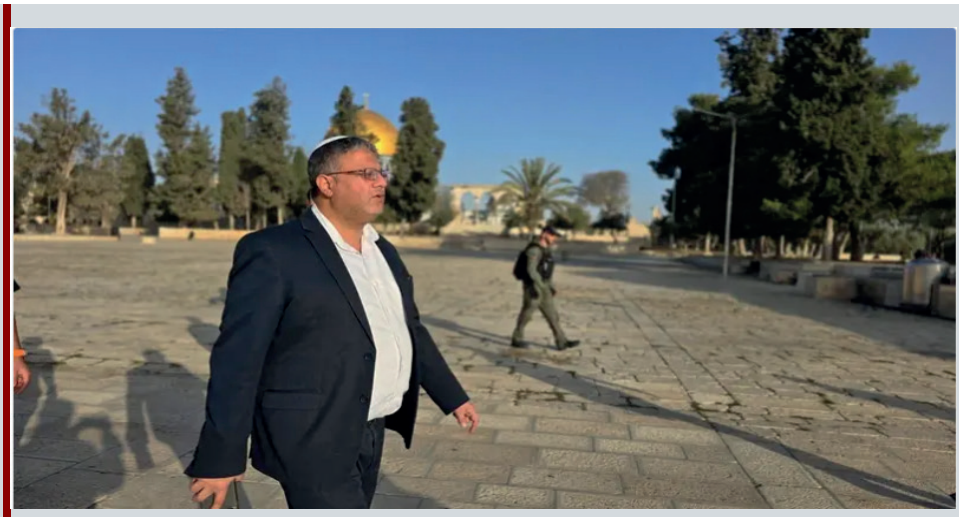
Sweden: A mosque in the town of Hultsfred in southern Sweden was destroyed in a fire overnight Tuesday 23 September 2025, with police treating the incident as suspected arson, local authorities said. The blaze broke out late on 22 September and quickly engulfed the building, which had previously been a church before being converted into a mosque, the Swedish Herald reported. "We do not know how the fire started, but it has burned heavily in the building," Michael Hesselgard of the rescue service said. No injuries were reported, but the structure was reduced to ruins. "The building will be completely destroyed. It will not be possible to use it for anything," Hesselgard said.[315]

Sweden: Swedish police announced on 17 October 2025 that they suspect a hate crime behind a fire at a newly built mosque that occurred on 16 October in the northern city of Lulea. "The building is not completely burned down, but it has fire damage. We suspect it was deliberately set and are investigating it as arson, but there is no suspect at this time," police officer Casey Causevic told broadcaster SVT. There are no reports of injuries in connection with the fire, and the area is cordoned off while police conduct a technical investigation. "We woke up today to a tragic event and a shameful attack that shows hate and evil directed at our mosque in Lulea. We are grateful that no one was hurt, but the damage to the building is evident," the Norrbottens Islamiska Center (NIC) wrote on the US social media company, Facebook.[316]

India: Two Mosques in One Week Demolished in Uttar Pradesh India-Sparking Muslim Anger. Indian authorities demolished a mosque and a sprawling wedding hall in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal district on 2 October 2025, sparking fresh outrage among the Muslim community and marking the second such mosque demolition in the state within four months. The structures, located in Raya Barah village, were torn down using bulldozers under heavy police security, including Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) forces.[317]



The Occupied Palestinian Territory: On 14 October 2025, Far-right Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem for the second time in a week, a Palestinian agency said. Jerusalem's Islamic Endowments Directorate and witnesses said the extremist minister entered the flashpoint site under heavy Israeli police protection. The week before, Ben-Gvir made a similar incursion at the start of the Jewish Sukkot holiday.[318]



The Occupied Palestinian Territory: In a video showing him praying at the compound, in a fresh challenge to a decades-old understanding which allowed only Muslim worship at the site he said "Every house in Gaza has a picture of the Temple Mount, and today, two years later, we are winning on the Temple Mount. We are the owners of the Temple Mount". The video released by his Jewish Power party.[319]

Glasgow Central Mosque said it was "deeply upset" to discover the vandalism

UK: A Glasgow mosque has been vandalised with racist graffiti in a hate crime. Glasgow Central Mosque said it was "deeply upset" to discover "Scots First" had been daubed on a wall outside the building on Adelphi Street. An investigation by Police Scotland had been launched, with the force saying the graffiti was "vile". The incident happened between 17:00 on Sunday and 09:00 on 27 October 2025.[320]

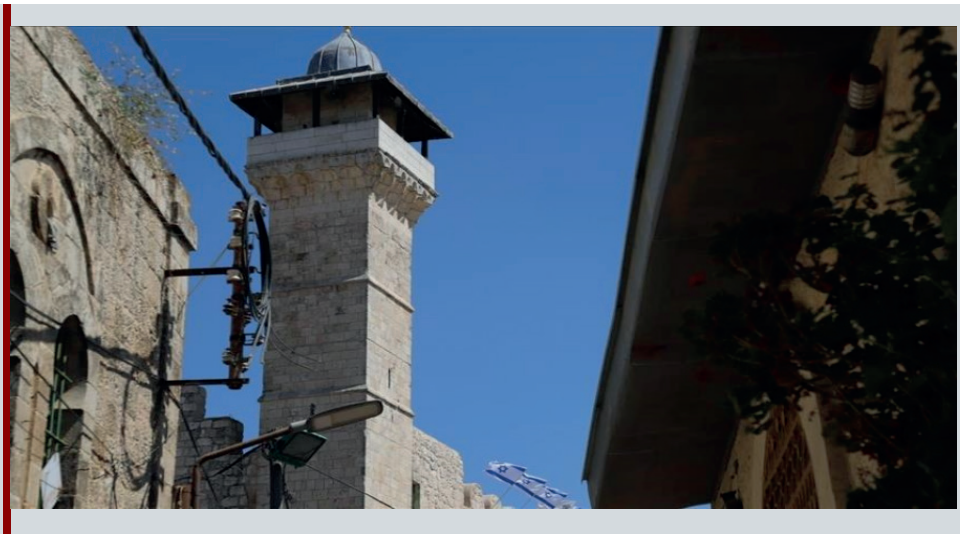
Netherlands: A mosque in Flevoland had been targeted by racists who left a bag of shredded Korans on the doorstep. The bag was found on 9 November 2025 morning outside the Yunus Esme Mosque, one of two in Emmeloord. Flyers were attached to some of the books with slogans such as "stop Islamisation", "No Jihad in the Netherlands" and "No mosque in our street." Omroep Flevoland said the incident was one of several in the past weeks at the mosque, which was next door to a police station on Harmen Visserplein. On 14 November 2025 a dead bird was placed on the doormat shortly before weekly prayers began. The imam had received threatening phone calls from people vowing to destroy the building while people were worshipping inside. "We're going to crush you," the anonymous callers reportedly said. The chair of the mosque, named only as Aslan, said social activities such as children's groups and youth clubs, had been suspended while police investigate the incidents.[321]

