



منظمة التعاون الإسلامي

ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION
ORGANISATION DE COOPÉRATION ISLAMIQUE

SEVENTEENTH OIC REPORT ON

ISLAMOPHOBIA

January – December 2024

PRESENTED TO THE
51ST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL
OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

ISTANBUL
THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE
21-22 JUNE 2025





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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 gather for the 51st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in Istanbul, I am privileged to introduce the 17th Annual Report on Islamophobia. This vital document represents the culmination of extensive research and monitoring conducted by the OIC Islamophobia Observatory, functioning under our Political Affairs Department in the General Secretariat. In an era where religious intolerance continues to evolve and take new forms, this Observatory's work in tracking incidents of anti-Muslim bias, discrimination, and hatred has become increasingly critical. The OIC maintains its unwavering dedication to utilizing these findings as a powerful instrument for advocating change and supporting Muslim communities facing challenges worldwide.

The preparation of this comprehensive analysis fulfills one of our organization's core responsibilities - vigilant monitoring and reporting of Islamophobic incidents to our Member States. This year's report carefully documents and analyzes the numerous challenges confronting Muslim communities since our last gathering, providing a detailed examination of how anti-Muslim sentiment manifests in various societal contexts. We envision this document serving as both a warning bell and a guidebook for policymakers, advocates, and leaders committed to fostering interfaith harmony.

Recent global developments have transformed Islamophobia into an even more complex challenge threatening social harmony and human dignity. The intersection of geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainties, and the rapid spread of misinformation through digital platforms has created fertile ground for anti-Muslim prejudice to flourish. We have witnessed the alarming trend of political actors increasingly exploiting Islamophobic rhetoric for electoral gain, while extremist groups continue to propagate hatred through sophisticated online campaigns.

The human cost of these developments has been profound. Our communities have endured an intensifying wave of mosque attacks, discriminatory policies, workplace harassment, and educational barriers. Particularly concerning is the rise in gendered Islamophobia, targeting Muslim women who face multiple layers of discrimination. The increasing normalization of anti-Muslim rhetoric in public discourse has emboldened acts of hatred, creating an environment where even children in schools face bullying and alienation based on their faith.

To address these evolving challenges, we require a renewed, multifaceted strategy that adapts to contemporary realities. This must encompass strengthened hate crime legislation, enhanced digital literacy programs to combat online hate speech, and innovative educational initiatives that promote understanding across faith communities. The international community must recognize that the fight against Islamophobia is inseparable from the broader struggle for human rights and dignity.

The OIC continues to expand its network of partnerships and initiatives in this crucial fight. We have intensified our engagement with technology companies to address online hate speech, collaborated with educational institutions to develop anti-bias curricula, and worked alongside governments to strengthen protective legislation. These efforts reflect our understanding that combating Islamophobia requires a whole-of-society approach. Our findings this year paint a complex picture of persistent challenges and emerging threats. Beyond traditional forms of discrimination, we have observed sophisticated attempts to institutionalize anti-Muslim bias through legislation and social policies. The weaponization of secularism to target Muslim religious practices has become increasingly common, while

the intersection of Islamophobia with other forms of discrimination has created new vulnerabilities for our communities.

The documented cases against Islam and Islamic symbols have evolved into coordinated campaigns designed to provoke and divide communities. These incidents, often livestreamed and amplified through social media, demonstrate how traditional forms of religious hatred have adapted to the digital age, requiring equally sophisticated responses from our member states and international partners.

This report serves as more than a documentation of challenges - it provides a blueprint for action. By analyzing successful interventions and identifying emerging threats, we offer policymakers and community leaders with statistic and information that may lead to right practical tools for countering Islamophobia. It also suggest a recommendation emphasizing on the importance of building resilient communities while promoting interfaith dialogue and cultural exchange.

I present this 17th Annual Report on Islamophobia with a sense of urgency and hope. While the challenges we face are significant, our collective resolve to combat Islamophobia has never been stronger. I call upon all Member States to study these findings carefully and implement robust measures to protect religious freedom and promote inclusive societies. The path forward requires sustained commitment, innovative solutions, and unwavering dedication to our shared values of justice and human dignity.



TREND ON ISLAMOPHOBIA (January - December 2024)



TREND ON ISLAMOPHOBIA

(January - December 2024)

Islamophobia continues to manifest as a multifaceted phenomenon characterized by negative sentiments, prejudice, and discriminatory practices directed not only toward Muslims as individuals but also toward Islamic symbols, practices, and institutions. During the twelve-month period from January to December 2024, the OIC Islamophobia Observatory has meticulously monitored and documented various manifestations of Islamophobia globally, tracking incidents ranging from micro-aggressions to institutionalized discrimination and violent attacks.

The Observatory's monitoring have revealed that Islamophobia persists across diverse geographical, political, and social contexts. While more pronounced in societies where Muslims constitute a minority, Islamophobic sentiments have also been observed within Muslim-majority countries. Contributing factors include domestic political dynamics, immigration debates, economic anxieties, security concerns, and international events that trigger reactionary responses.

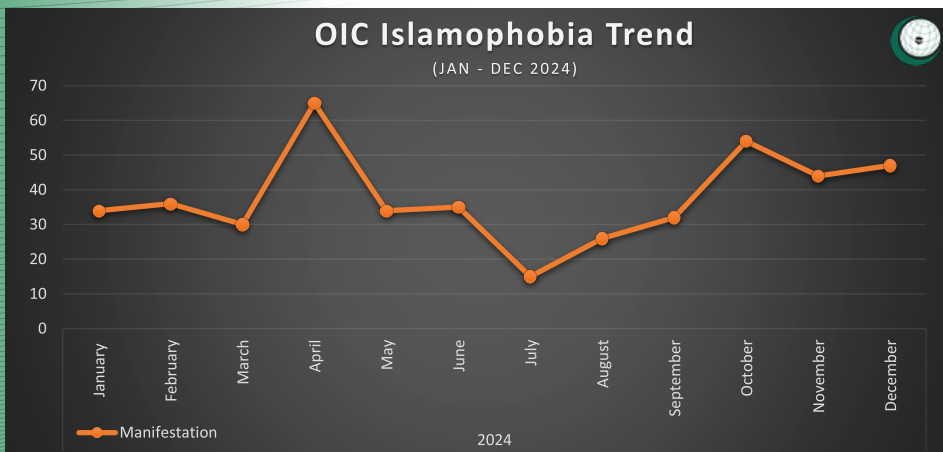
Throughout this period, the Observatory has employed comprehensive monitoring methodologies, analyzing news reports, social media discourse, legislative developments, policy changes, and public statements that either exhibit or combat Islamophobic tendencies. Its tracking has extended beyond individual incidents to identify broader patterns and structural manifestations of anti-Islam sentiment.

This report aims to provide Member States with actionable insights into current Islamophobia trends, facilitating the development of targeted interventions and policies. By identifying common patterns, emerging challenges, and regional variations, the report may serve as a critical resource for policymakers, diplomats, community leaders, and civil society organizations committed to countering Islamophobia and promoting religious tolerance, understanding, and respect for Muslim communities worldwide.

The following is the summary of trend on Islamophobia during the 12-months period, from January to December 2024:

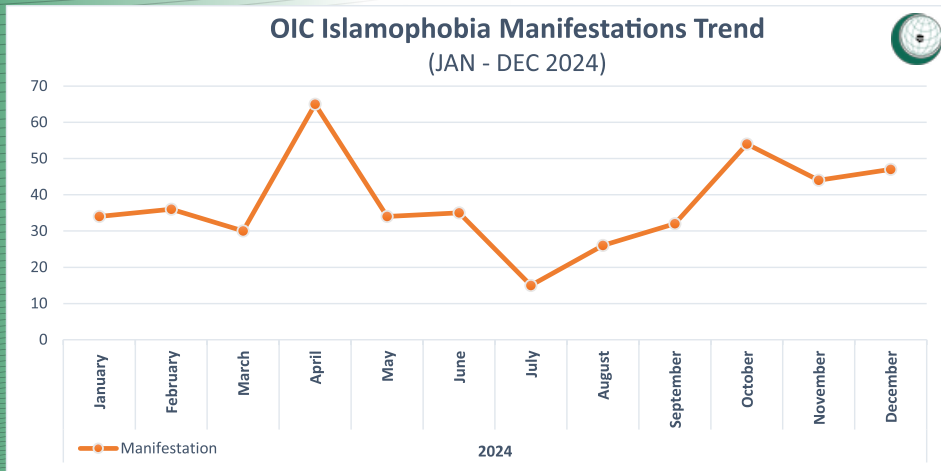
The trend of Islamophobic incidents throughout 2024 reveals a concerning pattern characterized by fluctuating but persistent manifestations worldwide. Beginning in January and February, the Observatory observed a relatively stable level of incidents, suggesting an entrenched baseline of anti-Islam sentiment that persists even during periods of relative geopolitical calm. This consistency points to the institutionalized nature of Islamophobia that operates independently of triggering events, embedded within certain societal structures and discourse.

March showed a slight decline before April witnessed a dramatic spike, representing the highest peak of the year. This April surge likely corresponded with heightened tensions in various regions, possibly connected to religious observances or political developments. May and June then showed a regression to baseline levels, suggesting a temporary normalization following the April escalation.



July's notable decline in reported incidents—reaching the lowest point of the year—coincided with India's temporary shift in political focus toward domestic economic reforms rather than religious polarization, while France experienced a brief respite following its controversial legislative elections. However, this lull was quickly reversed as August and September witnessed a steady increase in Islamophobic manifestations, particularly in the United Kingdom where debates over immigration policy intensified, and in Germany where far-right demonstrations targeting Muslim communities

gained momentum. The United States also saw escalating anti-Islam rhetoric as presidential campaign activities intensified, with several candidates employing Islamophobic tropes to mobilize support among certain voter demographics.

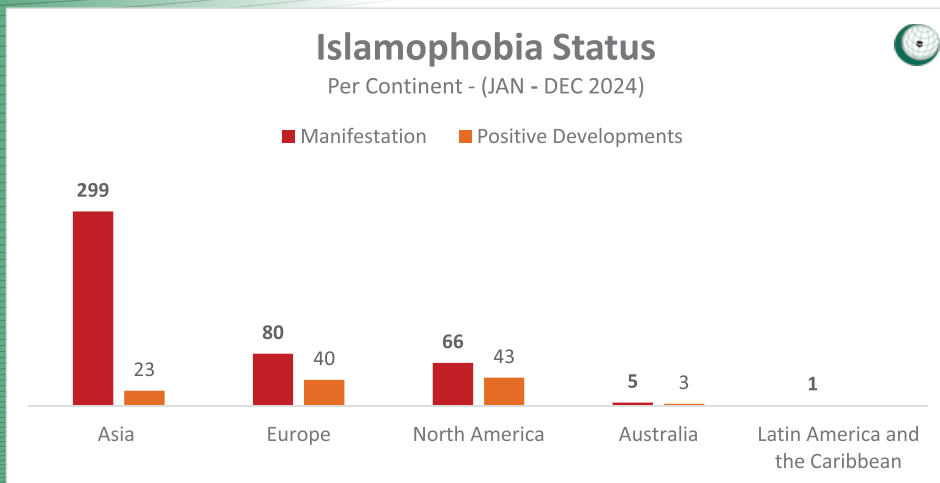


October represents the second major spike of the year, coinciding with the first anniversary of the Gaza conflict, which triggered a wave of repression against pro-Palestinian activists across Western nations, particularly in Canada and the United States. In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, settler violence against Muslims reached new heights amid reduced international scrutiny. The sustained high levels through November and December reflect India’s implementation of controversial citizenship policies disproportionately affecting Muslims and France’s expansion of “anti-separatism” measures, following the adoption of Anti-Separatism Bill in 2020, of which many French Muslims said the law limits religious freedom and unfairly targets them. This persistent elevation across these hotspots indicates how global triggers interact with local political dynamics to create self-reinforcing cycles of Islamophobia that become increasingly difficult to dismantle once established.

Looking at the pattern of Islamophobic incidents throughout the observed period, the Observatory identified a concerning trajectory that reflects the volatile nature of anti-Islam sentiment globally. The year demonstrated a bimodal distribution with major peaks in April and October, suggesting seasonal or event-driven catalysts for Islamophobic expression. This pattern reveals how specific triggering events can rapidly mobilize anti-Muslim

sentiment, creating sharp escalations that subsequently establish new, elevated baselines even after immediate tensions subside.

The comparative analysis between the first and second halves of 2024 indicates a troubling evolution. While the first half showed significant but isolated spikes followed by returns to baseline levels, the latter half demonstrates a more sustained elevation after October's peak, with November and December maintaining higher incident levels than were observed in the early months of the year. This suggests a progressive normalization of Islamophobic discourse and practices as the year advanced, with each cycle of escalation reinforcing and entrenching anti-Muslim sentiment rather than allowing for complete de-escalation. This trajectory underscores the urgent need for comprehensive approaches that address both immediate manifestations and the structural underpinnings of Islamophobia across social, political, and media landscapes before these elevated patterns become further normalized in public consciousness and institutional practices.



The geographic distribution of Islamophobia across continents during January-December 2024 reveals Asia as the epicenter of anti-Islam incidents, with manifestations dramatically outpacing positive developments in the region. This troubling dominance reflects the intensification of religious nationalism in countries like India, where state-sanctioned discrimination against Muslims has become increasingly normalized, and in Myanmar, where the Rohingya continue to face systemic persecution. The stark disparity between manifestations and positive developments in Asia indicates an alarming institutionalization of Islamophobia embedded

within governmental policies and social structures across the region.

Europe emerges as the second most significant hotspot for Islamophobic incidents, though notably, it demonstrates a more balanced ratio between negative manifestations and positive developments compared to Asia. The high rate of incidents can be attributed to the resurgence of far-right political movements in countries like France, Germany, and Sweden, where anti-immigration sentiment often manifests as Islamophobia. However, the substantial positive developments in Europe reflect the region's robust civil society organizations, legal protections against discrimination, and growing interfaith initiatives that actively counter Islamophobic narratives and policies. These counterbalancing forces suggest that while Islamophobia remains prevalent, Europe has developed more effective institutional responses to combat it.

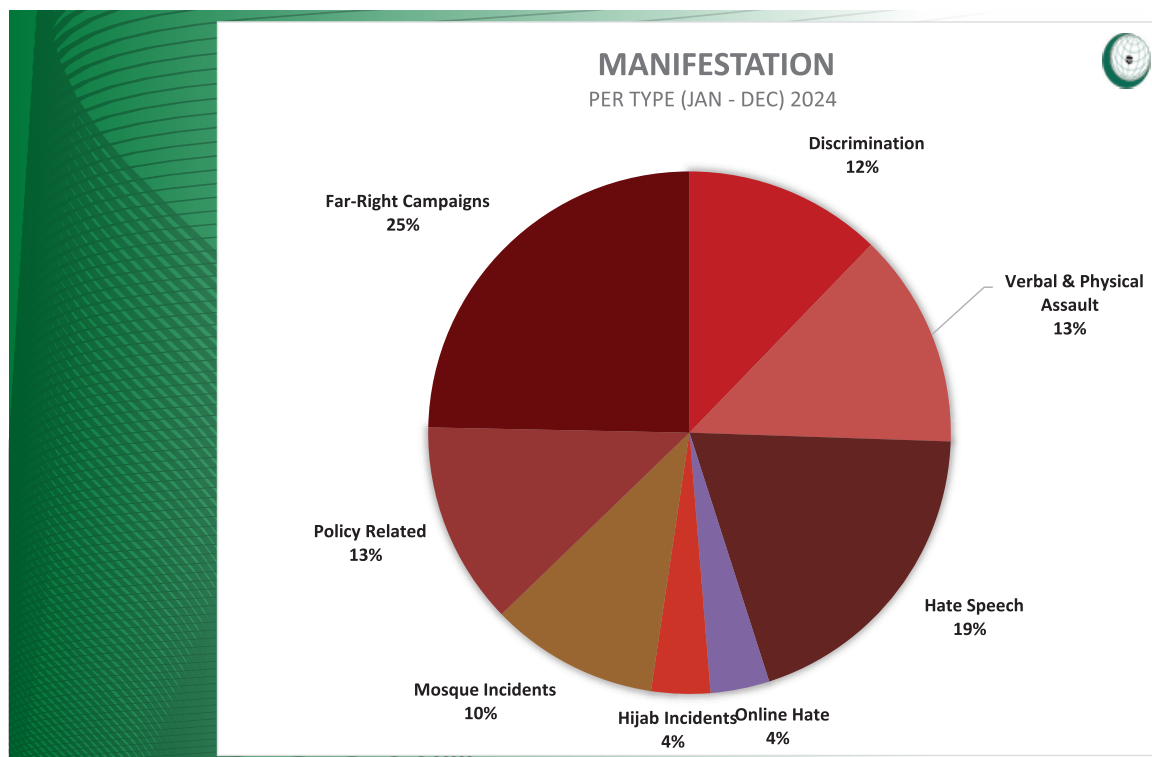
North America presents a complex picture with fewer overall incidents than Asia or Europe, but with a notable balance between Islamophobic manifestations and positive developments. This pattern indicates a polarized landscape where anti-Muslim rhetoric and hate crimes persist, particularly in regions with strong political populism, while simultaneously, progressive advocacy groups, inclusive policy initiatives, and legal protections function as effective countermeasures. The relative equilibrium between negative and positive developments in North America suggests a society engaged in active contestation over the treatment of Muslim communities, with neither Islamophobic forces nor their opponents gaining decisive momentum during this period.

Australia stands out as a region with remarkably few recorded incidents of both Islamophobic manifestations and positive developments. This pattern could reflect Australia's relatively smaller Muslim population compared to other regions, resulting in fewer documented incidents. However, the minimal positive developments suggest a concerning lack of proactive measures to address existing Islamophobia. This feature indicates that while overt Islamophobia may be less visible in Australia, the absence of robust counter-measures might mask more subtle forms of discrimination and exclusion that remain inadequately addressed through formal institutional channels or community initiatives. Australia's situation underscores how

the absence of visible conflict does not necessarily indicate genuine social cohesion or inclusion.

Latin America and the Caribbean region exhibits the lowest incidence of Islamophobic manifestations across all continents, with virtually negligible recorded cases throughout the year. This pattern likely reflects the relatively small Muslim populations in most countries across the region, resulting in less visibility and fewer opportunities for anti-Muslim sentiment to manifest in public discourse or institutional policies. However, the equally minimal positive developments suggest a lack of proactive measures specifically designed to protect Muslim communities or promote their inclusion. This absence of both negative and positive indicators points to a concerning invisibility of Muslim experiences in regional discourse, potentially masking underlying tensions or discrimination that remains undocumented due to limited monitoring infrastructure or advocacy networks focused on Islamophobia in this part of the world.

The comparative analysis across continents reveals troubling disparities in the intensity of Islamophobia and the robustness of counteracting measures. The overwhelming concentration of incidents in Asia, where positive developments lag significantly behind manifestations, stands in stark contrast to regions like Europe and North America, where counter-measures more substantially balance negative trends. This global pattern suggests that while Islamophobia remains a worldwide phenomenon, its expression and the societal response to it vary dramatically across different cultural, political, and religious contexts. These regional disparities underscore the need for context-specific approaches to combating Islamophobia that address the unique historical, social, and political factors driving anti-Muslim sentiment in each region while strengthening transnational solidarity networks that can share effective strategies for countering discrimination and promoting inclusion across diverse settings.



Far-right campaigns represent the largest category of incidents, constituting approximately a quarter of all documented cases during the observed period. This suggests a significant organized effort rather than just isolated incidents, pointing to coordinated activities targeting Muslim communities. The prominence of these campaigns indicates a concerning trend of systematic Islamophobia and anti-Islam activism.

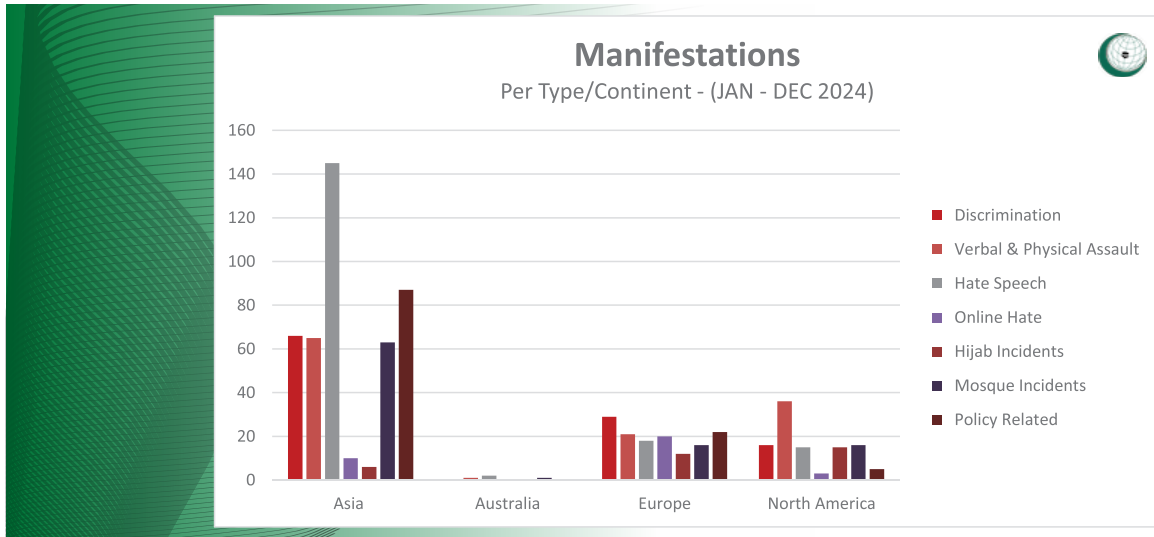
Hate speech follows closely as the second most common manifestation, representing about a fifth of all incidents. This highlights how rhetoric and language continue to be primary vehicles for Islamophobia, occurring across various platforms and contexts. When combined with online hate, which appears as a separate smaller category, it becomes clear that verbal and written expressions of anti-Islam sentiment remain pervasive across both physical and digital spaces.

Discrimination and verbal/physical assault share similar proportions, together accounting for more than a quarter of all incidents. This reveals that Islamophobia frequently manifests in direct harmful actions against Muslims, ranging from exclusionary practices to outright violence. These tangible expressions of hate have immediate and traumatic impacts on individuals and communities, affecting their sense of safety and belonging.

Policy-related incidents represent a substantial portion of cases, indicating that institutional and structural Islamophobia remains an issue. Meanwhile, specific targeting of Muslim religious practices and symbols is evident in the mosque and hijab incidents categories. Though these represent smaller segments, they highlight how Islamophobia often focuses on visible markers of Muslim identity and sacred spaces. This pattern of targeting what is most meaningful to Muslim communities—their places of worship and religious expression—suggests a particularly harmful form of Islamophobia aimed at core aspects of Muslim identity.

The relatively low proportion of reported online hate incidents, at just four percent, may not accurately reflect the actual prevalence of Islamophobia in digital spaces, but rather points to challenges in monitoring and documenting such content. The vast nature of online platforms, combined with algorithmic amplification of extremist content and the frequent anonymity of perpetrators, creates significant challenges for comprehensive documentation. This suggests that the reported figures likely represent only the tip of the iceberg regarding digital Islamophobia, with much more occurring beyond the reach of current monitoring capabilities.

The statistic reveals a concerning diversification of Islamophobic expressions across multiple domains of social and political life. When viewed holistically, this distribution pattern demonstrates how Islamophobia operates through interlocking systems—from organized political movements to institutional policies, from public discourse to private acts of aggression. This multi-dimensional nature of anti-Muslim bigotry creates a comprehensive environment of hostility that affects Muslims across numerous aspects of their daily lives, requiring equally diverse and coordinated responses that address both the overt manifestations and the underlying structural factors that enable and normalize Islamophobia within contemporary societies.



In Asia, hate speech emerges as the overwhelmingly dominant form of Islamophobia, towering over all other manifestation types across all regions. This suggests a deeply entrenched narrative problem where anti-Islam rhetoric has become normalized in public discourse, media, and political platforms. Policy-related incidents also feature prominently in Asia, indicating that institutional forms of discrimination have been formalized in various governance structures. This combination of hate speech and policy implementation creates a particularly challenging environment for Muslim communities in Asian countries.

Europe presents a more distributed pattern of Islamophobic manifestations, with discrimination leading the categories but closely followed by several other types. The relatively high presence of online hate in Europe stands out compared to other regions, suggesting that digital platforms have become significant vectors for anti-Islam sentiment in European contexts. The balance between verbal/physical assault and hate speech indicates that European Islamophobia manifests in both rhetorical and direct confrontational forms. Policy-related incidents also represent a substantial portion of European cases, reflecting ongoing tensions around immigration, integration, and religious expression that have become politicized in many European nations.

North America shows a pattern where verbal and physical assault constitute the most common manifestation of Islamophobia, significantly outpacing other categories. This points to a particularly confrontational expression

of anti-Islam sentiment, where direct intimidation and violence are more prevalent than in other regions. Discrimination follows as the second most common type, suggesting that systemic barriers remain significant challenges for Muslim communities in North American societies. The relatively low level of online hate compared to Europe might indicate different digital cultures or reporting mechanisms rather than necessarily lower prevalence.

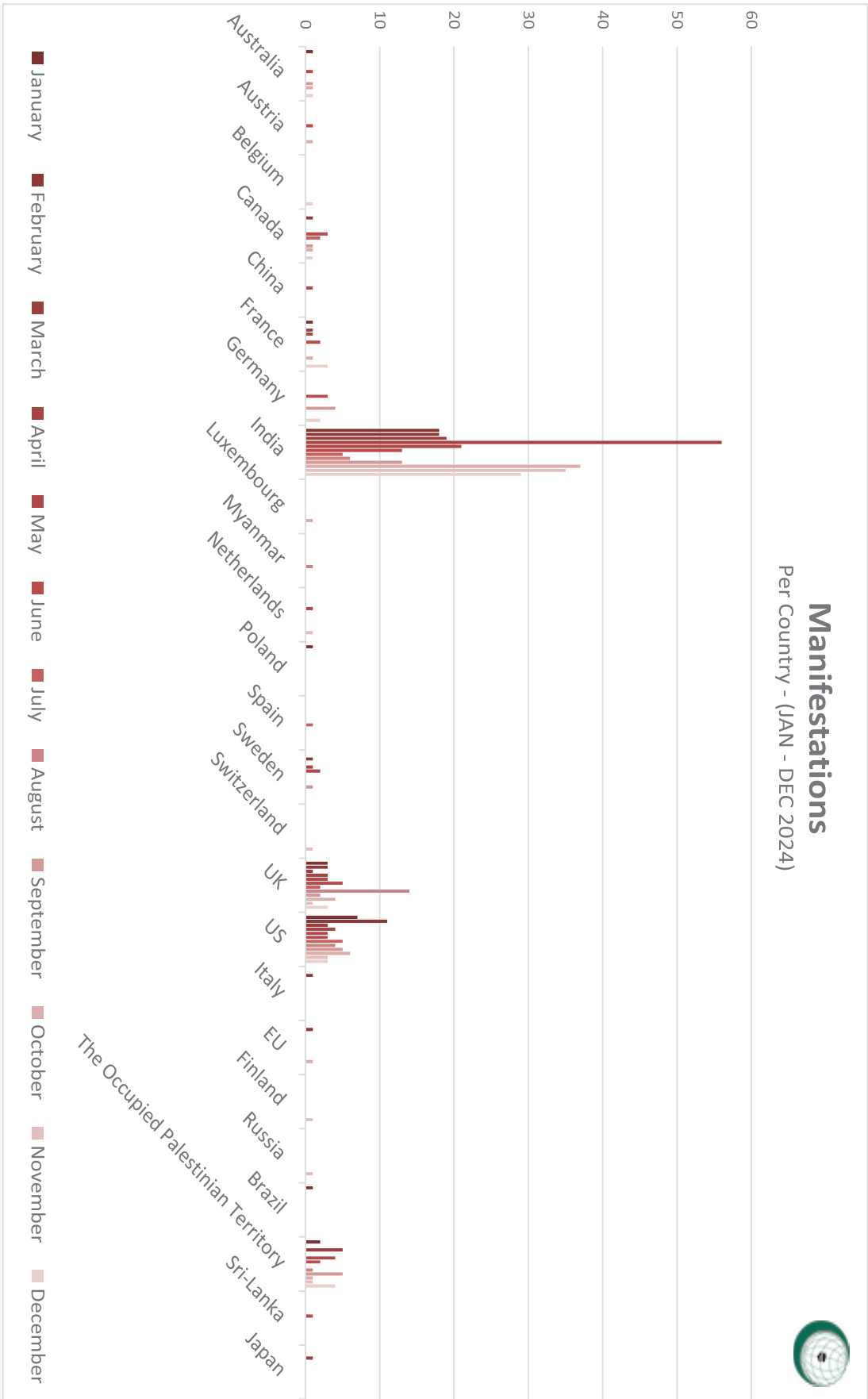
Across all continents, incidents specifically targeting religious practices and symbols show telling variations. Hijab incidents appear most prominently in Asia, reflecting particular tensions around visible Muslim identity markers in the region. Mosque incidents feature significantly across all three continents but with notable variation, suggesting that sacred spaces face different types of threats depending on regional contexts. The presence of these specific targeting patterns reveals how Islamophobia often focuses on the most visible and communal aspects of Muslim religious practice, striking at both personal expression and community infrastructure.

The interplay between different manifestation types across continents illustrates how Islamophobia adapts to and reflects local political realities, historical contexts, and social dynamics. Asia's pattern suggests widespread societal normalization of anti-Islam sentiment that has penetrated both discourse and policy. Europe's more distributed pattern indicates multifaceted challenges across various domains of society. North America's emphasis on direct confrontation points to particularly acute interpersonal expressions of Islamophobia. These distinct regional patterns highlight the importance of contextually appropriate responses that address the specific dominant manifestations of Islamophobia in each region while recognizing the transnational nature of Islamophobia.

Australia exhibits minimal manifestations across all categories, with barely perceptible incidents reported throughout the year. This near-absence in the data raises important questions about whether this represents a genuinely low prevalence of Islamophobia or reflects limitations in monitoring and reporting infrastructure in the region. The lack of significant variation across manifestation types suggests that where Islamophobia does occur in Australia, it does not follow the more pronounced patterns observed in other regions. This uniformly low profile across categories contrasts

sharply with the more defined manifestation patterns seen in Asia, Europe, and North America, potentially indicating a fundamentally different relationship between Muslim communities and broader society in the Australian context, or alternatively, pointing to significant gaps in awareness and documentation that require addressing.

The stark contrast between discrimination and assault levels in North America compared to the prevalence of hate speech in Asia illustrates how Islamophobia manifests through region-specific expressions that reflect particular historical and political contexts. While Asian Islamophobia appears to operate predominantly through rhetorical and institutional channels, North American manifestations demonstrate a more direct, confrontational nature that threatens physical safety and personal dignity. Europe's more balanced distribution across categories suggests a comprehensive challenge where Islamophobia has penetrated multiple layers of society simultaneously. These regional variations underscore the need for tailored intervention strategies that address the primary vectors of Islamophobia in each context while recognizing that effective global responses must account for these diverse manifestation patterns rather than approaching Islamophobia as a monolithic phenomenon.



The striking feature of Islamophobia manifestation across countries reveals an unmistakable pattern that demands immediate attention. India stands as an extreme outlier, with incident rates towering over every other nation during the period. This aligns with the documented rise in anti-Muslim rhetoric and policies in India, where the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party has been criticized for promoting Hindu nationalist ideologies that marginalize Muslim communities. The concentration of reported incidents, particularly peaking in April, May, and June 2024, likely correlates with controversial citizenship policies, religious restrictions, and inflammatory political rhetoric that has emboldened extremist groups to target Muslims with relative impunity in various states across India.

The United Kingdom and United States show notable patterns as well, though at significantly lower levels than India. In the UK, this reflects the documented rise of far-right movements like Britain First and ongoing tensions around immigration policies. The spike in May coincides with the aftermath of the UK's elections, which featured campaigns with anti-Muslim undertones. Similarly, the US data mirrors FBI hate crime statistics showing Muslims as one of the most targeted religious groups, with incidents often clustering around political rallies, controversial policy announcements, and international conflicts that trigger domestic backlash against Muslim communities. The consistent reporting across months indicates how Islamophobia has become embedded in political discourse in both nations.

Germany and the Occupied Palestinian Territory exhibit similar patterns of moderate but concerning activity. Germany's manifestations appear concentrated in March-April, corresponding with the rise of the AfD party and anti-immigration protests that often specifically target Muslim refugees. This timing aligns with Germany's regional elections in which anti-Islam rhetoric featured prominently. Meanwhile, incidents in the Occupied Palestinian Territory show a late-year uptick that correlates with increased settler violence and restrictive policies affecting Palestinian Muslims' access to religious sites, particularly in areas near expanding settlements where tensions routinely escalate around religious holidays.

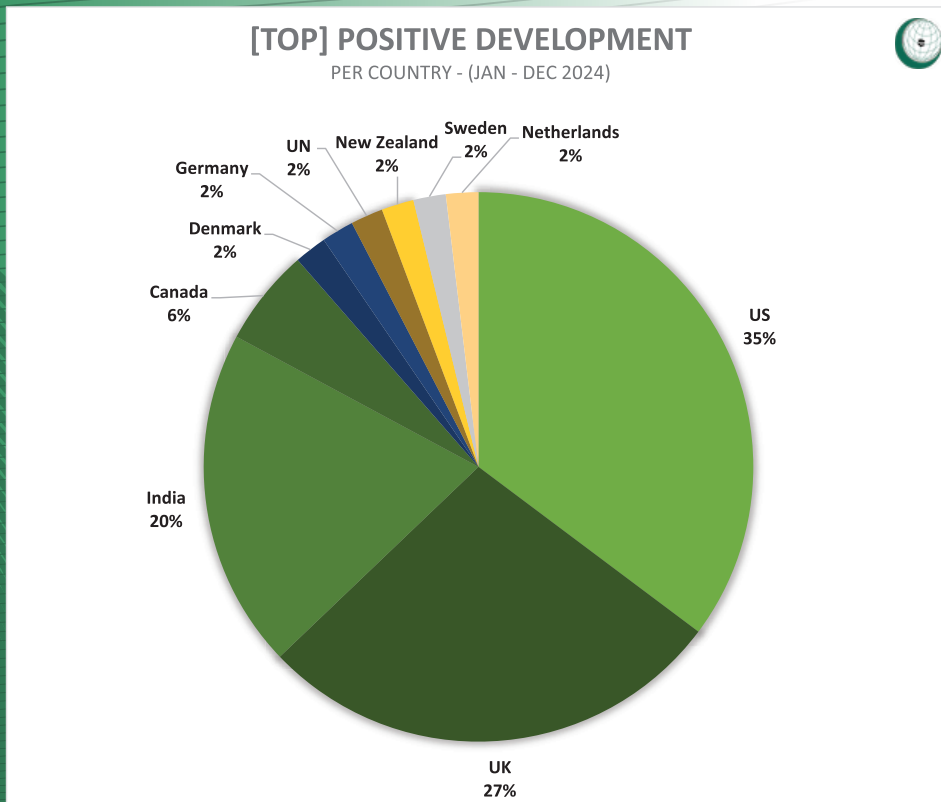
Most European countries display sporadic and relatively low-level incident reporting, reflecting the complex reality of Islamophobia across the continent.

France's scattered incidents likely relate to its ongoing controversies around secularism laws that disproportionately affect Muslim religious expression, including hijab and certain type of dress restrictions. Belgium's pattern connects to similar legislative debates and mosque surveillance policies, while Spain's incidents correlate with regional political movements that have increasingly adopted anti-Islam platforms. The varied nature of these reports across Europe demonstrates how Islamophobia manifests differently based on each country's history, immigration patterns, and specific political climate.

Notably, several countries show minimal to no reported incidents across the entire period. Australia shows few incidents on the graph, which may reflect the Observatory's limited capacity to monitor developments in this region despite some concerns expressed by local Muslim advocacy groups. Australian Muslim communities have occasionally reported experiencing challenges that may not always be captured in the Observatory's data collection framework. Similarly, countries like Finland and Luxembourg show almost no activity, which may reflect genuinely lower incidence rates due to stronger social cohesion policies or potentially indicate areas where the Observatory has fewer monitoring coverage. Austria's minimal presence in the data suggests relatively few incidents meeting the Observatory's documentation threshold during this period, though regional media has occasionally noted community concerns. The limited data about Islamophobia in China may be attributed to the Observatory's low access to relevant evidence or simply due to the absence of relevant Islamophobic incidents in the country been reported by reliable media sources. The minimal data about Islamophobia in China obscures controversial policy of Uyghur Muslims that some international organizations have labelled as potential crimes against humanity. These patterns may suggest varying approaches to addressing Islamophobia across different nations, with some potentially addressing issues through community dialogue, education initiatives, or legal protections that prevent manifestations from escalating to reportable incidents. Additionally, the Observatory acknowledges that its monitoring capacity varies by region, with stronger networks of correspondents in some countries enabling more comprehensive documentation than in others where evidence collection remains an ongoing challenge.

The temporal dimension of the data reveals significant monthly variations in Islamophobic incidents, with certain periods showing heightened activity across multiple countries simultaneously. The most striking example appears in April through June, when India experienced its most dramatic surge in incidents, coinciding with elevated activity in several other nations including the UK and Germany. This temporal clustering suggests the possibility of transnational triggering events that activate Islamophobic sentiment across different national contexts simultaneously. Such patterns point to 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. This interconnectedness highlights the need for coordinated international responses that recognize how Islamophobia transcends national boundaries while still manifesting through locally specific expressions.

The striking contrast between India's overwhelming concentration of incidents and the relatively modest numbers reported across other nations illustrates the varied manifestations of Islamophobia within different socio-political contexts. India's dramatic numbers reflect the documented intensification of Hindu nationalist policies and rhetoric that have marginalized Muslim communities across multiple states. The comparative analysis with countries like Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and China reveals how Islamophobia can take different forms depending on regional political structures, historical contexts, and demographic realities. In some nations, incidents may manifest through highly visible public confrontations that are readily documented, while in others, the phenomenon may operate through more subtle institutional mechanisms or in regions with limited international access. The data pattern across countries demonstrates how Islamophobia adapts to local conditions while maintaining its fundamental character as a form of religious and cultural prejudice. This geographical distribution provides valuable insights for tailoring intervention strategies that address the specific expressions of anti-Muslim sentiment most prevalent in each national context, while recognizing the transnational currents that connect these seemingly disparate manifestations across borders.