Israeli forces surround the al-Hajj Hamid Mosque in the occupied West Bank. *(Issam Rimawi/Anadolu/Getty Images)*

Palestinian men inspect burned property in the mosque. *(Ali Sawafta/Reuters)*

The Occupied Palestinian Territory: Israeli settlers torched a mosque and sprayed it with graffiti in the occupied West Bank on 13 November 2025, according to Palestinian authorities, the latest in a surge of increasingly brazen settler attacks against Palestinians. The Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs said settlers attacked the Hajjah Hamidah Mosque in Salfit in the northern West Bank, calling it a "heinous crime and a blatant assault on the feelings of Muslims. The attack resulted in parts of the mosque being set on fire and defaced with racist graffiti by settler gangs, who carry out daily assaults on Islamic holy sites and citizens' properties amid a systematic escalation in both the frequency and nature of these violations," the ministry statement said. The settlers attacked the mosque early Thursday before morning prayers, according to the Mayor of Deir Istiya. "Many houses and cars were not attacked, but rather the attack was

on a religious symbol to provoke Muslims with offensive phrases against the Prophet [Muhammad] and Muslims," Abdul Rahim Zidan said in an interview with state-run Palestine TV.[322]



The Occupied Palestinian Territory: Israel closes Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, imposes curfew on Palestinians for Jewish holiday Israeli forces had maintained a curfew on Palestinians in the Old City of Hebron in the southern West Bank and closed the Ibrahimi Mosque to Muslim worshippers to allow illegal settlers to mark a Jewish holiday, local activists said on 15 November 2025. The army has enforced the curfew since 14 November morning across multiple neighborhoods of the old city, Aref Jaber, a member of the non-governmental Hebron Defense Committee and a resident of the area, told Anadolu. Jaber said Israeli forces shut military checkpoints leading to the old city and barred all entry and exit.[323]

The Occupied Palestinian Territory: On 24 October 2025, Israeli colonists vandalized the contents of a mosque in Khirbet Tana, a hamlet located near the town of Beit Furik, east of Nablus. Thaer Hanani, an official of the Committee for the Defense of Tana Lands, said the colonists stormed the Bayt Al-Sheikh Mosque and wrecked havoc throughout the property, including what remained of solar power units, and damaged the carpets inside. He added that the colonists also destroyed what remains of Al-Sumoud 3 School, which had already been largely demolished after around 40 families were forced to leave the area earlier this year 2025.[324]

Incident Targeting Muslim Individual

India: A Muslim youth was beaten to death by Bajrang Dal members in Majhola, Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad, on 30 December 2024 after the mob accused him of cow slaughter. The killing of Shahideen Qureshi, a resident of Asalatpura, had sparked tensions in the area. Police have registered a case against the attackerfs after a complaint by Shahideen's brother Shahjad. No arrests had been made. After accusing the Muslim youth of cow slaughter, the Hindutva mob beat him with sticks and rained punches and kicks, leaving him unconscious. A purported video of the horrific attack was circulated online on 31 December. Shahideen was eventually rescued from the mob by police, who rushed him to a nearby hospital. However, despite treatment, he died on 30 December. His body was later handed over to his family.[325]

India: Human rights group MASUM had written to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to take immediate action over an incident of hate crime by a Border Security Force constable. According to a formal complaint filed by MASUM, Hasanur Gazi, a known businessman from Hakimpur in North 24 Parganas district in West Bengal, was subjected to verbal abuse, physical assault and religious hatred by the BSF personnel at Tarali Mini BOP on 09 October 2024. Gazi, a resident of Tarali village and owner of a cycle and auto repair shop, claimed he was stopped and assaulted by a BSF constable, identified as Kuldeep while returning home on his motorcycle. The constable allegedly targeted Gazi's Muslim identity, pulling his beard and making derogatory remarks about his faith. The incident reportedly escalated when the constable dismantled Gazi's motorcycle and threatened him with false accusations under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The constable allegedly refused to relent despite Gazi presenting valid government identification and documentation. Gazi later lodged complaints with local authorities, including the Block Development Officer (BDO) of Swarupnagar and the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Basirhat Police District, but has received no response.[326]