Despite the concerning trends of Islamophobia observed during the covered period, it is encouraging to note that 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, civil society organizations, and community leaders, can be considered positive signs in the ongoing battle against Islamophobia and the incitement of hatred and violence towards Islam and Muslims. The statistic reveals that positive developments have been concentrated primarily in three nations—the United States, United Kingdom, and India—which together account for the vast majority of documented constructive actions. This distribution suggests that countries experiencing higher rates of Islamophobic incidents are also those where the most significant countermeasures are being implemented, perhaps in direct response to escalating challenges.

The United States emerges as the global leader in positive developments, accounting for 35% of all documented initiatives. American initiatives have included landmark court rulings affirming religious freedom protections, congressional hearings specifically addressing Islamophobia, and the appointment of Muslim Americans to prominent governmental

positions. Civil rights organizations have successfully advocated for policy changes in law enforcement practices, while numerous municipalities have established specialized hate crime units with cultural competency training. Additionally, major American corporations and educational institutions have implemented diversity initiatives that explicitly include Muslim perspectives, reflecting a growing recognition of Islamophobia as a significant social justice concern requiring comprehensive responses.

The United Kingdom follows closely with 27% of positive developments, with initiatives spanning across governmental policy reforms, community engagement programs, and civil society advocacy. Notable British efforts include the expansion of hate crime legislation to better protect religious minorities, increased funding for mosque security measures, and high-profile interfaith dialogue projects in major cities. Educational institutions across the UK have also implemented curriculum changes to promote religious literacy and combat stereotypes, while British media outlets have established new guidelines for more balanced reporting on Muslim communities. These multifaceted approaches demonstrate how the UK is attempting to address Islamophobia through both structural reforms and grassroots engagement.

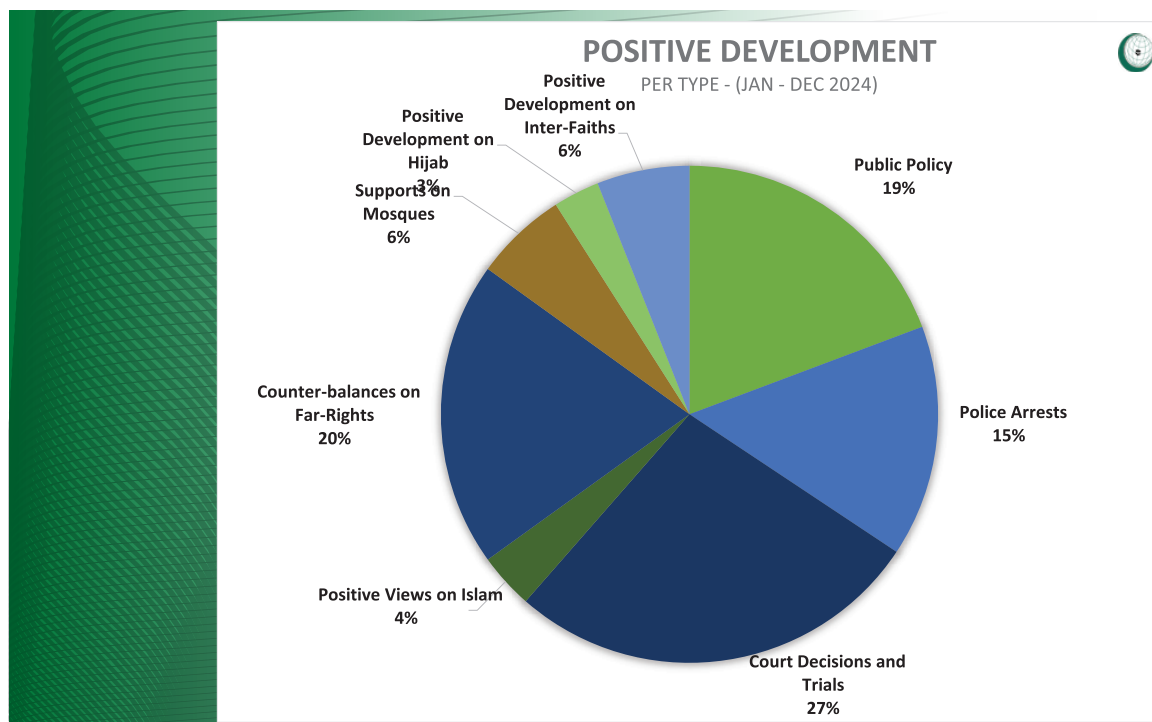
India's substantial share of positive developments at 20% represents a noteworthy counterbalance to its high incidence of Islamophobic manifestations. These constructive efforts include significant Supreme Court rulings protecting minority rights, high-profile interfaith solidarity events organized by both religious and secular leaders, and targeted community resilience programs in areas with histories of communal tension. Several Indian states have strengthened anti-discrimination protections, while prominent public figures have used their platforms to condemn anti-Islam rhetoric and promote national unity across religious lines. Grassroots organizations throughout India have developed innovative community-building initiatives that bring together diverse religious communities around shared social concerns, creating spaces for dialogue and collaboration that transcend religious boundaries.

The smaller but significant contributions from countries like Canada, which accounts for 6% of positive developments, highlight how nations

with relatively stronger histories of multiculturalism are developing and refining approaches to addressing Islamophobia. Canadian initiatives have focused on educational reforms and community policing innovations. Countries including Denmark, Germany, the United Nations, New Zealand, Sweden, and the Netherlands, have each provided distinctive approaches to combating Islamophobia. Sweden has pioneered research-based approaches to addressing religious discrimination, while New Zealand's continued implementation of reforms following the Christchurch mosque attacks demonstrates the sustainable impact of tragedy-driven policy changes when supported by ongoing commitment.

The representation of international organizations, notably the United Nations, signals the growing recognition of Islamophobia as a global human rights concern requiring coordinated transnational responses. UN initiatives have included high-level conferences addressing religious intolerance, special rapporteur investigations into discrimination against Muslims, and the development of international guidelines for combating hate speech and religious discrimination. These multilateral efforts provide crucial frameworks that complement national-level initiatives, establishing international standards that can guide and inspire domestic policies while fostering cross-border cooperation in addressing Islamophobia's increasingly globalized manifestations.

A particularly encouraging aspect of the data is the diverse nature of positive developments across countries, suggesting a multifaceted global response to Islamophobia. Legal and policy reforms represent significant portions of these initiatives, but equally important are educational programs, media accountability mechanisms, interfaith dialogue frameworks, and grassroots community building efforts. This diversity of approaches demonstrates a growing understanding that effectively addressing Islamophobia requires comprehensive strategies that target both institutional structures and social attitudes. The combination of top-down policy changes and bottom-up community engagement visible across multiple countries offers promising models for sustainable approaches to fostering religious tolerance and countering anti-Muslim prejudice in diverse societal contexts.



On positive developments, judicial and legal mechanisms constitute the most significant response, with court decisions and trials representing the largest share of all constructive actions. This prominence of legal interventions suggests that formal justice systems are increasingly recognizing and addressing Islamophobia, anti-Muslim discrimination, and hate crimes. These judicial responses range from landmark rulings protecting religious freedoms to prosecutions of individuals engaging in hate speech or violence against Muslim communities. The substantial representation of court-related positive developments indicates a growing institutionalization of protections for Muslim communities within established legal frameworks.

Counter-balances to far-right extremism emerge as the second most common type of positive development, reflecting a recognition that organized anti-Islam movements require specific strategic responses. These counter-measures include monitoring of extremist groups, de-platforming of hate content, public education campaigns highlighting the dangers of far-right ideologies, and coalition building among diverse communities to resist extremist narratives. The significant proportion of efforts specifically targeting far-right movements corresponds with earlier statistics showing the prevalence of organized far-right campaigns as a primary manifestation of Islamophobia, suggesting responsive adaptation in counter-strategies.

Public policy improvements represent another substantial category of positive developments, demonstrating how governmental systems are increasingly incorporating specific protections and considerations for Muslim communities into their operational frameworks. Following closely are law enforcement interventions through police arrests, indicating increased accountability for those perpetrating anti-Muslim hate crimes. This suggests growing recognition within policing institutions of the seriousness of Islamophobic offenses and greater willingness to allocate resources toward investigating and prosecuting these crimes.

Notably smaller proportions of positive developments focus on interfaith initiatives, mosque support, hijab-related developments, and positive portrayals of Islam in media and public discourse. This distribution suggests that formal, institutional responses currently outweigh cultural and social approaches to combating Islamophobia. The relatively limited representation of interfaith dialogue and positive media representation points to potential areas for growth in comprehensive anti-Islamophobia strategies, as these approaches address the underlying prejudices and misconceptions that often fuel discriminatory behaviors before they manifest as actionable offenses.

The full-year analysis for 2024 reveals a consistent pattern of institutional responses dominating the landscape of anti-Islamophobia initiatives. The timeframe shows how efforts laid groundwork for subsequent developments, particularly in the judicial sphere where precedent-setting cases early in the year appear to have influenced later rulings. This perspective demonstrates how the International Day to Combat Islamophobia has evolved from primarily symbolic observances into a catalyst for substantive policy reforms and community engagement activities across multiple continents. The sustained focus on court decisions throughout the year suggests a deepening integration of anti-discrimination principles within legal systems, while the steady presence of counter-measures against far-right extremism reflects an ongoing recognition of this particular threat to Muslim communities. This comprehensive annual view confirms that international frameworks, particularly UN resolutions on combating Islamophobia, have successfully transitioned from aspirational documents to practical guides influencing institutional responses worldwide.



HOT SPOTS OF ISLAMOPHOBIA (JANUARY-DECEMBER 2024)



HOT SPOTS OF ISLAMOPHOBIA

(JANUARY-DECEMBER 2024)

Islamophobia - the fear, hatred, or prejudice towards Islam and Muslims—has evolved into a concerning 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 the values of tolerance 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, leading to 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, regions witnessing spikes in hate crimes targeting Muslim individuals and communities, or areas where inflammatory rhetoric against Islam has gained prominence in public discourse.

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. 32/50-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.

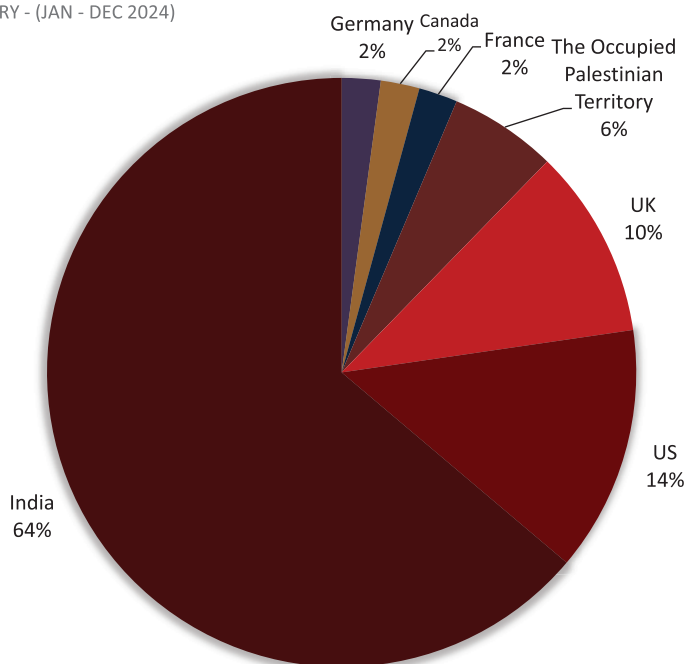
CURRENT HOT SPOTS

In fulfillment of this mandate, the Observatory has conducted thorough research and analysis covering the period from January to December 2024 to identify countries showing the most prevalent indicators of Islamophobia. This assessment has revealed a concerning concentration of Islamophobic manifestations across seven key countries:

- **India (64%):** Representing the most significant concentration of Islamophobic incidents globally, accounting for three-fifths of all documented manifestations.
- **United States (14%):** Emerging as the second most prominent hot spot, with a notable share of recorded incidents.
- **United Kingdom (10%):** Following the United States, with substantial manifestations of anti-Islam sentiment and actions.
- **The Occupied Palestinian Territory (6%):** Continuing to be a significant area of concern where Islamophobia intersects with broader geopolitical tensions.
- **France (2%):** While representing a smaller percentage, still demonstrating persistent Islamophobic trends warranting continued monitoring.
- **Canada (2%):** Showing similar levels of concerning manifestations as observed in France.
- **Germany (2%):** Maintaining a consistent presence among countries with notable Islamophobic trends.

[TOP] MANIFESTATIONS

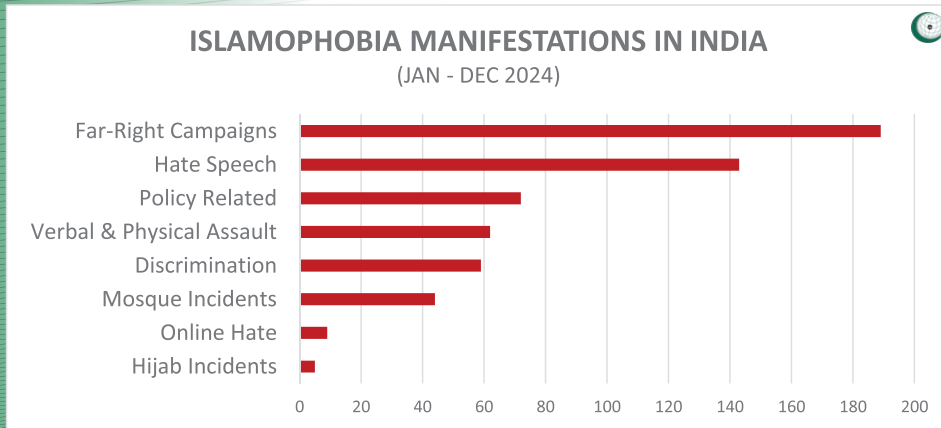
PER COUNTRY - (JAN - DEC 2024)



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 emerged as the predominant global hotspot for Islamophobic incidents, accounting for an alarming 64% of all documented manifestations worldwide according to the Observatory's statistics. This extraordinary concentration underscores the severity and pervasiveness of anti-Muslim sentiment within the country, demanding urgent international attention.



Not only in 2024, India has obviously witnessed a troubling surge in anti-Islamic rhetoric, discriminatory policies, and violent attacks targeting its Muslim minority population of approximately 200 million citizens for over the past five years. This concerning trend has been fueled by a potent mixture of Hindu nationalism, majoritarian politics, and deep-rooted societal biases, casting doubt on India's commitment to pluralism and religious tolerance.

Central to this issue is the rise of Hindutva ideology—a belief system envisioning India as a Hindu nation—which has increasingly sought to marginalize Muslims by portraying them as threats to India's cultural and religious identity. This narrative has been amplified by political leaders who employ divisive rhetoric to consolidate support among Hindu voters.

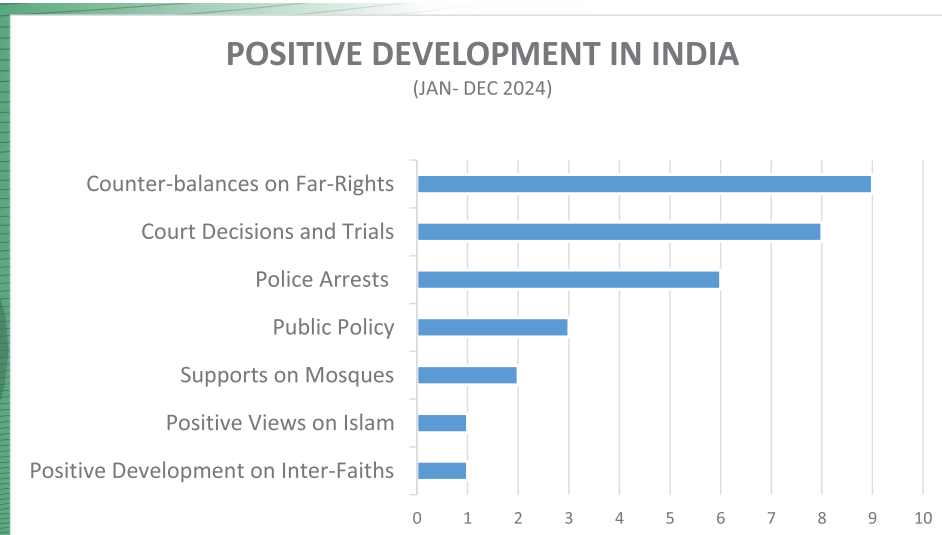
The consequences have been far-reaching and devastating. Documented incidents include frequent hate speech, mob violence, lynchings, and attacks on Muslim-owned businesses and places of worship. Policies widely criticized as discriminatory include the Citizenship Amendment Act of 2019 and hijab bans in educational institutions in certain states. In January 2024, Prime Minister Modi inaugurated a Hindu temple built on the ruins of the historic Babri Mosque in Ayodhya, while other historic mosques face legal challenges despite laws protecting religious sites.

Particularly troubling are patterns of discrimination across multiple spheres of life. Muslims report housing discrimination, being targeted during evictions, and facing employment barriers. The government's stance on religious practices, exemplified by some local government's declaration that

hijab is not an essential religious practice in Islam, has further marginalized the community. Multiple incidents documented throughout 2024 show Muslims being expelled from educational institutions, losing employment, or facing business closures due to their religious identity.

Vigilante violence continues with apparent impunity, with numerous documented cases of “cow protection” groups targeting Muslims involved in cattle trade. Social media platforms like Instagram have become hubs for promoting such violence, with research showing substantially greater engagement for content depicting assaults on Muslims. In states like Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh, Muslim communities have faced intimidation, with local groups demanding their expulsion from certain towns and areas.

The rise in inflammatory rhetoric from religious and political leaders, combined with concerning developments such as the demolition of mosques, calls for violence against Muslims, and economic boycotts, has created an atmosphere of fear and insecurity. The OIC and international human rights organizations have expressed serious concerns over the deteriorating situation, emphasizing the need for decisive action to address these alarming trends and safeguard religious freedom and equality in India



Despite the alarming trends of Islamophobia in India during the covered period, it is encouraging to note that efforts have been made to promote harmony, tolerance, and counter anti-Islamic sentiments. India’s substantial share of positive developments at 20% represents a noteworthy

counterbalance to its high incidence of Islamophobic manifestations. These constructive efforts include significant Supreme Court rulings protecting minority rights, high-profile interfaith solidarity events organized by both religious and secular leaders, and targeted community resilience programs in areas with histories of communal tension. The recent Supreme Court decision to set aside an order banning Islamic schools (madrasas) in Uttar Pradesh provides relief to over 25,000 Muslim schools serving 2.7 million students. The Court recognized the schools' importance, stating that they fulfill "the positive obligation of the state to ensure that children get adequate education." Additionally, the Supreme Court's firm stance against "bulldozer justice" marks an important step in protecting Muslim properties from unlawful demolition.

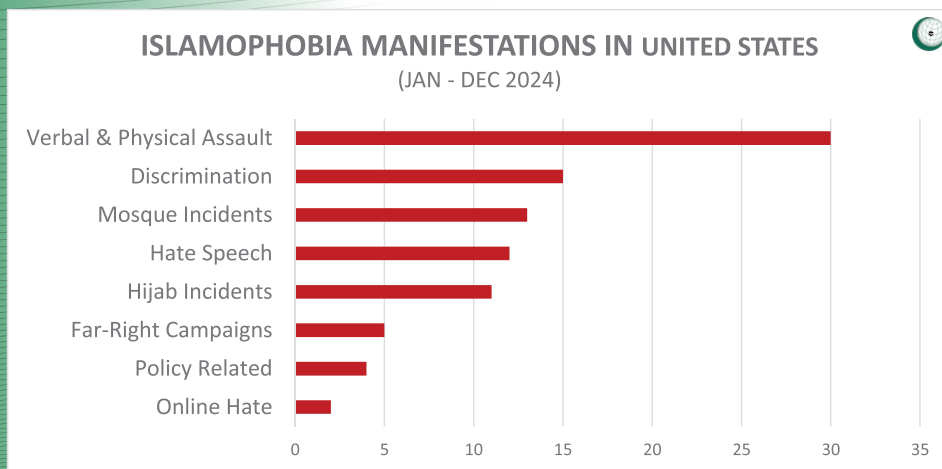
Media regulation bodies have taken meaningful steps to combat hate speech and communal disharmony. The News Broadcasting and Digital Standards Authority (NBDSA) has penalized several television channels and ordered the removal of programs that spread hatred against Muslims. In a notable action, TimesNow Navbharat and News18 India were fined for airing content on "love jihad" that the NBDSA deemed harmful to communal harmony. The regulatory body emphasized that religious stereotyping violates the Code of Ethics and can "corrode the secular fabric of the country," highlighting growing institutional resistance to normalized Islamophobia in media.

Law enforcement agencies across India have demonstrated increased willingness to hold accountable those who engage in hate speech targeting Muslims. Multiple cases against Hindu outfit leaders have been registered for alleged hate speeches, including actions against prominent figures like Satyam Pandit of Hindu Veer Sena and BJP leader Mithun Chakraborty. The arrest of individuals involved in mosque desecration incidents, such as the case in Bhagalpur where a man was arrested for climbing a mosque dome to hoist a saffron flag, signals greater police responsiveness to acts that could inflame communal tensions. The Central Bureau of Investigation's assumption of responsibility for investigating the death of a Muslim man during the 2020 Delhi riots also represents a significant step toward accountability.

Perhaps most heartening are the grassroots expressions of interfaith solidarity exemplified by stories like that of the Amanati Mosque. The preservation and restoration of this centuries-old mosque by a Hindu family in Bengal’s Barasat district demonstrates how ordinary citizens can transcend religious boundaries through personal acts of respect and care. 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, represents the enduring potential for coexistence even amid broader social tensions. Such individual actions, alongside public statements from figures like BJP national council member CK Padmanabhan questioning anti-Muslim rhetoric, suggest that the foundations for pluralism and mutual respect remain resilient in Indian society despite political challenges.

The United States

The United States ranks as the second highest concentration of Islamophobic incidents globally, accounting for 14% of documented cases in 2024. This positions the US as a significant hotspot for anti-Muslim sentiment, second only to India (64%) and ahead of the United Kingdom (10%).



Recent incidents across the US demonstrate how Islamophobia manifests through discrimination in multiple sectors. In the educational sphere, a notable case emerged in January 2024 when Ghada Ead, a Muslim educator who wore traditional hijab, filed a lawsuit against Mary Institute and St. Louis Country Day School, alleging demotion after submitting a discrimination

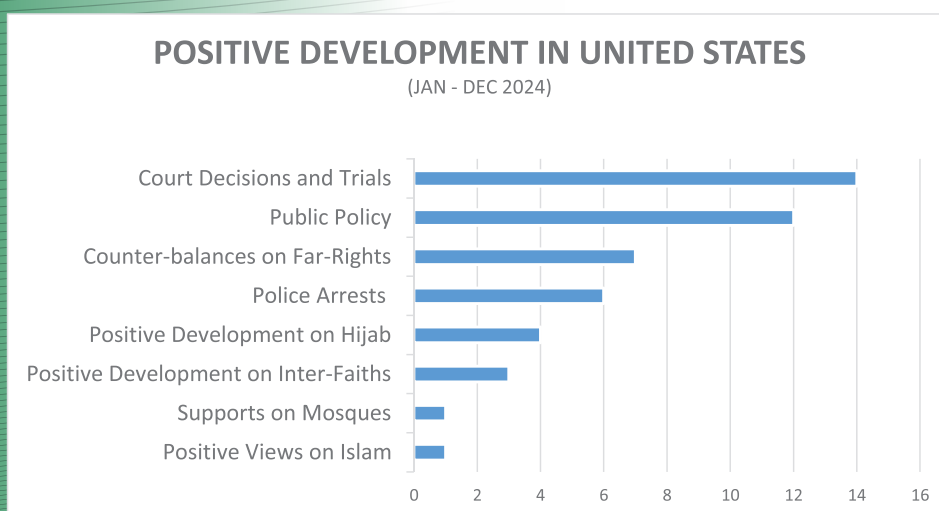
complaint. The banking sector has similarly demonstrated bias, with Muslim charitable organizations facing what's been termed "Muslim while banking" - experiencing account closures and heightened scrutiny when attempting to send aid to Gaza, despite operating within legal boundaries.

The academic environment has become particularly contentious, with professors at prestigious institutions including Columbia, Princeton, and Muhlenberg College facing investigations or termination for pro-Palestinian advocacy. This parallels the rise in high-profile Islamophobic rhetoric, exemplified by the Judicial Crisis Network's misleading campaign against Adeel Mangi, Biden's Muslim judicial nominee, which exploited 9/11 imagery to portray him as "radical" despite his 23-year career as a civil litigator.

Public figures have contributed to normalizing anti-Muslim sentiment, with incidents ranging from actress Selma Blair's inflammatory comments about Islam to former President Trump's debate remarks referring to President Biden as having "become like a Palestinian" - a statement widely interpreted as derogatory. Former President Bill Clinton also faced backlash from Muslim and Arab communities after suggesting Israel was "forced" to kill civilians in Gaza.

Physical violence represents the most alarming manifestation of Islamophobia. In August 2024 alone, multiple hate-motivated attacks occurred: Izak Kadosh was charged with attempted murder for a violent assault against his Muslim neighbor explicitly motivated by religious differences; David Grinblat attacked Sheharyar Ali Kazmi near Rockefeller Center while shouting "Death to all Muslims!"; and in Brooklyn, a Muslim woman was punched repeatedly by an assailant making anti-Muslim comments. Another disturbing case involved Elizabeth Wolf attempting to drown a three-year-old Palestinian-American girl while telling the child's mother she wasn't truly American.

These incidents reflect a persistent pattern of discrimination, harassment, and violence that undermines the civil liberties and safety of Muslim Americans, creating an atmosphere of fear that contradicts America's foundational principles of religious freedom and equality.



Nevertheless, the United States has demonstrated significant progress in addressing Islamophobia, accounting for 35% of positive developments globally according to the Observatory's data. This leadership position highlights the country's multifaceted approach to combating anti-Muslim sentiment through institutional, legal, and community-based initiatives. The court decisions and trials represent the most substantial area of progress, followed by public policy measures, suggesting a strong institutional commitment to protecting Muslim Americans' rights and holding perpetrators of hate crimes accountable. These developments are particularly noteworthy given the tensions that emerged following the Gaza conflict, which triggered increased hostility toward Muslim and Arab communities in various parts of the country.

The judicial system has emerged as a critical bulwark against Islamophobia, with multiple significant cases resulting in accountability for perpetrators of anti-Muslim hate crimes. Notably, a Florida man received a 37-month federal prison sentence for assaulting a Muslim postal worker wearing a hijab, while a Dallas man faced hate crime charges after attempting to drown a 3-year-old Palestinian American Muslim girl. The legal system has also provided redress for discrimination, as evidenced by substantial settlements for Muslim Americans facing workplace discrimination, including a \$475,000 settlement for a former North Chicago police officer who experienced religious and national origin discrimination, and a settlement for a Muslim CBP officer who was denied religious accommodations for

maintaining his beard. These judicial actions send a powerful message that anti-Muslim discrimination and violence carry serious consequences.

Public policy initiatives across various levels of government have created structural protections for Muslim communities. In December 2024, the White House unveiled the first-ever national strategy to counter Islamophobia, outlining more than 100 actions to combat hate, violence, bias, and discrimination against Muslims and Arab Americans. This comprehensive approach addresses awareness, safety, religious accommodation, and cross-community solidarity. At the state level, New York Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation criminalizing the forcible removal of religious clothing such as the hijab and implemented a four-pillar plan to make digital spaces safer following increased anti-Muslim rhetoric. Educational institutions have also taken significant steps, with multiple school districts including Frederick County, West Haven, and the City University of New York recognizing Islamic holidays on their academic calendars, reflecting growing institutional acknowledgment of Muslim Americans' religious needs.

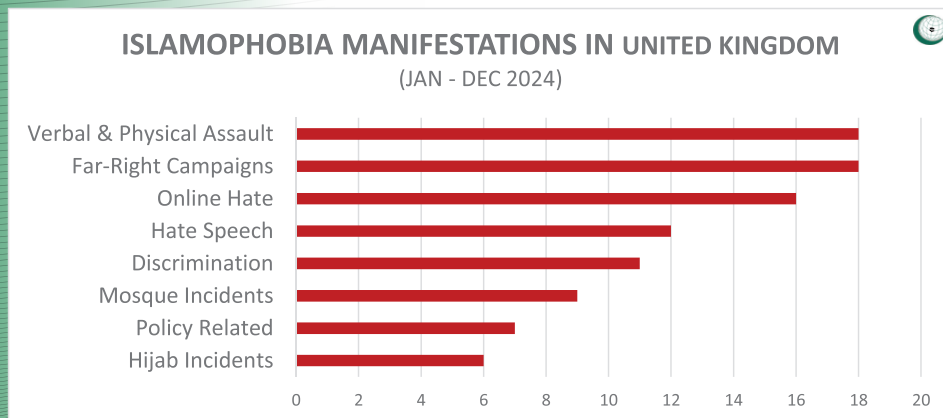
Law enforcement agencies have demonstrated increased responsiveness to anti-Muslim incidents, with police departments across the country taking decisive action against hate-motivated crimes targeting Muslims. In Euless, Texas, police promptly identified racial bias as the motivating factor in an attempted drowning case involving a Palestinian American child, leading to enhanced charges against the perpetrator. Similarly, when a man was arrested for vandalizing the Al Falah Center mosque in New Jersey, authorities swiftly applied bias intimidation charges. The Department of Homeland Security's allocation of an additional \$210 million to protect faith-based institutions and nonprofit organizations further demonstrates governmental commitment to preventing targeted attacks. These actions reflect growing institutional recognition that protecting Muslim Americans from hate-motivated violence is an essential component of public safety.

Community solidarity has emerged as a powerful counterforce to Islamophobia, with diverse groups standing together against anti-Muslim incidents. When the Arab-owned Lombard Café in Philadelphia was vandalized, customers like Samantha Pinto joined a peaceful demonstration in support of the establishment, expressing outrage at the targeting of

a “welcoming and open” neighborhood business. Similarly, when the Michigan Muslim community advocated for recognition of Eid holidays in Frederick County schools, they were joined by local priests and rabbis who attended board meetings to offer public comments in support. The Senate’s unanimous passage of a resolution honoring Wadea Al-Fayoume, the 6-year-old Palestinian-American boy murdered in an anti-Muslim hate crime, declared that “no one should be a target of hate because of their ethnicity or religion” and that the U.S. “has zero tolerance for hate crimes, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and anti-Palestinian and anti-Arab discrimination.” These expressions of solidarity demonstrate that despite persistent challenges, many Americans remain committed to protecting the rights and dignity of their Muslim neighbors

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has emerged as the third most prevalent hotspot for Islamophobia globally, accounting for 10% of documented manifestations in 2024. Recent developments reveal a multi-faceted crisis that has intensified following the October 2023 Gaza conflict and escalated dramatically during June-August 2024.



A deeply concerning “brain drain” of talented middle-class Muslims is occurring due to rising hostility, with even prominent royal adviser Harris Bokhari considering relocation despite his love for Britain. This exodus of professionals, including healthcare workers, reflects the deteriorating sense of security for Muslims. The July 2024 Southport riots exemplify this crisis, where disinformation falsely attributing a child stabbing incident to

a Muslim migrant triggered nationwide violence, resulting in attacks on mosques and over 50 injured police officers.

The political landscape has fueled these tensions, with figures like Nigel Farage—newly elected to Parliament—claiming many Muslims “do not subscribe to British values,” while Reform UK defended a candidate’s self-description as a “proud Islamophobe.” Meanwhile, Conservative leadership candidate Robert Jenrick advocated for immediate arrest of anyone shouting “Allahu Akbar,” despite this being a common religious expression meaning “God is great.”

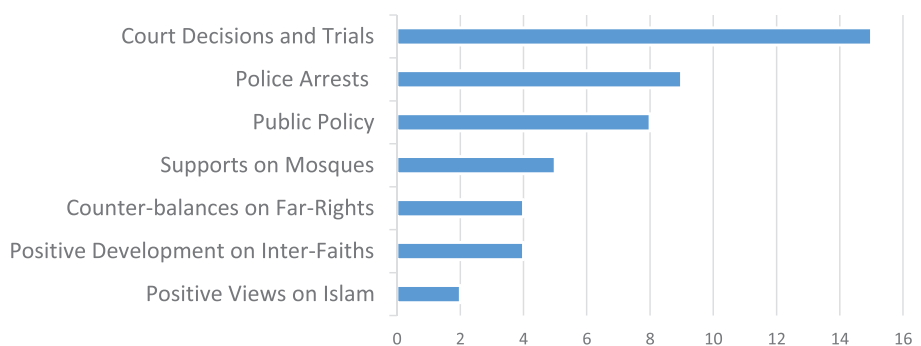
Institutional discrimination has been documented in educational and employment settings. The high-performing Michaela community school faced legal challenges over banning prayer rituals, while cases like Ayshea Malik’s successful employment tribunal demonstrate workplace discrimination based on Muslim identity. Numerous incidents of vandalism targeting Muslim graves, properties displaying pro-Palestine symbols, and racist graffiti at bus stops have further marginalized the community.

Far-right extremism has gained alarming traction, with neo-Nazi groups from Europe and the United States actively promoting anti-Muslim violence through social media platforms. The English Defence League participated in attacks on mosques, while individuals glorifying the Christchurch terrorist received prison sentences for terrorism offenses. Most disturbingly, rioters attempted to burn down a hotel housing asylum seekers while chanting “Get them out.”

The healthcare sector has reported “unprecedented” fear among Muslim NHS staff, with Dr. Salman Waqar of the British Islamic Medical Association describing personnel receiving death threats, being trapped in practices, and avoiding home visits due to safety concerns. These manifestations of Islamophobia undermine the UK’s foundational values of equality and social cohesion while threatening the welfare of its Muslim citizens, who increasingly feel unwelcome in their own country

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT IN UNITED KINGDOM

(JAN- DEC 2024)



However, the United Kingdom has demonstrated significant positive developments in addressing Islamophobia throughout 2024, accounting for 27% of global positive developments according to the Observatory's findings. The most substantial progress has been made in the judicial system, with numerous court decisions and trials resulting in convictions for those who committed Islamophobic acts. Notable cases include the sentencing of neo-Nazi Samuel Melia for spreading racial hatred, multiple convictions related to the Southport riots that targeted mosques following false online rumors, and prison sentences for individuals who made threatening calls to mosques or incited violence through social media.

The UK government has implemented several public policy measures to protect Muslim communities, allocating over £117 million to secure mosques, Muslim schools, and community centers across the country. London Mayor Sadiq Khan provided additional funding for security training at mosques in the capital, while historic appointments such as Shahin Ashraf becoming Solihull's first Muslim mayor represent meaningful progress in representation. Liberal Democrats leader Sir Ed Davey has also pushed for the formal adoption of a working definition of Islamophobia and the appointment of an Independent Government adviser on Islamophobia.

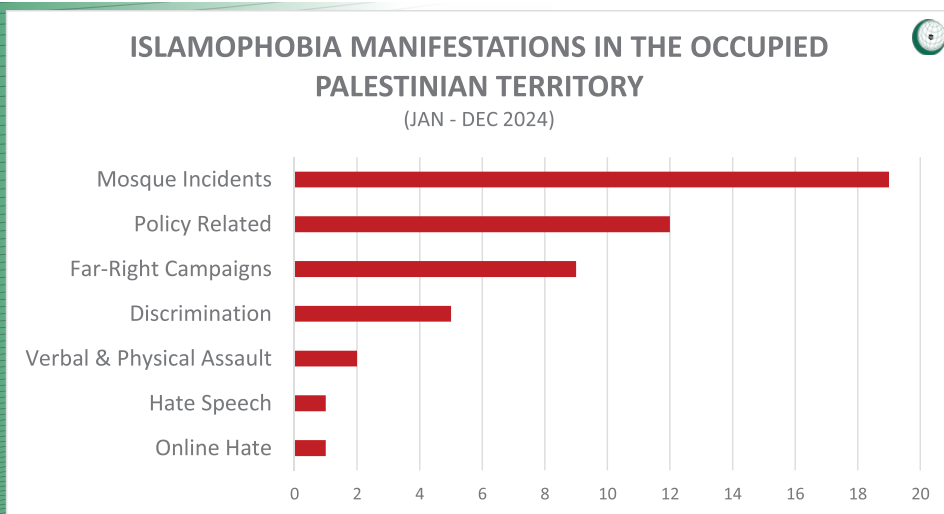
Law enforcement has been proactive in addressing Islamophobic incidents, with multiple arrests for hate crimes against Muslims. These include the arrest of individuals for racially aggravated criminal damage at Palestinian interests offices and mosques across London, the apprehension of a man who

verbally abused a Muslim woman at a London train station, and the arrest of an employee who planted Islamophobic messages in the WiFi networks of major railway stations. The swift response from authorities demonstrates a commitment to protecting Muslim communities from harassment and violence.

Interfaith initiatives have played a crucial role in countering Islamophobia and building community cohesion. The Muslim Council of Britain's #VisitMyMosque campaign encouraged people of all faiths to visit local mosques throughout the UK, with strong support from organizations like the Lancashire Council of Mosques. Following the summer riots of 2024, Birmingham's Green Lane Masjid and Community Centre hosted an interfaith open day to repair community relationships and build understanding. These efforts, coupled with political figures like Green Party co-leader Adrian Ramsay engaging directly with Muslim communities during times of vulnerability, demonstrate the UK's multifaceted approach to challenging Islamophobia through education, dialogue, and solidarity.

The Occupied Palestinian Territory

The Occupied Palestinian Territory ranks fourth among global Islamophobia hotspots, representing 6% of worldwide manifestations. While this figure is significantly lower than India (64%), the United States (14%), and the United Kingdom (10%), the situation warrants serious attention due to its unique characteristics and intensification throughout 2024.



The territory has witnessed a marked increase in mosque-related incidents, which constitute the highest category of Islamophobic manifestations in the region. According to documented evidence from August 2024, Israeli forces conducted raids in Hebron, closing the Ibrahimi Mosque to Muslim worshippers while permitting access to Jewish visitors. The mosque's director, Sheikh Moataz Abu Sneineh, reported that “the occupation forces closed the mosque from 4:00 a.m. without warning,” while footage showed Israeli soldiers helping settlers bring musical equipment inside for concerts and religious rituals—actions condemned as “a blatant violation of the places of worship and the privacy of Muslims.”

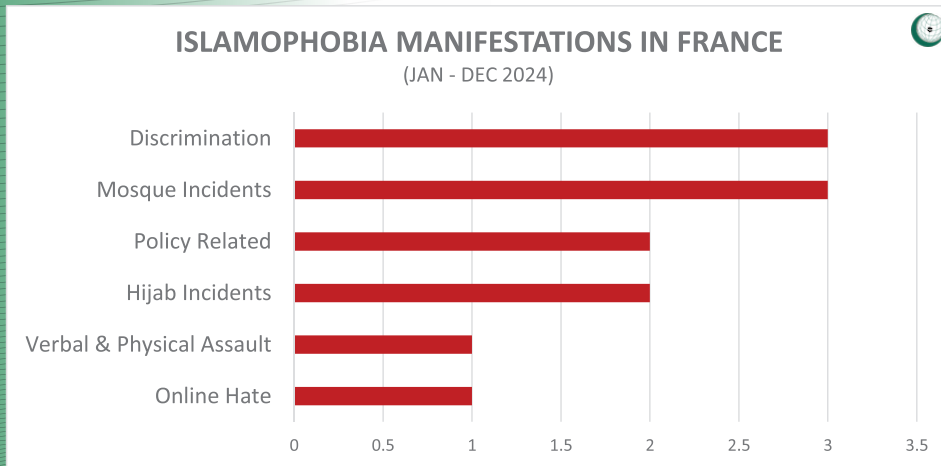
Policy-related Islamophobia forms the second largest category of incidents, exemplified by the systematic restrictions on access to Al-Aqsa Mosque in East Jerusalem. Throughout 2024, Palestinians were barred from entering for 12 consecutive Fridays, with attendance dropping to 13,000 worshippers compared to the usual 50,000. These restrictions intensified during Ramadan when Israeli forces physically prevented Muslims from attending evening prayers. The installation of barbed wire around the Lions' Gate in March 2024 was described by Palestinian authorities as “a dangerous precedent that has never occurred since 1967.”

Far-right campaigns constitute another significant manifestation, with Israeli Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu controversially calling for the “month of Ramadan to be wiped out.” By September 2024, extremist groups released videos depicting Al-Aqsa engulfed in flames with captions suggesting imminent destruction, raising alarm from the Palestinian Ministry of Endowments about escalating threats toward Islamic holy sites.

Daily religious discrimination continued to intensify, with authorities banning the dawn call to prayer at the Ibrahimi Mosque for eight consecutive days in September 2024 and National Security Minister Ben-Gvir instructing police to confiscate mosque speakers. By December 2024, the mosque was closed to Muslims for four days to accommodate settlers' holidays while remaining open for Jewish rituals, highlighting the systematic nature of religious restrictions in the territory.

France

France continues to be a concerning hotspot for Islamophobia, ranking fifth among countries with significant manifestations of anti-Muslim sentiment in 2024. While representing only 2% of global Islamophobic incidents according to the Observatory’s finding, the nature of these occurrences reveals systemic concerns.

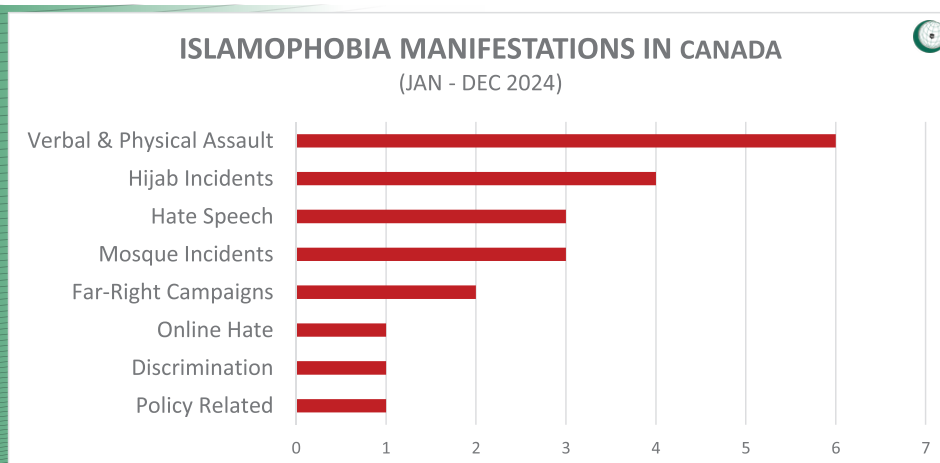


The most prevalent forms of Islamophobia in France are discrimination and mosque-related incidents, followed by policy-related actions and hijab incidents. The case of Al Kindi, France’s only Muslim private high school with state partnership, exemplifies institutional discrimination, as it faced the threat of contract termination by the Rhone Prefecture. The National Federation of Muslim Private Education characterized this as part of “systematic harassment” against Muslim educational institutions.

Policy-related Islamophobia has manifested in several ways, including French authorities conducted extensive police raids targeting Muslim communities under the pretext of Olympic security. Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin expanded surveillance of over 5,100 Muslims on radicalization watch lists, with organizations like CAGE reporting numerous violent raids against innocent Muslims—250 in Paris alone.

Hate speech incidents have also been documented, including disturbing racist graffiti targeting Arab-origin citizens. The French Council of the Muslim Faith reported one such incident where “Arabs to the crematorium” was written on a wall, making a troubling reference to the Holocaust and highlighting how “widespread racist rhetoric contributes to the spread of racist actions” throughout France.

Canada

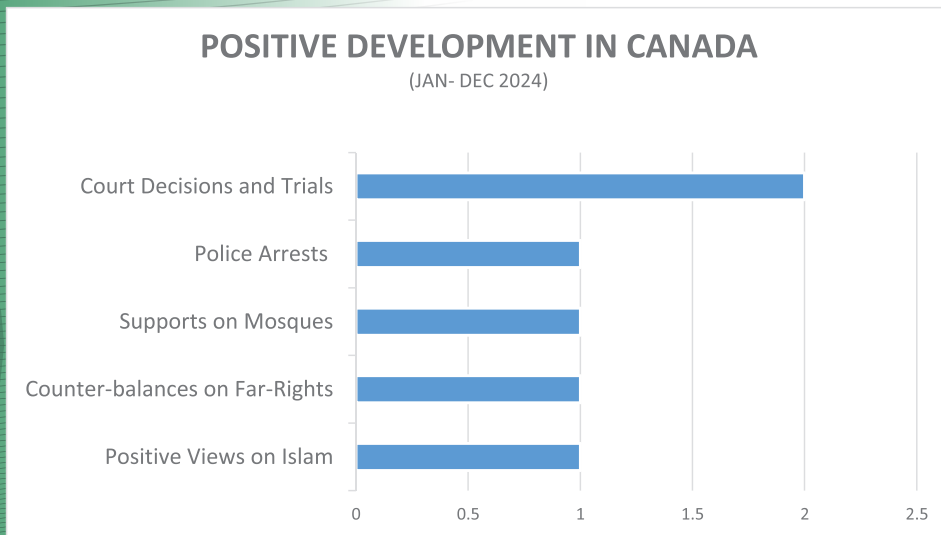


Canada, despite its multicultural reputation, accounts for 2% of global Islamophobic incidents according to the Observatory's 2024 statistics, with verbal and physical assaults emerging as the most prevalent form of anti-Muslim manifestation. Throughout 2024, several serious incidents have been documented, including a suspected hate-motivated assault on a TTC subway train in Toronto where a man shouted anti-Muslim comments and physically attacked a female victim. In London, police investigated both a hate-motivated assault in Ivey Park where a Muslim family was targeted with derogatory comments and a separate arson incident where a home's front porch was deliberately set ablaze.

Hijab-related incidents represent the second most common form of Islamophobia in Canada, exemplified by a case where a Montreal karate center barred a 12-year-old Muslim girl from attending classes after she began wearing the hijab. The Quebec Human Rights Commission intervened, seeking \$13,000 in damages and demanding policy revisions to eliminate religious discrimination after the center's director had questioned the girl's decision and required her to remove the hijab to participate.

Hate speech and online hate have also proliferated, with authorities investigating an alarming case involving an advertising van circulating in Toronto displaying inflammatory messaging. The vehicle's screens showed Muslims in prayer with captions asking "Is this Yemen? Is this Syria? Is this Iraq?" before concluding with "No. This is Canada. Wake up Canada. You are under siege," prompting review by the Toronto Police Hate Crime Unit.

The spread of Islamophobia has been further compounded by broader regional influences, including U.S. political rhetoric describing Dearborn, Michigan as “America’s jihad capital” and claims by Republican lawmakers about a “massive Muslim takeover” in Western governments. This cross-border influence, combined with far-right campaigns and mosque incidents, continues to create an environment where Canadian Muslims face ongoing stigmatization despite the country’s official embrace of multiculturalism and diversity.



The Observatory finds that Canada represents 6% of positive developments related to Islamophobia globally, placing it fourth behind the US, UK, and India. Within Canada itself, court decisions and trials have shown the strongest positive impact in addressing Islamophobia during 2024, with equal measures of progress in police arrests, mosque support, countering far-right extremism, and promoting positive views of Islam. These multifaceted approaches reflect Canada’s commitment to addressing religious discrimination through legal accountability, political advocacy, community support, and public education efforts.

Significant efforts to counter Islamophobia through political responses and institutional action were significantly seen. For instance, in December 2024, members of the Liberal and New Democrat parties called for concrete measures to address religious discrimination, including recognition of anti-Palestinian discrimination as a distinct form of hate. These parliamentary initiatives were based on comprehensive studies that produced 34

recommendations addressing both antisemitism and Islamophobia from the House of Commons Committee on Justice and Human Rights. The committee specifically recommended providing additional resources for dedicated police hate crime units and hiring more Arab, Muslim, and Palestinian faculty members at universities, showing a commitment to institutional change.

Law enforcement and the judicial system have taken decisive action against Islamophobic incidents, with the most notable case being the sentencing of a white supremacist who deliberately killed four members of a Muslim family. The Ontario Superior Court of Justice made a landmark ruling in February 2024 by officially declaring this attack an act of terrorism, marking the first time this designation has been applied to white nationalist violence in Canada. Additionally, police have shown responsiveness in addressing hate-motivated incidents, as demonstrated by the prompt arrest of individuals who threatened or harassed Muslims, including incidents at a Scarborough mosque and during a demonstration where a woman allegedly removed someone's hijab.

Political leaders have publicly affirmed their commitment to combating Islamophobia and promoting inclusive communities. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau emphasized Islam's values of "compassion, gratitude, and family" while acknowledging the "invaluable contributions that Muslim Canadians have made" to the country. The BC Muslim Association has also played an active role in holding political figures accountable, as seen in their call for "meaningful action" from the province's Conservative party regarding a candidate's Islamophobic comments, demonstrating that civil society organizations are effectively advocating against religious discrimination.

Germany

Germany remains classified as one of the prominent hotspots for Islamophobia in 2024, despite accounting for only 2% of global documented incidents. This relatively small percentage belies the severity and systematic nature of anti-Muslim sentiment in the country. The concerning trajectory is evidenced by official recognition from Germany's Federal Anti-

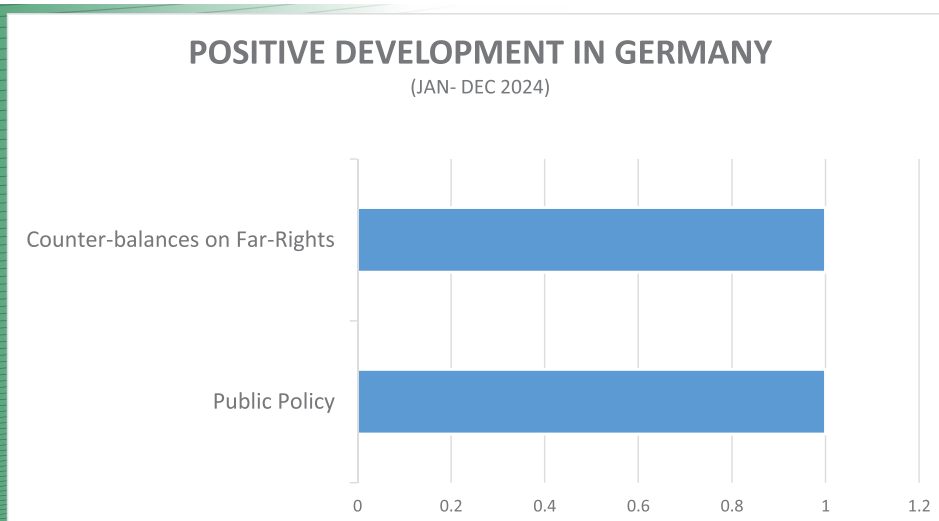
Discrimination Agency, whose head Ferda Ataman explicitly warned in September 2024 that discrimination based on anti-Muslim racism has measurably increased. Particularly alarming is the targeted discrimination against Muslim women wearing headscarves in employment settings, which represents a form of structural exclusion affecting economic opportunities and social integration.



The political mainstreaming of Islamophobic sentiment presents perhaps the most troubling development, with the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) achieving a historic milestone by winning 32.8% of the vote in Thuringia’s state election—marking the first time since the Nazi era that a far-right party has secured such electoral victory. This political legitimization of anti-Muslim rhetoric has been accompanied by institutional expressions of Islamophobia, exemplified by Bavaria’s interior ministry publishing an animated video with imagery comparing Muslim radicalization to Nazi-era propaganda stereotypes. That such content emerged from an official government body rather than fringe organizations signals how deeply these sentiments have penetrated German administrative structures.

Investigative journalism has further exposed the dangerous connections between elected officials and extremist movements, with RTL EXTRA documenting cooperation between AfD politicians and the violent Identitarian Movement. The investigation revealed brutal training exercises explicitly designed for street confrontations and documented party participants openly advocating for a “Srebrenica 2.0 for Germany”—directly referencing genocide against Muslims. These connections demonstrate

how Islamophobia in Germany has evolved beyond casual prejudice into organized movements with political representation and violent aspirations. The sophistication of German Islamophobia makes it particularly concerning compared to countries with higher statistical representation. While discrimination represents the most prevalent form, the data reveals a comprehensive ecosystem of Islamophobic expressions including policy initiatives, hate speech, organized online campaigns, mosque attacks, and both verbal and physical assaults. This multi-layered manifestation—spanning from individual attacks to institutional policies and electoral politics—creates an environment where anti-Muslim sentiment has normalized across multiple sectors of German society, making Germany a significant Islamophobia hotspot despite its seemingly modest statistical footprint in global comparisons.



Despite Germany's status as an Islamophobia hotspot in 2024, significant counterefforts have emerged to combat the rise of anti-Muslim sentiment. The first chart reveals that Germany has made equal progress in two critical areas: implementing counter-balances against far-right movements and developing public policies specifically designed to address Islamophobia. This balanced dual approach demonstrates a coordinated strategy to confront the issue at both the grassroots political level and through institutional frameworks.

A notable development is the substantial public mobilization against the far-right AfD party, which has gained concerning electoral success in

recent state elections. By early March 2024, an online petition calling for constitutional bodies to examine a potential ban on the AfD garnered over 800,000 signatures, which were formally submitted to the Federal Council. This grassroots initiative received backing from approximately 50 lawmakers, including prominent figures such as German Parliament's Vice President Aydan Ozoguz and senior Social Democrat politician Ralf Stegner, indicating cross-party recognition of the threat posed by far-right extremism to Germany's democratic values and Muslim communities.

Perhaps most significant is the groundbreaking constitutional proposal by German parliamentary leader Raed Saleh to incorporate explicit anti-Islamophobia protections into the state constitution. Saleh, as leader of the Social Democratic Party, has advocated for adding anti-Islamophobia clauses alongside existing constitutional provisions against antisemitism, stating: "I can well imagine us in Berlin saying that in our diverse city; we will enshrine the fight against Antisemitism, the fight against Islamophobia and against racism in the constitution." This proposal represents a potential landmark shift in Germany's legal framework that would formally recognize and commit to combating anti-Muslim discrimination at the constitutional level.

While Germany accounts for just 2% of positive developments globally in addressing Islamophobia (compared to larger contributions from the US at 35%, UK at 27%, and India at 20%), the qualitative nature of these efforts is noteworthy. Germany's approach demonstrates a systematic attempt to address Islamophobia through both democratic mobilization and structural legal reform, rather than isolated initiatives. If successful, these dual efforts could establish a foundation for long-term change in a country that continues to wrestle with the tension between its democratic values and the persistence of anti-Muslim sentiment within various segments of society.



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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.

Monitoring and Data Collection

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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.

Education and Awareness

1. **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.
2. **Develop Training Programs:** Design toolkits and training modules for law enforcement, educators, and community leaders on identifying, preventing, and responding to Islamophobic incidents.
3. **Launch Public Awareness Campaigns:** Develop materials for public awareness campaigns, including infographics and fact sheets that dispel myths and misconceptions about Islam.
4. **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.

Media Engagement

1. **Promote Responsible Journalism:** Work with media outlets to promote the understanding of responsible use of freedom of speech, emphasizing ethical reporting standards concerning religion.
2. **Host Journalist Briefings:** Organize regular briefings with journalists to share data and insights on Islamophobia, encouraging accurate and responsible reporting.
3. **Coordinate Media Strategy:** Establish cross-border coordination to share tactics and create a cohesive media strategy for combating Islamophobia.
4. **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

1. **Promote Dialogue Initiatives:** Support interfaith, intercultural, and inter-civilizational dialogue as essential components of combating religious intolerance and discrimination.
2. **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.
3. **Support Grassroots Peace Initiatives:** Continue supporting peace initiatives at the grassroots level in areas of conflict, promoting tolerance, peaceful coexistence, and mutual understanding.
4. **Organize Cultural Exchange Programs:** Facilitate cultural exchange programs and virtual exhibitions celebrating Islamic culture, history, and achievements to counter negative stereotypes.

International Collaboration

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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.

Implementation and Monitoring

1. **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.
2. **Establish Performance Indicators:** Create clear performance indicators to measure progress in combating Islamophobia, with regular reporting and evaluation.
3. **Resource Mobilization:** Mobilize financial and human resources to support the implementation of these policy recommendations, potentially establishing a dedicated fund for combating Islamophobia.
4. **Regular Review Meetings:** Convene regular meetings to review progress, share best practices, and adjust strategies as needed to ensure effectiveness.

By implementing these policy recommendations, it is expected that the OIC, its Member States, and the international community can go towards

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



MANIFESTATION OF ISLAMOPHOBIA

(JANUARY-DECEMBER 2024)

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 constitutes the practice of making unfair or prejudicial distinctions between individuals based on their membership or perceived affiliation with particular social categories, groups, or identities. In contemporary societies, discrimination manifests when people face unequal treatment specifically due to characteristics such as race, ethnicity, gender,

age, disability, religion, or sexual orientation. This unjust treatment typically restricts affected individuals from accessing opportunities, resources, services, or basic rights that remain readily available to members of more privileged or dominant groups. Within the context of Islamophobia, discrimination takes on a particularly targeted dimension, as Muslims face systematic disadvantages and exclusionary practices specifically because of their religious identity or perceived association with Islam. These discriminatory practices can permeate various domains of life—from employment and housing to education and public services—creating substantial barriers to full participation in society. The incidents documented in this section illustrate how anti-Muslim discrimination operates through both overt rejections and more subtle, institutionalized mechanisms that collectively marginalize Muslim communities and individuals, denying them equal treatment and opportunity solely on the basis of their faith identity or cultural practices associated with Islam.

The United States

In January 2024, a former educator initiated legal action alleging she was demoted after submitting a discrimination complaint at the Mary Institute and St. Louis Country Day School. The lawsuit, filed on behalf of Ghada Ead, a Muslim woman who taught at the Ladue private K-12 school for approximately five years, claimed her demotion in April 2023 came months after she complained about remarks made by an administrative assistant. When contacted, school spokesperson Amy Zlatic informed the Post-Dispatch via email that Country Day would not comment on ongoing litigation. According to the lawsuit, Ead dressed conservatively and wore a hijab in accordance with her religious beliefs. The suit further alleged that in August 2022, one of the school's administrative assistants placed a bulk order for homecoming week T-shirts for students and faculty but denied Ead's request for a long-sleeved version.¹



In another incident highlighting religious tensions, on July 4, 2024, boxing authorities took severe action when Ryan Garcia was expelled by the World Boxing Council after repeatedly using racial slurs against Black people and making derogatory comments about Muslims during a social media livestream.²

Meanwhile, as Gaza residents continue to face famine and Israeli bombardment, numerous Muslim charitable organizations are striving to provide assistance to Palestinians. However, many of these groups have discovered over the past year that the banking institutions they depend on to deliver aid to Gaza are reluctant to work with Muslim-run charities – particularly those focused on Gaza. This phenomenon has been termed “Muslim while banking.” Amany Killawi, co-founder of LaunchGood, a Muslim crowdfunding platform, noted, “We used to joke when we started our company that we had 99 problems and payments wasn’t one of them, and that quickly changed. I do feel there’s additional scrutiny on Muslim organisations.” LaunchGood was among many organizations attempting to help Gazans that experienced unexpected closure of their payment accounts during the past year. Killawi suggested these banks feared negative publicity from associating with Muslim organizations during the contentious Israel-Palestine debate. She added that pro-Israel entities often publish critical media pieces about Muslim organizations sending aid to Gaza, which can discourage banks from working with them despite no wrongdoing. These charities were sometimes falsely accused of supporting armed groups, and financial institutions might not thoroughly investigate such allegations. “I don’t think it’s conflict with US law because everything is legal. There’s

nothing that violates their terms of use. My sense is that it's adverse media," Killawi explained.³

Beyond the financial sector, academic freedom has also been affected by the conflict. Several professors at American universities faced disciplinary actions related to their support for the pro-Palestine movement and campus protests. At Columbia University, Katherine Franke, law professor and director of the Center for Gender & Sexuality Law at Columbia Law School, was under investigation regarding an interview she gave in early 2024. Previously, she had filed a complaint against a law firm that dropped her as a client. In another case, Maura Finkelstein, a tenured associate professor of anthropology at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania, was terminated in May over a social media repost on Instagram that prompted a student complaint. She has since appealed her dismissal. At Princeton University, Ruha Benjamin, a professor of African American studies, was investigated for her pro-Palestine activism while the university simultaneously promoted her MacArthur genius grant. These cases represent just a few examples of academics facing repercussions for supporting student protests against Israel's war in Gaza, which sparked widespread campus unrest during the previous academic year and led to numerous new university restrictions on demonstrations.⁴

Canada

A Muslim family reported that a Montreal karate center prohibited their 12-year-old daughter from attending class after she began wearing the hijab. The Quebec Human Rights Commission sought \$13,000 in damages for the family while also demanding the center revise its policies to eliminate religious discrimination. According to a case presented to the provincial human rights tribunal in June, the commission alleged that the center's director questioned the girl's decision to wear the hijab and informed her she needed to remove it to participate in activities. This incident occurred in fall 2022 at Karate Auto Défense Lamarre in Montreal's Mercier—Hochelaga-Maisonneuve borough. Although the girl had been attending the center for years, that summer, at age 12, she made the decision to start

wearing the hijab. The commission reported that upon arriving for her first class of the new season, the girl was summoned to the director’s office and questioned about her hijab. After refusing to remove it, she tearfully called her parents to pick her up.⁵

United Kingdom

A “brain drain” of talented middle-class Muslims was occurring due to rising Islamophobia, according to Harris Bokhari, a key royal adviser on race relations. In a report published by *The Times* on August 16, 2024, Bokhari expressed growing concerns within the Muslim community following riots and attacks on mosques, which had left many feeling unsafe and unwelcome in Britain. Bokhari, who had advised both the royal family and government, revealed that even he and his family had considered leaving the country despite his deep affection for Britain. He noted that numerous skilled professionals, including doctors and healthcare workers, had already departed or were contemplating relocation.⁶

Still in the UK, a cafe employee who lost her long-term position via WhatsApp partly because of her Pakistani Muslim heritage has described how she pursued her case “for her children.” Ayshea Malik took the owners of Food 4 Thought Café in Warrington, Cheshire, to an employment tribunal after being dismissed in April 2023. Ms. Malik had worked at the Great Sankey cafe since 2013, before new owners Przemyslaw Paliga and Zbigniew Szary took over in February 2023. The tribunal determined that Ms. Malik had been unfairly dismissed and discriminated against based on her race and religion. Ms. Malik, who represented herself at the tribunal without legal counsel, described the verdict in her favor as “emotional.”⁷

France

Al Kindi, the country’s only Muslim private high school with state partnership, faced the threat of contract termination by the Rhone Prefecture. This potential action could end the school’s official association with the state. According to the website *Lyon Capitale*, the school had been

notified that the prefecture had initiated procedures to revoke its association contracts. Al Kindi had been the sole Muslim educational institution in France maintaining a state partnership. Lyon Capitale reported that while the Rhone prefecture confirmed the procedure was underway, no details had been disclosed regarding the reasons behind this decision. In response, the National Federation of Muslim Private Education expressed concern over what it characterized as “systematic harassment” of Muslim schools. The federation’s president, Makhlouf Mamech, accused the French government of implementing “disproportionate decisions” and imposing “intensified controls” specifically on Muslim institutions.⁸

Germany

anti-Muslim discrimination was on the rise, according to a warning issued by a leading anti-discrimination official on September 10, 2024. Ferda Ataman, head of the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency, stated that the number of complaints “explicitly related to discrimination based on anti-Muslim racism has increased.” During a press briefing in Berlin where Ataman presented a report on discrimination in Germany, she emphasized, “What we certainly observe is that Muslims experience strong discrimination. We know this from other studies and the cases we have, especially women with headscarves in the labor market...” Ataman further noted that many Muslims also “experience discrimination in public spaces.”⁹

Finland

The country’s Non-Discrimination Ombudsman issued a warning on November 7, 2024, that the government’s refugee quota plan likely constituted religious discrimination. This assessment followed the government’s announcement that it would reduce refugee acceptances from Muslim-majority countries while increasing those from Christian nations. According to the Ombudsman, the Interior Ministry’s directive to prepare the quota plan violated both the Finnish Constitution and anti-discrimination laws. “The Interior Ministry instructed officials to prepare the quota refugee plan

for 2025 in a way that is in conflict with the prohibition of discrimination in the Constitution and laws on discrimination,” stated Deputy Non-Discrimination Ombudsman Robin Harris. The local newspaper Helsingin Sanomat reported that Interior Minister Mari Rantanen and acting Interior Minister Lulu Ranne had directed officials to prepare plans excluding quota refugees from countries such as Afghanistan while increasing numbers from Venezuela. According to the Ombudsman’s statement, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had recommended in July that Finland prioritize quota refugees from Afghanistan and Syria.¹⁰

The Occupied Palestinian Territory

The Israeli occupation army conducted a raid on the city of Hebron in the West Bank on August 31, 2024, closing off the Ibrahimi Mosque and preventing Muslim worshippers from entering, according to local authorities and eyewitnesses. Witnesses reported that Israeli forces stormed the Wadi Al-Hariya neighborhood and conducted searches of several homes. The military operation also extended to the Jabal Abu Rumman neighborhood, where soldiers and snipers were observed positioning themselves on residential building rooftops. Sheikh Moataz Abu Sneineh, who serves as director of the Ibrahimi Mosque, stated that the holy site was closed at dawn without any advance notification, though Jewish visitors were permitted access. “The occupation forces closed the mosque from 4:00 a.m. without warning, preventing worshippers from entering,” Abu Sneina explained.¹¹

Following the closure of the Ibrahimi Mosque to Palestinian worshippers, Israeli military authorities permitted thousands of illegal settlers to hold a concert and perform religious rituals at the sacred site in Hebron. Social media footage showed Israeli soldiers allowing settlers to bring musical equipment into the mosque. The video, which appeared to be recorded by either an Israeli settler or soldier, also captured military personnel assisting with transporting various materials inside the place of worship. Mosque director Moataz Abu Sneineh condemned the settlers’ concert in the mosque’s courtyards as “a blatant violation of the places of worship and the privacy of Muslims.”¹²

India

A Muslim woman employed by a division of the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Skill Development experienced discrimination when she was allocated a dwelling unit in 2017 at the Vadodara Municipal Corporation’s (VMC) low-income housing complex in Harni under the Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana. Despite her initial joy at the prospect of moving with her then-minor son into what she hoped would be an inclusive community, her plans were disrupted before she could relocate. Thirty-three residents of the 462-unit housing complex submitted a written complaint to the District Collector and other authorities, objecting to a ‘Muslim’ moving in, claiming her presence might pose a “threat and nuisance.” Officials confirmed she was the only Muslim recipient of housing in the entire complex.¹³



In another incident in India, residents of Silbhangra claimed they were targeted specifically because of their Muslim identity. According to these residents, approximately 1,500 families had been established in this settlement in Silbhangra village for four decades. District authorities justified the evictions by classifying them as “unauthorised encroachers” on railway property. “We have been living here for three generations,” explained Mamoni. “My maternal grandfather lived here. My mother was born in this house. My brothers and I were living here. But now we don’t have any land or place to go.” Just a few hundred meters from Mamoni’s former home, a collection of houses, a school, a temple, and an ashram remained standing amid the rubble of demolished buildings. “Those are the residences of

Hindu families. But they are still standing... The temple and the ashram are also on railway land. Why were they not pulled down?” questioned the Muslim resident. Many other settlement inhabitants also alleged that Bengal-origin Muslim families had been deliberately singled out, noting that nearly all demolished homes belonged to Muslim families. While a Kali temple remained untouched, the houses adjacent to it had been razed. “They flattened the decades-old madrassa and broke the masjid wall but did not touch the Kali Mandir and the ashram,” said Abul Kashem, whose home was destroyed. Several residents further claimed that the demolition proceeded despite the Gauhati High Court issuing a stay order that morning. Nagaon’s Congress parliamentarian, Pradyut Bordoloi, characterized the demolition as the Bharatiya Janata Party government’s retaliation against Muslims for not supporting the party in the Lok Sabha elections.¹⁴



Further highlighting religious tensions in India, members of the Hindu Raksha Dal, a right-wing Hindu organization, stormed a slum area the previous week armed with wooden and hockey sticks. A group of thirteen enraged individuals went door-to-door questioning residents about their religious affiliation. Of nearly 200 huts in the area, four were targeted for attack—all belonging to Muslims. “They were so angry, went to everyone’s house, and asked if they were Muslims or Hindus,” recounted an anonymous eyewitness. “Hindus were spared, and Muslims were beaten brutally.” On August 9, video footage went viral showing men with sticks vandalizing tents,

assaulting people, and setting possessions ablaze in Ghaziabad's Galdhar. The slum area near Galdhar Railway Station houses hundreds of residents, predominantly Hindu, with just four Muslims who regularly visited the area for livelihood opportunities. Witnesses reported hearing the attackers shouting Islamophobic slurs while assaulting Muslims in the community. The victims included children, women, elderly individuals, and persons with disabilities. "They didn't spare anyone. They beat all 16 of the Muslim families," the witness stated. "We tried to intervene, but they charged at us with lathis and anger." Hindu neighbors recalled being threatened by the mob: "You are helping Muslims as a Hindu. You should have joined us and beaten them. Stay away, or we will beat you too."¹⁵

Adding to the pattern of discrimination in India, incidents of Hindus opposing property purchases by Muslims in their neighborhoods were reportedly increasing, with authorities remaining passive. A case in point occurred in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, where Hindu residents of Punjab Pura demanded that officials invalidate the registration of a house purchased by a Muslim woman, threatening mass relocation if their demands weren't met. The controversy in Punjab Pura, also known as Vakeelon Waali Gali, erupted after former resident Vishal Saxena sold his property to Shabnam, a Muslim woman who had subsequently moved into the area, according to reporting by *The Wire*. Protesters, many of whom were legal professionals, threatened a collective exodus if authorities didn't address their concerns, with some homeowners placing signs on their doors announcing a "samuhik palaayan" (mass exodus). Arvind Srivastava, former secretary of the Bar Association of Bareilly, told local media that the transaction involved an Assamese maulana who he claimed was illegally occupying a nearby mosque. He further suggested that the sale could facilitate "love jihad," a term used by Hindu communal groups to describe an alleged conspiracy by Muslims to seduce Hindu women and convert them to Islam. One Hindu resident expressed to *The Wire* fears that an influx of Muslims into the area could lead to instances of 'Love Jihad'.¹⁶

In another case in India, a student was expelled from an intermediate college in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, for maintaining a beard. The student's older brother filed complaints with both the Chief Minister and District

Magistrate, and video documentation of the incident circulated widely on social media. Zeeshan Ali, who resides in Mohalla Nai Basti, reported that his younger brother, Farman Ali, was a ninth-grade student at an intermediate college. According to Zeeshan, the principal had been urging Farman to shave his beard for approximately a month. When Farman refused to comply, the principal threatened expulsion and academic failure. On July 31, when Farman arrived at school, the principal denied him entry to classes, reportedly stating, “This is a college, not a madrasa. If you come here with a beard, you must shave it off. You cannot study here like this.” The principal then formally expelled Farman. When Zeeshan requested official documentation supporting the demand to shave, the principal allegedly responded, “This is not a madrasa but a college. You must shave your beard; otherwise, your name will be removed from the roll.” When they persisted in requesting to see the official order, the principal instructed them to leave the premises.¹⁷



In yet another incident in India, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who has been criticized for promoting anti-Muslim sentiment, once again targeted the Muslim community by urging people to avoid purchasing fish produced by ‘Miya Muslim’ fish farmers. According to various news outlets, he claimed these producers use urea fertilizer in fish cultivation, a practice he linked to increasing kidney disease rates. Critics noted the irony that as Chief Minister, Sarma had the authority to take action against harmful practices rather than openly advocating for boycotts of an entire religious community. Instead, he encouraged Assamese consumers to prefer fish from Upper Assam, where organic production methods were reportedly more common.¹⁸



The discrimination continued in India as Muslims reported losing employment and facing business closures after two states implemented a “discriminatory” policy requiring restaurants to publicly display employee names. This regulation was first introduced by Yogi Adityanath, the hardline Hindu monk serving as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. In September 2024, the opposition Congress-governed state of Himachal Pradesh announced it would also mandate the public display of all worker and employee names. Both state governments claimed the measure was intended to ensure compliance with health, safety, and vending regulations in these north Indian states. However, local residents and activists alleged that these new rules actually constituted a thinly disguised attack on Muslim workers and establishments. In India, names commonly indicate religious affiliation and caste, raising concerns among Muslim business owners in Uttar Pradesh that this policy would facilitate targeted attacks or economic boycotts, particularly from hardline Hindu groups active throughout the state.¹⁹



Continuing the trend of anti-Muslim actions in India, a traders' association in Uttarakhand's Khansar town in Chamoli district, approximately 260km from Dehradun, passed a resolution demanding that roughly 15 Muslim families leave the town by December 31, 2024, despite some having resided in Chamoli for decades. This resolution was adopted during a meeting of the vyapar mandal on October 16, 2024, following a 'chetna' (awareness) rally in Khansar's Maithan market that same day. The Times of India acquired video footage of the rally showing participants, primarily local merchants, apparently chanting provocative slogans. Virendra Singh, former traders' association president who now leads the Maithan Seva Samiti, informed TOI that the resolution was unanimously approved as "preventive action." He further stated, "During the meeting, it was decided that all such families should leave before Dec 31. Failing to do so will attract legal and punitive action not only against these families but also against those who rent out their houses or establishments to them. Such landlords will also face a penalty of Rs 10,000."²⁰

Additionally in India, Muslim traders were forcibly removed from a state-organized fair at the Tehsil Ground in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district on November 17, 2024. The event aimed to promote local products and self-employment opportunities. Ironically, promotional materials for the 'Swadeshi Mela' emphasized values such as equality, harmony, and national unity, highlighting the importance of coexistence without discrimination. Muslim vendors alleged they were expelled due to religious prejudice, despite being legitimate participants. The fair, scheduled to continue until

November 24, had ignited broader discussions about religious tolerance and economic inclusivity in the state. According to media reports published the following Monday, the traders claimed they were informed by organizers that “Muslims are not allowed.” Even after Muslim vendors had reserved stalls and paid participation fees, they were instructed on Sunday to vacate the premises. The fair, organized by Swadeshi Jagran Manch, had commenced on October 14. According to an NDTV report, numerous Muslim traders who had financially committed to the fair expressed disappointment regarding the overt discrimination, which contradicted the fair’s advertised principles of equality, harmony, and national unity.²¹



In another incident in India, a newly constructed mosque in Banda, Uttar Pradesh, faced opposition from Hindu organizations, including the VHP and Bajrang Dal, who demanded its demolition. The mosque was built on a site that some believe was previously where Lord Rama once presented water to Lord Shiva. According to the protesting groups, this location on Bambeshwar Mountain had housed a temple dedicated to Shiva, a deity venerated by Hindus for generations. Right-wing organizations alleged that the mosque was built clandestinely during the COVID-19 lockdown when movement restrictions were enforced. Hindu demonstrators also expressed worries about what they perceived as increasing Muslim presence in the region. “There was no Muslim settlement here before the mosque was built. This is a threat to our security,” claimed one protestor. “This is an attempt at Islamisation of a sacred Hindu site.”²²

Further demonstrating religious tensions in India, protests erupted in the upscale TDI society in Moradabad after residents learned that Dr. Ashok Bajaj had sold his property to Dr. Ikra Chaudhary, a Muslim physician. According to PTI reporting, society members gathered at the colony entrance carrying banners stating ‘Dr Ashok Bajaj Apna Makan Wapas lo’ (take your house back). “This is a Hindu society, where over 400 Hindu families live. We don’t want anyone from the other communities to reside here,” one demonstrator told PTI, adding that the house was situated near a temple. TDI City Society chairman Amit Verma also participated in the protests.²³

In yet another incident in India, two Kashmiri cloth merchants were harassed in Surjanpur village, Hamirpur district, by a woman claiming to be the local sarpanch’s wife. In a video that went viral, the woman threatened the men, demanding they either leave Himachal Pradesh or recite “Jai Shri Ram.” She also directed villagers behind the camera to boycott their business activities. “We are Hindus, and we have our own Hindu community selling the same things. Why would someone, especially Muslims, come from somewhere else and do business here?” she stated in the recording. “This is our India; you go to your Kashmir. We don’t need you here. I will request everyone not to purchase anything from you. Just leave from here,” she continued. When one trader explained they were also Indian citizens, the woman insisted, “If you are Indians, then chant Jai Shri Ram.” The merchants declined, explaining that as Muslims, they could not recite a Hindu religious slogan. Undeterred, the woman repeated her demand: “Either chant the slogan or leave the state.” The traders, who had traveled to Himachal Pradesh to sell Kashmiri shawls and dry fruits, were compelled to depart amid the harassment while the woman encouraged the person filming to continue recording.²⁴



Hindu organizations hold a protest march in Mandi on Tuesday. Picture Source: Tribune

In another development in India, days after protests regarding a Shimla mosque, Hindutva organizations held a demonstration on November 19, 2024, calling for the demolition of a mosque on Jail Road in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district. Accusing the mosque of illegal encroachment, participants marched from Seri Manch toward the religious facility while chanting communal slogans such as 'Jai shree ram', 'bantenge to katenge', 'ek hain to safe hai', and other derogatory statements. Addressing the crowd, Hindutva leader Kamal Gautam alleged that illegal migrants (Muslims) were expanding businesses in Hindu areas like Mandi without paying taxes. He called upon authorities to investigate financial resources, disrupt small businesses, and remove the mosque based on unsubstantiated suspicions of illegal funding and property violations. The protest was organized by 'Chhoti Kashi Sangarh Samiti', a group formed to protect the alleged purity of the city from Muslims, who were frequently mistreated and characterized as infiltrators or outsiders. During the three-hour demonstration, several known instigators of religious hatred participated. Yati Satyadevanand Sarswati from Bhartiya Sant Parishad also attended, further inflaming tensions. Protesters criticized local administration for not implementing the right-wing groups' demands.²⁵

Sri Lanka

Government officials withheld examination results from 70 Muslim women and girls because their head coverings allegedly concealed their ears during exams. This decision violated the students' religious freedom rights and deepened the discrimination widely experienced by Muslims in Sri Lanka. The affected students, many from relatively low-income families near the eastern city of Trincomalee, took their A-level (advanced level) examinations in January. Instead of wearing the more fitted hijab, they used loose, "transparent" white shawls to cover their heads in compliance with regulations requiring candidates' ears to be visible to prevent cheating. Exam supervisors allowed the tests to proceed without issue. Nevertheless, the government's Department of Examination later determined that the students had worn hijabs, which could potentially conceal Bluetooth earpieces, and consequently withheld their results when other students received their grades on May 31. These students now face the possibility of losing their opportunity for university education.²⁶

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.