India: Sheikh Tajuddin, a local trader from the Saraikela Kharsawan district of Jharkhand, had never imagined that his Muslim appearance and "dadhi (beard) – topi (skull cap) would make him a target for mob violence. On the morning of 8 December 2024, the resident of Kapali, Ghousnagar, was allegedly attacked by a group of assailants with rods and batons in Sapara village. "My abbu (father) often visited Sapara; it's only six-seven kilometers from our home. Engaged in vegetable and cattle trading, he used to travel between villages," Tabrez, the deceased's son, told TwoCircles.net. Around 10:00 a.m. on 8 December, the family received a call informing them of an accident. However, when they arrived at the hospital, they discovered the tragic truth. Tajuddin had not regained consciousness. His three married daughters stayed by his side, tending to him in his final days. During the intense situation, they did not think to address the legal aspects of the case. Villagers claimed that the attackers accused Tajuddin of animal theft. He was allegedly beaten up black and blue. Once his blood began to flow from his wounds, the mob allegedly dispersed. The 50-year-old was initially taken to Tata Memorial Hospital before being transferred to RIMS in Ranchi, where he succumbed to his injuries on 13 December 2024. "My abba was a devout Muslim, who offered prayers five times a day and often called the azan (Islamic call to prayer) as the mosque was nearby. He was accused of theft, but he was not that kind of person," Tabrez said, with his voice choking tears rolling down on his face after his father's 'Namaz-e-Janaza' (funeral prayer) on December 14. The 24-year-old was too overwhelmed with grief to give further

details about the situation. Tajuddin's nephew, Arshad Ansari, described his uncle as a "noble man" who was easily recognisable as a Muslim. "There was no reason to attack him. He had longstanding ties to the area, and the attackers targeted him in a less crowded location," he said. After the incident, the Adityapur police arrested Mannu Yadav, Chela Yadav, Sanjay Yadav and Gautam Mandal from Sapra village and charged them under sections 126 (2) – wrongful restraint; 115 (2) – voluntarily causing hurt to another person; 117 (2) – intentionally causing grievous hurt; 109 – attempt to commit murder; and 3 (5) – common intention to commit a crime; of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). However, the family believes that more individuals were involved.[327]

India: In Bihar's Kauakol, Nawada, on 24 December 2024, 70-year-old Mohammad Sajjad Ali, the muezzin and secretary of a mosque was brutally killed with a heavy iron rod while he was on his way back home from namaz (prayer). During this attack, three Muslim men and a woman were also severely injured. The rod was hit on his head resulting in his immediate death; he was then taken and thrown on the road. Speaking to the media, Sajjad's son-in-law said, "He was a good man who was returning home without bothering anyone, they dragged and kept hitting him so hard that he eventually passed away."[328]

India: A Muslim man died while he was taken in police custody on 20 January 2025 in Uttar Pradesh Sambhal town. Irfan's body was found at the Ratti police outpost of the Nakasa police station area. The family and hundreds of locals protested Irfan's death alleging foul play and police torture. The visibly distraught wife of the victim, overwhelmed by shock and grief, said to the media, "They took my husband to the police outpost where he was mercilessly beaten to death. We begged them and told them that he is unwell and he should be given some time to take medicines but they didn't listen to us at all." According to the family,

Irfan, who had undergone an operation just a day before, was not allowed to take medicines when four policemen forcefully took him away.[329]

India: In a disturbing incident, a group of young Muslim women was targeted by right-wing Hindutva men at a fair in Uttar Pradesh's Milikhan Jahanpur village of Firozabad city. The incident came to light on Saturday, 9 February 2025 when a video of the intimidation surfaced on social media, igniting widespread condemnation and outrage. The widely circulated video footage shows a man standing behind the Muslim women in black burqas aggressively chanting "Jai Shri Ram" in an apparent act of intimidation. He makes inappropriate gestures towards them singing, "Palat, tera dyan kidar hai, yai tera hero idar hai" (Where is your focus, Your hero is here).[330]

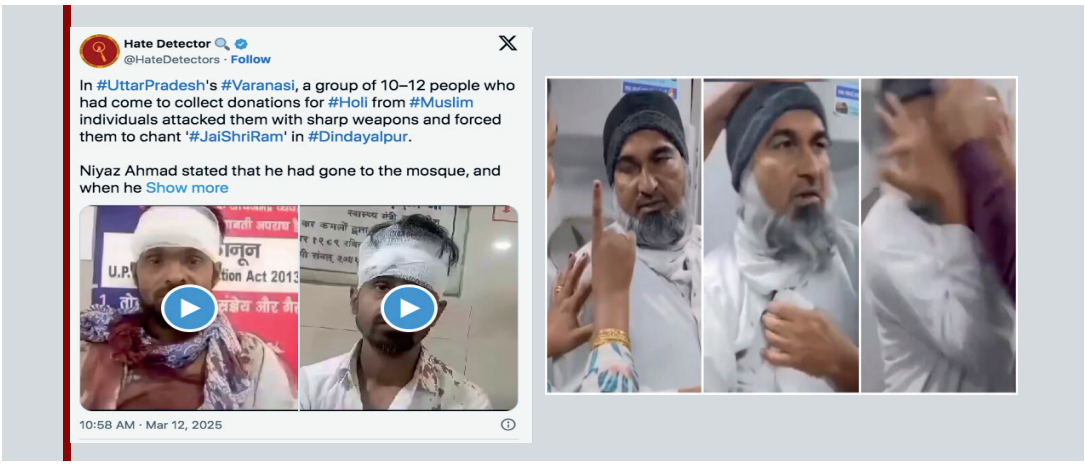
India: A 15-year-old Muslim boy in Assam was allegedly assaulted by individuals claiming to be members of a right-wing organisation on 20 January 2025, after been accused of erasing a 'Jai Sri Ram' graffiti outside his school. The incident, which occurred in the Sadarghat area of Silchar district, reportedly involved

the attackers forcing the boy to chant the communal slogan while filming the assault, which was later shared on social media with inflammatory remarks against Allah, The Siasat Daily reported. The attackers, including students from the victim's school, accused the boy of erasing the graffiti to write the name of "Allah," although he consistently denied any involvement. Despite his pleas of innocence, he was allegedly coerced into accepting responsibility for the act. The video's circulation heightened communal tensions, prompting calls for accountability.[331]