Italy

Precisely in the Adriatic port town of Monfalcone, Mayor Anna Maria Cisint implemented a ban on Muslim prayers, which was soon followed by an act of intimidation against a local Muslim cultural center. The center received an envelope containing partially burned pages of the Quran, which its president, Bou Konate, described as “a serious insult” generated by “a campaign of hate.” Cisint, supported by Matteo Salvini’s League party and Prime Minister Georgia Meloni’s Brothers of Italy, has cultivated anti-Islamic rhetoric in the town. She won reelection in 2022 largely due to her anti-immigration stance, which has included removing benches from the main square allegedly used by immigrants, attempting to limit foreign students in schools, and eliminating cricket from sports festivals because of its popularity in Muslim communities.²⁷

European Union

In the European Union hemisphere, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) upheld decisions by two Belgian regions to prohibit Islamic halal slaughter without stunning. Flanders and Wallonia banned the slaughter of livestock that have not been stunned on animal rights grounds in 2017 and 2018, effectively outlawing Muslim halal and Jewish kosher traditions that require livestock to be conscious when their throats are cut. While members of both religious communities and several NGOs argued that these rulings violated their freedom of religion and constituted discrimination, the ECHR determined that both regions were within their rights to impose such bans.²⁸

United Kingdom

In England, the Michaela community school in Brent, one of the country's highest-performing state schools, faced a legal challenge in high court regarding its policy prohibiting prayer rituals on school premises. The case was brought by a Muslim pupil who argued the ban was discriminatory and fundamentally changed how she felt about being a Muslim in the UK. The student testified that being unable to pray at school made her feel guilty and unhappy. The prayer policy had been implemented in March 2023 by the school's founder, Katharine Birbalsingh, after the school experienced abuse and harassment when passersby observed pupils praying in the playground.²⁹

Additionally, in March 2024, the UK government introduced a new definition of extremism that appeared to target Muslims, despite rising hate crimes against both Jews and Muslims following the October 2023 Gaza conflict. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak claimed Britain's multi-ethnic democracy was being deliberately undermined by both "Islamist" and "far-right extremists." Communities Minister Michael Gove stated the measures would prevent government from inadvertently providing platforms to those seeking to subvert democracy. Notably, Muslim organizations named in a draft ministerial statement were prominently supportive of Palestinian rights. The definition characterized extremism as promoting ideologies based on violence, hatred, or intolerance aimed at destroying rights and freedoms or undermining democracy.³⁰

In early May 2024, a Muslim family in London's Haringey area reported vandalism targeting their home after they displayed a pro-Palestine kite. They described hearing a "massive thud" around 9:30 pm before discovering a broken window, and expressed anguish at being targeted for their political views.³¹

Related to Islamophobia in France, the February 29 to March 6, 2024 issue of French magazine *Marianne* was banned in Morocco for violating laws prohibiting publications attacking Islam. The magazine had included a debate titled "have young people become anti-secular?" that featured a controversial Charlie Hebdo caricature of Prophet Mohammed from 2006. These caricatures had previously triggered the deadly 2015 attack against Charlie Hebdo. *Marianne* has frequently generated controversy in Muslim countries for its editorial line, which some consider Islamophobic.³²

France also conducted extensive police raids against Muslim communities under the pretext of securing the Olympics. Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin instructed prefects to take measures limiting “capacity to cause trouble” and monitor “dangerous individuals.” The government expanded surveillance of over 5,100 Muslims on radicalization watch lists and authorized interventionary measures including raids, house arrests, and imprisonments for any perceived infractions. CAGE and other organizations reported numerous violent raids against innocent Muslims, with 250 Muslims raided in Paris alone.³³

Furthermore, United Nations rights experts condemned France’s decisions barring women and girls wearing Muslim headscarves from sports competitions as “discriminatory.” France invoked strict secularism rules to ban athletes from wearing religious symbols during the Paris 2024 Olympics, while French football and basketball federations also excluded hijab-wearing players from competitions, including at amateur levels. The UN experts stated these decisions “infringe on their rights to freely manifest their identity, their religion or belief in private and in public.”³⁴



The Occupied Palestinian Territory

The Israeli authorities repeatedly barred Palestinians from entering the Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem, including for 12 consecutive Fridays. Police were heavily deployed throughout the city to restrict worshippers' access to the mosque.³⁵ In March 2024, Israeli forces physically prevented Muslim worshippers from entering the compound on the first night of Ramadan, with video footage showing armed officers hitting Palestinians walking toward the holy site for taraweeh prayers.³⁶



Israeli Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu controversially called for the cancellation of Ramadan as a solution for tensions in the occupied territories, stating, “The so-called month of Ramadan must be wiped out, and our fear of this month must also be wiped out.” Eliyahu belongs to the far-right Otzma Yehudit party led by National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir.³⁷



Israeli authorities prevent foreign mission chiefs in Palestine from entering the area of the Ibrahim Mosque in the city of Hebron, located in the West Bank on September 23, 2024 [Wisam Hashlamoun – Anadolu Agency]

Israeli restrictions prevented tens of thousands of Palestinians from attending Friday prayers at Al-Aqsa for the 17th consecutive Friday since the Gaza war began. Only 13,000 people managed to enter the mosque, compared to the usual 50,000 on regular Fridays, according to the Islamic Endowments Department in Jerusalem. In March 2024, Israel erected barbed wire around the Lions' Gate area adjacent to Al-Aqsa, which Palestinian authorities described as “a dangerous precedent that has never occurred since 1967.”³⁸ Meanwhile, hundreds of Jewish settlers stormed the Al-Aqsa compound under Israeli security protection while Palestinians faced tight restrictions. These incursions occurred after calls by Jewish groups to intensify presence at the mosque during Ramadan. By August 2024, the Israeli government planned to fund settler visits to East Jerusalem, with Heritage Minister Eliyahu allocating approximately \$522,000 for the project in coordination with Ben-Gvir's ministry.³⁹



In September 2024, the Palestinian Ministry of Endowments warned about increasing Israeli incitement targeting Al-Aqsa after an extremist group released a video depicting the mosque engulfed in flames with captions suggesting imminent destruction. The ministry emphasized that threats toward Islamic holy sites were becoming more openly declared.⁴⁰

Israeli authorities also repeatedly restricted religious practices at other sites. They banned the dawn call to prayer at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron for eight consecutive days in September 2024, which the Palestinian Ministry of Religious Endowments described as “a dangerous development aimed at suppressing Islamic worship.”⁴¹ Security Minister Ben-Gvir instructed

police to confiscate speakers from mosques and issue noise fines to prevent the call to prayer.⁴² In December 2024, authorities closed the Ibrahimi Mosque to Muslims for four days to allow settlers to celebrate Jewish holidays, while keeping it open for settlers' rituals.⁴³

India



i Masjid demolition, December 1992.

In January 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi opened a Hindu temple built on the ruins of the historic Babri Mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya. The consecration marked an unofficial start to his re-election campaign. The temple replaced the 16th-century mosque demolished by a Hindu mob in 1992, an event that triggered religious riots killing over 2,000 people, mostly Muslims. Shortly afterward, authorities in Mumbai tore down several Muslim-owned shopfronts following minor religious clashes related to the temple opening.⁴⁴

In Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district, a Muslim man was arrested and jailed in January 2024 for offering the azan (call to prayer) at a 250-year-old mosque.⁴⁵ Similarly, in Gujarat, a truck driver was arrested for praying on the roadside without permission.⁴⁶ India's most populous state also stopped paying some 21,000 teachers in Muslim religious schools, potentially causing them to lose their jobs. The federal government had terminated funding for the Quality Education in Madrasas program in March 2022.⁴⁷



A particularly disturbing incident occurred in Telangana’s Sangareddy district, where a 19-year-old Muslim boy was assaulted and paraded naked by a Hindu mob celebrating the Ayodhya temple consecration. Despite being the victim, he was arrested and sent to jail for allegedly disrespecting a religious flag, while his attackers remained free.⁴⁸



In February 2024, the Allahabad High Court ruled in favor of continuing Hindu prayers in the basement of the Gyanvapi Mosque in Varanasi, dismissing objections from the mosque’s caretakers. The court held that the Muslim side failed to establish possession of the cellar when it was barricaded in 1993, while ruling that the Hindu plaintiffs’ worship had been illegally stopped “without any written order.”⁴⁹



Mosque demolitions became increasingly common across India. In January 2024, authorities demolished the centuries-old Masjid Akhonji in Delhi's Mehrauli without prior notice.⁵⁰ The mosque housed a madrasa and contained sacred graves. In Haldwani, Nainital district, the administration demolished a mosque and madrasa in February 2024, triggering violence that left six people dead. Officials termed the incident a “planned conspiracy” while arresting ten individuals.⁵¹

In Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh, a district court awarded ownership of a Muslim saint's shrine and graveyard to the Hindu community, ending a 50-year legal battle. The court accepted Hindu claims that the site was related to the ancient Lakshagriha from the Mahabharata era, rejecting Muslim assertions that it was the sacred tomb of Sufi saint Sheikh Badruddin.⁵²



The Indian government dealt further blows to Muslim institutions in February 2024. The Ministry of Minority Affairs ordered the closure of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, established in 1988, without providing reasons. Meanwhile, Assam’s government decided to repeal the Assam Muslim Marriages and Divorces Registration Act of 1935, claiming it was misused for marriages of minors. Opposition parties criticized this as an “unconstitutional step” targeting Muslims.⁵³



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma stated that those forcibly

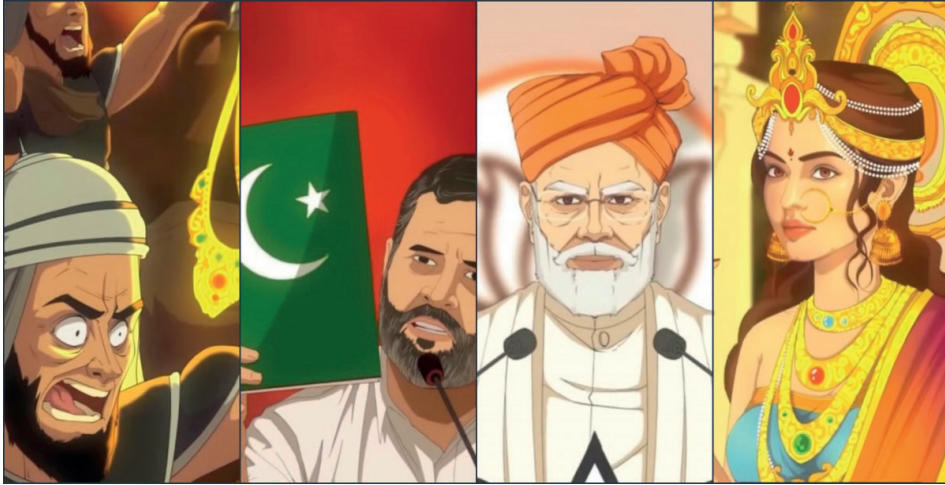
converted to Islam during the Mughal period could regain indigenous status if they “return to their original identity,” adding that landless migrant Muslims would not receive land titles under government initiatives. In Uttar Pradesh, police arrested four people, including a Bajrang Dal leader, for slaughtering cows to falsely implicate a Muslim man in a cow slaughter case.⁵⁴

In March 2024, the Allahabad High Court ordered the Archaeological Survey of India to survey the Bhojshala Temple cum Kamal Maula Mosque complex in Madhya Pradesh’s Dhar district. The court stated the site’s character needed to be “demystified and freed from confusion.” Hindu petitioners argued the mosque was built by destroying Hindu temples during Alauddin Khilji’s reign.⁵⁵



The Indian government implemented the Citizenship Amendment Act, allowing citizenship for non-Muslim refugees from neighboring countries who arrived before December 2014. Rights groups criticized the law as anti-Muslim for excluding the community. In Uttarakhand’s Dharchula town, a traders’ association asked 86 Muslim traders to leave after a Muslim barber allegedly abducted two Hindu girls.⁵⁶

In March 2024, Uttar Pradesh Police arrested Hafiz Noor Ahmed Raza Azhari, state chief of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, after he criticized government actions against madrassas. Around the same time, the Allahabad High Court ordered a ban on Islamic schools in Uttar Pradesh, affecting 2.7 million students across 25,000 institutions.⁵⁷



During India’s 2024 election campaign, animated videos shared by Prime Minister Modi’s party depicted the opposition Congress party giving disproportionate benefits to Muslims at the expense of disadvantaged groups. One video showing over 8.5 million views portrayed a character resembling opposition leader Rahul Gandhi feeding “funds” to a bird in a Muslim skullcap. BJP leader Rajeev Chandrasekhar claimed Muslim population growth was primarily due to “illegal immigration and conversion,” while Modi himself called Muslims “infiltrators” during campaigning.⁵⁸



India’s election commission issued only a mild rebuke to Modi for telling Hindus that Congress would “snatch away” their wealth and give it to Muslims if elected. In July 2024, the Supreme Court restored citizenship to a Muslim man wrongly declared a foreigner 12 years earlier, ruling that a “grave miscarriage of justice” had occurred.⁵⁹

A particularly tragic case of mistaken identity resulted in the death of 19-year-old Aryan Mishra, killed by Bajrang Dal members who suspected him of being a Muslim cow smuggler. The killer, Anil Kaushik, later

expressed regret upon learning his victim was a Hindu Brahmin rather than Muslim.⁶⁰



In September 2024, a mosque in Laksar, Uttarakhand was demolished after complaints from the Hindu Jagran Manch. In Uttarkashi, Hindutva groups demanded demolition of a 75-year-old mosque, claiming it was built on unregistered land, though authorities rejected this demand as records showed the mosque was legal. In Gujarat’s Gir Somnath district, authorities demolished a thousand-year-old dargah, mosque, and graveyard despite a Supreme Court order halting demolitions without prior approval.⁶¹

In October 2024, Uttar Pradesh police arrested 13 Muslims for allegedly throwing stones during a protest against inflammatory remarks by priest Yati Narsinghanand, who had called for Hindus to “burn the effigy of Mohammad.” Critics noted the contrast between swift arrests of protesters while Narsinghanand faced no consequences for his inflammatory speech.⁶²

China

The Centre for Uyghur Studies reported that Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang were denied the right to observe Eid al-Adha due to severe restrictions imposed by Chinese authorities since 2017. The organization stated that “for centuries, Uyghur Muslims have joyously celebrated Eid alongside the global Muslim community,” but under the current regime, Chinese policies have allegedly criminalized Islamic practices and banned religious festivals.⁶³



Myanmar

Fears of ethnic cleansing against Rohingya Muslims intensified after reports that hundreds of people, including women and children, were killed by drone strikes while fleeing violence in Myanmar's western Rakhine state. Videos shared on social media showed dozens of bodies on the banks of the Naf River separating Myanmar from Bangladesh. Witnesses and activists reported that drone strikes on August 5, 2024, targeted civilians fleeing violence in Maungdaw, northern Rakhine, as they waited to cross into Bangladesh.⁶⁴

FAR RIGHT

Far-right politics represents a complex ideological positioning that extends beyond the traditional conservative right on the political spectrum, characterized by distinctive elements including ultra-nationalism, nativism, authoritarianism, and pronounced anti-immigration stances. While conventional political discourse in many countries historically centered on economic questions regarding state intervention versus market freedom, recent decades have witnessed a profound shift toward identity-based politics that prioritize ethnic, religious, and cultural affiliations over broad policy considerations. This transformation reflects a significant realignment

of political fault lines, particularly across Europe and North America, where populist movements have gained substantial momentum by capitalizing on public anxieties related to globalization's disruptive impacts, immigration patterns, and perceived threats to traditional cultural identities. Within this evolving political landscape, Islam and Muslim communities have increasingly become targets of far-right rhetoric and mobilization, with extremist parties and figures strategically exploiting fears about cultural preservation, national security, and social cohesion to advance their political agendas. The refugee crisis stemming from conflicts in predominantly Muslim countries, combined with isolated terrorist incidents attributed to Islamic extremists, has unfortunately provided fertile ground for the proliferation of Islamophobic narratives within far-right discourse. These movements actively frame Muslims as cultural and security threats, positioning Islam as fundamentally incompatible with Western values and institutions. As documented in this section, far-right organizations, political parties, and influential figures have systematically weaponized anti-Islam sentiment to galvanize support, normalize extremist viewpoints, and advance exclusionary policies that disproportionately impact Muslim communities. The incidents cataloged here demonstrate how far-right actors have moved beyond mere rhetoric to organize demonstrations, spread propaganda, and engage in coordinated activities specifically targeting Muslims and Islamic institutions during the review period.

United States



In February 2024, a prominent conservative organization called the Judicial Crisis Network launched an Islamophobic and misleading advertising campaign against President Joe Biden’s Muslim judicial nominee, Adeel Mangi. The campaign targeted Democratic Senators Jon Tester and Bob Casey, who faced reelection in November 2024, pressuring them to oppose Mangi’s confirmation. These deceptive advertisements labeled Mangi, who was poised to become the nation’s first Muslim appeals court judge after a 23-year career as a civil litigator in New Jersey, as a “radical” and “anti-Semite.” The ads falsely claimed he advised an organization teaching students to hate Israel, America, and support terrorism. Notably, the advertisements featured footage of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack with dramatic background music, showing a plane hitting the World Trade Center with a headline about Mangi superimposed over this imagery.⁶⁵

Meanwhile, actress Selma Blair faced significant online criticism after making an Islamophobic comment on Instagram. The controversial remark appeared under a video posted by Abraham Hamra, who criticized U.S. Representatives Rashida Tlaib and Cori Bush for being the only congressional members voting against legislation that would prevent participants in the October 7 attack on Israel from immigrating to the United States. In the video, Hamra, who identifies as a Syrian Jewish refugee, called Tlaib a “liar,” “moron,” and “hateful anti-Semite,” claiming that historically, Jews

had been victimized by Arabs. Tlaib, the sole Palestinian-American in Congress, defended her vote by stating the bill duplicated existing federal law and incited anti-Arab, anti-Palestinian, and anti-Muslim hatred. In her now-removed comment, Blair wrote, “Deport all these terrorist supporting goons. Islam has destroyed Muslim countries and then they come here and destroy minds. They know they are liars. Twisted justifications. May they meet their fate”⁶⁶



In another incident, on February 19, 2024, the Pittsburgh chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations condemned allegedly Islamophobic and racist statements made by Dr. Eugene A. Bonaroti, a Board-Certified Neurological Spine Surgeon practicing in Monroeville, Cranberry, and Washington, Pennsylvania. CAIR-Pittsburgh Executive Director Christine Mohamed expressed deep concern about these alleged remarks, noting that Muslim patients under Dr. Bonaroti’s care might have legitimate reasons for concern. The organization called for hospitals and surgical facilities granting him privileges to reassess their relationship with him and urged the medical board to be informed of his alleged bigoted behavior. Mohamed emphasized that patients seek medical professionals to improve their quality of life, not to experience discrimination, and that Dr. Bonaroti’s reported hateful comments violated his oath to “do no harm.”⁶⁷

Further demonstrating ongoing tensions, a small group of neo-Nazis marched through downtown Nashville, Tennessee, on February 17, 2024. These demonstrators, all male, wore red long-sleeve T-shirts with black pants, and some carried black Nazi flags, as verified by social media footage from the scene. According to police reports, the group eventually departed after facing a “challenge” and encountering vocal opposition from a few individuals.⁶⁸

In a related development, the Cumberland Police Department reported that a white supremacist group had gathered at various locations around the town on February 24, 2024, including the local library. Chief Matthew Benson indicated the group was likely “PINE,” or The People’s Initiative of New England. The Anti-Defamation League classifies PINE as a white supremacist organization and an offshoot of the National Socialist Club 131, which has previously been active in the state. According to the ADL’s website, “PINE advocates for its five-point plan for New England, a more sanitized version of NSC-131’s agenda that includes seceding from the U.S. to create a ‘white homeland’ and ending all non-white immigration.”⁶⁹

Additionally, on March 3, 2024, Mayor Jon Costas and City Council President Robert Cotton jointly condemned a racist demonstration in their downtown area. A lone protester, disguised in dark military attire and a face mask, carried a sign featuring a swastika with the message “Keep the Region White.” A lifelong Valparaiso resident expressed outrage at this display, stating, “I was very, very enraged. Blatant hate in my city.”⁷⁰

Later in the year, human rights advocates condemned former President Donald Trump’s comments about Palestinians and immigrants during his June 28, 2024 debate with President Joe Biden. While the candidates briefly discussed the Gaza conflict, they failed to address substantive solutions to end the fighting that had claimed 38,000 lives in the enclave. Biden asserted that “The only one who wants the war to continue is Hamas,” to which Trump responded by saying Biden had “become like a Palestinian” – a remark that rights advocates interpreted as a slur.⁷¹



In another disturbing incident, Shahbaz Shaikh experienced a hate-motivated verbal attack from an unknown man during Eid al-Adha prayers on June 17, 2024. Despite growing up in San Francisco, Shaikh had never encountered such bigotry until this incident. The attacker unleashed a barrage of hateful statements, including, “You come from a f**ed up country! You are not welcome here... You’re devils... Why don’t you go some other place... I am going to put some pig grease here for you!” Shaikh, who was born in the United States, responded calmly: “I was born here, sir. Thank you. Enjoy the rest of your day.” He later described the internal panic and fear he experienced during the confrontation at McLaren Park, where families had gathered to celebrate the Festival of Sacrifice.⁷²

In a particularly shocking case, Elizabeth Wolf from Texas was accused of attempting to drown a three-year-old Palestinian-American girl while telling the child’s mother she wasn’t truly American. The incident occurred on May 19, 2024, when police in Euless, Texas responded to reports of a disturbance between two women at an apartment complex swimming pool. According to witnesses, an intoxicated woman had tried to drown a child and argued with the child’s mother. The mother, who wore a hijab, told police that the alleged attacker questioned her origins and whether the children playing in the pool were hers, while making statements about the mother not being American. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) reported on June 21, 2024, that Wolf had approached the mother with racist interrogations before jumping into the pool and dragging the children to

the deep end. While the six-year-old boy managed to escape, the three-year-old girl could not. Wolf allegedly removed the mother’s headscarf and used it to beat her, also kicking her to prevent her from reaching her daughter while forcing the child’s head underwater. A bystander rescued the three-year-old, who was coughing up water. After her arrest, Wolf reportedly shouted to another bystander who was comforting the mother: “Tell her I will kill her and I will kill her whole family.”⁷³

Similarly concerning, a man was arrested and charged with criminal harassment following an incident at the Hamilton Downtown Mosque that police classified as a hate crime based on his “statements and actions.” On June 17, 2024, Hamilton police announced charges against a local man after reviewing video evidence and interviewing witnesses. According to their statement, police responded to the mosque on Friday, June 14, at approximately 12:40 p.m. ET following a call about a trespasser who had entered the building and made his way to a classroom containing a teacher and students. The man “proceeded to make hate-related comments” and “upon leaving the building ripped up an English copy of the Qur’an that he had brought with him,” police reported.⁷⁴



In New York, a man was charged with a hate crime after allegedly throwing a can of beans at a Muslim woman on a subway train platform, reflecting increasing anti-Arab and Islamophobic sentiment amid Israel’s war on Gaza. According to the NYPD, Andre Johnson was walking behind the

Muslim woman as she entered a subway station on Manhattan’s Upper East Side on April 4, 2024. Without provocation, he threw a can of beans at her while making anti-ethnic remarks before escaping by train. Authorities arrested him on June 14, 2024, initially charging him with aggravated harassment in the second degree, harassment in the second degree, and theft of services. The New York Daily News reported that following his arraignment, Johnson’s charges included attempted assault in the third degree as a hate crime.⁷⁵

In a case of justice served, a Connecticut man who attacked a Muslim state lawmaker outside a prayer service in June 2023 received a five-year prison sentence on June 5, 2024, according to state court records. Andrey Desmond was sentenced in Hartford Superior Court for attempted sexual assault, strangulation, and risk of injury to a minor for his attack on state Representative Maryam Khan (D) outside an Eid al-Adha service the previous year.⁷⁶

Lastly in the United States, former United States President Bill Clinton faced significant backlash from American Muslim and Arab communities after comments suggesting Israel had been “forced” to kill civilians in Gaza and implying that Israel was in the Holy Land “first,” before Palestinians. Speaking at a rally for Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris in Michigan—a crucial swing state with substantial Arab and Muslim populations that Democrats were trying to win over—Clinton acknowledged concerns about bloodshed in Gaza but argued Israel had no choice but to cause large civilian casualties, even as the country faced genocide accusations in the International Court of Justice.⁷⁷

United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom, the Metropolitan Police initiated a CCTV appeal on February 7, 2024, following a series of far-right, racist graffiti incidents in the Eltham area. Investigators believed a single individual was responsible for the racist vandalism spanning three years, with a concerning uptick in December when police documented four cases. Inspector Kristina Money, who oversees the Safer Neighborhoods Teams covering the affected area,

emphasized: “This individual has been active for a significant period of time and his actions have caused significant distress in the local community.”⁷⁸ Meanwhile, Nigel Farage’s Reform UK party defended a parliamentary candidate’s self-description as a “proud Islamophobe” after Hyphen uncovered troubling social media posts spanning 13 years. Charles Bunker, Reform UK’s candidate for the Hertfordshire constituency of Hitchin, made this comment on X on November 9, 2023, in response to Amy Mek, a prominent anti-Muslim user. Bunker further stated: “To be fearful of Islam is the only logical, intelligent position to take.” His history of anti-Islam content includes an October 2023 accusation that London mayor Sadiq Khan was “leading an Islamification process where Muslims do what they like on our street but if you are native Britain [sic] and White you get arrested and carted off for a minor infraction.”⁷⁹



Furthermore, Nigel Farage faced criticism for using his first election interview to “spout Islamophobia, hatred and divisive comments” after claiming a growing number of Muslims do not share British values. On May 26, 2024, the honorary president of Reform UK drew heavy condemnation after asserting that Rishi Sunak had allowed “more people into the country who are going to fight British values” than any previous UK leader. Speaking on Sky News’ Sunday Morning with Trevor Phillips, the former Ukip leader stated: “We have a growing number of young people in this country who do not subscribe to British values, [who] in fact loathe much of what we stand for.” When asked if he was referring to Muslims, Farage confirmed, “We are. ... And I’m afraid I found some of the recent surveys saying that

46% of British Muslims support Hamas – support a terrorist organisation that is proscribed in this country.” Both Plaid Cymru and Momentum, Labour’s grassroots campaign group, characterized his remarks as “outright Islamophobia.”⁸⁰

In another development, social media posts attributed a fabricated quote to London’s mayor, Sadiq Khan, suggesting he promised specific benefits for the city’s Muslim residents in an April 2024 speech about his mayoral election manifesto. Khan secured re-election as London’s mayor on May 4 with 43.8% of the vote, marking his third consecutive term. A post on X, viewed 1.9 million times, displayed a shortened clip of Khan speaking on the Islam Channel, with a caption claiming he stated: “The children of Muslims who are underemployed or in jobs not suited to their great skills will have subsidies and I will build housing for those of Islamic faith. Diversity is our strength!”. The post by @RadioGenoa, an account that regularly publishes anti-immigrant content according to Swiss news outlet Neue Zürcher Zeitung, added: “He wants to Islamize London.” However, the quote misrepresented Khan’s actual statements, which did not exclusively target Muslims for subsidies. “The mayor did not say these words,” confirmed a spokesperson for the Mayor of London via email, adding that Khan “can clearly be heard discussing his policy of providing free skills training to any young Londoner who is unemployed or in low-paid work, as well as talking about the need to build more housing for all.”⁸¹

Subsequently, Nigel Farage was elected as a Member of Parliament for the first time, during an election night where Reform UK garnered more than four million votes. The party was projected to become the third largest in the UK by vote share and had secured four seats thus far. Farage successfully overturned a Conservative majority exceeding 25,000 to comfortably win in Clacton, Essex—this victory came after seven previous unsuccessful attempts to enter the House of Commons.⁸²



In a case highlighting extremist activities, a far-right extremist who glorified the Christchurch terrorist received a four-and-a-half-year prison sentence for terrorism offenses at Birmingham Crown Court. Edward Griffiths distributed copies of the terror attacks in New Zealand—which resulted in the murder of 51 Muslims—to two individuals, expressing his desire to replicate the attacks and embark on a killing spree. On social media, Griffiths referred to the Christchurch terrorist as a “hero.” Neither prosecutors nor police alleged that he planned any specific attack, focusing instead on how his actions might encourage terrorism—convicting him on one count of encouraging terrorism and two counts of disseminating terrorist publications. Griffiths committed these offenses between November 2021 and summer 2022, before Counter Terrorism Policing East Midlands officers arrested him at his Whitwick, Coalville home in June 2022.⁸³

Additionally, a former rugby league player standing as a parliamentary candidate in West Yorkshire was dismissed by his party over “anti-Islamic” tweets. Keith Mason was scheduled to represent The Workers Party of Britain, led by George Galloway, in Wakefield and Rothwell on July 4, 2024, in the general election. Party leader Mr. Galloway confirmed he had terminated Mason’s candidacy due to the messages, with Mason subsequently issuing an apology.⁸⁴



More recently, a far-right-led mob of masked rioters attempted to set fire to a hotel housing asylum seekers as violence flared across the country during anti-immigration protests. Approximately 700 people gathered outside the Holiday Inn Express in Rotherham before clashing with police. Some rioters hurled pieces of wood, bottles, and chairs, and sprayed fire extinguishers at officers. South Yorkshire police reported at least 10 officers were injured, including one who was rendered unconscious with a head injury. Footage from the scene showed a burning bin and protesters, some wrapped in St. George and union flags, chanting: “Get them out.” Reports indicated the demonstrators apparently stormed into the hotel at one point, with accounts of a fire inside and people visible at windows.⁸⁵

In a particularly disturbing incident, less than two hours after mourners gathered in Southport, England, on July 30, 2024, to honor three children killed in a brutal stabbing attack, hundreds of rioters flooded the streets of the already traumatized town. Over 50 police officers sustained injuries during the ensuing violence, as demonstrators threw bricks at a mosque, attacked police, set cars ablaze, and damaged a convenience store. Despite some unclear details about the unrest, police, lawmakers, and online extremism experts agreed on one point: disinformation and far-right agitators fueled the violence. According to the Merseyside Police Service, supporters of the English Defence League, an extremist anti-Islam organization, participated in a large group that attacked a Southport mosque. This targeting of the

mosque and the subsequent riot followed false rumors circulating on social media on July 29, shortly after news emerged about a man stabbing multiple children and two adults at a Taylor Swift-themed dance class. The rapid spread of misinformation about the attacker's identity created a two-pronged battle for authorities on July 30: one on Southport's streets, where police were pelted with bricks and other objects, and another online, where lawmakers, local officials, and police struggled to halt viral falsehoods. Police arrested a 17-year-old suspect on July 29 afternoon and charged him on July 31 with three counts of murder and 10 counts of attempted murder. Following British law regarding minors, police withheld the suspect's identity but stated he resided in nearby Banks village. On the social platform X, users shared false information about the attacker, including an incorrect name that continued to spread despite police corrections. Others falsely claimed the attacker was an asylum seeker or had entered England illegally, with some posts receiving millions of views and amplifying far-right anti-immigration narratives. Tommy Robinson, the anti-Islam agitator who founded the English Defence League, and Andrew Tate, another extremist online personality, contributed to the speculation. Robinson shared a post questioning why the government had allowed "this Syrian fella in" to stab "innocent children," while Tate posted a video claiming an "undocumented migrant decided to go into a Taylor Swift dance class today and stab six little girls." This video garnered over 14.9 million views. As misinformation spread, police issued statements confirming the suspect was born in Cardiff, Wales, but false claims continued proliferating. During Tuesday night's riot, Merseyside police Assistant Chief Constable Alex Goss stated, "There has been much speculation and hypothesis around the status of a 17-year-old male who is currently in police custody and some individuals are using this to bring violence and disorder to our streets." He emphasized, "We have already said that the person arrested was born in the U.K. and speculation helps nobody at this time," noting that many riot participants "do not live in the Merseyside area or care about the people of Merseyside." 86

Following these events, a Tell MAMA investigation revealed that neo-Nazi and far-right agitators from Europe and the United States were using Telegram to promote racist violence and undermine nationwide police

efforts with malicious hate crime reports. Tell MAMA's earlier investigation identified a prominent Telegram channel established after the Southport stabbings with over 15,000 members. A notable figure in this channel—before its removal due to posting violently racist and terrorist material—was an individual from Finland. Tell MAMA disclosed how the channel had glorified the Christchurch terrorist, shared footage of the terror attacks, and posted demonizing comments about Muslim and Jewish communities before its removal. A second neo-Nazi Telegram channel that reshared this content was removed hours later. Further investigation into a smaller account with 328 subscribers linked to the Finnish individual revealed a channel primarily focused on promoting neo-Nazi messages in northern Europe, with occasional commentary on European and North American politics, before the Southport killings. Following the stabbings that resulted in the deaths of Elsie Dot Stancombe, Alice Dasilva Aguiar, and Bebe King, and the subsequent murder charges against Axel Muganwa Rudakubana, the channel reshared material from UK-based Telegram channels calling for violent actions and expressing racist invectives against refugee and Muslim communities. Neo-Nazis from various Nordic countries encouraged violence toward Muslims in English cities. On August 5 evening, the channel posted a video promising “many things are going to happen,” invoking racist and violent responses including, “We should target the central hub of these p*kis like Bradford and Birmingham.” A Swedish neo-Nazi called for violence in London, with the group administrator expressing agreement while someone else posted a winking Totenkopf (death skull) emoji. During this period, the Finnish neo-Nazi uploaded a racist video to TikTok titled “DO NOT GIVE UP YOUR HOMELAND DEAR ANGLOS” featuring a racist German-language song “Deutschland den Deutschen, Ausländer raus!” (“Germany for the Germans, foreigners out!”) This became a concerning TikTok trend in Germany, according to public broadcaster NDR. Various neo-Nazi and white nationalist accounts in the UK and abroad posted approving and racist statements in the comments.