India: On 2 March 2025, During a police raid in a village in Alwar district, Alisba, a one-month-old infant, allegedly died after being crushed under a police officer's foot while sleeping on a cot beside her mother. Imran, a daily-wage laborer, said that while he was sleeping beside two of his three children, his wife was sleeping with their one-month-old daughter, Alisba, who was wrapped in a blanket when the police barged into their house at about 6 am without prior notice. According to reports, in Raghunathgarh village under the Naugaon police station area, the police team that conducted the raid at Imran Khan's house was led by head constables Girdhari and Jagveer, along with constables Sunil, Rishi, and Shahid. When the police failed to address the family's complaint, enraged villagers gathered outside the residence of Alwar SP (Rural), demanding justice and staging a demonstration to protest the alleged brutality. "When I was sleeping on the cot with my infant daughter, the policemen arrived all of a sudden, pulled me out, and sent me out of the room. They also pulled my husband out. They stepped on my infant daughter's head and killed her. This is murder, and I want justice," Razida Khan, mother of the deceased infant, told The Times of India.[332]

India: On 3 March 2025, a group of Muslim men leaving a mosque after Taraweeh prayers in Vatva, Ahmedabad, were attacked with stones and forced at

knifepoint to chant "Jai Shri Ram," eyewitnesses said. The attackers targeted those wearing skull caps, a common identifier of Muslim men. As worshippers exited the mosque, stones rained down from rooftops, causing panic. Some assailants reportedly brandished knives and threatened children, forcing them to chant Hindutva slogans. At least three people were injured, including a 17-year-old boy who was struck in the back by a stone while returning home from work. The attackers allegedly shouted slogans calling for violence against those wearing traditional Muslim attire like kurta-pyjama and skull caps. The sudden assault left the community shaken, with many now fearing for their safety during the late evening Tarawih prayers. When victims tried to file complaints, they alleged that police refused to name any suspects, instead listed them as "unknown persons." A local resident called for increased police surveillance until Eid to ensure the safety of worshippers. "There's a pattern here. When the culprits are arrested, they are booked under Section 189 of BNS and released within half an hour. No one is ever truly held accountable," a witness told The Observer Post.[333]



India:An elderly Maulana was brutally assaulted on a train over allegations of molestation while he was trying to collect donations for a madrasa in Gangapur city, Rajasthan. The attackers accused him of molesting; however, the railway authorities haven't confirmed the allegations yet. According to the family of the victim, he was on his seat, reciting the holy Quran. The family alleged, "Some men boarded the train when Maulana was boarding. They passed derogatory remarks on Muslims while sitting around him making sure that he heard the remarks. Then a woman pointed at the Maulana and called him a Pakistani. When the matter escalated, the TT asked him to come near the door when the two men and the woman started to beat him mercilessly." Maulana is a director at a madrasa in Gangapur city and had gone to Ankaleshwar to collect funds for the madrasa. In the video of the brutal assault, two men and a woman can be

seen misbehaving with the elderly man. The video of the assault was published by Jitendra Pratap Singh, a supporter of Narendra Modi Reacting to the video, Wasim Akram Tyagi wrote on X, "Any hateful extremist travelling in a train considers his right to attack a Muslim after seeing him. A woman made false allegations against an old man and then a mob attacked him."[334]

India: Two Muslim brothers were assaulted with sharp weapons and sticks and forced to chant the Hindu slogan of 'Jai Shri Ram' by a group of about a dozen persons collecting donations for the Holi festival in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi district. The victims had been identified as Niyaz Ahmed and Khurshid Ahmed from Dindayalpur village in the district. According to Niyaz Ahmed, a group of local people had come to his home to collect donations for the Holi festival. He was not at home as he had gone to offer Taraweeh (special night prayers in Ramadan) in a nearby mosque. When he came back home after the prayers, he was attacked by the group from behind after some argument. The group members allegedly hurled abuses and religious slurs at him. The attack left him with severe injuries to his head. As he fell to the ground nearly unconscious his shoulder and back also got hurt. In the viral video wherein Niyaz recounts his ordeal, he is seen with a bandage on his head while his shoulder and shirt are stained with blood. "I know those who attacked me very well. I don't have any animosity with them. I don't even talk to anyone in the area. I'm always engrossed in my work. Even my neighbours know that I don't talk to anyone in the area unnecessarily," Niyaz added. He said that there were 12-15 people who attacked and abused him. As the attack continued, his two brothers intervened and tried to stop the assaulters and in the ensuing melee one of them, Khurshid Ahmed, also was beaten up. Khurshid also suffered multiple injuries to his head and shoulder. Khurshid said he was also forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' and when he resisted, he was thrashed mercilessly with sticks. "We were asked to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'. When we refused, they hit us with sticks. They were also seeking donations for Holi.[335]

India: On 5 March 2025, an elderly Muslim man, Mafikul Islam, from Tofapur village in Farakka, Murshidabad district, was brutally assaulted by a Hindu woman on the Balurghat Express train. The incident, which occurred during the train's journey, had sparked widespread outrage after a video of the attack went viral on social media. In the video, the woman was seen repeatedly slapping Mafikul Islam, who was traveling to work from Dhulian station to Malda, where he sells Ayurvedic medicines. The altercation began at Farakka station and quickly escalated into a physical confrontation. The woman reportedly accused Mafikul Islam of filming her, though no evidence had surfaced to confirm that he was recording her. According to Mafikul, he had little experience with mobile phones, and the woman grabbed his phone and smashed it before subjecting him to verbal abuse and physical assault. The controversy deepened when BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari shared the video on his Facebook page and praised the woman's behavior, a move that only intensified the online backlash. The incident highlights issues of communal tensions and the treatment of individuals in public spaces.[336]

India: On 10 March 2025, in Delhi's Laxmi Nagar, Mohammad Ubaidullah, an Arabic tutor, was attacked by a group of men while returning home after a tutoring session. The assailants, believed to be in their 20s and 30s, stopped his motorbike and attacked him. "They surrounded me, called me 'Kathmulla' and 'Pakistani.' One of them pointed a pistol at me. They dragged me to the ground, kicked me, hurled abuses, and punched me in the eye, leaving it bruised. Somehow, I managed to escape, leaving my bike behind," Ubaidullah told The Observer Post. Despite filing a complaint soon after the attack, Ubaidullah claims no First Information Report (FIR) has been registered yet. He further alleged that his request for CCTV footage from the area was denied.[337]

India: Hundreds of houses belonging to the members of the Muslim community would reportedly be demolished by the authorities after allegations of cow slaughter were levelled in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district. According to Zee Salaam, the authorities were planning to bulldoze over 300 houses owned by members of the Qasai (butchers) community before the Holi festival on 14 March 2025. The residents had already been served with a notice asking them to vacate their homes within three days. The matter was related to the Qasai Mandi in Damoh where the authorities had identified the houses allegedly built without acquiring permission from the local administration. The issue started from the Sitabaoli area where several structures were demolished by the local administration following the 7 March 2025 allegations of cow slaughter. The action was taken after Hindutva groups created a ruckus over the cow slaughter allegations, demanding strict action and the removal of the alleged encroachment from the area. The authorities assured the groups of action in this regard. Soon, the administration moved in the machinery and demolished six large structures.[338]

US: A jury in the US state of Illinois had convicted a man of murder and hate crime charges for the October 2023 stabbing death of a six-year-old Palestinian American boy. Joseph Czuba, 73, who was found guilty on 28 February 2025, faced life in prison when he was sentenced in May for a murder that prosecutors said was prompted by anti-Muslim hatred, and also left the boy's mother critically injured, as stated in court records. The murder of the boy, Wadee Alfayoumi, and the attack on his mother, Hanan Shaheen, was one of the earliest and worst hate crime incidents in the US since the start of Israel's war on Gaza. Czuba, who was the landlord for Shaheen and her son, stabbed the boy 26 times using a military-style knife with a 7-inch (18-cm) serrated blade, authorities said. Shaheen suffered multiple stab wounds in the attack that occurred in Plainfield Township, about 40 miles (64 km) southwest of Chicago. During the trial this week, Shaheen testified that Czuba told her, "You, as a Muslim, must die."[339]

Mohammed Shilleh owns Royal Choice Global Transportation and is co-president of the board for the Bethel Chamber of Commerce. Shilleh says his family endured a hate incident at the Caraluzzi's Bethel Food Market, on Friday, Feb. 14. A man said hateful words towards his mother, wife and 10-year-old daughter, telling them to go "back to where they came from" and then made a rude gesture. Thursday, February 20, 2025, Bethel, Conn.
H John Voorhees III/Hearst Connecticut Media

US: Mohammed Shilleh said his mother was dressed as she normally does when shopping for groceries when his family was harassed by another customer at the Caraluzzi's on Greenwood Avenue. She was wearing a headscarf in observance of her family's Muslim faith when a man whom they do not know, dressed in black, approached them in the parking lot on 14 February 2025. He gave Shilleh's mother the middle finger and told her "to 'go back where you came from' because she was wearing a headscarf," Shilleh said. The man continued to make obscene gestures and hateful remarks as they walked into the store, Shilleh said, and also targeted his wife as well as his 10-year-old daughter and "put the middle finger" in both their faces. A longtime Bethel resident, Shilleh, the owner of Royal Choice Global Transportation and co-president of the board for the Bethel Chamber of Commerce. He said he was upset by the hatred and disrespect the man displayed to his family but was especially bothered by the attack on his daughter. "That's the victim here the 10-year-old girl who was born here, second generation, who was targeted because of an individual whose heart is full of hate, who is misinformed," Shilleh said. Caraluzzi's Family & Associates, which owns the grocery store, characterized the exchanges between the man and the Shilleh family as an argument, which "briefly continued ... with shouting and use of strong language inside the store." They eventually were "told to stop or leave the store for everyone's safety," according to a statement from Caraluzzi's.[340]

India: On 25 March 2025 a Muslim boy was brutally assaulted by police officers while he was returning home after Eid shopping. The 14-year old victim, Aarish said that the policemen were drunk and were in plain clothes who attacked, handcuffed and assaulted him while at the Rampura police outpost while he was fasting. When Aarish's family arrived, he was allegedly threatened by the policemen that he would be taken to jail. Aarish's father, Atiq filed a police complaint at the Kotwali police station accusing the police of torturing his son for no reason. Speaking to the media, Aarish alleged, "When I was returning after Eid shopping on my bike, I was stopped by policemen who thrashed me, pulled my bike keys and took me to the police outpost." The accused have been identified as Vijay and Mahesh. Aarish detailed the assault and alleged that when they saw his skull cap they hit him more with a belt. He added, "When I told them to stop and mentioned I was fasting, they assaulted me even more."[341]

US: A University of Cincinnati student was calling on school leaders and local law enforcement to take action after an Islamophobic letter with threatening

language was sent to her home address. "There's no action being taken," said Laila Shaikh, founder and president of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) at UC. "They just are like, you know, it's not hateful enough for them to consider it any sort of tangible threat." This is actually the second letter she's received from this anonymous author since October. The first, sent to her place of work, included a short message: "Go back to Gaza you fuckin Muslim whore. No one wants you here."[342]

Toronto police seeking these two suspects. **Toronto Police**

Canada: Toronto police said they were looking for two suspects after anti-Muslim slurs were etched on a vehicle in the city the month before. Police said officers were called to the area of Steeles Avenue West and Martin Grove Road at 3:35 a.m. on 26 April 2025. They said a vehicle parked in a driveway was vandalized extensively. The damage consisted of paint and anti-Muslim slurs etched on the vehicle. Two male suspects were captured on the vehicle's video

camera, with one of them wearing a baseball hat, surgical mask and dark clothes, while the other had a moustache, sunglasses and a red or orange jacket.[343]

London police are asking the public for help identifying the suspect in an incident they are calling hate-motivated. The man is described as white, approximately 5'8" with a slim build and was last seen walking southbound on Marconi Boulevard May 29, 2025. (London Police Service)