In political developments, Conservative leadership candidate Robert Jenrick faced criticism from Muslim parliamentarians for stating that police should “immediately arrest” any protesters shouting “Allahu Akbar,” the Arabic phrase meaning “God is great.” Speaking on Sky News about accusations that police had treated far-right marches and violence more leniently than other protests, Jenrick expressed anger over the policing of pro-Palestinian demonstrations. “I have been very critical of police in the past, particularly around the attitude of some police forces to the protests we saw since 7 October... I thought it was quite wrong that somebody could shout Allahu Akbar on the streets of London and not be immediately arrested, project genocidal chants on to Big Ben and not be immediately arrested. That attitude is wrong and I’ll always call out the police for it,” he stated. Jenrick, among the favorites to win the Conservative leadership, drew criticism from Conservative peer Sayeeda Warsi and Labour MP Naz Shah. Warsi wrote on X: “Every day before we start parliamentary business in the Commons and Lords we say a prayer and praise God – we say our parliamentary version of Allahu Akbars at the heart of democracy – a process Robert Jenrick is a part of. This language from Jenrick is more of his usual nasty divisive rhetoric – he is such a tool.” 87



Amid ongoing tensions, the July 29, 2024, killing of three young girls in northwest England was falsely attributed to a migrant, sparking nationwide anti-immigration protests. Several far-right accounts intensified tensions by raising concerns about the supposed “Muslim Defence League”—an organization that does not actually exist. Numerous social media videos referenced this sinister-sounding group. “Muslim Defence League out in Bolton tonight,” claimed an anti-immigration Facebook account on August 4. The footage showed several dozen men dressed in black, some with covered faces, marching while chanting “Allahu Akbar” [“God is the greatest” in Arabic]. Additional videos published the same day allegedly showed the same group later attacking anti-immigration protesters or clashing with police. 88



In Wales, the Muslim Council of Wales accused Welsh Conservative Senedd leader Andrew RT Davies of “Islamophobic race-baiting” following his comments about school meals. The organization also expressed alarm over what it described as “the sheer number of Islamophobic comments” permitted on Davies’ Facebook account. In an article for GB News, Davies wrote “children should not be forced to eat halal school lunches,” after a

constituent claimed she was told non-halal meat was unavailable at her daughter’s school in Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan. The school later clarified on social media that “the statement that all meat options are halal only is incorrect.” However, far-right activist and convicted criminal Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, also known as Tommy Robinson, shared the GB News article on X, where it circulated widely. In his article, Davies added: “Children shouldn’t be forced to have to eat halal school lunches, but in the era of conformity, this common sense call is derided.” The Muslim Council of Wales responded with a strongly worded statement accusing the Conservative Senedd leader of “dog-whistle racism.”⁸⁹

Lastly, the head of an association representing Muslim health workers reported an increase in racist abuse since the beginning of the far-right riots the previous week, with “unprecedented” fear among NHS staff. Dr. Salman Waqar, president of the British Islamic Medical Association (Bima), which represents approximately 7,000 healthcare workers, stated that staff members had been affected both personally and professionally. Waqar explained: “I’ve seen some really terrible messages, particularly coming out from Belfast and in Greater Manchester, of people having to close up their GP surgery early, of people being trapped in their practices, of people having to take taxis back and forth from work, people not going on home visits, people working remotely from home, there’s too many to mention and to count.” He shared video footage and screenshots of text messages from NHS personnel who had contacted him about abuse they experienced in the past week, including being called racial slurs and receiving death threats targeting Muslims.⁹⁰

Netherlands

In the Netherlands, Edwin Wagenveld, leader of the Dutch branch of anti-Muslim organization Pegida, burned a Koran in the eastern city of Arnhem near the German border on May 11, 2024. During this provocative act, Wagenveld wore a shirt with the message “Islam is no better than Nazism” and emphasized the importance of conducting the burning under the right to demonstrate. He criticized what he described as the excessive police

presence required to maintain peace. Wagenveld declared his intention to continue burning Korans until “something changes,” suggesting examples such as banning what he termed “hate mosques.” In a peaceful counter-response, local Muslims distributed free copies of the Koran throughout the city simultaneously with the burning. 91

Spain

In Spain, far-right groups have been advocating for the expulsion of Muslims, characterizing them on social media as “invaders” by referencing historical events from the fall of Andalusia and the Reconquista, according to Anadolu Agency reports. Sergio Gracia, president of the Center for Research on the Far-Right (CINVED) in Spain, analyzed this anti-Muslim rhetoric for Anadolu. He explained that the far-right utilizes the concept of “Reconquista,” or reconquest, along with related historical events to justify reclaiming Spanish territories from Muslims and advocating for their expulsion. “The extreme right usually refers to historical figures like Don Pelayo or El Sid, also using terms like reconquer, making reference to battles such as the battle of Covadonga, the battle of Alarcos, the battle of las Navas of Tolosa or the takeover of Granada.... They usually give you key dates alluding to the battles that they carried out at the local level, such as Malaga 1487 or Alcala 1247. These are two examples of social movements that have been in Spain working and today they are under the umbrella from a far-right political party as Hacer Nacion,” Gracia stated. During the Spanish portion of the European Parliament elections, the newly formed far-right party “The Celebration is Over” surprised many by securing 4.6% of the vote and three MEPs, disrupting the established political balance. Led by 34-year-old Luis Perez, this recently founded party garnered approximately 800,000 votes and sent three representatives to the European Parliament. Meanwhile, the Vox Party, which has represented Spain’s far-right for the past decade, secured six MEPs with a 9.6% share of votes in the European Parliament elections.⁹²

Germany



In Germany, a controversial video published on X by Bavaria’s interior ministry, which was subsequently deleted, provoked widespread condemnation for its Islamophobic content and comparisons to Nazi-era propaganda. The video appeared just hours after two far-right parties had won regional state elections for the first time since the Nazi era. Allegedly designed to raise awareness about the Islamic Salafi movement, the video featured a cartoon depicting a Muslim woman watching an explainer video about whether Muslim women could wear makeup. As the animation progressed, the woman was shown being swallowed by a bearded, maniacally laughing figure wearing a skull cap—headgear associated with some Muslims. This imagery served as a metaphor for her radicalization process. The video concluded with the warning, “The Salafism trap happens faster than you think,” referring to the Salafi movement. The post also included a link to the ministry’s website offering information on preventing radical Islamic Salafism. The video quickly generated backlash, with many expressing concerns about its potentially harmful messaging and Islamophobic undertones. A former parliamentarian condemned the video, describing it as “racist garbage.”⁹³

Furthermore, on September 1, 2024, a far-right party won a state election for the first time in post-World War II Germany, taking victory in the country's eastern region while nearly securing a second state. The far-right Alternative for Germany, or AfD, captured 32.8 percent of the vote in Thuringia—significantly ahead of the center-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU), Germany's main national opposition party, which received 23.6 percent in these regional elections. “An openly right-wing extremist party has become the strongest force in a state parliament for the first time since 1949, and that causes many people very deep concern and fear,” remarked Omid Nouripour, a leader of the Greens, one of Germany's national governing parties.⁹⁴

Just days before the state elections in Thuringia and Saxony, journalists from the RTL EXTRA program exposed connections between the AfD and the right-wing extremist Identitarian Movement through a secret investigation. According to Behind the Scenes reporting, the AfD cooperates with extremist groups to advance its political agenda, despite officially distancing itself from such networks. The investigation revealed that high-ranking AfD politicians were involved with the Identitarian movement. Investigative journalists spent four months infiltrating the closed circles of this movement. During an “activist weekend” in Vienna, they documented brutal fights in a makeshift boxing ring, illustrating the group's willingness to use violence. Martin Sellner, the Identitarian Movement's leader, energized participants before these fights, which were intended not only for the ring but also for street confrontations planned for the next day's “remigration” demonstration in Vienna. At this demonstration, journalists encountered several AfD members. One party participant openly expressed xenophobic and antisemitic views, even downplaying the Holocaust, stating: “Six million Jews were not killed. There were at most 175,000 Jews gassed. The Holocaust happened differently. But I also have to say, I think it's great that it happened,” according to n-tv.de reports. Additionally, in conversation with RTL journalists, this individual called for “Srebrenica 2.0 for Germany,” advocating mass killings of Muslims. When confronted with RTL's findings, the AfD noted that the person in question had left the party that same week.⁹⁵

Sweden

In Sweden, a group of far-right extremists organized a protest in Stockholm, the nation’s capital, demanding the deportation of Muslims to their countries of origin. The demonstrators gathered at Odenplan and chanted the slogan “We don’t want Muslims in our country.” Following this initial assembly, they proceeded to march toward Sergels Torg (“Sergel’s Square”), calling for a complete ban on Islam throughout Sweden.⁹⁶

Austria

In Austria, despite its historic election victory, the Freedom party may encounter difficulties forming a government, while Muslim leaders report community fears that the party’s policy pledge to deport people from migrant backgrounds could become law. The success of the far-right Freedom party (FPÖ) in Austria’s general election on September 29, 2024, has left many Austrian Muslims fearing potential deportation, according to community leaders. The FPÖ secured 29% of the national vote on an ultra-nationalist platform featuring policies including the “remigration” of citizens with immigrant heritage and a promise to ban what the party terms “political Islam,” which party leader Herbert Kickl has described as a “poison to society.” “You really cannot overemphasize the anxieties a lot of Muslims here are experiencing,” explained Nadim Mazarweh, head of extremism prevention at the Islamic Faith Community in Austria (IGGÖ), an umbrella organization advocating for Austria’s diverse Muslim groups. “I’m seeing students ask their teachers questions such as ‘will we be deported after the election?’”⁹⁷

Poland

In Poland, former Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki warned that European culture was being “destroyed” by Muslim migrants from Africa and the Middle East. Morawiecki, who served as Poland’s prime minister from 2017 until December 2023, stated: “We were very open to war refugees from Ukraine when the need was there... We have opened our hearts and

our gates for all refugees. But this is very much different from the huge [amounts of] Muslim migrants from the Middle East who are coming to Germany and France and other countries and who want to change the culture of those countries, those nations. I am clearly opposed to such attempts. I'm admiring [of] French culture, Spanish culture and British culture, but I also admire my Polish culture and I want to preserve it, I want to nurture it. I don't want it to be destroyed by the Muslim migrants coming from the Middle East or from Africa.”⁹⁸

India

In Maharashtra's Thane district, a “Hindu Jan Aakrosh Morcha” rally took place on February 25, 2024, featuring BJP MLA T. Raja Singh as the keynote speaker. Despite having only conditional permission to address the crowd, Singh used inflammatory language against Muslims and spread misinformation about historical figures like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. He selectively narrated stories involving Islamic rulers to foster anti-Muslim sentiment and repeatedly referenced temple demolitions. Singh also called for actions similar to the Babri Mosque demolition to be repeated at mosques in Kashi and Mathura, while touching on divisive topics like the Citizenship Amendment Act, Uniform Civil Code, and alleged “love-jihad.”⁹⁹



Further intensifying religious tensions, a video circulated in March showing the slogan “Jai Shri Ram” projected via laser lighting onto Surat’s Jama Masjid during a Hindu wedding ceremony in Gujarat, causing concern among community members.¹⁰⁰

Violence erupted in Bihar’s Darbhanga district on February 15-16, 2024, during Saraswati Visarjan Pooja celebrations. What had previously been peaceful idol immersion processions reportedly turned hostile toward Muslim communities. The incidents led to over 400 people being booked in Bahera and 61 Muslims, including women and minors, arrested in Tarsarai Muria. Reports indicate that processions passing mosques chanted “Jai Shree Ram” and allegedly hurled abuse at Muslims, while police were accused of entering Muslim homes and making unwarranted arrests.¹⁰¹



In a similar incident on March 4, 2024, BJP leader T. Raja Singh spoke at an event honoring Chhatrapati Sivaji Maharaj in Vijayapura, Karnataka, where he made inflammatory remarks against Muslims. Organized by Janatha Seva Group, Singh reportedly used derogatory language and encouraged attendees to pledge resistance against “love jihad and religious conversions.” He made numerous provocative statements including comparing Muslims to historical figures like Afzal Khan and suggesting there was now “one Afzal Khan in every lane.” Following a complaint from Congress leader Mohammed Tapal, a case was registered against Singh and BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal under multiple sections of the Indian Penal Code.¹⁰²

Another contentious gathering, the Sakal Hindu Samaj Janakrosh Morcha, occurred on March 3, 2024, in Malad Malwani. Attended by BJP leaders including MP Gopal Shetty and MLA Nitesh Rane, the protest featured signs demanding “Bhumi Jihad mukt Malwani” (Malwani free of ‘Land Jihad’) and “Hindu Palayan bandh karo” (Stop Hindu exodus). Speakers accused a particular community of illegal land occupation and bringing in Rohingya and Bangladeshi people to create unrest.¹⁰³



In an unusual legal development, a judge in Uttar Pradesh made controversial statements while invoking serious criminal charges against Muslim cleric-politician Maulana Tauqueer Raza Khan regarding communal violence in Bareilly in 2010. Additional District Judge Ravi Kumar Diwakar praised Chief Minister Adityanath as an exemplary “religious person” in power and blamed “appeasement” of certain communities for riots. The judge, who previously ordered sealing of the Gyanvapi Masjid in Varanasi in 2022, added Khan’s name to the chargesheet and summoned him, labeling him the “main mastermind” of the 2010 riots.¹⁰⁴

Hindutva Watch reported that in March, BJP legislator Balmukund Archarya delivered a speech in Jaipur, Rajasthan, calling for converting the Qutb Minar into a temple. He also stated that the Shahi Idgah Mosque and Gyanvapi Mosque would face the same fate as the Babri Mosque, promising that Hindus would one day pray to “red Hanuman in Red Fort” and worship at other reclaimed sites.¹⁰⁵



In February 2024, Rashtriya Karni Sena President Suraj Pal Ammu gave an inflammatory speech in Aligarh (referred to as Harigarh in his address), urging audiences to prepare for demolishing the Gyanvapi mosque in Kashi. He repeatedly encouraged violence and praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. When he asked if the crowd was ready to “destroy the Gyanvapi structure,” they responded with a resounding “yes.”¹⁰⁶

Protests arose after a cultural procession at Bodoland University in Kokrajhar, Assam on March 16, 2024, portrayed Muslims as criminals. During a celebration of Bodo Legendary Heroes, a video showed individuals dressed in Muslim attire with bound hands being led by someone dressed as a police officer and apparently beaten. Former Professor Taijuddin Ahmed called this a “motivated conspiracy” and warned that similar “rehearsals” had preceded actual attacks on Muslims in previous years.¹⁰⁷

In January, BJP MLA T. Raja Singh delivered another hate speech in Saswad, Pune, targeting the Muslim community on issues like “Love Jihad” and cow slaughter. He told political opponent Asaduddin Owaisi that Hindus were “not done with Kashi and Mathura” and promised that “every temple of ours that was destroyed by the jihadis... will not be left.” He warned that once India becomes a “Hindu nation,” they would “take accountability of every temple destroyed.”¹⁰⁸

Dozens of petitions have been filed against mosques and Muslim structures across India, despite a law freezing places of worship as they existed when India gained independence in 1947. Even iconic monuments like Delhi’s Qutub Minar and Agra’s Taj Mahal have been targeted in court. These legal arguments intensified after Modi inaugurated a new temple in Ayodhya dedicated to Lord Ram, built on the ruins of a mosque destroyed by a Hindu mob in 1992—an incident that sparked nationwide riots killing approximately 2,000 people, mostly Muslims. Shortly after the Ayodhya temple inauguration, two mosques were demolished by authorities citing “illegal encroachment”: a centuries-old mosque in south Delhi and another mosque with an Islamic school in Uttarakhand’s Haldwani.¹⁰⁹



In Buddub, West Bengal, a BJP leader urged Hindus to “use weapons like knives and blades” against Muslims, while in Karimnagar, Telangana, BJP lawmaker T. Raja Singh threatened violence, saying, “We don’t need 15 minutes, we just need 15 seconds [to kill them].”¹¹⁰



In Delhi, BJP leader and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma threatened to build a temple on the site of the historic Gyanvapi mosque and made anti-Muslim remarks during an election rally, claiming: “Muslims are keeping 3 wives each and women get married at 12 years of age and start giving birth.”¹¹¹



In Mumbai, Maharashtra, Hindu extremist group leader Dhananjay Desai delivered a dehumanizing speech comparing non-Hindus living in India to “a disease living in a human body” and referred to Rohingya refugees as “termites.”¹¹²

On May 24, 2024, Union Home Minister Amit Shah accused the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-led coalition government of carrying out “love Jihad, land Jihad and forest Jihad” against tribal communities by allegedly allowing infiltrators into Jharkhand. Speaking at an election rally in Dumka, he appealed to tribal voters to elect a government that would stop infiltration, warning that tribal lands and forests were at risk.¹¹³

Three weeks after claiming in a speech that Muslims would receive

India's wealth if Congress came to power, Prime Minister Narendra Modi denied mentioning Muslims in a May 14, 2024, interview with News18. Despite videos of his speech clearly showing him referring to Muslims as “infiltrators” and “people who birth too many kids,” Modi expressed shock at the suggestion and asked the interviewer why she was doing “injustice to Muslims.” His original speech had reinforced a conspiracy theory popular among Hindu nationalists that Muslims produce more children to eventually outnumber Hindus.¹¹⁴



On June 9, 2024, scientist and right-wing commentator Anand Ranganathan sparked controversy by advocating for an “Israel-like solution” in Kashmir during “The Samosa Caucus Podcast.” Ranganathan, who serves as consulting editor for Hindu nationalist publication Swarajya, dismissed the reports of tourism growth in Kashmir as a facade and criticized Indian policies for failing to rehabilitate 700,000 Kashmiri Hindus, claiming tourist money benefits terrorists.¹¹⁵



A video from India showed BJP leader Karnell Singh threatening to “slaughter 200,000 Muslims” after a cow’s head was found near a Hindu temple in Delhi, escalating communal tensions.¹¹⁶



Officials in Madhya Pradesh’s Ratlam demolished the home of a Muslim man after Hindu groups demanded action regarding a severed cow head found at a temple. Two suspects were detained, and one of their houses was bulldozed without proper investigation, despite the temple’s CCTV cameras being non-functional.¹¹⁷



Hindutva groups vandalized and looted a Muslim-owned garment shop in Himachal Pradesh’s Nahan town on June 19, 2024, after the owner posted photos of animal sacrifice as his WhatsApp status. Video footage showed a mob forcibly opening the shop while police stood by, as people chanted “Ek Hi Nara Ek Hi Naam, Jai Shri Ram.” Police only closed the shop after most items were damaged or stolen.¹¹⁸



In Odisha’s Khordha town, cow vigilantes (Gau Rakshaks) invaded a Muslim home and confiscated all meat and their refrigerator based on suspicions of beef storage. The incident occurred shortly after Eid al-Adha. A viral video showed the mob shouting “Jai Shri Ram” as they raided the family’s refrigerator, leaving them traumatized by the unprovoked attack.¹¹⁹

The Mandla district administration in Madhya Pradesh demolished homes

of 11 people accused of cow slaughter, all belonging to one religious group. District Magistrate Saloni Sidana stated that an illegal abattoir was found operating in Bhainswahi village with evidence of animal slaughter. While authorities booked the suspects under the MP Cow Slaughter Prevention Act, their families claimed no notice was served before demolitions, with one spouse lamenting, “We have nowhere to go and no household goods left.”¹²⁰

A Muslim street vendor, Mohammed Umar Qureshi, was allegedly assaulted by members of the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal in Himachal Pradesh’s Banganga. Qureshi reported that people from Bajrang Dal, Shiv Sena, and BJP beat him, stole his money, and forced him to chant “Jai Shri Ram.” According to the victim, who is from Uttar Pradesh’s Meerut, the attackers told him: “Now our government has come to power. Muslims would no longer be allowed to exist.”¹²¹



In West Bengal’s Birbhum District, a mob tied a Muslim youth to a pole and beat him with bamboo sticks, suspecting he deliberately threw meat near a temple on Eid al-Adha (June 17, 2024). The victim, Tufan Sekh, was riding his bike with a relative to distribute sacrificial meat when a packet accidentally fell from their bag. When he returned to retrieve it, the mob surrounded him, destroyed his bike, and severely injured him, while his companion Talib Sekh suffered leg injuries.¹²²

According to reports, when the management of Minhaj ul Uloom Madarsa purchased cattle for Bakrid sacrifice, local right-wing organizations created a disturbance. After police initially dispersed the crowd, Hindutva group

members returned to attack the madrasa, injuring several people who were taken to a local hospital. The mob subsequently attacked the hospital building with stones, forcing police to conduct a lathi charge to control the situation.¹²³

On June 13, 2024, India’s Supreme Court stayed the release of Bollywood film “Hamare Baarah,” ruling that even the teaser contained content offensive to married Muslim women and their religion. The stay order followed a challenge to a Bombay High Court decision that had permitted the film’s June 15 release.¹²⁴



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced on August 4, 2024, plans for legislation against what he termed “land jihad” and “love jihad.” Speaking at a BJP state executive meeting in Guwahati, Sarma stated that Hindus and Muslims buying each other’s land would require government permission, and those practicing “love jihad” would face life imprisonment. Assam BJP chief Bhabesh Kalita defended the proposed anti-”land jihad” measures as necessary to protect indigenous people.¹²⁵



In Shimla, members of Hindu organizations, BJP workers, and local residents gathered outside the Sanjauli Masjid, chanting Islamophobic slogans and claiming the mosque's construction was illegal. The demonstrators, carrying the Indian flag, demanded demolition of what they alleged were unauthorized floors. Dev Bhumi Shatriya Sangathan President Rumi Singh Thakur, who called for “sanatanis” to assemble, celebrated the “Sanatan unity” shown and demanded verification of “outsiders” coming to Himachal Pradesh.¹²⁶

Violence erupted in Surat's Syedpura area on September 8, 2024, after stones were reportedly thrown at a Ganesh pandal in Wariyali Bazar, leading to vandalism of Muslim-owned shops, vehicles, and a mosque. The incident allegedly began when children aged 8-12, from Dalit and Muslim backgrounds, accidentally hit the pandal while playing. Local journalist Sahal Qureshi reported that Hindu organizations and BJP MLA Kanti Balar gathered at the police station, inflaming tensions with statements like “We will not tolerate the hooliganism of Muslims.” As the crowd grew, chants of “bulldozer, bulldozer” emerged, calling for demolition of Muslim homes. The ensuing violence injured several people, including Deputy Commissioner of Police Vijay Singh Gurjar, with 27 Muslims subsequently arrested.¹²⁷

Fact-checker Mohammed Zubair was booked on October 7, 2024, for posting a video of Yati Narsinghanand in which the Dasna Temple head priest made derogatory remarks about Prophet Muhammad. The FIR was

filed at Ghaziabad's Kavi Nagar police station following a complaint by BJP leader Uditia Tiyagi. Zubair faces charges under multiple sections of the *Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita*, while the complaint also mentioned Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi and *Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind* chief Arshad Madani for condemning Narsinghanand's remarks.¹²⁸

Yati Narsinghanand was himself booked by Uttar Pradesh police after calling for the demolition of madrasas and Aligarh Muslim University at a Hindu Mahasabha event in Aligarh on September 18, 2024. He was quoted saying madrasas “should be blown to bits with gunpowder” or follow “the policy of China” by sending residents to detention camps “where the virus called Quran can be removed from their brains.” He also said AMU should be demolished with bombs and dismissed potential legal action, noting that “court cases keep on coming.”¹²⁹



The "Chetna and Chetavani" rally in Srinagar Garhwal on Thursday, where Lakhpat Bhandari, a BJP leader, made a hate speech.

On October 3, 2024, BJP local leader Lakhpat Bhandari led a “Chetna and Chetavani” rally in Srinagar city where he made a hate speech against Muslims, calling for their economic boycott and allegedly suggesting “burning of shops” owned by Muslims. Praising Hindutva elements who had forced out Muslims from the Chauras area the previous month over alleged “Love Jihad” charges, Bhandari threatened a specific Muslim-owned shop and urged Hindu women to boycott Muslim fruit sellers, claiming they increased prices during the Navratra festival.¹³⁰

A video that emerged on social media on November 16, 2024, showed right-wing extremists storming a mosque in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra, confronting the imam and claiming the site was originally a temple. The group demanded documents proving the mosque's authenticity and threatened to lock it if their demands weren't met. When the imam explained the area was historically a graveyard before the mosque's construction, one group member insisted it was a temple 100 years ago.¹³¹

During the Jharkhand elections, with the second phase scheduled for November 20, BJP released hate videos targeting Muslims disguised as campaign advertisements. This continued a pattern seen during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, when the party produced bigoted videos depicting Muslims as “infiltrators” who “snatch” others' resources. The first video featured characters resembling opposition leaders, with fake Hemant Soren seeking falsified data from “Bengali Dhadha” to combat news claims. In another scene, characters resembling Tejashwi Yadav, Hemant Soren, and Rahul Gandhi discuss past violence against tribal peoples, after which Soren's character refers to four Muslim men in skull caps entering the room as “hypocrites” who will help them win votes.¹³²



VHP leader Mahaveer Prasad delivered an inflammatory speech at an internal meeting in Delhi's Kamla Nagar on October 28, 2024, warning Hindus about Muslim population growth. He claimed Muslim numbers had increased to 28-30 crores in 77-78 years and predicted they would reach 45-50 crores within 7-8 years, asking rhetorically, “If only 8 crore

Muslims were able to break the country, what would they do now with a population of 38-30 crores?”¹³³



On October 23, 2024, BJP MLA Balmukund and his Hindutva supporters allegedly assaulted Muslim women for offering Namaz in an Imambara in Jaipur’s Hawa Mahal area. Reports indicate they destroyed curtains used to separate women’s prayer areas and demanded the women show statues.¹³⁴

A report jointly published on October 16, 2024, by Political Research Associates and the Savera coalition revealed the Hindu American Foundation’s (HAF) far-right associations and agenda in the United States. Titled “HAF Way to Supremacy,” the report found HAF’s advocacy reflected a zero-sum approach to civil rights that pitted Hindu rights against those of other communities. It detailed HAF’s role in spreading Islamophobia and casteism within Indian American communities while seeking to undermine solidarity between communities of color and align Hindu Americans with multiracial far-right movements.¹³⁵



In Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh, Hindutva leaders of Rashtriya Seva Sangathan protested against a mosque in the Berinag area. Even with police present, they incited the crowd with Islamophobic rhetoric, calling for the mosque's destruction and violence against Muslims. One right-wing activist proclaimed: "We should eradicate this mosque from here, it's our first duty, because we are Hindus!" while another declared: "If they can declare Allah-Hu-Akbar, we can also shout Jai Shree Ram! We will remove this mosque from its roots!"¹³⁶



In a controversial statement that went viral, Chandrashekhar Swami, seer of Vishwa Vokkaliga Mahasamsthana Mutt, declared on November 27, 2024: "Muslims should be stripped of their right to vote, for others to live peacefully." Speaking at a protest organized by the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh against alleged "takeover of farm land by the waqf board," he condemned land acquisition in the name of waqf and demanded abolition of waqf boards nationwide, adding that politicians support such actions for electoral gain.¹³⁷



On November 22, 2024, Dasna temple priest Yati Narsinghanand urged Hindus to recite Hanuman Chalisa at a Muslim community gathering planned in Delhi. In a video message, he warned the Hindu community not to repeat the “mistake” of the Shaheen Bagh movement and to unite against “Islamic Jihadists,” claiming: “If even now we do not oppose the Jihadis, then like Bangladesh, Pakistan, Kashmir, Afghanistan, Iran, Arab, we will lose everything and be finished off from India too.”¹³⁸

Australia



On June 6, 2024, the home of Rita Manassis in Melbourne’s north-east was vandalized with anti-Muslim graffiti. The pavement and driveway of her residence were spray-painted with the phrases “Get out Muslim c---” and “death to Palestine,” alongside several swastika symbols, according to the Islamophobic Register. Despite not being Muslim herself, Manassis believed she was targeted for showing support for Palestinians amid heightened political tensions related to Israeli military operations in Rafah.¹³⁹



White supremacists demonstrate in Corowa, New South Wales (AAP) Credit: SUPPLIED BY THE NOTICER/PR IMAGE

In a disturbing incident on January 5, 2024, bomb squad officers were called to a south Sydney home after an improvised explosive device was planted on the car of its pro-Palestinian residents. The homemade device, appearing to be constructed from a jerry can with rags stuffed into it, a disposable lighter, and large bolts, was found on the vehicle’s bonnet in Botany. The targeted car was parked in the driveway of a home displaying the Palestinian flag and a board with statements about the Gaza war. A threatening note attached to the device read: “Enough! Take down flag! One chance!!!!”¹⁴⁰

The Islamophobia Register of Australia’s executive director Nora Amath reported an alarming increase in anti-Muslim incidents, with data showing a rise of over 600 percent. Amath described how visibly Muslim women have been “viciously, verbally and physically assaulted” during everyday activities, with some being punched and having attempts made to remove their headscarves. Muslim businesses and organizations have also received hate through various means, including voicemails, physical letters, and

emails. Meanwhile, just across the border in the small New South Wales town of Corowa, approximately 50 masked men gathered for a white supremacy rally on October 12, 2024, which New South Wales Premier Chris Minns condemned, referring to participants as “lonely, pathetic people.”¹⁴¹

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.

United States

In August 2024, Izak Kadosh of Brooklyn was charged with over 40 counts, including attempted murder and hate crimes, for what authorities described as a month-long campaign of harassment and violence against his Muslim neighbor, Ahmed Chebira. According to the criminal complaint, Kadosh explicitly stated religious and ethnic differences as his motivation, threatening to kill Chebira because “Kadosh is Jewish and his neighbor is Muslim.” The charges stemmed from an August 10th incident where Kadosh allegedly broke into Chebira’s apartment, destroyed items, covered walls with paint and oil, smeared a Quran with feces, and struck Chebira in the head with a mallet, resulting in serious injuries requiring hospitalization.¹⁴²



Around the same time, on August 5, 2024, a violent attack occurred near Rockefeller Center in Midtown Manhattan when David Grinblat allegedly assaulted Sheharyar Ali Kazmi in what prosecutors described as a hate crime. According to court documents, Grinblat approached Kazmi who was on the phone, spat on him, called him a “f--king Muslim,” and told him he was a “terrorist” who should “go back to Asia” before physically attacking him. Video footage showed Grinblat repeatedly yelling “Death to all Muslims!” during the assault. He was arrested three days later and charged with assault as a hate crime and aggravated harassment.¹⁴³

On August 21, 2024, another incident occurred in Brooklyn when a suspect approached a Muslim woman inside a commercial building on Flatbush Avenue and punched her multiple times in the face while making anti-Muslim comments. The attacker fled westbound on Atlantic Avenue after the assault, which left the victim with minor injuries that did not require hospitalization.¹⁴⁴

Canada



In Canada, Toronto police reported searching for a man involved in a suspected hate-motivated assault that occurred on a TTC subway train on May 12, 2024. According to investigators, the female victim and her friend were traveling when an unknown man began shouting anti-Muslim comments and assaulted the victim before bystanders intervened, causing the suspect to flee the scene.¹⁴⁵

More recently, on October 26, 2024, London police began investigating another hate-motivated assault that took place in a downtown park. At approximately 3:30 p.m., a man was with his family in Ivey Park when an unknown individual approached them, made derogatory comments, and proceeded to assault him. The National Council of Canadian Muslims expressed being “deeply horrified” upon learning the victims were Muslim.¹⁴⁶

Earlier, on June 8, 2024, London police sought a male suspect in what they believed to be a hate-motivated arson after the front porch of a house in the city’s northwest was deliberately set on fire. Police and fire crews responded to the Watroak Drive residence, and while the fire was extinguished without injuries, Detective Inspector Alex Krygsman stated they were treating it as “a possible hate-motivated incident.”¹⁴⁷

Lastly, a Université de Montréal Master’s student named Kamilla reported being the victim of a hate incident shortly after the Israel-Hamas war broke

out on October 10. While walking to the library and crossing the street between Jean-Brillant and McKenna, she encountered a woman who made hostile gestures and accusations. “I was walking this way and over here this lady gave me the finger, right as we were crossing the road,” Kamilla recounted. The woman proceeded to call her a “murderer among other words” and accused her and others of “going around killing people.”¹⁴⁸

United Kingdom



In the United Kingdom, a Muslim woman named Lila Tamea experienced racial abuse on a train journey from Liverpool to her home in Warrington that left her feeling “really uncomfortable and intimidated.” What began as seemingly friendly conversation with four men turned hostile after she mentioned she was studying for a PhD researching racism in education. According to Tamea, one of the men rolled his eyes before the group began making a series of racist comments including “kill all Muslims.” Referencing recent nationwide riots, Tamea told Yahoo News UK: “Given the events that took place four weeks ago, I was really uncomfortable and intimidated.” She documented the encounter with audio and video recordings, capturing threats including one man telling her he might kill her “when you’re walking home,” followed by a chuckle. In another clip, a man’s voice could be heard

saying, “We have to kill all the fg Muslims, get rid of the fs before they come over here,” and in yet another, “I’m gonna get my Uzi machine gun and kill as many Muslims as I can. I won’t do you though, you’re a nice girl.”¹⁴⁹

India

Religious tension was further inflamed by controversial statements from religious leaders. On May 16, 2024, Yati Narsinghanad Saraswati, priest of Dasna Devi temple and known for his Islamophobic rhetoric, compared his infamous dharamsansad (religious assembly) speech to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s election campaign speeches. Speaking to reporters, he claimed, “Whatever we had said at our dharamsansad, the Prime Minister of India is also saying it publicly. It means that we were right.” Narsinghanad, who had previously called for Muslim genocide during a three-day dharamsansad in Haridwar in December 2021 (an event attended by BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyay), announced plans to organize a global dharmasansad. Referring to Muslims as “jihadis,” he stated, “In the entire world, if we want humanity to last, we will need to clean it of jihadis.” The comparison came after Prime Minister Modi faced criticism from opposition parties for allegedly labeling Muslims as “infiltrators” and “those who have more children” during a campaign speech in Rajasthan’s Tonk district, where he claimed Congress would “take all your wealth and distribute it among those who have more children ... among infiltrators.”¹⁵⁰

In another incident demonstrating religious tensions, a textile shop owned by a Muslim man named Javed was vandalized by a Hindu mob in Himachal Pradesh’s Nahan over allegations of cow slaughter. Days after the attack, police investigation revealed that the animal in question was actually a buffalo, whose slaughter was legally permitted in the state. The incident was triggered when Javed posted pictures of animal sacrifice as his WhatsApp status on Bakrid, after which Hindutva groups, including VHP and the Traders Association, began agitating and accused him of slaughtering a cow.¹⁵¹



A more violent incident occurred on June 18, 2024, when a Muslim man named Mohammad Farid (also known as Aurangzeb) was lynched by a mob in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. Attacked on suspicion of theft, Farid succumbed to his injuries shortly after the assault. Disturbing videos that circulated online showed him being mercilessly beaten with lathis, punched, and kicked by the mob, with another video showing him lying lifeless on a hospital bed with his eyes open. According to a report by The Print, Farid's brother, Mohammed Jaqi, filed a complaint resulting in an FIR against six men, claiming they attacked his brother upon realizing he was Muslim. The FIR stated that Farid was returning home to the Ghas ki Mandi area when a mob of over 12 people, including accused Ankit and Chirag Varshney, surrounded him and, upon identifying him as Muslim, attacked him with hockey sticks and lathis with the intent to kill. Farid's family took him to Malkhan Singh Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival. This incident marked the fourth Muslim man lynched in India within a twelve-day period, following the June 7 lynching of three men in Chhattisgarh's Raipur under similar circumstances.¹⁵²



Communal violence erupted in Medak town on June 15, 2024, leading Telangana police to arrest several BJP officials, including district president Gaddam Srinivas, town president M Nayam Prasad, and BJYM (Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha) town president, in connection with violence against Muslim residents ahead of Eid Al Adha celebrations. Seven others who participated in attacks on the Minhaj ul Uloom Madarsa, an Orthopaedic hospital, and several Muslim enterprises were also arrested. Meanwhile, MLA Raja Singh, a Hindutva figure known for anti-Muslim hate speeches, was taken into preventive custody at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport as he planned to visit Medak. The violence had erupted when Hindutva groups protested against cattle brought for slaughter during Eid, with a violent mob carrying weapons rallying through the town, attacking Muslims and vandalizing their properties.¹⁵³

Continuing the pattern of violence, Chhattisgarh Police arrested two men on June 25, 2024, in connection with the Hindutva mob lynching of three Muslim men from Uttar Pradesh in the state capital Raipur earlier that month. The arrested individuals were identified as Navin Singh Thakur, a driver, and Mayank Sharma, a goods transporter, both residents of Mahasamund. These arrests brought the total number in the case to four, following the earlier detention of Harsh Mishra and Raja Agarwal (a PR head of BJP

Yuva Morcha in Mahasamund district) on June 22 and 23 respectively, all of whom were associated with Hindutva groups. The victims—Saddam Qureshi, Guddu Khan, and Chand Miya Khan—were brutally attacked by a mob on June 7 while transporting cattle from Mahasamund to the state capital. The assault occurred on the Mahanadi river bridge in Arang, with police later finding all three men lying below the bridge. Two died immediately, while Saddam, the lone surviving eyewitness, succumbed to his wounds on June 18 after fighting for his life for ten days.¹⁵⁴



In Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh, communal violence erupted on October 13, 2024, following the death of a Hindu youth named Ram Gopal Mishra during an annual procession for the immersion of Durga idols. According to reports analyzed by The Wire, enraged mobs launched attacks against Muslims, torching and vandalizing their homes, shops, vehicles, and even looting household possessions including gas cylinders, food grains, and livestock. The violence spread across both rural and urban areas in at least two police station jurisdictions. The initial flare-up occurred when local Muslims objected to loud music (described by some as vulgar) being played during the procession passing by their homes in the Maharajganj area. This led to a confrontation between groups from both communities. Before his death, Mishra was reportedly seen climbing atop a Muslim house, removing an Islamic flag, and replacing it with a saffron flag bearing the name of Hindu god Ram, to cheers of “Jai Shri Ram” and “Jai Bajrang Bali” from his supporters. The Bahraich police registered 14 FIRs related to the entire incident, with eight linked to violence against Muslims. Five of these were lodged by police officers themselves, noting that the arson and vandalism

created an atmosphere of “chaos and terror.” Most cases were filed against unidentified persons or large mobs armed with weapons including lathis, iron rods, clubs, spears, sharp objects, and bottles filled with flammable materials.¹⁵⁵

In a separate incident highlighting allegations of institutional bias, two Muslim student leaders at Delhi University claimed they faced religious discrimination from police during student union elections on September 27, 2024. According to a report by The Wire, Shahreyar Khan and Annan alleged they were assaulted and subjected to religious slurs such as “mulla,” “deshdrohi,” and “terrorist” by Delhi police officers. The students were reportedly detained at Maurice Nagar Police Station following an altercation, despite being 200 meters away from the polling booth near Mother Dairy in the university’s North Campus. The incident was characterized as an example of widespread communalization within the police force and the ongoing difficulties faced by Muslims in India.¹⁵⁶

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.

United States

In the United States, the city of Dearborn, Michigan, was forced to implement enhanced security measures after being labeled “America’s jihad capital” in a Wall Street Journal opinion piece. The town, which has just over 100,000 residents and the highest per-capita Muslim population in the nation, became a target of online hate and misogyny following the publication. On February 2, 2024, Mayor Abdullah Hammoud announced via Twitter that city police had increased security at places of worship and major infrastructure points as a “direct result” of the article titled “Welcome to Dearborn, America’s Jihad Capital.” Hammoud noted that the piece “led to an alarming increase in bigoted and Islamophobic rhetoric online targeting the city of Dearborn.” Steven Stalinsky, executive director of the Middle East Media Research Institute and author of the opinion piece, told The Associated Press that his intention was to draw attention to pro-Palestinian protests in Michigan and elsewhere across the U.S.¹⁵⁷

The rhetoric against Muslim communities continued in the political sphere when, on May 8, 2024, Republican lawmakers warned of a “massive Muslim takeover” in the U.K. government while suggesting similar concerns for the U.S., despite Muslims comprising only a small percentage of the population in both countries. Representative Lauren Boebert, a Colorado Republican,

shared on X (formerly Twitter) a clip of Representative Chip Roy, a Texas Republican, speaking on the House floor about his fears regarding Muslims gaining membership in the U.K. government. “You’ve got a massive Muslim takeover on the United Kingdom going on right before our eyes,” Roy claimed without providing evidence. He further expressed, “I’ve got some pretty strong concerns about Sharia law and whether that will be forced upon the American people,” referring to the legal system followed by Muslims.¹⁵⁸

Canada



In Canada, authorities were alerted to an advertising van circulating in Toronto that appeared designed to incite fear of Muslims. The cube van, equipped with video screens, displayed messages asking, “Is this Yemen? Is this Syria? Is this Iraq?” The video then showed what appeared to be Muslims kneeling in prayer before concluding with the alarming statement, “No. This is Canada. Wake up Canada. You are under siege.” The Toronto Police Hate Crime Unit was reportedly reviewing the video footage.¹⁵⁹

France

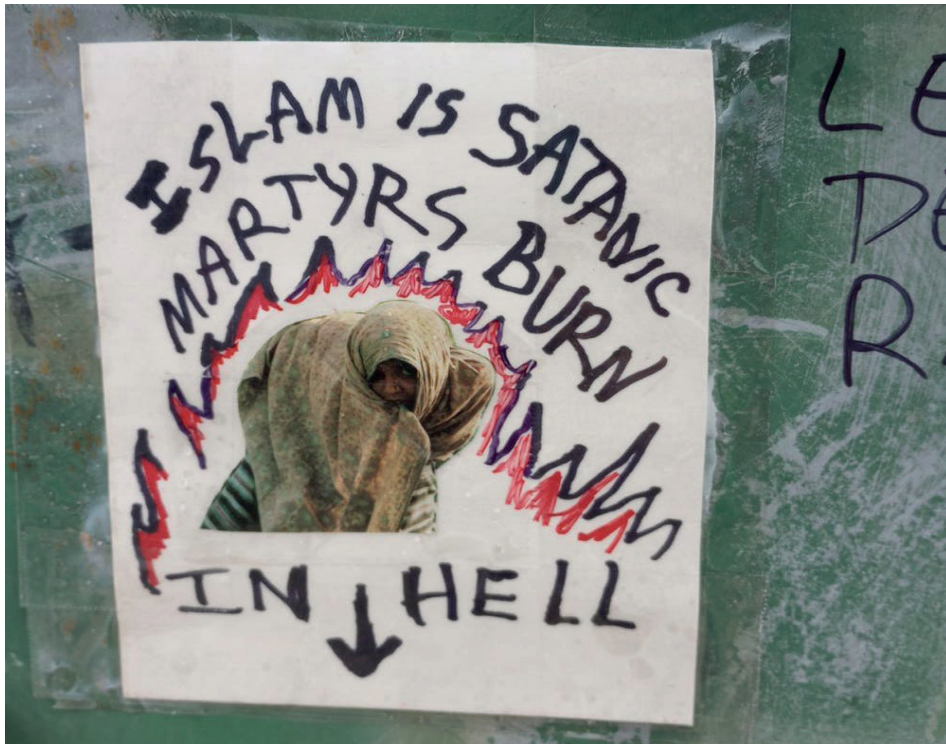
In France, an incident of racist graffiti targeting an Arab-origin citizen was reported by the French Council of the Muslim Faith (CFCM) on June 5, 2024, according to Anadolu Agency. The CFCM website indicated that the phrase “Arabs to the crematorium” had been written on a wall surrounding the individual’s home, though the exact date of the incident was not disclosed.

The organization noted that the graffiti made a disturbing reference to the Jewish genocide during World War II and expressed concerns that “widespread racist rhetoric contributes to the spread of racist actions on our country’s streets.”¹⁶⁰

United Kingdom



In the United Kingdom, reports emerged of Islamophobic graffiti appearing across bus stops amid a rise in hate crimes following the escalation of the Israel-Palestine conflict. Hina Bokhari, a Liberal Democratic London Assembly Member, stated she had reported graffiti spotted in her area of New Malden.¹⁶¹



The issue of Islamophobic messaging extended to university campuses as well. According to Representative Francesca Hong, D-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Madison staff members discovered offensive messages near Langdon Street. The materials, located on an electrical transformer box on North Henry Street, depicted a woman in hijab with the message “Islam is satanic/martyrs burn/in hell.” Additional messages read “f—k Islam” and “tent Nazi Marxists suck.” The university responded by removing the poster and obscuring the graffiti.¹⁶²

In March 2024, the British Transport Police (BTP) launched a CCTV appeal following a hate crime incident at Sheffield station where a man had stamped on a Palestinian flag and verbally abused protesters. According to the BTP press release, the incident occurred around lunchtime on March 23, when the suspect snatched a Palestinian flag from demonstrators before desecrating it and subjecting them to abuse.¹⁶³

Local authorities continued to respond to incidents of online hate speech, with Bedfordshire Police treating a social media comment directed at Luton Central Mosque as a hate crime. In a Facebook post, the community policing team for Luton confirmed that the comment occurred on June 19, 2024, adding that “Officers have attended the Mosque and engaged

with representatives to offer assurances that the matter will be investigated thoroughly.”¹⁶⁴



More disturbing still was the vandalism of Muslim graves at Burnley Cemetery, which prompted a hate crime investigation. Some gravestones in the Muslim section were defaced with grey paint, according to the town’s council leader. Councilor Afrasiab Anwar condemned the act as “evil” and suggested it was intended to “provoke racial tensions.” Lancashire Police confirmed they were treating the offense as a hate crime.¹⁶⁵

Netherlands

In the Netherlands, a parliamentary debate sparked outrage when remarks containing clear Islamophobic—particularly anti-Moroccan—rhetoric dominated the discussion. Dutch public broadcaster NOS documented the debate on November 12, 2024, during which lawmakers from far-right parties and others made racist comments against the Moroccan community in the Netherlands. As reported by NOS, controversial far-right politician Geert Wilders “blamed Moroccans” for violent clashes that occurred the previous week during and following the Ajax vs. Maccabi football match. These disturbances had been triggered when Israeli hooligans provoked both Ajax fans and the broader Amsterdam community by tearing down and removing Palestinian flags in Dutch streets while chanting racist slogans against Palestinians and Muslims. The situation subsequently escalated into

riots and violent confrontations between pro-Palestinian supporters and Israeli fans who had traveled to Amsterdam for the match.¹⁶⁶

India



In India, a Ramlila (traditional performance of the Ramayana epic) in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj on October 11, 2024, drew widespread criticism for its portrayal of Muslims as terrorists. The character of Ravana was depicted in a manner widely interpreted as an offensive portrayal of Muslims. In the production, reportedly organized by the Shri Krishna Bajrang Ekanki Mandal Dal Karuadeeh, the villain wore a white kurta pyjama and skull cap, and was portrayed as a terrorist attempting to abduct the sister of an Indian Army soldier. The narrative escalated into scenes showing the Muslim character assaulting Army personnel while brandishing a weapon and delivering inflammatory lines such as “I am Jihadi, I will take over this country.”¹⁶⁷



Communal tensions flared elsewhere in the country when clashes erupted on November 16, 2024, in West Bengal’s Murshidabad following the discovery of an Islamophobic message on a sign board at a Kartik Puja pandal in Beldanga. In response, the district administration imposed prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and suspended internet services.¹⁶⁸

A fact-finding report by the Association for Protection of Civil Rights titled “CREATING THE MUSLIM: OUTSIDER; Hate Speech, Migrant Vulnerability, and Faltering Law & Order in Himachal Pradesh” attributed the escalation of communal violence in Himachal Pradesh in September 2024 to the Congress government’s inaction and to speeches by state ministers that allegedly alienated Muslims. The report criticized Congress leaders’ handling of the situation as ineffective, stating: “In September, Himachal Pradesh witnessed escalating communal tensions sparked by Hindutva groups protesting the Sanjauli mosque in Shimla. The protests turned violent, with clashes between protesters and police resulting in injuries.” The controversy centered on the mosque’s construction, deemed unauthorized by Hindutva organizations that demanded its complete demolition despite the Muslim community’s offer to voluntarily remove the unauthorized section in compliance with a court ruling. Violent protests that began in Sanjauli on September 11 spread throughout Himachal Pradesh, affecting Shimla’s Nerwa and Kasumpti, as well as Mandi, Chamba, Bilaspur, Una, Palampur, Nagrota Bagwan of Kangra, Hamirpur, Sirmour, and other districts. The fact-finding team visited these locations and specifically named two Congress ministers, Vikramaditya Singh and Anirudh Singh, who allegedly made Islamophobic remarks in their speeches.¹⁶⁹

A concerning trend in social media was highlighted by a new analysis of Instagram posts related to hate crimes in India. The report, published by the Washington-based think tank Center for the Study of Organized Hate (CSOH), claimed that Meta’s widely used platform had become a hub for promoting, glorifying, and rewarding violence. The study detailed how Instagram amplifies and promotes violent and hateful content, allowing accounts that post hate crimes to fundraise on the platform in violation of Meta’s content policies. The perpetrators, often self-styled as “cow

vigilantes,” target people transporting cattle under the guise of protecting animals considered sacred by many Hindus. The victims are frequently Muslims, India’s largest religious minority. The researchers tracked over 1,000 Instagram accounts for six months and found that nearly a third posted videos of brutal physical assaults. The report revealed that Instagram provides substantially greater engagement to reels showing physical violence, with the 20 most followed accounts garnering hundreds of thousands more plays for videos depicting assault and torture compared to other content. One video cited in the report showed a man wielding a stick posing with three visibly beaten men stuffed into a car trunk, with comments praising the perpetrator. Raqib Hameed Naik, executive director of CSOH, stated: “The brazen glorification and celebration of this content aims to normalize such violence and promote the idea that violence against Muslims is a virtue. It highlights the impunity these individuals enjoy, both in the virtual and real world.” Meta responded that they have “strict policies against violent or graphic content” and would review the report to remove violating content and disable accounts of repeated offenders.¹⁷⁰

In a tragic instance of alleged police violence, a young businessman named Bilal from Sambhal lost his life. What began as a normal day turned devastating when Bilal, who had left home to visit the market and check on his shop, was shot during clashes between police and locals. His brother, Salman, recounted arriving at the hospital to find Bilal barely able to speak. “He whispered to me that the police shot him during the chaos. He said the police were shooting at anyone in sight, and one of those bullets hit him,” Salman recalled. Despite being transferred to a larger hospital in Moradabad, Bilal succumbed to his injuries en route. The family alleged that their initial police report, which identified police officers as suspects in the shooting, was altered under pressure. According to Salman, “The police forced us to change the complaint. They threatened us, saying, ‘This will not end well for you.’ When we mentioned he was killed in police firing, they removed it and threatened us again, saying, ‘This will not end well for you, and they will pick us up.’ Then, we were forced to change the complaint as per their directions.”¹⁷¹

The following are snapshots of incidents indicating Hate Speech happened in India during the year of 2024:

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn Subscribe

Location: Banaskantha, Gujarat
Date: May 1

"They (Congress) will take away reservations from OBC, SC, ST and give it to Muslims....To please their 'vote bank' they are ready to rob hindus.... Congress will distribute your wealth to 'vote bank,'" Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at an election rally.



5:20 AM · May 2, 2024 · 742 Views

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn · May 2

Location: Anand, Gujarat
Date: May 2

For the first time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi directly promotes anti-Muslim conspiracy theories of "love jihad" and "land jihad".

"I had heard of land jihad and love jihad, but now i am concerned about Vote Jihad," Modi said



HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn · May 4

Location: Jamnagar, Gujarat
Date: May 2

Top themes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech at an election rally: "Congress manifesto is Muslim League; vote Jihad; Batla House encounter; protect such people congress is asking for Vote Jihad; Muslims will be given the reservation

[Show more](#)



1 5 12 927

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn · May 4

Location: Bardhaman-Durgapur, West Bengal
Date: May 2

Top themes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech at an election rally: "Fear mongering; Claims a TMC MLA has said he will kill Hindus in 2 hours; promotes theory of vote jihad; Congress will take away all your wealth/asset

[Show more](#)



1 7 11 1K

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn · May 5
 Location: Singhbhum, Jharkhand
 Date: May 3

Top themes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech at an election rally: "They will give your wealth to their "vote bank," that same vote bank that has declared "vote jihad"; Congress says muslims have first right to resources; They

[Show more](#)



4:59

13 26 1.3K

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn Subscribe

Location: Hatkanangale, Maharashtra
 Date: May 1

Top themes of Uttar Pradesh chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's speech at an election rally, "inheritance tax is the new jizya tax, Aurangzeb, children of Mughals, OBC reservations will go to Muslims, Muslim personal law and Islamization."



4:26 myogiadityanath www.yogiadityanath.in

4:26 AM · May 3, 2024 · 1,371 Views

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn · May 3
 Location: Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh
 Date: May 2

Top themes of Uttar Pradesh chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's speech at an election rally, "Mathura site belongs completely to Krishna, Aurengzeb, Jaziya, Muslims will be given the reservation meant for OBCs, Beef, cow slaughter.




2:39 myogiadityanath www.yogiadityanath.in

1 8 12 928

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn · May 5
 Location: Solapur, Maharashtra
 Date: May 3

At Sakal Hindu Samaj even, far-right leaders deliver dangerous speeches filled with conspiracy theories and open call to violence.

"We will kill many Afzals, Akbars.... You should pick up arms to protect your sisters."



2:36 Hindutva Watch

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn · May 5
 Location: Solapur, Maharashtra

BJP legislator T Raja Singh delivers dangerous speech condoning violence against Muslims at an event seeking support for BJP Lok Sabha candidate Ram Vithal Satpute.

Singh used anti-Muslim slurs, targeted Rohingya refugees and promoted various

[Show more](#)



2 47 66 2.4K

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn · May 5
 Location: Bhagwat Nagar, Unnao, Uttar Pradesh
 Date: May 4

“Some people want to invade india so that in 2045 islamic flag will be unfurled in India.” BJP leader Sakshi Maharaj said at an election rally.



2 32 45 1.8K

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn · Oct 3
 Location: Hazaribagh, Jharkhand
 Date: October 2

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi stirred fears about demographic change, linked Jharkhand's socio-economic issues to "Bangladeshi infiltrators," and employed anti-Muslim dog whistles regarding reservations.



11 13 889

India: Video Source:

<https://x.com/i/status/1841782876603347268>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn · Oct 3
 Location: Dumka, Jharkhand
 Date: September 30

Madhya Pradesh Chief minister Mohan Yadav fearmongered about demographic change and demonised Bangladeshis & Rohingyas during a parivartan yatra event.



2:04


India: Video Source:

<https://x.com/i/status/1841822366445261269>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn Subscribe

Location: Lohia Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh
Date: September 29

Yati Narsinghanand delivers a dangerous anti-Muslim hate speech, demonizing Islam and calling for the eradication of Muslims & Islam. He baselessly accused Bangladeshis of cannibalism and urged his audience to burn effigies of Prophet Muhammad during Dusshera, while praising Israel's actions in Gaza.



10:50 PM · Oct 3, 2024 · 1,549 Views

India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1841928788978106652>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn · Oct 12 Subscribe

Location: Malad East, Mumbai, Maharashtra
Date: October 10

Nitesh Rane delivered an anti-Muslim hate speech, issuing threats of violence and warning meat shops to remain closed for Navratri.



4:49

India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1845118965338574897>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn Subscribe

Location: Andheri West, Mumbai, Maharashtra
Date: October 6

Ashwini Upadhyay raises concerns about infiltration, demographic shifts, and religious conversions. There were anti-Muslim chants in response to conspiracy theories surrounding "land jihad" and "love jihad" at a vote jihad event organized by the citizen forum.



9:29 PM · Oct 12, 2024 · 1,289 Views

India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1845169852849238340>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn · Oct 5 Subscribe

Location: Palwal, Haryana
Date: October 3

Himanta Biswa Sarma employed anti-Muslim rhetoric, pled anyone who chanted pro-Pakistan slogans while campaigning candidates for the upcoming Haryana elections.



3:42

India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1842458858687541270>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn · Oct 12
 Location: Muzaffarpur, Bihar
 Date: October 10

During a Navratri event, Union Minister Giriraj Singh delivered a hate speech targeting Muslims. He claimed that if all Muslims had moved to Pakistan after partition, Hindu women would not fall victim to "love jihad," and there

[Show more](#)



1:41

India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1845043697634902118>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn · Oct 6
 Location: Mapusa, Goa
 Date: October 4

Far-right leaders have called for a boycott of Muslim fruit vendors in Mapusa after videos surfaced from a Julius in Canacona which are alleged to feature anti-Hindu chanting.



0:54

India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1842795718991319535>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn Subscribe

Location: Sadashiv Peth Pune, Maharashtra
 Date: October 6

Dhananjay Desai uses anti-Muslim slurs to demonize Muslims and spread fear about the Waqf Board and "love jihad." Desai promotes the conspiracy of "vote jihad," alleging that Muslims aim to Islamize India by 2047. He demonizes Bangladeshis and Rohingyas, portraying them as a population threat unless the NRC is implemented.



6:33

3:40 PM · Oct 9, 2024 · 648 Views

India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1843995014927405291>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn Subscribe

Location: Katihar, Bihar
 Date: October 19

Giriraj Singh, BJP leader and Union Minister, promotes false narratives of 'love jihad,' 'land jihad,' and 'spit jihad,' at Hindu Swabhiman Yatra. He falsely claims that 'love jihad' is now rampant and even men are being targeted now. He describes it as a conspiracy aimed at establishing Sharia law.



1:20


8:34 AM · Oct 20, 2024 · 1,083 Views

India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1847873987784691903>

HindutvaWatch
@HindutvaWatchIn

Location: Nagpur, Maharashtra
Date: October 12

Praveen Togadia, leader of the Antarrashtriya Hindu Parishad, demonizes Muslims urged Hindus to keep weapons at home. He states that trishul diksha events aim to intimidate non-Hindus and boasts of distributing 400,000 trishuls in Gujarat. Togadia asserts he received military training for young Hindus from retired Brigadier Uday Singh in 1989, which he believes has impacted events in India. He also advocates for a population control law to limit the Muslim population and vows to expel all "infiltrators" from India.



7:02 PM · Oct 14, 2024 · 2,169 Views

India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1845857779312910666>

HindutvaWatch
@HindutvaWatchIn

Location: Yeola, Maharashtra
Date: October 17

Suresh Chavhanke, Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief of Sudarshan News, fearmongers about Bangladeshi infiltrators and made Islamophobic remarks about Yeola becoming "Nizam's Raj." He outlined plans for door-to-door checks, marking people by religion and identifying "doubtful" citizens. He claimed their efforts are hindered by "so called law enforcement", and falsely claimed that there are 10 crore infiltrators in the country.




India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1847458962192384439>

HindutvaWatch
@HindutvaWatchIn

Location: Red Ground, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
Date: October 12

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Dhami gave an anti-Muslim speech during a Vijay Dashami event, fear mongering about demographic changes and promoting conspiracies like "love jihad," "land jihad," "Mazaar jihad," and "thook jihad," while vowing to eliminate these threats.




11:44 AM · Oct 14, 2024 · 478 Views

India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1845747574826742179>

HindutvaWatch
@HindutvaWatchIn

Location: Kichha, Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand
Date: October 13

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Dhami delivered an anti-Muslim speech during a civic felicitation ceremony, fearmongering about religious conversions and spreading conspiracies such as "land jihad" and "Spit Jihad."




4:17 PM · Oct 16, 2024 · 591 Views

India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1846540918880379109>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn · Oct 12
 Location: Kurundwad, Kolhapur, Maharashtra.
 Date: October 3

A miscreant was observed deliberately aiming a cannon towards a mosque during a procession at the Durgamata Daud march.




0:02

India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1845196418761277580>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn
 Location: Dehradun, Uttarakhand
 Date: October 12

VHP-Bajrang Dal organised a weapon worship event (Shastra Pujan) led by Vikas Verma, displaying multiple rifles, pistols, and swords. During the event, a speaker claimed that he believes when faced with reality, Hindus would understand that sins mentioned in the religious texts won't apply, and that killing even one non-Hindu would open their door to salvation.



India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1845347534023127232>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn
 Location: Ranchi, Jharkhand
 Date: October 24

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the Minister of Agriculture promotes hatred against alleged “Bangladeshis” accusing them of deceiving women into marriage and of altering the demography of Jharkhand. He questions the audience, asking whether they will allow these individuals to take over land and jobs in the state, urging them to be vigilant and protective of their resources.



1:12

4:36 PM · Nov 2, 2024 · 508 Views

India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1852706473773514851>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn
 Location: Panki, Palamu, Jharkhand
 Date: November 2

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma fear mongers about the rise in the Muslim population, and cites a central government's claim in the High Court that this rise is due to infiltrations from Bangladesh. He describes the election as a battle for identity and promises to deport all infiltrators if elected.



1:53

5:27 PM · Nov 3, 2024 · 532 Views

India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1853081666622783529>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn Subscribe

Location: Lohardaga, Jharkhand
Date: November 5

Top themes of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's campaign speech at an election rally: "These illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators keep coming to Jharkhand. That has led to the adivasi population declining. These Bangladeshi infiltrators are coming in and grabbing your land. If the infiltrators have grabbed your land, we will legally return it to you."



0:41

3:00 AM · Nov 8, 2024 · 717 Views

India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1854675310643757410>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn · Nov 11

Location: Potka, Jharkhand
Date: November 9

Top themes of Home Minister Amit Shah's campaign speech at an election rally: "The Congress will give reservations to Muslims. Where will they get it from? They will take it out from the Dalits, SC/ST, OBC, and Adivasis, and give it to

[Show more](#)



0:08 / 2:38


India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1855995174171574711>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn · Nov 4

Location: Tehri, Uttarakhand
Date: October 29

Members of Hindu far-right groups vandalised stores belonging to Muslims in protest against the elopement of a minor girl with a Muslim man. They alleged it to be a case of "love jihad" and demanded that all Muslim shops must close

[Show more](#)



Pause


0:05 / 0:43

India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1853285116111475004>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn · Nov 9

Location: Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh
Date: November 6

During a Katha event Hindu Monk Raju Das spreads conspiracy theories like "love jihad" and stirs fear about Hindus becoming a minority in India, while demonising Muslims.



1:25

India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1855242623146963112>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn · Nov 11
 Location: Dakshin Kannada, Karnataka
 Date: November 8

Cow vigilante Puneet Kerehalli urges people to boycott Muslim businessmen and halal-certified products, and instead buy products marked with the Swastik symbol and from Hindu-owned businesses.



India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1855847488239878522>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn
 Location: Khinvsar, Nagaur, Rajasthan
 Date: November 10

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BJP MLA Balmukund Acharya at a Bhagawat Path event warned that non-Hindus have captured and destroyed in-numerous temples and built other constructions on them, and Hindus will devour them alive like god Narsimha and won't let this continue. He alleged that "certain people's" religious texts encourage them to kill others, keep four wives and have thirty-six children, and repeatedly target Sanatanis, using entities like the Waqf Board or Muslim Board to take their land.




India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1856477719128666271>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn
 Location: Ghatkopar, Maharashtra
 Date: November 12

Subscribe

Top themes from Home Minister Amit Shah's campaign speech: "We want to change the Waqf Board law. Just a few days ago, the Waqf took over an entire village in Karnataka, including houses, fields, and temples. Once we amend it, the Waqf won't be able to usurp your land. The opposition can keep opposing this, but Modi is going to change this law. The Waqf won't be able to grab land anymore."

"The Ulema met with Congress representatives and demanded a 10% reservation for Muslims. If Muslims are to be given reservation, then someone else's reservation must be reduced. They will do this by reducing reservations for SC/ST, OBC, Dalit, and Adivasi communities and giving it to their 'vote bank.' Should reservation be reduced for SC/ST, OBC, Dalit, and Adivasis? As long as we are in power, we will never give minorities reservation."




India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1857180668792307931>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn · Nov 18
 Location: Banglore, Karnataka
 Date: November 16

Subscribe

Hindu right-wing leader Chakravarthy Sulibele delivers anti-Muslim hate speech and promoted conspiracy theory of love Jihad.



India: Video Source:
<https://x.com/i/status/1858609743901704495>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn Subscribe

Location: Delhi
Date: Novemebr 16

At the Sanatan Dharma Sansad, Hindu monk Raju Das propagated conspiracies of "love jihad," "land jihad," "spit jihad," "vote jihad," "economic jihad," and "dharmanantaran jihad." He demonised Muslims, calling them "Mohammad ka bacha," and criticised their support for Palestine while refusing to chant 'Bharat Mata ki Jai', accusing them of rejecting the Indian Constitution.



3:03
3:57 AM · Nov 19, 2024 · 484 Views


India: Video Source:

<https://x.com/i/status/1858675829729095847>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn Subscribe

Location: Srirampur, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra
Date: November 14

At the Vishal Hindu Dharma Jagran Sabha, Kalicharan Maharaj called for a Hindu Rashtra, a ban on cow slaughter, and accused Muslims of destroying temples and dividing India. He spread the conspiracy of 'love jihad', demonised Islam and Christianity, labelled all Muslims as terrorists, and claimed Hindus and Muslims can never coexist, fueling divisive and inflammatory rhetoric.



India: Video Source:

<https://x.com/i/status/1859189098218434989>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn · Nov 19 ...

Location: Delhi
Date: Novemebr 16

At the Sanatan Dharma Sansad, Juna Akhara's Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Shri Swami Avdheshanand made anti-Muslim remarks, stating that Islam would be eradicated from India once all Hindus unite and take action.



0:50
7 8 15 1K

India: Video Source:

<https://x.com/i/status/1858848795619987656>

HindutvaWatch @HindutvaWatchIn · Nov 20 ...

Location: Ambedkarnagar, Uttar Pradesh
Date: November 20

In Muslim-majority areas of the Katehari constituency, police reportedly blocked residents from leaving their localities to vote, asking them to go later.



1:15

India: Video Source:

<https://x.com/i/status/1859295858468003920>

Australia



Islamophobic graffiti at Chester Hill in Sydney's west.

In Australia, New South Wales police launched an investigation into a potential hate crime after Islamophobic graffiti was discovered on a busy underpass in Sydney's western suburb of Chester Hill. The incident, which occurred overnight on December 15, 2024, prompted authorities to cordon off Hector Street as they began their inquiry. The offensive messages included "F**k Islam" painted on each side of the underpass with the word "Islam" highlighted in yellow, as well as "Cancel Islam" painted on an advertisement within the structure. The premier condemned the graffiti as "disgusting." Census figures indicate that Chester Hill has one of the largest Muslim populations in the state, with nearly 40% of residents identifying as Muslim.¹⁷²

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.¹⁷³

In Switzerland, a new constitutional ban on face-coverings in public will take effect in the New Year, following a 2021 referendum commonly referred to as the “anti-burka” initiative. This measure, which was approved by 51.2% of Swiss voters, will prohibit facial coverings in public spaces and impose fines of up to CHF1,000 (approximately \$1,143 US) for violations. The prohibition is established as part of the Federal Act on the Prohibition of Covering the Face.¹⁷⁴

Meanwhile in Russia, authorities in the Vladimir Region have implemented new dress code regulations for schools that prohibit students from wearing religious attire, including hijabs and niqabs. According to a document released on October 26, 2024, the regional Ministry of Education and Youth Policy added a clause to its “standard requirements” for student clothing that specifically bars “clothing and its elements demonstrating the religious affiliation of the student.” The ministry has defended these measures, stating they align with both the Russian Constitution and federal laws regarding

religious associations and education, while emphasizing that the rules do not specifically target Muslim clothing.¹⁷⁵

In India, the Karnataka Government made a formal declaration before the Karnataka High Court on February 18, 2022, contending that the hijab does not constitute an essential religious practice in Islam. The government further argued that prohibiting hijabs in educational institutions does not violate the constitutional right to religious freedom guaranteed under Article 25. As stated by Advocate General Prabhuling Navadgi to a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice RR Awasthi, “We have taken a stand that wearing hijab is not an essential religious part of Islam.¹⁷⁶



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

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman expressed concern that Muslim colleagues in the tech industry feel unable to speak freely about recent events due to fears of professional consequences. On X, Altman shared that conversations with Muslim and Arab (particularly Palestinian) colleagues revealed they were reluctant to voice opinions “out of fear of retaliation and damaged career prospects.” He called for tech industry solidarity with these colleagues during this “atrocious time” and emphasized the importance of empathy.¹⁷⁷

Temple University became the latest Philadelphia-area institution added to a federal investigation examining alleged discrimination on college campuses nationwide. The Department of Education expanded its probe of antisemitism and Islamophobia complaints at schools since the Gaza conflict began in October 2023. On January 16, 2024, Temple University was officially added to the list of institutions under investigation, as initially reported by KYW News Radio, an NBC10 newsgathering partner.¹⁷⁸

Data from the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) revealed a 63% increase in education discrimination reports following the start of the Israel-Hamas conflict on October 7, 2023. This surge was part of what CAIR described as a “disturbing” rise in overall complaints filed with the organization, which increased by 172% compared to the same period in 2022. The educational discrimination data encompasses both K-12 schools and higher education institutions.¹⁷⁹

The Council on American-Islamic Relations reported on July 30, 2024, that “relentless” Islamophobia across the United States, which escalated in October 2023 with Israel’s U.S.-supported offensive in Gaza, continued through the first half of 2024. CAIR documented 4,951 anti-Muslim and anti-Palestinian hate complaints between January and June 2024, representing a 69% increase from the same period in 2023. This followed

3,578 complaints from October through December 2023, which marked a 178% increase from the equivalent period in 2022, as previously reported by Common Dreams. The highest proportion of 2024 complaints related to immigration and asylum cases (19%), consistent with 2023 trends, followed by employment discrimination (14%), education discrimination (10%), and hate crimes and incidents (8%).¹⁸⁰

A September 13, 2024 study by the Council on American-Islamic Relations in New York titled “Feeling The Hate In Our Schools” found that nearly 60% of Muslim students in New York experienced peer bullying at school, particularly following Israel’s military actions in Gaza. The survey revealed that “58.2% reported being bullied at school by another student because they were Muslim” and “44.7% of students who wear a hijab reported their hijab was tugged, pulled, or offensively touched by another student” with varying frequency. Additionally, 64% of students witnessed Muslim peers being bullied, and approximately 65% observed their schools making offensive online comments or posts about Islam or Muslims.¹⁸¹

The Council on American-Islamic Relations branch in Chicago, reported growing concerns about hate crimes targeting Muslims and Palestinians in the city. Speaking to Anadolu, she noted a 196% increase in such crimes since October 2023, when Israel’s Gaza offensive began. These incidents occurred across workplaces, educational institutions, and public spaces, with individuals facing repercussions for expressing solidarity with Gaza and Palestine. The report highlighted the tight censorship facing the Muslim American community, noting workplace penalties for Gaza supporters and administrative sanctions against students advocating for Palestinian rights on campuses.¹⁸²

A survey titled “The Detrimental Effects of Hindu Nationalism on Indian American Muslims,” conducted by the Indian American Muslim Council and ReThink Media, revealed concerning trends regarding the rise of Hindu nationalism within the Indian diaspora in the United States and its impact on Indian American Muslims. Polling 950 Indian American Muslims to examine how Hindu nationalist ideology, particularly following Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party’s rise to power, was influencing various interactions, the survey found that over 80% of

respondents experienced “Islamophobic harassment, discrimination, or prejudice from Hindu friends or social contacts” in the decade since Modi’s ascension. Additionally, 70% reported biased treatment from Hindu colleagues, including promotion discrimination and workplace anti-Muslim remarks; 48% faced harassment on platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, and LinkedIn; 90% agreed that Hindu nationalism “is a threat to Muslims in the United States”; and 86% believed it “is a threat to democracy in the United States.”¹⁸³

On September 25, 2024, the Washington state chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-WA) released findings from its 2024 Washington Muslim Survey, which examined demographics, discrimination experiences, and policy engagement among Muslims aged 13 and older residing in Washington state. The survey, conducted in April 2024, collected 542 complete responses from 684 participants. CAIR-WA Board member Sumayyah Waheed described the results as revealing “a reality that we’ve sensed for years: anti-Muslim discrimination in Washington state is at crisis levels,” noting it was “a travesty that over 90% of Muslims in Washington state have experienced bias or discrimination.” The survey found that 91.7% of respondents had experienced discrimination, with 82.5% reporting discriminatory incidents within the past year.¹⁸⁴

Nearly half of Muslim students at California colleges and universities reported being targets of anti-Islamic harassment or discrimination during the previous academic year, coinciding with pro-Palestinian campus protests, according to a new Council on American Islamic Relations report. The study, which surveyed 720 Muslim students across approximately 87 California public and private institutions, found that 49% (352 respondents) had experienced anti-Muslim actions from students, staff, or administrators. CAIR and its affiliated Center for the Prevention of Hate and Bullying attributed this increase to widespread pro-Palestinian demonstrations, which resulted in hundreds of arrests and multiple lawsuits against universities, including UCLA and USC, over allegations of unjustified police force, free speech violations, and equal access issues.¹⁸⁵

Canada

The Ottawa Police Service reported on July 8, 2024, that hate-motivated incidents against both Jewish and Muslim communities had increased by more than 100 percent in 2024. A total of 74 incidents were reported against the Jewish community, compared to 36 at the same point in 2023, while 15 incidents targeting Muslims were reported, up from seven during the same period last year. Despite these significant increases, police noted a slight overall decline of approximately two percent in hate- and bias-motivated incidents in 2024. The 225 reported hate-motivated incidents to date in 2024 included 174 deemed criminal and 51 determined to be hate-motivated but non-criminal, with 26 individuals charged with 65 counts of hate-motivated offenses and four formal Youth Criminal Justice Act warnings.¹⁸⁶

A report released on December 18, 2024, titled “Islamophobia on the rise: Taking action, confronting hate and protecting civil liberties together,” published by Canada’s Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, documented a dramatic increase in Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian racism in Canada amid Israel’s actions in Gaza. The report indicated that hate incidents targeting Muslims or Palestinians reported to the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) increased by 1,300% in the final quarter of 2023, encompassing harassment, vandalism, defamation, and violent threats. The 78-page report highlighted university campuses as particular hotspots for hostility, where students advocating for Palestinian rights faced verbal assaults, threats, and physical violence. It also included testimonies from affected communities revealing how this wave of hate was creating a widespread climate of fear and vulnerability.¹⁸⁷

United Kingdom

An analysis by CAGE International revealed a concerning 455% increase in cases involving suppression of Palestine solidarity expressions across the UK compared to 2021. Between October and December 2023, the organization handled 214 cases, including 118 school and college incidents, 35 workplace cases, 35 protest-related cases, 13 university cases, and 13

mosque cases, indicating a widespread clampdown on pro-Palestinian activity. The report highlighted aggressive tactics used against supporters, including forced removal of Palestinian symbols, student isolations and suspensions, disciplinary actions against parents and students, workplace terminations, misrepresentation of Imams leading to investigations, and misuse of anti-terrorism powers at protests. Key findings emphasized the government’s authoritarian response to legitimate activism, hypocritical double standards compared to responses to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the Islamophobic nature of censorship (209 of 214 cases involved Muslims), weaponization of PREVENT referrals, and consistent nationwide patterns of suppression.¹⁸⁸

A report by the children’s commissioner for Wales highlighted regular racist abuse in schools that was “being normalised” by students. The Welsh government pledged to “carefully consider” the recommendations. The report documented disturbing incidents including a Muslim girl being told “you’re hiding a bomb in your scarf” and another having her hijab forcibly removed, leaving her in tears. Other children reported being called terrorists. In response, the Welsh government stated: “Racism is unacceptable in our schools. While this report makes for difficult reading, it is vital that we listen to children and young people, and effectively address the issues they are facing.”¹⁸⁹

Following days of far-right violence, a poll commissioned by Muslim Census, a data organization focusing on Muslims and ethnic minorities, found that 92 percent of Muslims felt “much less safe” in the UK. The survey, conducted between August 5-6 with 1,519 participants from diverse backgrounds, revealed that one in six people had personally experienced racist attacks since the riots began on July 30, while two in three had witnessed such attacks. Verbal abuse was most common (28 percent), followed by online abuse (16 percent), while four percent reported physical attacks in the weeks following the disorders.¹⁹⁰

After the Southport attack and subsequent widespread far-right riots, research quantified the growth of anti-Muslim and anti-migrant hate on Telegram and X. Using bespoke automated detection software at scale, the analysis demonstrated both rising online hate content and examined the

narratives spreading it across platforms. The Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) and CASM collected nearly 45,000 messages across 55 British far-right Telegram channels, finding that anti-migrant hate increased by 246% and anti-Muslim hate by 276% in the ten days following the Southport attack. Calls for violence against Muslim and migrant communities peaked on August 4-5. On X, anti-Muslim slurs more than doubled in the ten days after the attack, with over 40,000 posts containing such terms. The hashtag #TwoTierKeir, first used by an account with under 1,000 followers on July 31 in response to Prime Minister Starmer's statement about consequences for rioters, was mentioned nearly 45,000 times by over 12,000 unique users and viewed over 100 million times between July 31 and August 8. The research concluded that X's inadequate moderation allowed hate content to reach large audiences, while Telegram continued to be a permissive environment for extremism, supporting calls for stronger digital regulation of both platforms.¹⁹¹

Research published on October 1, 2024, found that a quarter (24%) of UK Muslim and two-fifths (39%) of Jewish workers had experienced discrimination since October 7, 2023. Pearn Kandola researchers surveyed 500 Jewish and 500 Muslim employees to investigate workplace discrimination changes ahead of the attack's anniversary. Just over one in 10 (16%) Muslim workers and less than a third (29%) of Jewish workers reported discrimination to HR teams. For Muslim workers, incidents left them feeling hurt (42%), angry (36%), and isolated (28%), while Jewish workers reported feeling hurt (29%), scared (28%), and unsafe (24%). One-fifth (21%) of Muslim workers and a third (31%) of Jewish workers felt unsupported by their employers. Shakil Butt, founder of consultancy HR Hero for Hire, advised employers to seek understanding of the conflict's impact on employees and facilitate balanced conversations.¹⁹²

A record number of anti-Muslim attacks and incidents of abuse were reported in the UK since the October 7, 2023 attacks, according to national monitoring group Tell Mama UK. In exclusive figures shared with the Guardian, the organization recorded 4,971 incidents of anti-Muslim hate between October 7, 2023, and September 30, 2024, the highest total ever documented in the past 14 years. Tell Mama reported that 63% of hate

cases were abusive in nature while 27% involved threatening behavior. The majority of incidents occurred in London, the north-west of England, Yorkshire, and the Midlands. Iman Atta, Tell Mama UK's director, stated that the October 7 attacks had triggered a "backlash against British Muslims," with hate incidents particularly targeting Middle Eastern communities, visibly Muslim individuals, and Muslim women.¹⁹³

Religious hate crimes in England and Wales reached record levels according to new Home Office statistics. Although hate crime overall decreased by 5% in the year to March 2024, religious hate crimes increased by 25%. Anti-Muslim hate crimes rose by 13%, constituting 38% of all religious hate crimes. Both Jewish and Muslim communities experienced sharp increases in reported incidents following the start of the Israel-Hamas conflict in October 2023. While the total number of offenses has since declined, it remains higher than pre-conflict levels. These government figures reflect police-recorded hate crime, but other organizations like Tell Mama also track these incidents and reported a 335% increase in anti-Muslim cases in the months following October 7, 2023, compared to the previous year.¹⁹⁴

A survey found that one in four British Muslims interviewed online and via telephone experienced anti-Muslim hate or Islamophobia after July 30, 2024. Two-thirds of British Muslims surveyed believed that the potential risk and harm to Muslim communities had increased after July 30, 2024. One-third said the far-right demonstrations made them consider leaving the UK to settle in another country. Seven in ten felt that anti-Muslim hate or Islamophobia had become more widespread after July 30, while nearly four in ten believed their local mosque faced risk from far-right groups and extremists.¹⁹⁵

Research published on December 10, 2024, highlighted widespread anti-Muslim bias in British media, with GB News accounting for half of UK news channels' coverage about Muslims and Islam, much of it featuring negative portrayals. After a two-year analysis, the Centre for Media Monitoring (CFMM) found "structural and systematic bias in GB News reporting about British Muslims." The report noted the channel's "excessive" focus on Muslims bordered on an "obsession" that "regularly demonises their beliefs," with stories about Islam being "overwhelmingly negative" and failing to

understand the diverse nature of Muslim communities in the UK. Findings revealed that GB News mentioned Muslims or Islam more than 17,000 times, accounting for almost 50% of total mentions on UK news channels, compared to BBC News (32%) and Sky News (21%). While Islamophobia was referenced on GB News 1,180 times (60% of all mentions compared to BBC News and Sky News), these stories “overwhelmingly” aimed at “rubbishing the concept of Islamophobia.” During the summer riots, GB News accounted for 62% of all clips on UK news channels associating Muslims with the unrest.¹⁹⁶

A study entitled “Young Muslims In Scotland: Politics, Racism, And The Media” offered comprehensive insights into challenges faced by young Muslims in Scotland, particularly regarding political engagement, experiences of racism and Islamophobia, and media perceptions. Released during Islamophobia Awareness Month in the UK, the report emphasized that racism and Islamophobia were deeply embedded in young Scottish Muslims’ daily lives. Participants expressed concerns about inadequate education on racism, which they believed created an environment conducive to bullying and discrimination in both primary and secondary schools. The Scottish Parliament’s Cross-Party Group on Islamophobia’s public inquiry revealed concerning statistics: 18% of young Muslims had directly experienced Islamophobia in school, while 45% had witnessed such incidents firsthand. Even more troubling, 75% of respondents described Islamophobia as a regular or everyday issue within Scottish society.¹⁹⁷

Belgium

Patrick Charlier, director of the Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities (Unia), highlighted the concerning rise of anti-Muslim sentiment across Europe, noting that in Belgium, nine out of ten people facing discrimination were Muslim, particularly veiled women. A report released the previous week by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), “Being Muslim in the EU: Experiences of Muslims,” showed a marked increase in racism and discrimination against Muslims since 2016. The survey, conducted with responses from 9,000 participants across 13 EU member states between

October 2021 and October 2022, found that one in two Muslims encounter discriminatory treatment daily.¹⁹⁸

Germany

Professor Mathias Rohe from the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, co-author of one of the most comprehensive reports on Islamophobia in Germany, spoke to media about growing anti-Muslim sentiment in the country. “Our study has revealed that Muslims in Germany encounter Islamophobic discrimination in their everyday life, for example in education, in the labor market, while looking for accommodation, in the media, and much more,” Rohe stated. “It’s an urgent problem, and we have to recognize that this is a problem for society as a whole. We must not leave the Muslims alone with this. This was a problem for all of us.” Despite millions of Muslims having lived in Germany for years and becoming integral to society, Professor Rohe noted that negative stereotypes and misconceptions about Muslims remain widespread, with many Germans still believing stereotypes such as Muslims being unable to bring positive change or having completely different values.¹⁹⁹

On June 9, 2024, the far-right AfD party won the most votes in five eastern German states in European elections, reflecting a growing political division in the country. The anti-immigrant party secured 31.8% of the vote in Saxony, 30.7% in Thuringia, 30.5% in Saxony-Anhalt, 28.3% in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, and 27.5% in Brandenburg, according to preliminary official results. Support for the AfD in the former communist East German states significantly exceeded its nationwide polling result of 15.9%. This represented the anti-immigrant party’s best-ever performance in a European Parliament election, establishing it as Germany’s second-largest party. Notably, as many as 94% of respondents expressed concern that “the influence of Islam in Germany is becoming too strong.”²⁰⁰

People in Germany filed a record number of discrimination complaints in 2023, up 22% from 2022, according to the head of the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency, who described the trend as “alarming” during a June 25, 2024 news conference in Berlin. “In 2023, 10,800 cases were reported

to the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency. This is a record high. We have never had so many people contact us about discrimination,” said Ferda Ataman, urging Chancellor Olaf Scholz’s center-left government to increase efforts to combat discrimination nationwide. “The German government must do more to protect people against discrimination,” she emphasized. According to the 2023 anti-discrimination report, 41% of complaints concerned racist or antisemitic discrimination, while discrimination based on disability accounted for 25% of cases, against women 24%, and age-based discrimination 14%. The report noted that discrimination remained prevalent in workplaces, with 2,646 cases—approximately one-third of all cases—allegedly connected to negative work experiences.²⁰¹

A study revealed troubling increases in xenophobic and anti-Muslim sentiment across Germany, particularly in western states, raising concerns about social cohesion and democratic resilience. Research conducted by Leipzig University scholars Prof. Dr. Oliver Decker and Prof. Dr. Ayline Heller identified a 4.8 percentage point increase in support for xenophobic worldviews since 2022, now encompassing 21.8% of the population. Western Germany, traditionally considered more open to diversity and multiculturalism, experienced a sharp 6.7-point jump to 19.3% support for xenophobic views, while eastern states registered approximately 31.5% support. The study highlighted growing anti-Muslim sentiment, with 32.8% of western state residents supporting a ban on Muslim immigration, up from 23.6% in 2022. Over 48% of respondents reported “feeling like strangers in their own country due to Muslim presence,” a significant increase from 36.6% two years earlier.²⁰²

Germany’s leading human rights organization warned on December 9, 2024, of increasing anti-Muslim racism amid heightened Middle East tensions, urging politicians and media to avoid harmful generalizations. The German Institute for Human Rights (DIMR) released a 32-page report examining the Gaza conflict’s impact on democracy and human rights, addressing rising antisemitism but also increased anti-Muslim incidents. DIMR Director Beate Rudolf emphasized that overgeneralizations and negative stereotypes about Muslims in political discourse and media coverage following Hamas’ October 7, 2023 attack have negatively impacted basic rights and freedoms.