Canada: On 29 May 2025, a man approached an elderly woman outside her residence near the intersection of Marconi Boulevard and Trafalgar Street in the city's east end. He began yelling at her, hreatened to burn down her home and attempted to spit on her, police said, before walking away southbound on Marconi Boulevard. "The actual nature of the threats made were deemed to be hate-motivated," said Sgt. Sandasha Bough, adding that police will not share specific details until charges are laid.[344]

US: A Muslim woman exclusively told Eyewitness News that she was brutally beaten after a man asked her what her religion was and proceeded to attack her. The attack happened 18 June 2025 on a subway in Queens, a borough known for its diversity. The victim got on the E train at Forest Hills to head to work when a large, hulking man towering over her got in her face nose to nose. "He said tell me where are you from? Are you Muslim? I said yes. And then he punching me, he start to kick, he punch all over," the victim said. As soon as the doors closed, the suspect allegedly pummeled her nonstop until it arrived at the next stop, 75th Avenue. The suspect fled and two women and the conductor helped flag him down for police. Police arrested Naved Durni and charged him with hate crime assault. The terrified 55-year-old woman exclusively told Eyewitness News that she wonders if she'll ever be able to forget her attacker's face. "I just said stop, stop but he not stopping," the victim said. Her eyes were swollen and bruised from the vicious assault. "I couldn't understand what was going on," she said.[345]

US: A man who was assaulted at a Pitt Meadows service station said he was the victim of a hate crime. Abdullah Khan was filling his tank at the Centex gas station at the corner of Lougheed Highway and Harris Road at approximately on 17 June 2025, when another patron of the business noticed the sticker on the back of Khan's vehicle that said "Free Palestine." "Go back home," the stranger said to Khan. Khan accused the man of hate speech, and said he would report him to police. He was shocked by what happened next, as Khan said the man punched him, and threw him to the ground. Khan had his phone in hand, and the man grabbed it and smashed it. "It was a violent attack. It was a shocking attack," he said. Khan was careful to get out of the way of his assailant's pickup as the man left the scene, but was able to get his Alberta licence plate number, and he called police. Originally from Pakistan, he wants the assault to be taken seriously, because it appears to be motivated by hate. He said the other driver was a middle-aged Caucasian man, with a medium build.[346]

Germany: The murder of Rahma Ayad, Algerian nursing trainee, had sparked a wave of anger and protest among Algerians in Germany and beyond. Community members and her family were calling for her killing to be recognised as a racially motivated hate crime, after reports that she had been repeatedly harassed for wearing the hijab and for her Arab background. Rahma was stabbed to death on the morning of 4 July 2025 in the stairwell of her apartment building in Arnum, south of Hanover. According to police and eyewitnesses, neighbours heard her cries for help and alerted authorities. She was found with multiple stab wounds

to her chest and shoulder, and died shortly after emergency services arrived. A German man who lived in the same building was arrested later that day and remains in custody. No formal charges have been filed, and the motive remains officially unconfirmed. However, her family said Rahma had warned them two months earlier that she was been harassed by her neighbour. According to a report by Al-Araby TV channel, Rahma's mother confirmed that she felt unsafe due to his behaviour, which included verbal abuse linked to her wearing the hijab and been of Arab origin.[347]

US: On 9 August 2025, A man was captured on camera shouting at families outside the front of the Islamic Cultural Center of New York, according to CAIR-CT. The group said the man, who stopped his car, shouted "insults attacking Islam and the Prophet Muhammad."[348]

Australia: Members of one of Australia's largest mosques said they had received death threats since plans for new loudspeakers to broadcast the Muslim call to prayer sparked public backlash over "intrusive noise" and property price concerns. Security measures had ramped up at Lakemba Mosque in Sydney's west amid an ongoing planning row centred on a $22,000 proposal by the Lebanese Muslim Association to add four new loudspeakers to the mosque's prominent minaret. The proposal involved using the loudspeakers to play the Adhan call to prayer once a week, on Fridays, for up to 15 minutes at a time. But the plans have hit a major hurdle: Canterbury-Bankstown Council is expected to refuse the development application (DA) at a meeting the week after due to concerns over "significant noise" and "unacceptable amenity impacts" that were raised in public submissions. Lebanese Muslim Association secretary Gamel Kheir said what was intended to be a straightforward development application has turned into a planning quagmire, with the mosque receiving online abuse from those opposed to the proposal. Kheir said the abuse had included death threats, resulting in the mosque investing in new security measures, including additional CCTV cameras.[349]

UK: Police Scotland were investigating an alleged 'hate crime' against a Muslim schoolgirl in Newton Mearns. According to a social media post by the Newton Mearns Islamic Centre and other local groups, a young girl was walking home from Eastwood High School on 8 September 2025 afternoon when she was confronted by a man on Harvie Avenue. The man was alleged to have assaulted the girl and was said to have made "threatening comments" against Muslims. The groups said they had contacted Police Scotland and local politicians about the

incident. They added: "In collaboration with East Renfrewshire Muslim Forum (ERMF), we have reached out to the family of the girl to offer our support.350

A 29-year-old man from Southsea has been arrested. Image: screengrab/Facebook/Abz Kay

UK: A man had been arrested on suspicion of assault and possession of a knife in a public place after allegedly hurling racist abuse at families praying outside a mosque in Portsmouth, punching one man in the chest and pulling a knife when asked to leave. On 31 August 2025, a man approached Portsmouth Jami Mosque and Islamic Centre, situated opposite a local primary school. He reportedly shouted racial abuse at a group of men, women and children – including a toddler – who were praying outside the mosque. A member of the group asked the man to leave them alone and was reportedly punched in the chest. The man then pulled out a large knife and menaced two men from the group with it. Portsmouth police have confirmed that an investigation had been launched, and a knife located in the area has been seized by police. No one was seriously injured during the incident.[351]