“Anyone who criticizes the Israeli government is not automatically acting antisemitic. Anyone who advocates for a separate state for the Palestinians is not automatically a Hamas sympathizer. Generalizations only promote antisemitism, as well as racism against Palestinians and Muslims,” she stated at a Berlin press conference. The institute cautioned authorities against overgeneralizing and spreading negative stereotypes about Muslims, emphasizing that restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly should be implemented only in exceptional situations as legally permitted. The report noted that demonstration bans described as “pro-Palestinian” after October 7, 2023, hindered people, especially those with Palestinian heritage, from publicly expressing grief for Gaza’s civilian victims, showing solidarity, and advocating for peace and Palestinian statehood. DIMR experts highlighted that German media and politicians often overlooked Israeli Jews’ participation in these protests supporting both sides’ rights and concerns. “The term ‘pro-Palestinian’ used in the bans and taken up by politicians and media promoted a blanket equation of Palestinians with antisemitic, pro-violence Hamas supporters. This public perception and the focus of social debates on violent demonstrations strengthened existing racism against Palestinians and people who are perceived as Arab or Muslim,” the experts noted. The report documented 1,926 anti-Muslim racist incidents across Germany in 2023, averaging more than five cases daily and marking a 114% increase from 898 incidents in 2022.²⁰³

Austria

Austria recorded the highest number of Islamophobia incidents in 2023 since record-keeping began in 2015, according to a report released on May 27, 2024, by the Documentation Centre on Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim Racism. The report noted a significant increase in reported cases following the Israel-Hamas war outbreak on October 7, 2023, with more incidents recorded between October and December than in the first nine months of 2023. Overall, 66.7% of documented cases occurred online and 33.7% offline, with 87.8% of online cases involving hate speech. Muslims were dehumanized and compared to animals in online comments, and

many posts attributed sole responsibility for anti-Semitism to Muslims. Among all reported incidents, 40.8% involved unequal treatment, 19.5% involved insults, 8.9% involved hate speech, 7.5% were vandalism, 7.3% involved police violence, 3.2% were dangerous threats, 2.6% were physical assaults, 1.8% involved incitement to hatred, and 0.8% were bullying and stalking cases, with 7.7% classified as other. The documentation center emphasized that these statistics represent only a partial picture, with actual numbers likely significantly higher, describing the figures as a “worrying development” increasingly contributing to social division.²⁰⁴

Luxembourg

Half of Luxembourg’s Muslims reported experiencing racism in 2023, and 60% within the past five years, according to a report by the European Agency for Fundamental Rights released on October 24, 2024. Based on data collected in 2021 and 2022, the report noted that all survey respondents from Luxembourg originated from sub-Saharan countries, highlighting that skin color remains the primary driver of racism in the Grand Duchy. By comparison, almost four in ten Muslims in France and 53% in Belgium reported experiencing racism in the previous five years. Muslims in Austria and Germany appeared particularly affected by discrimination, with 71% and 68% respectively reporting at least one discriminatory act within the past five years. “It is increasingly difficult to be a Muslim in Europe,” concluded the report, which surveyed 9,600 people across 13 EU member states.²⁰⁵

European Union

The European Union is experiencing growing intolerance, marked not only by the surge in antisemitic incidents after October 7, 2023, but also by a gradual rise in Islamophobia. According to the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), one in two Muslims in the EU experiences “racism and discrimination in everyday life”—a notable increase from the 2016 survey, when Muslims experiencing racial discrimination numbered 39 percent compared to the current 47 percent. This potentially affects over 13 million people, as Muslims represent the EU’s second-largest religious

group, with 26 million as of 2016 according to the Pew Research Center. Between October 2021 and October 2022, the EU Agency surveyed 9,604 Muslims across 13 EU countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain, and Sweden. The report revealed significant variation among member states, with Austria being the most Islamophobic (71 percent of Muslims targeted), followed by Germany and Finland, while Spain and Italy showed the lowest discrimination levels. Young Muslims and women wearing religious attire were most affected. The discrimination combined religious prejudice with bias against skin color and ethnic or immigrant backgrounds. “A phenomenon fueled by the conflicts in the Middle East and made worse by the dehumanizing anti-Muslim rhetoric we see across the continent,” noted EU Agency director Sirpa Rautio. Islamophobia primarily manifests in employment and housing discrimination, with 39 percent of Muslims experiencing discrimination when job hunting (up from 31 percent in 2016) and 35 percent in the workplace (up from 23 percent). The figures increase dramatically for women wearing religious clothing, who face employment discrimination in 45 percent of cases. Additionally, 41 percent of Muslims are overqualified for their jobs, compared to 22 percent of general EU citizens. Housing discrimination affected one-third of respondents, up from 22 percent in 2016. The agency found an alarming education gap, with Muslims three times more likely to leave school early than the general EU population (30 percent versus 9.6 percent). These factors contribute to elevated poverty risk, with 31 percent of Muslim households struggling financially compared to 19 percent of all European households. The report also found that 27 percent of Muslims experience racial harassment, and half of those stopped by police believe they were victims of racial profiling.²⁰⁶



POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT



POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT

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

United States

Two Democratic state lawmakers, Rep. Alabas Farhat and House Floor Leader Abraham Aiyash, introduced a resolution on February 6, 2024, condemning an op-ed published in *The Wall Street Journal* that labeled a Detroit suburb “America’s jihad capital.” They described the piece as “racist and Islamophobic” and called for its retraction and a public apology to the City of Dearborn. Following the publication of the op-ed on February 2, officials increased police presence in the city as a precautionary measure.²⁰⁷

A peaceful demonstration was held outside the Arab-owned Lombard Café in Philadelphia’s Queen Village neighborhood on May 17, 2024, after the establishment was vandalized. Customer Samantha Pinto expressed her outrage, stating, “I was very upset and angry when I heard about this, knowing this was a neighborhood business and someone who is welcoming and open to everyone regardless of race and religion.” The pro-Palestine café had reportedly faced harassment for months before the break-in. Owner Jasmine Amira Taibi-Bennoui described finding evidence of forced entry, including crowbar marks on doors that had been pried open.²⁰⁸

Canada

On October 11, 2024, the BC Muslim Association (BCMA) called for “meaningful action” from the province’s Conservative party, urging the resignation of candidate Brent Chapman following the resurfacing of his Islamophobic comments. The BCMA expressed being “horrified and deeply troubled” by Chapman’s remarks, particularly given his representation of Surrey, a diverse and multicultural community. The unearthed Facebook posts from 2015-2016 included hateful comments about Palestinians,

whom Chapman had described as “little inbred walking, talking, breathing time bombs,” clarifying he meant this “figuratively and quite literally.” On October 16, Chapman apologized, stating the language and sentiments he expressed “were completely unacceptable” and did not reflect his current views. He claimed to have since traveled to Muslim-majority countries and built “meaningful relationships” with members of Canada’s Muslim community.²⁰⁹

United Kingdom



The Conservative Party suspended lawmaker Lee Anderson after he refused to apologize for claiming London Mayor Sadiq Khan was controlled by “Islamists.” Khan, the first Muslim mayor of London and a Labour Party member, had frequently been criticized by Conservatives for his handling of policing in the capital, including pro-Palestinian demonstrations. On February 23, 2024, Anderson told GB News, “I don’t actually believe these Islamists have got control of our country. But what I do believe is they’ve got control of Khan and they’ve got control of London. He’s actually given our capital city to his mates.” The remarks drew widespread condemnation from across the political spectrum, with Labour Party chairwoman Anneliese Dodds calling them “unambiguously racist and Islamophobic.” Conservative figures including business minister Nus Ghani, senior backbencher Sajid Javid, and Tory peer Gavin Barwell joined in criticizing Anderson, with Barwell describing the comments as a “despicable slur.”²¹⁰



A jury took less than a day to unanimously convict white supremacist Samuel Melia of spreading racial hatred through a library of downloadable stickers he created for supporters to distribute publicly. Melia, a local organizer for Patriotic Alternative from Pudsey, received a two-year prison sentence on March 1, 2024. The charges included publishing or distributing material intended to stir up racial hatred and encouraging racially aggravated criminal damage between 2019 and 2021. 211

A Stockton councillor resigned after being accused of posting Islamophobic comments on social media. Screenshots shared with the BBC showed comments from a profile in the name of Susan Scott suggesting Muslims would “do whatever it takes” to make the entire world Islamic. Stockton Borough Council’s Labour leader Bob Cook acknowledged that the Conservative councillor had “done the right thing and resigned” following the criticism.²¹²

Germany

The growing support for the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party sparked debate about potentially banning the organization through legal means. By early March 2024, an online petition calling on constitutional bodies to consider prohibiting the AfD had gathered over 800,000 signatures, which were submitted to the Federal Council. Approximately 50 lawmakers, including German Parliament’s Vice President Aydan Ozoguz and senior Social Democrat politician Ralf Stegner, had publicly announced their support for examining a potential ban.²¹³

German parliamentary leader Raed Saleh was advocating for the inclusion of

anti-Islamophobia laws in the state constitution. According to news website Exberliner, Saleh proposed adding anti-Islamophobia clauses alongside existing constitutional provisions against antisemitism. As leader of the Social Democratic Party, Saleh emphasized Germany’s need to demonstrate its commitment to combating antisemitism, Islamophobia, and racism through constitutional means. “I can well imagine us in Berlin saying that in our diverse city; we will enshrine the fight against Antisemitism, the fight against Islamophobia and against racism in the constitution,” he stated.²¹⁴

Denmark

Denmark’s far-right, populist party The New Right was dissolved on January 10, 2024. Party founder Pernille Vermund explained the decision, stating, “If we are to rebuild center-right Denmark, we need to gather all the good forces — but in slightly fewer center-right parties.” Vermund had advocated for libertarian economic policies and strict migration controls in Denmark, which already maintained some of Western Europe’s most stringent immigration laws. The party had also called for Denmark’s withdrawal from the European Union, referred to as “Dexit.”²¹⁵

Netherlands

On January 8, 2024, far-right Dutch election winner Geert Wilders made a significant concession to potential coalition partners by withdrawing legislation he had proposed in 2018 calling for a ban on mosques and the Quran. The move came just before government formation talks were set to resume following the November election. This concession was potentially crucial for gaining support from three more mainstream parties that Wilders hoped to include in a coalition with his Party for Freedom (PVV). During a parliamentary debate after the PVV won 37 seats in the 150-seat lower house in the November 22, 2023 election, Wilders had indicated a softening of his party’s strong anti-Islam stance, saying, “Sometimes I will have to withdraw proposals and I will do that.”²¹⁶

Far-right Dutch political leader Geert Wilders, whose party won the most

seats in the 2023 general election, announced on March 13, 2024, that he would not become prime minister due to insufficient support to form a government. “I can only become Prime Minister if ALL parties in the coalition support it. That was not the case,” Wilders stated on social media platform X.²¹⁷

India

A report by the Minority Coordination Committee (MCC) revealed that Gujarat experienced 55 attacks targeting minority communities in 2022, with 53 assaults directed at Muslims and two incidents targeting Christians. The report titled “TARGETED: DOCUMENTING INCIDENTS AFFECTING MINORITIES IN GUJARAT,” released in October 2023, was compiled with the collaboration of seventy leaders from various regions of the state. The committee stated that the study was undertaken “to expose the truth” regarding how minority populations are “targeted” and “pushed” to society’s margins.²¹⁸

CK Padmanabhan, BJP’s national council member and former Kerala BJP unit president, expressed serious concerns about the party’s anti-Muslim stance and interpretation of Hindutva in a media interview. He emphasized that the BJP’s anti-Muslim rhetoric would only create division rather than benefit India’s population. Regarding the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), he stressed that no community should be excluded from citizenship consideration. “No community should be excluded while granting citizenship. It is unfortunate that an air of anti-Muslim sentiment has been on the rise in the country lately. That won’t benefit our nation,” he warned, adding, “We must oppose terrorism, no doubt, but the Muslim community is an integral part of India’s nationality. That’s what I have understood. My Hindutva is in line with Swami Vivekananda’s and Sree Narayana Guru’s Hindutva.”²¹⁹

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin posted on social media on March 15, 2024—the UN International Day to Combat Islamophobia—urging unity in opposing “the communal fascism of the BJP regime” and “preserving India’s diverse spirit.” “On International Day to Combat Islamophobia,

let’s unite to crush the communal fascism of the BJP regime and rescue INDIA’s diverse spirit from their grip,” the DMK chief wrote on X. He also argued that the Citizenship Amendment Act merely served to “legitimise Islamophobia,” adding, “Since 2014, the Union BJP Government’s reign has torn apart India’s secular fabric, fostering intolerance and endorsing discrimination against our Muslim community.”²²⁰

The News Broadcasting and Digital Standards Authority (NBDSA) penalized several television channels and ordered the removal of certain programs from their websites for spreading hatred and communal disharmony in content deemed “not in good taste.” The self-regulatory body fined TimesNow Navbharat Rs 1 lakh and News18 India Rs 50,000 based on complaints filed by activist Indrajeet Ghorpade regarding their shows on “love jihad.” In its statement, the NBDSA emphasized that the term “love jihad” must be used with “great introspection as religious stereotyping amounts to violation of the Code of Ethics and can corrode the secular fabric of the country.” Such reporting “cause(s) irreparable harm to a community and create(s) religious intolerance or disharmony,” it added.²²¹



Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh stated that no Indian Prime Minister had ever used such hateful, unparliamentary, and coarse language as Narendra Modi, particularly when targeting certain social groups or the opposition. In a letter to Punjab voters, Singh asserted that dehumanizing

rhetoric had reached its peak. “Modi ji has indulged in the most vicious form of hate speeches, which are purely divisive in nature. Modi ji is the first Prime Minister to lower the dignity of public discourse, and thereby the gravity of the office of the Prime Minister,” he wrote. Addressing Modi’s claim that Singh had stated Muslims had the first claim on India’s resources, the former Prime Minister responded, “He has attributed false statements to me. I have never in my life singled out one community from another. That is solely the BJP’s domain.”²²²



On August 14, 2024, Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP) filed a complaint against Independent News Service Private Ltd (IndiaTV) for their segment “Coffee Par Kurukshetra: बांग्लादेशी हृदियों को कौन बचाएगा?” aired on August 7. The show purportedly focused on events in Bangladesh, where Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had resigned on August 5, leading to an interim government under Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, who called for protecting Bangladesh’s Hindu minority. However, the discussion repeatedly digressed to claims that Muslims in India wanted to eradicate Hindus and transform India into an Islamic nation. What could have been a constructive dialogue about protecting minorities in neighboring countries and India was instead manipulated to spread fear about an alleged Muslim takeover of India.²²³

Human Rights Watch reported on August 13, 2024, that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s 2024 electoral campaign frequently employed hate speech against Muslims and other minorities. Leadership of Modi’s Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) repeatedly made statements inciting discrimination, hostility, and violence against marginalized groups

during his campaign for a third consecutive term, which began on June 9, 2024. Several BJP state governments had demolished Muslim homes, businesses, and places of worship without due process as apparent collective punishment for communal clashes or dissent, labeling these actions “bulldozer justice.” Violence against religious minorities continued, with at least 28 reported attacks nationwide resulting in the deaths of 12 Muslim men and one Christian woman. “Indian Prime Minister Modi and BJP leaders made blatantly false claims in their campaign speeches against Muslims and other minority groups,” said Elaine Pearson, Asia director at Human Rights Watch. Human Rights Watch analyzed all 173 of Modi’s campaign speeches after the election code of conduct took effect on March 16, which prohibits appealing to “communal feelings for securing votes.” In at least 110 speeches, Modi made Islamophobic remarks apparently intended to undermine political opposition and foster fear among the Hindu majority through disinformation.²²⁴

A lecturer at a private college in Karnataka was charged for allegedly advising Hindus against sending their children to schools operated by religious minorities or using marriage halls owned by them. Arun Ullal, a lecturer and research scholar from Mangalore University, allegedly made these controversial remarks at an event near Mangaluru while addressing newlywed couples. Ullal claimed that a portion of revenue from minority-run institutions was sent abroad and urged Hindus to be cautious about supporting them. On October 5, 2024, Mangaluru police filed charges against Ullal under sections 196 (promoting enmity between different religions) and 351 (criminal intimidation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, as well as section 66C of the Information Technology Act.²²⁵



In Bihar's Bhagalpur district, authorities arrested a man filmed climbing the dome of a mosque to hoist a saffron flag during the Kali Visarjan Yatra on November 2, 2024. The incident near Tamtam Chowk involved members of a Hindutva group waving both saffron and Israeli flags, sparking widespread outrage. In the viral video, the man identified as Shivam Kumar was seen scaling the mosque's dome to plant the flag while onlookers cheered. The situation was further aggravated by derogatory songs targeting the Muslim community played during the procession. As the video circulated on social media, police deployed additional forces, including Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) units, to maintain order and reassure residents. Kumar was arrested on November 4, with police filing charges under Section 88, which addresses actions potentially disturbing public peace.²²⁶



Screengrab from video.

A viral video showing three men in saffron attire being confronted about their religious knowledge sparked false claims on social media that they were Muslims disguised as Hindu monks. In the footage, individuals questioned the men, demanding they recite Sanskrit verses to prove their identity as sadhus. When one man mentioned only worshipping “Bholenath,” the crowd labeled them as “Bangladeshi” and “Rohingya,” with some suggesting violence. The person recording claimed one of them was named “Salman” and showed an ID card as evidence. Right-wing outlet OpIndia and RSS publication Panchjanya amplified these claims, with Panchjanya asserting, “Muslims caught in the guise of sadhus! If you want to become a sadhu, why not become Hindu?” However, fact-checking by Divya Bhaskar revealed that police investigation determined all three men were actually Hindu and originated from Junagadh.²²⁷

Public Policy

United States

The University of California committed \$7 million on January 24, 2024, to address what officials described as “acts of bigotry, intolerance, and intimidation,” including incidents of Islamophobia and antisemitism that had occurred across its campuses in recent weeks. UC’s systemwide president, Michael Drake, announced this funding during the board of regents meeting, explaining it would support emergency mental health resources, new educational programs, and additional training for leadership, faculty, and staff.²²⁸

Bipartisan lawmakers introduced the Protecting Students on Campus Act on January 11, 2024, to combat discrimination at colleges amid rising antisemitism and Islamophobia. The bill, sponsored by Democratic Pennsylvania Senators Bob Casey and John Fetterman, along with Republican Senator Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, would provide students with more information about the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights and their right to file civil rights complaints if they face

discrimination based on gender or race. “Diversity is our strength as a country. No student should face hostility or violence for who they are, what they look like, where they’re from, or what they believe,” Fetterman stated. “Amid a despicable rise in antisemitism and Islamophobia in our country, I am proud to introduce this bill with my colleagues to empower students facing discrimination to take action and hold universities accountable in protecting students.”²²⁹

New York Governor Kathy Hochul announced on January 9, 2024, that the state government was intensifying its efforts against online hate following an increase in anti-Muslim and antisemitic rhetoric since the Gaza conflict began. “Across our state New Yorkers are afraid, if they have family or friends in Israel, Gaza, other places, they’re afraid for their safety,” Hochul stated during a press conference. “At home, many people are wrestling with the fear for the first time ever sometimes in their lives being victim of a hate crime.” Hochul cited national data showing hate crimes had surged in the six weeks following October 7, with a “400 percent increase in threats against Jews, Muslims and Arabs.” The state launched a four-pillar plan to make digital spaces and social media safer, calling out “social media companies who have failed their responsibility to create a safe public square” and developing resources for parents and schools. State police established a hate and bias reporting hotline and allocated \$50 million for local law enforcement, with half dedicated to protecting vulnerable locations. The state also created a Threat Assessment and Management (TAM) team to “identify hate at the source and prevent crimes before they occur,” with 36 county-based TAM teams already working on more than 50 cases of online hate.²³⁰

In a pioneering initiative to promote diversity and inclusion, the City University of New York (CUNY) became one of the first universities nationwide to designate Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, Lunar New Year, and Diwali as official holidays on its academic calendar. Following a vote by the CUNY Board of Trustees, Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez announced that beginning with the Spring 2025 semester, CUNY would observe these important cultural and religious holidays. Classes would be suspended on January 29, 2025, for Lunar New Year, March 31, 2025, for Eid al-Fitr, June 5, 2025, for Eid al-Adha, and October 20, 2025, for Diwali.²³¹

On February 28, 2024, the Frederick County Board of Education voted unanimously to approve a calendar that closes schools for students on both Islamic Eid holidays during the 2025-26 academic year, culminating months of advocacy led by the local Muslim community. Muslim students, parents, and community members began campaigning in November for the board to recognize Eid. At every recent meeting, vocal supporters—including local priests and rabbis—had attended in large numbers to offer public comments.²³²

The West Haven city school board approved a day off on next year's calendar for the Eid al-Fitr holiday, a decision Superintendent of Schools Neil Cavallaro described as “long overdue.” Currently, West Haven schools do not open for the Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and the district takes a holiday break at the end of December during Christmas.²³³

The Travis County Sheriff's Office modified its “religious articles” policy in September 2024 to permit female Muslim detainees to keep their hijabs and require jail staff to fulfill requests for modest clothing during the booking process. This policy change followed legal “intervention” from CAIR after protests. CAIR-Austin Operations Manager Shaimaa Zayan stated in a press release that the organization had been working with the sheriff's office since May to “enhance understanding of Islam and build mutual respect.” Zayan declined to provide further details about the intervention.²³⁴

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced on October 1, 2024, an additional \$210 million in funding to protect faith-based institutions and nonprofit organizations from targeted attacks due to the increase in hate incidents amid the Middle East conflict.²³⁵

The Lino Lakes City Council voted on September 23, 2024, to censure council member Chris Lyden for alleged anti-Islamic conduct after he appeared to applaud an anti-Muslim email. According to the council's resolution, the email contained “very significant negative and derogatory commentary related to the Koran and the Muslim faith.” It was reportedly sent in response to a New York Times article about the development of the Madinah Lakes Project, which aimed to transform 156 acres of a sod

farm in the city into a community including a mosque, businesses, and housing.²³⁶

On September 24, 2024, the Senate passed a resolution honoring Wade Al-Fayoume, the 6-year-old Palestinian-American boy from Plainfield murdered in October 2023 in what authorities described as an anti-Muslim, anti-Palestinian hate crime. The resolution declared that “no one should be a target of hate because of their ethnicity or religion, whether such ethnicity or religion is expressed verbally or through how one dresses, such as through the wearing of a hijab, keffiyeh, turban, mitpahat, tichel, shpitzel, sheitel, kippah, or yarmulke,” and that the U.S. “has zero tolerance for hate crimes, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and anti-Palestinian and anti-Arab discrimination.” Illinois Democratic Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth were the chief sponsors of the resolution, which passed unanimously in the Democratic-controlled chamber.²³⁷

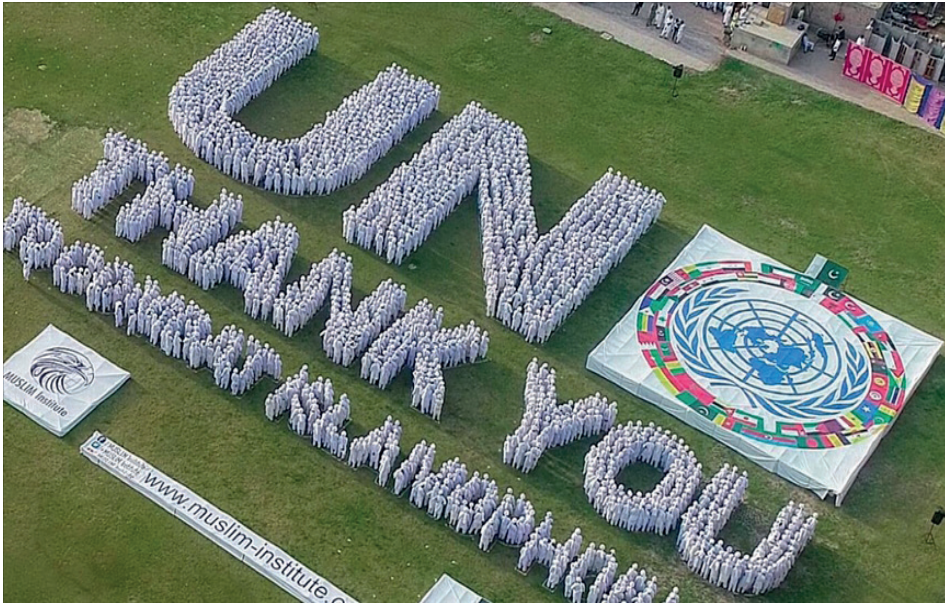
On December 12, 2024, the White House unveiled the first-ever national strategy to counter Islamophobia, outlining more than 100 steps federal officials were taking to combat hate, violence, bias, and discrimination against Muslims and Arab Americans. This initiative followed a similar national plan to battle antisemitism that President Joe Biden introduced in May 2023, as concerns about rising hatred and discrimination grew among American Jews. Officials had worked on the anti-Islamophobia plan for months, releasing it five weeks before Biden’s term ended. The White House indicated that most actions had already been implemented, with plans to complete the remainder before Inauguration Day on January 20, when President-elect Donald Trump would take office. The Biden administration stated, “Over the past year, this initiative has become even more important as threats against American Muslim and Arab communities have spiked,” citing the October 2023 killing of 6-year-old Wade Alfayoumi, an American Muslim boy of Palestinian descent, who was stabbed to death in Illinois. The strategy focused on four key priorities: increasing awareness of hatred against Muslims and Arabs while recognizing their cultural heritages; improving safety and security for these communities; accommodating Muslim and Arab religious practices by reducing discrimination; and fostering cross-community solidarity to counter hate.²³⁸

New York Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation in late November 2024 targeting hate crimes across New York, which included criminalizing the forcible removal of religious clothing such as the hijab. The legislation comprised three new laws to protect New Yorkers from hate-motivated violence, including measures to combat harassment or threats against those wearing religious attire, enhance anti-violence education in schools, and crack down on phone theft.²³⁹

Canada

Members of Parliament from the Liberal and New Democrat parties called for an end to student protests on Canadian university grounds, a ban on emblems associated with terror groups, and recognition of anti-Palestinian discrimination as a distinct form of hate, according to Canadian media reports on December 10, 2024. The demands for change stemmed from two studies that provided 34 recommendations on antisemitism and Islamophobia from the House of Commons Committee on Justice and Human Rights. After hearing about a Nazi swastika displayed at the University of Alberta and significant increases in Islamophobia, the committee recommended that the federal government add a new “intimidation” charge to the Criminal Code, as reported by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). The committee also advised Ottawa to “provide additional resources to establish and maintain dedicated police hate crime units” across all jurisdictions. It urged prohibitions to ensure “encampments are not permitted on university campuses” for safety reasons and to define “what the rules are for protests, demonstrations – including hateful speech – and speech that incites and justifies violence.” In the Islamophobia report, the committee recommended the government “formally recognize discrimination towards Palestinians as a distinct group” and hire more Arab, Muslim, and Palestinian faculty members at universities.²⁴⁰

United Nations



On March 15, 2024, the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly endorsed a resolution designed to combat Islamophobia. During a vote held on the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, the “Measures to combat Islamophobia” resolution passed with 115 votes in favor, 44 abstentions, and none against. Pakistan led the initiative, demonstrating unity among Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states in addressing Islamophobia internationally. The resolution called for appointing a UN special envoy to combat Islamophobia and urged member states to take decisive action against religious intolerance, particularly targeting anti-Muslim sentiment. It also requested that the UN Secretary-General submit a report on the implementation of measures and efforts to combat Islamophobia to the General Assembly.²⁴¹

United Nations human rights experts urged the Indian government on March 7, 2024, to prohibit advocacy of religious hatred, including incitement to discrimination, hostility, or violence, and to protect religious minorities’ freedom by repealing anti-conversion and anti-blasphemy laws. The experts called on New Delhi to prevent vigilante violence and ensure accountability for crimes committed. A joint statement issued by United Nations special rapporteurs, independent experts, and working groups said the Indian government should adopt anti-discriminatory laws “with the participation of all disadvantaged groups, including women and men from marginalised

caste systems, such as Dalits.” The experts also urged the government to “prevent and punish demolitions of homes and arbitrary displacement of minorities” and to “take steps to prevent arbitrary displacements that are generated by development [of] mega-projects.”²⁴²

United Kingdom

The UK government announced that more than £117 million would be allocated to protect mosques, Muslim schools, and community centers across the United Kingdom from hate attacks over the next four years. Home Secretary James Cleverly stated that the investment would provide “reassurance and confidence” to British Muslims. The funding would support security measures including CCTV cameras, alarms, and fencing.²⁴³

Shahin Ashraf made history as the first person from an ethnic minority group to become mayor of the borough of Solihull, stating she was “deeply humbled” by the appointment. The charity worker became Solihull’s first Muslim mayor.²⁴⁴



The UK government must “treat Islamophobia with the urgency it deserves” and start by “adopting a formal working definition of Islamophobia” and appointing “an Independent Government adviser on Islamophobia,” according to Liberal Democrats leader Sir Ed Davey. In an article published

in the Muslim News, Davey wrote: “For too long, the previous government failed to treat Islamophobia with the urgency it deserved. Now, the Prime Minister has an opportunity to take the swift, decisive action that the British Muslim community deserves.” He suggested that an initial step would be “adopting a formal working definition of Islamophobia” and appointing an Independent Government adviser on Islamophobia, “a post that has been left vacant for two years at the hands of the Conservatives.” Davey noted that the Liberal Democrats had adopted the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on British Muslim’s definition of Islamophobia in 2019, adding, “We need action on this as a priority, to make clear that Islamophobia will not be tolerated.”²⁴⁵

London Mayor Sadiq Khan announced funding for mosques across the capital to receive security training sessions. Khan stated that the city was “united against all forms of hate” as he pledged £10,000 to help protect Muslims against Islamophobic attacks. This additional support came as people expressed safety concerns following racist riots and disorder throughout the country. City Hall reported that the mayoral funding would provide sessions on protective security, safety processes, and online safety.²⁴⁶



A record amount of security funding had been allocated to mosques in the UK through a government scheme designed to protect places of worship from hate crime. According to figures obtained by the Guardian via freedom of information requests, almost £3 million was provided to mosques and associated sites under the places of worship security scheme from April 2022 to April 2023, representing a significant increase from just over £73,000 allocated between 2016 and 2017.²⁴⁷



Denmark

The Copenhagen City Court convicted far-right Islamophobic politician Rasmus Paludan on December 6, 2024, finding him guilty of racism based on statements made during a 2019 demonstration, according to Denmark’s official broadcaster. DR TV reported that Paludan was recorded in video saying that the average IQ in Somalia is 68 and that an orangutan (ape) has “probably enough” 69. The footage, captured during a demonstration on Norrebrogade in Copenhagen, was uploaded to his party’s YouTube channel in summer 2019.²⁴⁸

Ireland

A University of Limerick research project was employing innovative educational training to combat anti-Muslim hatred in Ireland. The Sustainable Alliances Against Anti-Muslim Hatred (SALAAM) project – led by Dr. James Carr, Associate Professor in Sociology at UL – aimed to fight anti-Muslim hatred through developing and disseminating tools such as anti-racism training and a support directory, in collaboration with local authorities. Funded by the European Commission, SALAAM was developed in partnership with civil society organizations Doras, the Immigrant Council of Ireland, and the Irish Network Against Racism. Guided by the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan (2020-2025) and other key

legislative and policy developments, SALAAM complemented the work of other EU-based civil society actors, working with local authorities and communities in Dublin, Cork, Limerick, and Galway. Among the resources developed collaboratively between the SALAAM project team, partners, and participating local authorities was a Directory of National and Local Anti-Racism Support Services. While available to anyone affected, this directory was primarily created to assist local authority staff needing further information or referral support for individuals or communities experiencing racism.²⁴⁹

European Union

The Council of Europe recommended on October 15, 2024, that Denmark employ more Muslims in academic institutions and law enforcement authorities, according to local media. The international human rights organization urged Denmark to implement a national action plan against racism that would lead to a greater “proportion of employees with Muslim and other minority backgrounds in the professions of law enforcement officers and teachers.” National broadcaster DR reported that the council also recommended that the action plan must “prevent anti-Muslim racism and discrimination.”²⁵⁰

India

A campaign advertisement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Hindu nationalist ruling party was removed from social media after facing backlash for promoting anti-Muslim sentiment. Released on November 16, 2024, as part of the BJP’s campaign in the eastern state of Jharkhand, which voted in the second phase of regional elections on November 20, the ad depicted Muslims taking over a Hindu family home, apparently referencing “infiltration” from Bangladesh—a theme invoked by the prime minister and Home Minister Amit Shah. In the ad, a Hindu man opens the door to see a crowd of seemingly impoverished people wearing skull caps and hijabs entering his home. The Hindu woman of the house, wearing

traditional symbols including a mangalsutra and bindi, covers her nose with a concerned expression as the man shouts, “They are ruining our home.” One of the intruders, wearing a torn brown vest, tells the homeowners, “We have come because of the government you voted for,” apparently referencing the state’s ruling alliance of the Congress party and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha. “So your home should be destroyed as well. Why only our slum,” he adds, as the ad accuses the state government of “minority appeasement.” The ad was removed after the Congress party complained to the Election Commission of India about the “misleading and divisive” video. The commission directed the BJP to remove the ad from the party’s Jharkhand social media channels and instructed the state election chief to issue a notice to the BJP and submit an action report.²⁵¹