UK: On 4 October 2025, Three schoolgirls were reportedly threatened after leaving a mosque. The three muslim girls, understood to be aged 14, 12 and 11, reportedly left a class at Abdullah Qualiam Mosque in Liverpool and were threatened with a pair of scissors on their way home. Merseyside Police were called to Boaler Street in Kensington on at around 1.50pm after they were threatened by a woman with a pair of scissors in the area. The victim was not struck and "made off to safety on foot".[352]

Al Furqan Education Trust is a charity in Hounslow *(Image: Google)*

UK: An imam at a west London mosque was in hospital after allegedly been stabbed in an unprovoked attack. Police were called to a hospital where a man in his 30s arrived with a knife wound on 22 September 2025. Al Furqan Education Trust, a charity and community centre in Hounslow, had identified the victim as Imam Sheikh Mohamed Yusuf. The trust said the religious leader was "the victim of an unprovoked stabbing" in a "deeply distressing incident". It added that the motive for the attack "remains unknown". A spokesperson for the Al Furqan Education Trust, Hounslow, posted to X: "Our community experienced a deeply distressing incident involving our Imam, Imam Yusuf, who was the victim of an unprovoked stabbing … Alhamdulillah's, he is currently in a stable condition in hospital and receiving the appropriate care."[353]

UK: A Muslim family in Loughton, Essex, had been living in a state of fear

and trauma after a pig's head was dumped on their doorstep, an incident they were calling a deliberate Islamophobic attack. The mother, who had asked to remain anonymous for safety reasons, and her daughters, said the discovery on 14 September 2025 had shattered their sense of security in their own home. "We were literally just waking up. I teach madrasa on a Sunday, so I wake up earlier than my daughters, and it just happened that children were making a loud noise outside, and I was just concerned," the mother told The Muslim News. "There was such a commotion outside my door. I look out the window, I saw something, but I didn't know what they were looking at." She continued, describing the grim discovery "I went downstairs, and I had a look and as soon as I saw it, there was blood smeared across my foot and doorway. I had to walk over to see what else was there. And then there it was, a pig's head lying there." The police were called and arrived "within 20 minutes," classifying the incident as a "hate crime or a racial crime. Racial hatred crime, but they didn't call it Islamophobic as such." However, the mother is certain, stating "100%" that it was an Islamophobic attack, noting, "we're the only Muslim family on my street."[354]

UK: A mosque window was smashed on 24 September 2025 evening as children attended classes inside an East Renfrewshire community centre. According to a statement by Masjid Yusuf at Clarkston Community Centre, the "disturbing" incident occurred around 5.30pm. The statement read: "During the children's classes, an unknown individual smashed a mosque window from the outside with a metal pole.[355]

India: Three volunteers from Muhiyidheen Juma Masjid, Vizhinjam, were stabbed while attempting to dispose of beef waste. The attack took place around 11pm on 2 October 2025, when unidentified assailants confronted the volunteers, demanding to inspect the waste being disposed. Despite the volunteers explaining that it was food waste from a mosque festival, tensions escalated, resulting in a violent altercation. Abdul Razak, Abdul Vahid, and Sulaiman, sustained serious injuries. The assailants fled the scene. Police registered a case and intensified their search to apprehend the suspects involved in the attack.[356]

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board says it's alerted police after a 'hateful act of anti-Palestinian, Islamophobic, and antisemitic graffiti' occurred last week at Brookfield High School. (Gabrielle Huston/CBC)

Canada: Parents and advocates were calling on the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board to address anti-Palestinian racism after hateful graffiti was found the week beforeat a local high school. "It's one thing to hear about it, but it's another to see the pictures," said one parent of a Palestinian student at Brookfield High School. The images depicted in one of the school's washrooms included a drawing of a pig with the word "Allah" written above it, derogatory and offensive language targeting Palestinians, and a swastika. CBC News has decided not to publish photos of the graffiti or the identity of the parent, who spoke on the condition of anonymity out of concern for her son's safety. "It felt extremely infuriating and disgusting to see so much hate in our school system," she said, adding that her son was now afraid to enter the school washrooms. She added that she learned about the graffiti through social media before being informed by the school.[357]

-Credit:Walsall

UK: A woman was reportedly racially abused as she shopped with her ten-month-old baby. The scary ordeal saw the victim, who was muslim, approached by a man as she walked towards a shop at a retail park near Bescot Crescent in Walsall. She claims that the man made a noise before spitting at her, with his saliva landing on her coat. The disgusting act was followed by the man using a racial slur. The mum had told how the ordeal has left her feeling unsafe in Walsall, where she had lived all her life. Speaking about the incident, which happened on 27 October 2025, she said: "I went to Bescot retail park with my 10-month-old baby this morning. As it is a fairly busy retail park and was during the morning time and school holidays, I felt it was safe for me and my daughter to go alone, as we often do. As I came out of one shop to make my way towards another, I saw a tall white male on his own walking towards us. I thought nothing of it. When he got a little closer I noticed he was looking straight towards us. As he approached, I heard him make a noise as if to clear his throat and he then spat at me, on my coat. I was in shock as it was completely unprovoked and especially given that I had my baby with me in the pushchair. I almost felt it was an accident at first. He then called me a dirty ****. I froze in shock as he carried on walking as if nothing had happened." The woman continued: "As I had my daughter with me and was worried if he would turn back to us and do or say something more, I returned to my car. It was frightening and has made me very nervous to go out alone with my daughter. I was born and raised in Walsall, and my parents are British too, and so I find it quite shocking to hear racist remarks, but I have noticed this is becoming more and more common as time goes on, especially within the West Midlands area. It is sad to say but as an Asian woman, I no longer feel safe in the area."[358]

UK: The Metropolitan Police were investigating reports a man racially abused Green Party deputy leader Mothin Ali and told him he should be "deported". Leeds councillor Ali said on social media he was wearing Islamic clothing on his way through Earl's Court Station in West Lodon, on Wednesday, when a "racist thug" threatened to "smash my head in". The 43-year-old said he went to police after a friend urged him to speak out, adding this is "too much of a regular experience for Muslims in Britain". The Met Police said it had launched an investigation into "allegations of racial abuse" and was reviewing footage from Ali and station CCTV. No arrests had been made.[359]

US: On 14 November 2025, Acting University President Claire Shipman, condemned Islamophobic and anti-Arab harassment and discrimination in a email after a reported 7 November 2025 hate crime. Shipman wrote in the email to the Columbia community that the suspect, who was unaffiliated with the University, "made derogatory comments regarding our student's niqab and proceeded to harass and follow her down the street." Public Safety issued a Clery crime alert to the University community on Nov. 7 about a reported "intimidation incident" that occurred on 116th Street and Broadway, which was being investigated as a hate crime. The alert reads that the suspect approached the student and continued to yell "discriminatory comments" when they attempted to leave. Shipman wrote that the incident was referred to the New York Police Department. "Let me be clear: we have no room for this kind of hate at Columbia," Shipman wrote in the email. "Anti-Muslim hate, anti-Arab hate, on or off campus, is categorically unacceptable. More broadly, incidents like these speak to a moment in our history where tolerance and acceptance are precariously low."[360]

Incident Targeting Copies of the Holy Qur'an

France: A man stormed into a mosque in the central French city of Clermont-Ferrand, tore up copies of the Quran, vandalized the premises and issued threats in front of worshippers, authorities and the Paris Grand Mosque said. In a statement on social media company X on Monday, the Paris Grand Mosque expressed its "deepest dismay" over the attack, calling it an "unacceptable" act of hatred targeting Muslims.[361]

US: Police at the University of Houston were investigating a complaint against a man who interrupted a Muslim Students Association gathering during prayer the week before and threw a copy of the Islamic holy book, the Quran, into a bonfire. The Quran was saved from the fire by a member of the association before it was fully burned, the group said. The incident was captured on video and posted on social media accounts under the name Christopher Svochak, who posts videos of himself preaching Christianity on college campuses and arguing with students. All three of his pinned Instagram posts showcase his confrontations with Muslims. His bio on the platform reads: "Follower of Christ." "What happened was not an interruption," the Muslim Students Association wrote on social media following the incident. "It was a direct attack on our community, our faith, and our sense of safety at the University of Houston."[362]

Incident Related to Hijab

France: On 31 January 2025, A French judge expelled Tunisian-French activist Hager Barkous from a courtroom in Nice because she was wearing a hijab. Barkous, had attended the hearing of a fellow activist on trial for incitement to hatred after calling for a boycott of a restaurant whose owners were Zionists. Speaking to Anadolu, Barkous, who heads the association Friends of Palestine, described the incident as shocking and discriminatory. "I went to the court to show support and solidarity with my friend. I sat quietly at the back of the room," she said. "The judge, Christian Legay, entered, barely looked at the people present, and then turned to me, saying: 'You who wear a veil, leave the room now because you are not recognizable and not identifiable'." She initially did not realize she was being addressed, but as people turned to her, she understood she was the target. "I was stunned. The judge then shouted, 'You get out now! You must leave when I say you get out'," she recalled. Despite her protests, four police officers escorted her outside, telling her she had to comply with the judge's orders. "I realized that in 2025, in France, I was a victim of discriminationby a

judge, someone meant to uphold justice, liberty, fraternity, and secularism," she said. Outside the courtroom, Barkous saw three students, likely from a local school, who had also left. One of them, a veiled girl, was in tears. "She told me she followed me because she was afraid the judge might also expel her in front of her entire class," Barkous said.[363]

India: On the first day of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations at Jaffrey English High School, several students were reportedly forced to remove their Hijabs before entering the examination hall, on 21 February 2025 in Mumbai's Jafry Nagar. The incident had stirred outrage among students and their families, who claimed the measures caused unnecessary mental stress and discomfort.[364]

India: A Muslim woman was allegedly assaulted and stripped of her hijab, while the Hindu man accompanying her was beaten by a group of men in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar on Saturday. A video of the incident went viral on social media, triggering widespread outrage. In the video, a man was seen forcibly removing the woman's hijab as others shout abuses, harass and physically assault both her and the man she was with.The incident took place in the city's Khalapar area when the duo, riding a bike, were returning from Sujroo village after collecting a loan EMI. According to the police complaint, the woman said she had been accompanying one of her mother's colleagues to collect an EMI on behalf of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank when they were stopped and attacked. "A group of 8-10 men started verbally abusing me and also physically assaulted me and the man who was accompanying me. The accused also pulled my burqa and clothes as I struggled to save myself. They also recorded a video of the attack and threatened to make the incident viral," she stated.Based on the complaint, police registered an FIR at Khalaapar Police Station. Six individuals have been arrested so far.[365]

Canada: A Canadian Muslim woman was targeted at a public library on 22 March 2025 in what police called an unprovoked attack by a woman who tried to remove and set the woman's hijab on fire. Durham Regional Police officers responded to an assault call at the Ajax Public Library in Ontario, about 50 miles east of Toronto, at around 12 p.m. Saturday. "Officers spoke with the victim who advised she was in the library studying when she was approached by an unknown female," police said in a news release published on 23 March. "The female began yelling profanities at the victim and throwing objects at her head." Police said the attacker also tried to remove the victim's hijab and poured "an

unknown liquid on it" before she grabbed a lighter and tried to set the hijab on fire. The victim screamed for help, and the library's security intervened, police said. "The suspect fled the library but was located by officers a few hours later and taken into custody without incident," police said. Kaley-Ann Freier, was arrested and charged with two counts of assault with a weapon and three counts of failure to comply with a probation order, police said, adding that "she was held for a bail hearing."[366]

Endnotes

Endnotes

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