Australia

On July 9, 2024, the Australian government appointed the country’s first envoys to combat antisemitism and Islamophobia in an effort to prevent further deterioration of social cohesion related to the Gaza conflict. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese stated that the conflict between Israel and Hamas in the Middle East had caused “a great deal of grief” for Jewish and Islamic communities in Australia. “Australians overwhelmingly do not want conflict brought here. What they want here is harmony and for people to be able to get on with each other,” he said. Albanese announced that Jewish lawyer Jillian Segal had been appointed to consult with Jewish Australians, experts, and the wider community about the best approaches to address antisemitism. He added that a “special envoy for Islamophobia” would be appointed “shortly” in a similar capacity to work with the Muslim community to promote social cohesion.²⁵²

New Zealand

Postal workers in Wellington refused to deliver pamphlets containing misinformation about the city council and Islamic calls to prayer. Created by political campaign group Better Wellington, the materials included claims

about wasteful council spending, city-wide speed limits, and the assertion that the council “wants the city’s six mosques to broadcast the Islamic call to prayer across the city.” Postal Workers Union national co-president John Maynard reported that after visiting three branches in Wellington on August 26, 2024, posties told him they felt uncomfortable delivering the pamphlet. They believed it would harm community relationships and contradicted NZ Post’s mandate to “be an organisation that exhibits a sense of social responsibility.”²⁵³

Court Decision and Trial

United States

A Sunnyside man with a history of antagonizing residents in his condo complex faced hate crime charges for defacing his building with anti-Muslim slurs. Neal Milano wrote hateful messages inside the condo building, including “Kill Hamas Iran Condo Board” and profanity-laden threats against the condo board and superintendent. Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz stated, “Hateful and bias-motivated attacks have no place in our communities and the shameful aggression will not be tolerated.” Milano was indicted on ten counts, including third-degree criminal mischief as a hate crime and multiple counts of making graffiti.²⁵⁴

The Edmonds Police Department announced on January 10 the arrest of Alex Matthew Waggoner for the alleged January 3 murder of Abdikadir Gedi Shariif, a Muslim man from Sea-Tac. Multiple witnesses reported that a driver had been shot and the suspect fled on foot at an intersection in Edmonds. Officers found Shariif critically wounded with multiple gunshot wounds. He was transported to Harborview Medical Center where he later died. Investigators determined that the suspect was crossing Edmonds Way as the victim was turning left toward him. There was no apparent altercation before the suspect opened fire, fatally wounding Shariif.²⁵⁵

A former North Chicago police officer received a \$475,000 settlement in his lawsuit against the department for religious and national origin

discrimination. Ramtin Sabet sued the city of North Chicago and its former and current police chiefs in March 2017, a month after his termination. After joining the department in 2007, Sabet faced harassment for his Muslim faith and Iranian origin, according to the Chicago chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations. Sabet filed multiple complaints about coworkers making Islamophobic comments and insults, including a discrimination complaint to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 2016. Despite these efforts, the hostile work environment persisted, leading to Sabet’s termination in February 2017.²⁵⁶

Two Muslim men from North Texas settled with Mesa Airlines, a regional carrier for American Airlines, after alleging crew members deemed them “suspicious” and referred them to law enforcement before their flight. In 2019, Abderraouf Alkhalwaldeh, a motivational speaker from Irving, and Issam Abdallah, a Dallas nonprofit leader, were traveling from Birmingham, Alabama, to DFW International Airport when the incident occurred. Court documents allege that shortly after boarding, a passenger and crew member expressed concerns to the captain that the men posed a “security threat,” delaying the flight. Upon arrival, the men were followed by law enforcement, interviewed by an FBI agent, and had their bags searched by TSA officers. In August 2023, the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the discrimination case would proceed to a jury trial, reversing an earlier district court judgment after evidence showed the pilot’s actions were motivated by racial discrimination. This decision led to a financial settlement for both men.²⁵⁷

A man was charged on February 5, 2024, for making antisemitic and Islamophobic threats, with two South Jersey police agencies assisting the FBI in the investigation. Over 15 months, Yaniv Gola called eight different victims, threatening to injure, rape, and kill them, according to officials. The Philadelphia resident used Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services to mask his phone number, the U.S. Attorney’s Office of Eastern Pennsylvania reported. Gola was charged with eight counts of interstate communication of threats. The Cinnaminson and Haddonfield police departments supported the federal investigation, though it remained unclear whether Gola threatened anyone connected to either town.²⁵⁸

A California teenager was charged with multiple felonies for allegedly orchestrating a swatting call that directed law enforcement to a Florida mosque. Alan Winston Filion of Lancaster, California, was extradited to Seminole County, Florida, on January 30, 2024, following his arrest on January 18 with assistance from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.²⁵⁹

On January 31, 2024, CAIR's Georgia chapter announced the resolution of a significant religious accommodation case against the Dekalb County Sheriff's Office, securing a \$95,000 settlement for Norman Simmonds. Detained without conviction at the Dekalb County Jail for two-and-a-half years, Simmonds faced persistent denials of basic requests, including individual timepieces or visible clocks to observe Muslim prayer times and fasting periods. When Simmonds requested a certified halal or kosher diet, the jail refused to provide him the certified kosher meals already available to Jewish detainees.²⁶⁰



A Florida man who committed a hate-motivated assault against a Muslim U.S. Postal Service carrier wearing a hijab in October 2023, shortly after violence erupted between Israel and Gaza, was sentenced to just over three years in federal prison on August 9, 2024. Kenneth Pinkney of Fort Lauderdale pleaded guilty to assault on a federal employee with a hate crime enhancement and received a 37-month prison sentence followed by three years of supervised release, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida.²⁶¹

A Somerville man has been charged with spray painting bias graffiti at the Al Falah Center on Route 202-206, according to Police Chief John B. Mtzak. Julian B. Dale faces fourth-degree bias intimidation, an indictable offense, and a disorderly persons count of criminal mischief in connection

with the July 19, 2024 incident. According to Mitzak, Dale was observed driving a black Honda Civic onto the mosque property around 6:34 p.m., parking near the entrance, then leaving shortly after. At approximately 7 p.m., a mosque employee discovered bias graffiti on a pillar near the main entrance. Dale was arrested on July 22.²⁶²

A Texas woman has been formally indicted by a grand jury for attempting to drown a 3-year-old Palestinian American Muslim girl in a May 2024 incident that local police determined was motivated by racial bias. Elizabeth Wolf was charged by a Tarrant County grand jury in an indictment filed in August 2024 that included a hate crime enhancement, according to court records revealed on September 3. This enhancement could increase the severity of Wolf’s sentence if convicted. Wolf faces charges of attempted capital murder of a person under 10 years of age and intentionally causing bodily injury to a child. Police reports indicate the incident occurred at an apartment complex swimming pool in Euless, a Dallas-Fort Worth suburb, when the suspect argued with the mother of the 3-year-old girl who was at the pool with her 6-year-old son, and inquired about their origin. The suspect attempted to drown the 3-year-old and tried to grab the 6-year-old boy. The mother managed to pull her daughter from the water, and local medical personnel responded to treat the children, who were medically cleared.²⁶³

The University of Georgia faced a federal lawsuit alleging anti-Muslim discrimination on campus following the Gaza war that began on October 7, 2023. Filed with the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights on September 10, 2024, by the Georgia chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Georgia), attorneys Sarah Gerwig and Samantha Hamilton represented individual UGA students and the organization Georgia Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP). The lawsuit alleged UGA violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin by institutions receiving federal financial assistance. The plaintiffs demanded “an immediate investigation into UGA’s extreme differential treatment of Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim students, students perceived to be Palestinian, and students associated with or advocating for Palestinians,” according to CAIR.²⁶⁴

Federal prosecutors charged Dallas Humber and Matthew Allison, alleged leaders of the white supremacist group “Terrorgram Collective,” with 15 criminal counts, including soliciting hate crimes and providing material support for terrorism, according to the US Department of Justice. The indictment, unsealed on September 23, 2024, in Sacramento, California, accused the pair of running the “Terrorgram Collective,” a group promoting white supremacist ideology that sought to “ignite a race war” by encouraging attacks on critical infrastructure and public officials.²⁶⁵

U.S. Customs and Border Protection reached a settlement with the Michigan chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations after a Muslim American employee alleged that his supervisor retaliated against him for seeking religious accommodations to maintain his beard, officials announced on October 2, 2024. CAIR-MI filed the lawsuit on behalf of the Muslim American CBP officer who claimed he was unfairly disciplined when his supervisor denied religious accommodations allowing him to keep his beard in accordance with his Islamic faith. The man alleged in the suit that he suffered loss of wages, benefits, overtime opportunities, and reputation among colleagues.²⁶⁶

A man in the United States pleaded guilty to a federal hate crime after breaking into an Islamic student center at a university in New Jersey. Jacob Beacher broke into the Center for Islamic Life at Rutgers University during the Eid al-Fitr holiday in April and damaged property, including several religious artifacts, the US Department of Justice reported on October 10, 2024. Beacher also stole a Palestinian flag and a charity box from the center.²⁶⁷

A woman was arrested after allegedly attacking a couple wearing clothing with the word “Palestine” at a Panera Bread restaurant in Downers Grove. Alexandra Szustakiewicz was charged with two counts of hate crime and one count of disorderly conduct. Police responded to the restaurant on November 16, 2024, around noon following reports of a disturbance. According to authorities, Szustakiewicz became verbally abusive and physically aggressive toward the couple because of their clothing before leaving the scene prior to officers’ arrival. Waseem Zahran told Fox 32 that he was slapped after Szustakiewicz attempted to throw hot coffee on

him and his pregnant wife. “She started saying how ‘it’s my land’ - about Palestine - ‘not your land. This is America. You can’t wear that hoodie,’” Zahran recounted.²⁶⁸

Shohel Mahmud had no reason for concern when he picked up two young women who ordered an Uber around midnight on July 31, 2024. After they entered his car on Manhattan’s West Side, he confirmed one of them was Jennifer Guilbeault, who had ordered the ride, and drove toward their East Side destinations. The ride was uneventful as they traveled uptown and across Central Park, with the women chatting and checking their phones while Mahmud remained silent. “They were talking and chilling,” he recalled. “Why would I interrupt?” The situation changed dramatically when he stopped at a traffic light at 65th Street and Lexington Avenue. After Mahmud began praying quietly in Arabic while waiting for the light to change, Guilbeault suddenly lunged at him, grabbed him, and sprayed his face with pepper spray. Moments later, when Guilbeault was outside the vehicle, her friend asked why she had acted that way. “He’s brown,” Guilbeault replied, according to a police officer’s statement in court documents citing surveillance footage. On Monday, Manhattan District Attorney Alvin L. Bragg announced that Guilbeault had been indicted on several counts, including second- and third-degree assault as a hate crime. Conviction on second-degree assault as a hate crime could result in a prison sentence of up to 15 years, according to a spokeswoman for Bragg.²⁶⁹

A Philadelphia man received his sentence for making antisemitic and Islamophobic threats. Yaniv Gola will serve 16 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release. He pleaded guilty to using a device to mask his phone number while making hundreds of threatening calls and texts targeting both Jews and Muslims. Gola victimized eight people between August 2022 and November 2023.²⁷⁰

Canada

Toronto police arrested and charged a man after a suspected hate-motivated incident at a Scarborough mosque on October 10, 2024. In a news release on October 15, police announced the man had been charged with harassment

and uttering threats of death and bodily harm. According to police, an unknown man entered the mosque, made hate-motivated threats and slurs against people, before being forced outside. Shortly afterward, officers from 41 Division arrested the suspect. The National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM), a non-profit organization, described the slurs and threats as “Islamophobic, racist, and anti-Palestinian” and noted that “worshippers, teachers and students” were inside the mosque at the time.²⁷¹

A Canadian white supremacist who deliberately ran over four members of a Muslim family was sentenced to life in prison for the murders. Nathaniel Veltman was convicted in November of four counts of first-degree murder and one count of attempted murder for the attack that shocked Canada. The judge in the case declared Veltman’s attack an act of terrorism, marking the first time this term had been applied to white nationalist violence in Canada. “I find that the offender’s actions constitute terrorist activity,” stated Judge Renee Pomerance of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice during the sentencing on February 22, 2024.²⁷²

Ottawa police reported that a 74-year-old Ottawa woman faced assault, harassment, and mischief charges for allegedly removing someone’s hijab and making lewd gestures during a demonstration the previous week. In a news release, police stated the incident occurred at city hall on May 14, 2024.²⁷³

United Kingdom

A Lancashire-based neo-Nazi received a prison sentence exceeding two years for praising the terrorist who murdered MP Jo Cox, promoting banned terror groups, and inciting racial hatred online. Kieran Turner reshared the Christchurch terror attack video on the day it occurred. The BBC reported that Turner was an army veteran. He used alternative social media platforms like GAB and Bitchute to disseminate racist and harmful propaganda – according to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), between 2016 and 2020, he “posted and re-shared material expressing antisemitic, transphobic, misogynistic, homophobic, racist and Islamophobic views.” Greater Manchester Police revealed that Turner praised the banned neo-Nazi terror groups National Action and the Sonnenkrieg Division while

possessing a copy of the white supremacist manifesto written by the Christchurch terrorist. On February 8, 2024, Manchester Crown Court sentenced Turner to 2 years and 8 months imprisonment following his guilty pleas.²⁷⁴

British police charged a man with multiple counts of racially aggravated criminal damage on May 16, 2024, following a series of anti-Muslim incidents in October and November at the office representing Palestinian interests, as well as mosques and businesses across London, Reuters reported. In a statement, the Metropolitan Police said: “Detectives investigating a linked series of anti-Muslim incidents at the Palestinian Mission in Hammersmith, as well as mosques and businesses across west London, have charged a man.” Police reported that Jonathan Katan was arrested last November after red paint was thrown or sprayed at numerous locations on 11 separate occasions between October 16 and November 18. Katan, from Ealing in west London, was charged with 11 counts of racially aggravated criminal damage and two additional offenses related to hate crime, according to the Metropolitan Police statement.²⁷⁵



Three more men were jailed for participating in violent disorder that erupted in Southport the day after three young girls were stabbed to death. The men all admitted taking part in disturbances near Southport mosque on July 30, the day following the stabbings. The violence was triggered by false online rumors claiming the suspect in the Southport attack was Muslim. Video footage presented to Liverpool Crown Court showed the men throwing objects at police. The crowd could also be heard chanting

anti-Islamic slogans. David Engleby from Southport received a sentence of two years and four months. Paul Dryhurst from Litherland was sentenced to two years, and Luke Summerfield from Ashton-under-Lyne in Greater Manchester received two years and two months. Engleby was additionally given a five-year restraining order prohibiting him from approaching the Southport mosque or its Imam.²⁷⁶

UK-Pakistan

Pakistani authorities on August 21, 2024, arrested and charged a man with cyber terrorism for his alleged role in spreading misinformation that triggered widespread rioting in the United Kingdom in August 2024. The suspect was identified as freelance web developer Farhan Asif, according to Imran Kishwar, deputy inspector general of investigations in Lahore. Asif was accused of disseminating false information from YouTube and Facebook about the British teenage suspect in a stabbing attack that killed three girls and injured 10 others on July 29 at a dance class in Northwest England. The misinformation falsely claimed the suspect was a recently arrived asylum-seeker with a name suggesting Muslim heritage. After this misinformation led to a violent mob attacking a mosque near the stabbing site the following day, police took the unusual step of clarifying that the suspect was born in the UK. British media widely reported that the suspect's parents were from Rwanda and believed to be Christian. Channel3 Now, an account on the X social media platform claiming to be a news channel, was among the first outlets to report the false name, Ali Al-Shakati. A Facebook account for the channel indicated it was managed by individuals in Pakistan and the US. At a news conference in Lahore, police official Kishwar stated that Asif was arrested at his home for questioning. He said Asif claimed he was not the original source of the misinformation but had reposted it from social media. Kishwar said Asif operated the Channel3 Now account and allegedly spread fake news to gain more viewers and income. "He regretted reposting fake news," Kishwar told The Associated Press. "This act on the part of Asif amounts to cyber terrorism, for which he has been charged."

United Kingdom (continued)



A man who mimicked Muslim prayer during a protest in Leeds city center remorsefully described it as “three seconds of madness.” James Gettings was sentenced to eight months in prison at Leeds Crown Court after admitting religiously-aggravated harassment, alarm or distress through words or behavior. He participated in the protest on The Headrow on the afternoon of August 3 as far-right and anti-fascist groups clashed.²⁷⁷



A man who punched an Asian man and chanted Islamophobic slurs during a protest in Nottingham has been jailed. Paul Dixon had been drinking with friends on August 3, when thousands gathered in the city center for a pre-planned protest, a court heard. The railway safety supervisor, from Broadwood Road in Bestwood, Nottinghamshire, pleaded guilty at Nottingham Magistrates’ Court to using threatening, abusive or insulting

words or behavior. Dixon, who was identified by police from a YouTube video, was arrested on August 14 at his girlfriend’s home where officers found him possessing cannabis, which he also admitted to. After reviewing the footage in court, district judge Sunil Khanna determined Dixon had thrown “the first punch” and sentenced him to four months in prison.²⁷⁸



A man who posted material on social media to incite racial hatred during the unrest across the UK has been sentenced to three years in prison. Wayne O’Rourke, who had over 90,000 followers on his X account, shared misinformation about the killing of three young girls in Southport on July 29 and celebrated the burning of a car in Sunderland. He admitted publishing written material online to stir up racial hatred between July 28 and August 8. During sentencing at Lincoln Crown Court, Judge Catarina Sjolin Knight told him: “You were not caught up in what others were doing, you were instigating it.”²⁷⁹



A man pleaded guilty to racially abusing and spitting at a bus driver in west London. Police were called to Coldharbour Lane in Hayes on August 7, 2024, after Michael Mongan shouted racial abuse at a bus driver who had refused to let him board due to insufficient fare payment. Mongan then spat at the bus driver’s cab “a number of times” while shouting Islamophobic abuse and making threats. A video of the incident spread widely on social media. Mongan was quickly identified and arrested on August 9. He was charged with a racially aggravated public order offense and criminal damage.²⁸⁰



On August 15, 2024, a man who made menacing and threatening phone calls to mosques in London and Kent was sentenced to over two years in prison. Blake Hindry of Rosebery Road in Kent used a withheld number to call and threaten to murder worshippers and burn down mosques. After a London mosque dialed 999 on August 5 to report death threats, officers conducted reassurance patrols locally before connecting that the threatening calls originated from the same source. Within three days, authorities located Hindry and arrested him. Hindry pleaded guilty after appearing before Maidstone Magistrates Court on August 10.²⁸¹



On September 6, 2024, a British man was sentenced to nine years for arson at a hotel housing asylum seekers last month, the longest sentence imposed following a wave of anti-Muslim riots. Thomas Birley pleaded guilty to arson with intent to endanger life after fueling a fire in a bin near an entranceway to a hotel near Rotherham in northern England on August 4. Prosecutor Elisha Kay stated that Birley added wood to an already burning industrial bin positioned in front of a fire door while staff and guests sheltered inside. Kay said hotel staff barricaded themselves in a panic room and “thought

they were going to burn to death.” Birley, who also admitted to violent disorder and possessing an offensive weapon, was sentenced at Sheffield Crown Court by Judge Jeremy Richardson, who described Birley’s actions as “suffused with racism from beginning to end.”²⁸²



A man who called on Facebook for mosques to be burned down has been sentenced to two years in prison. Geraint Boyce of Penrhiw-Fer, Wales, was sentenced at Merthyr Tydfil Crown Court on October 10, 2024, for Facebook posts published during the riots earlier that year. Boyce pleaded guilty to publishing threatening material intended to stir up religious hatred. He shared several comments on July 31, including calls for mosques to be burned down with “the bastards inside.” Prosecutor Alex Orndal told the court the posts were made following the murder of three children at a Taylor Swift-themed dance class in Southport and the widespread disruption that followed.²⁸³



A neo-Nazi who attempted to murder an asylum seeker at a hotel near Worcester in a far-right terror attack was found guilty on October 25, 2024. Callum Ulysses Parslow stabbed Nahom Hagos from Eritrea in the back and hand, causing serious injuries requiring extensive medical treatment on April 2, 2024. The prosecution detailed his use of social media to express neo-Nazi views and the ideological motivations behind the terror attack, as well as his attempts to intimidate “asylum seekers and those providing accommodation to asylum seekers.” Online search results from Parslow’s phone included the far-right, anti-Muslim terror attacks in Finsbury Park and Christchurch, New Zealand. On X, Parslow glorified the Christchurch terrorist and promoted white supremacist conspiracy theories about demographic changes.²⁸⁴



A man who threatened to “burn down every f***** mosque in Newcastle” following the Southport stabbings in a despicable TikTok rant received a 20-month prison sentence. James Aspin of Blyth, Northumberland, uploaded his anti-Muslim and Islamophobic rant to his TikTok account, which had 931 followers. The video included calls to burn mosques while demonizing refugees and Muslims more broadly by linking them to criminal activity.²⁸⁵

A man received a suspended prison sentence after threatening to burn down a mosque in an online video and shouting Islamophobic abuse from atop a phone box. Max Ritchings of Haywards Heath in West Sussex posted an Instagram story featuring news footage of unrest on August 4, while swearing and making the threat. Later that evening, he stood on a phone

box near Brighton pier, shouting abuse. At Lewes Crown Court, Ritchings, who admitted inciting violence online and causing religiously aggravated harassment, was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, suspended for two years. He was also ordered to complete 300 hours of unpaid community work and 18 sessions of rehabilitation activity.²⁸⁶

Sweden

Swedish prosecutors announced on August 25, 2024, that Salwan Momika and Salwan Najem committed “offenses of agitation against an ethnic or national group” on four separate occasions. The charges stated the two desecrated the Quran, including burning it, while making derogatory remarks about Muslims, in one instance outside a mosque in Stockholm. “Both men are prosecuted for having on these four occasions made statements and treated the Quran in a manner intended to express contempt for Muslims because of their faith,” Senior Prosecutor Anna Hankkio said in a statement. “In my opinion, the men’s statements and actions fall under the provisions on agitation against an ethnic or national group, and it is important that this matter is tried in court,” she added.²⁸⁷

A far-right Danish-Swedish politician has been sentenced to prison on charges of incitement against an ethnic group after burning Qurans and making offensive statements about Muslims. Rasmus Paludan became the first person to be tried and sentenced in Sweden for burning a Quran during an organized demonstration. The leader of the Danish political party Stram Kurs (Hard Line) was sentenced on November 5, 2024, to four months in prison at Malmö district court for two cases of incitement against an ethnic group and one case of insult in 2022. He was also ordered to pay damages and fees of 80,800 kroner (£5,822).²⁸⁸

Russia



A Russian man was sentenced Tuesday to 3½ years in prison for burning a Quran in the Russian region of Chechnya. He was prosecuted under a law against offending religious believers’ feelings after burning a copy of the Quran outside a mosque in Volgograd, 800 kilometers from Grozny. Russian investigators transferred his case to Chechnya because they received many messages from Chechnya residents asking to be designated injured parties. Media reported that Zhuravel pleaded guilty to the charges, repeatedly apologized in court, and stated he had not considered the consequences of his actions.²⁸⁹

India

India’s top court restored life prison sentences for 11 Hindu men who raped a Muslim woman during deadly religious rioting two decades earlier and ordered the convicts to surrender to authorities within two weeks. The Hindu men were convicted in 2008 of rape and murder but were released in 2022 after serving 14 years in prison.²⁹⁰

India’s Supreme Court set aside on November 5, 2024, an order that banned Islamic schools in the country’s most populous state of Uttar Pradesh, providing relief to thousands of students and teachers. In March, the Allahabad High Court had invalidated a 2004 law governing the schools, called madrasas, ruling it violated the constitutional principle of secularism, and directed that all their students be transferred to conventional schools. By overturning the March order, the Supreme Court allowed the 25,000 Muslim schools to continue operating in the northern state, benefiting 2.7 million students and 10,000 teachers. “The act is consistent with the positive obligation of the state to ensure that the children get adequate education,” Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud stated in court.²⁹¹



On October 22, 2024, the Supreme Court of India prohibited the Gujarat government from allocating a parcel of land in Gir Somnath district, where several Muslim religious sites and residences were allegedly demolished illegally the previous month. This decision came in response to a special leave petition filed by the Auliya-E-Deen Committee, challenging an earlier Gujarat High Court order that declined to maintain the status quo during the demolition drive. The bench, comprising Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan, decided against issuing interim orders after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta assured the court that the land would remain under state control and not be given to any third party. The court stated, “In this light, we don’t find it necessary that any interim order be passed.”²⁹²

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP Investigation) Shubham Aggarwal announced that cases had been registered against four Hindu outfit leaders: Chanderkant Chaddha of Vikas Nagar and Bhanu Pratap of Neem Wali Gali, leaders of Shiv Sena Punjab; Parveen Dang of Gandhi Nagar, president of Hindu Sikh Jagrati Sena; and Rohit Sahni of Star City, Haibowal, Ludhiana, a leader of Hindu Shakti Morcha. Local police registered four cases against these Hindu outfit leaders for alleged hate speeches on December 13, 2024. Officials added that the cases were filed based on videos the accused right-wing leaders posted on their social networking sites. The alleged hate speeches were reportedly made in response to petrol bomb attacks on Shiv Sena (Bharat Vanshi) leader Yogesh Bakshi and Shiv Sena (Hind) Sikh Sangat wing leader Harkirat Singh Khurana.²⁹³

In a verdict published on November 11, 2024, the Supreme Court of India declared that “Citizens’ voices cannot be throttled by a threat of destroying their properties” while urging the government to follow “due process.” The apex court delivered its November 6 verdict regarding the demolition of a house in the Maharajganj district of Uttar Pradesh in 2019. Responding to this recent Supreme Court verdict condemning “bulldozer justice,” Aakar Patel, board chair at Amnesty International India, stated: “The judgment condemning unlawful demolitions as ‘unacceptable’ from the Supreme Court of India is a late but welcome move in upholding the rights of the people. This is a significant victory in ending the deeply unjust, widespread, unlawful and punitive demolitions, mostly targeting the minority Muslim community, by Indian authorities which have often been promoted as ‘bulldozer justice’ by ruling party political leaders and media.”²⁹⁴

Probe and Arrest

United States



Bert James Baker was arrested following a February 4, 2024 attack on Zacharia Doar, who required hospitalization. Baker faces charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. On February 7, 2024, police announced that their Hate Crimes Review Committee determined the stabbing qualified as a hate crime. This assessment was forwarded to prosecutors, who will make the final decision regarding offense enhancement. According to the arrest affidavit, Baker, while riding a bicycle, approached a truck displaying support for Palestine that Doar and three others occupied. Baker opened

the tailgate and doors while shouting racial slurs at the occupants. When the group exited the vehicle and confronted Baker, he punched Doar in the shoulders, initiating a fight that escalated to Baker drawing a knife and stabbing Doar in the rib. During police questioning, Baker admitted to being an alcoholic and consuming more alcohol than usual that day.²⁹⁵

The US government launched an investigation into Emory University for alleged discrimination against students of Palestinian, Muslim, or Arab ancestry since October 7, as the Guardian exclusively reported. The US Education Department informed the Council on American Islamic Relations, Georgia (CAIR-GA) and Palestine Legal, a national organization, that it would investigate claims detailed in an 18-page complaint filed on April 5 on behalf of Emory students under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. This complaint was among at least six Title VI claims regarding discriminatory treatment of Palestinian, Muslim, and Arab students at US universities, including Columbia, Rutgers, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.²⁹⁶

United Kingdom



British Transport Police (BTP) are searching for five men following an alleged hate crime incident at Leeds railway station. According to the BTP, a group of men were observed verbally abusing a man and woman who were holding a Palestinian flag and placards. The incident occurred on December 23, 2023.²⁹⁷



A man who identified himself as a soldier with the Israeli army was arrested for ‘racially aggravated assault’ after verbally abusing a Muslim woman at a London train station. According to witnesses, he pulled the woman’s headscarf, which triggered the altercation.²⁹⁸

A man was arrested after passengers discovered an Islamophobic message when attempting to use free WiFi at some of the UK’s largest railway stations. British Transport Police stated that the suspect was an employee of Global Reach Technology, which provided WiFi services to Network Rail. He was arrested on suspicion of offenses under both the Computer Misuse Act 1990 and the Malicious Communications Act 1988. The suspected cyberattack on September 25, 2024, affected Manchester Piccadilly, Birmingham New Street, Edinburgh Waverley, Glasgow Central, and ten stations in London.²⁹⁹

India

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has assumed responsibility for investigating the death of a 23-year-old Muslim man who was beaten and forced to sing the national anthem by police officers during the 2020 northeast Delhi riots. This transfer of investigation follows a directive issued by the Delhi High Court on August 6, 2024. The incident occurred on February 24, 2020, when a viral video showed the victim, Faizan, and four other Muslim men being beaten with batons by police and compelled to sing the national anthem and ‘Vande Mataram’. The case was initially registered at the Bhajanpura police station on February 28, 2020, before being transferred to the Delhi Police Crime Branch on March 4, 2020. The High Court criticized the Delhi Police for failing to conclusively identify the officers involved despite more than four years of investigation. “It is extremely important to note that this case presents allegations of gross violation of human rights, in as much as the unlawful actions of the policemen, who are yet to be identified, were motivated and driven by religious bigotry and, therefore, would amount to a ‘hate crime,’” the court observed. “The investigation in the present case has evidently been tardy, sketchy, and conveniently sparing of the persons who are suspected to be involved in brutally assaulting the petitioner’s son...what is worse is that the suspects were entrusted to act as custodians of the law, and were in a position of power and authority, but seemed to have been driven by bigoted mindsets,” the High Court stated.³⁰⁰



Satyam Pandit, Chief of the Hindu right-wing organization Hindu Veer Sena, was arrested by Ghaziabad police after a video of his hate speech went viral on social media. In the footage, Pandit was recorded inciting violence against Muslims and demanding the expulsion of Rohingya Muslims and Bangladeshis from India within 72 hours. He also threatened to cut off Muslims' beards and beat them with sticks. The arrest occurred on August 11, 2024, after which Pandit appeared in court and was placed in judicial custody. The inflammatory video, reportedly made in response to alleged atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh, shows Pandit confronting police officers while using abusive language.³⁰¹



The West Bengal Police have filed charges against actor and Bharatiya Janata Party leader Mithun Chakraborty for alleged hate speech targeting Muslims during a party event on October 27, according to PTI. The case, registered at the Bidhannagar South police station, concerns remarks that Chakraborty made during the launch of a BJP membership drive in the North 24 Parganas district.³⁰²

Positive Views on Islam

Canada: US President Joe Biden and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recently reaffirmed their commitment to combating Islamophobia in official messages to Muslim communities in their countries. Trudeau emphasized Islam’s values of “compassion, gratitude, and family” and acknowledged that this served as an opportunity for all Canadians to “recognize the invaluable contributions that Muslim Canadians have made.” The White House released a statement quoting Biden as saying, “Islamophobia has absolutely no place in the United States, a country founded on freedom of worship and built on the contributions of immigrants, including Muslim immigrants.”³⁰³



UK: Adrian Ramsay, co-leader of the Green Party, visited a mosque in Manchester where he met with members and trustees of the Altrincham & Hale Muslim Association. He expressed his desire to engage with the Muslim community during his party conference because they felt targeted and vulnerable during recent riots. Ramsay emphasized that “We need to stand together” and described the UK riots as “racist and Islamophobic.”³⁰⁴



India: Nitesh Rane, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, was charged with propagating hate speech targeting a minority community during a Ganesh Chaturthi celebration, as reported by PTI on September 16, 2024. According to Mint, Rane instructed real estate brokers “not to deal with non-Hindus” and to verify Aadhaar cards before completing property transactions. He also reportedly advised them to disregard the principle of “sarva dharma samabhava” (equal respect for all religions). This wasn’t Rane’s first hate speech charge; he was previously booked in Ahmednagar district on September 2 for allegedly warning Muslims against commenting about Hindu religious leader Ramgiri Maharaj, who had been accused of making derogatory remarks about Islam and Prophet Muhammad. In March, Rane used derogatory terms like “Rohingyas” and “Bangladeshis” to describe the Muslim community at an event organized by Sakal Hindu Samaj in Mumbai.

On Inter-Faiths

UK: The Lancashire Council of Mosques is supporting the Muslim Council of Britain’s campaign encouraging people of all faiths and none to visit local mosques throughout the United Kingdom. In Blackburn, residents could visit the Masjid e Taqwa on Pleckgate Road from 10am to 12pm on September 28-29, 2024, while the Masjid Noorul Islam in Audley Range also opened its doors to the public. Noreen Hameed, who helped manage the campaign in Lancashire, explained: “Recent statistics reveal 70 per cent of Britons have never visited a place of worship outside their own, highlighting the need for change in our multicultural society... Just as we

visit friends and family in their homes, it is essential for communities to engage with one another, breaking down barriers and building bridges of trust and understanding.”³⁰⁵

UK: A Birmingham mosque sought to repair community relationships following summer riots by hosting an interfaith open day. Green Lane Masjid and Community Centre organized this annual event to welcome people of all faiths for tours, prayer observations, and conversations with the Imam. The open day was held on September 29, 2024, at the center in Small Heath. The #VisitMyMosque initiative was part of a nationwide campaign launched by the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) to make mosques accessible to the general public.³⁰⁶



India: A Hindu family discovered a centuries-old mosque on their property and chose to restore it. The Amanati Mosque, owned and operated by a Hindu family in Bengal’s Barasat district near Kolkata, received a fresh coat of paint from Partha Sarathi Basu last Eid. For Basu, the refurbished mosque with its arched gate and light gray minarets in a predominantly Hindu neighborhood represents more than just a shrine to Allah—it has been integral to his family’s identity for over 50 years. “This place means everything to us,” said Basu, who welcomes Muslim worshippers for Friday jumah prayers while wearing a starched white tunic with a red dot on his forehead symbolizing his Hindu faith. Basu’s inclusivity stems from his family’s tradition of cultural preservation. After the 1964 anti-Hindu riots in Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan) caused many Bengali Hindu

refugees to flee to India, Basu’s grandfather exchanged his family property in Bangladesh’s Khulna City for a 15-acre plot owned by a Muslim landlord in Barasat. Upon settling in India, the family discovered this centuries-old mosque on their land, though property documents didn’t mention the structure. “The former owners said we could demolish it, but my grandmother felt a strong connection to the mosque and began lighting a lamp there every evening,” Basu explained.³⁰⁷

Positive Development on Hijab

United States: In Milwaukee, two women faced hate crime charges after a cellphone video showed them attacking a group of Muslim women at Cathedral Square Park. The victims believed they were targeted because of their hijabs. According to the criminal complaint, the victims were sitting at a picnic table when two women with approximately 10 children approached them. One suspect reportedly said, “We’re Black aggressive women, and we’re going to defend our own kind.” When the victims stated there was no problem and declined to answer personal questions, one woman placed a victim in a headlock and began punching her head, while the other suspect attacked another victim’s head and neck. The suspects, identified as Miracle Reed and Payton Smith, were subsequently arrested.³⁰⁸

United States: A theme park came under criticism after videos surfaced showing an employee instructing a woman to remove her hijab before riding a roller coaster. According to an official complaint filed with Worlds of Fun, Hadil Alqarini was seated on the Prowler roller coaster with her son on September 13, 2024, when a park employee approached her demanding she remove her “scarf” to ride. Although Alqarini explained it was a religious head covering that she couldn’t remove, the employee insisted she purchase a hat instead. Alqarini mentioned she had previously ridden several attractions, including this same roller coaster, without issue. When she exited the ride, a park supervisor intervened and corrected the first employee, confirming her hijab was sufficiently secure. The employee

later acknowledged his mistake and offered to let her ride, but she declined. Worlds of Fun subsequently apologized, escalated the incident to Six Flags management, and provided Alqarini with complimentary tickets and fast lane passes for her next visit.³⁰⁹

United Nations: On September 26, 2023, the UN human rights office criticized France for prohibiting French athletes from wearing hijabs at the 2024 Paris Olympics. Maria Hurtado, spokeswoman for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, stated that as a convention party, France has an obligation to address social patterns based on gender superiority or inferiority. She emphasized that discriminatory practices against any group can have harmful consequences, and that restrictions on religious expressions such as clothing choices are only acceptable under specific circumstances addressing legitimate public safety, order, health, or moral concerns in a necessary and proportionate manner. Hurtado's remarks followed French Sports Minister Amélie Oudéa-Castéra's announcement that French athletes would be banned from wearing hijabs at the Paris Olympics, citing France's "strict regime of secularism" in sports.³¹⁰

New Zealand: Muslim children, even those of preschool age, were experiencing bullying, prompting action from Dr. Maysoon Salama, mother of a victim in the country's worst mass shooting. Dr. Salama had observed children transitioning from the supportive environment of her co-founded Islamic preschool in Christchurch, An-Nur Childcare Centre, to facing bullying in primary school. She cited an example of a young girl who was excluded by peers saying "You're not my friend" because she wore a hijab, resulting in the child's reluctance to attend school. To address this issue, Dr. Salama's center collaborated with Tātai Aho Rau Core Education and the South Island's Rātā Foundation to develop educational resources helping teachers and students understand Muslim culture, promote inclusivity, and eliminate bullying, bias, and discrimination throughout New Zealand.³¹¹



LIST OF INCIDENTS



LIST OF INCIDENTS

Incident Related to Mosque and Islamic Center

France: A new wave of frustration and discontent has swept through the Muslim community in France after an attack on the mosque of Saint Martin des Champs, a commune in the Finistère department of Brittany in northwest France. According to media, an individual set fire to one of the mosques on 13 January 2024, sparked backlash and frustration among Muslims in the region and throughout the country. A surveillance video documented the attack when an individual set fire to the door of a mosque room. There were no casualties after the attack. Minister of Interior Gerald Darmanin expressed support for Muslims in northwest France. “Support for Muslims in Finistere following the damage to the Morlaix mosque this morning. An investigation has been opened so that the perpetrator of these acts can be prosecuted,” he said on X, formerly Twitter.³¹²

UK: The Glasgow-based Al-Farooq Education and Community Centre (AFECC) bought the former Barony St John Church in Ardrossan in 2022. They had been fundraising since then to realise their plans to turn it into North Ayrshire’s first mosque and centre for Muslims in the area. But on 6 January 2024, Alan Bell, from the neighboring Scottish Centre for Personal Safety, found a flag and excrement dumped on the former church’s doorstep. He said: “I thought the flag had fallen off the front door. As I picked it up to pin it back on the door, I noticed as I unravelled it that it was something more sinister. “ The prayer flag had an huge pile of excrement, either human or animal, smeared in the middle of it. It has obviously been thrown over the security fence which surrounds the church and had landed at the front door.” Bell added: “It beggars belief that some people are so full of hatred and racism that they think it is okay to do this – especially over the Christmas period, a time for goodwill towards all men.”³¹³

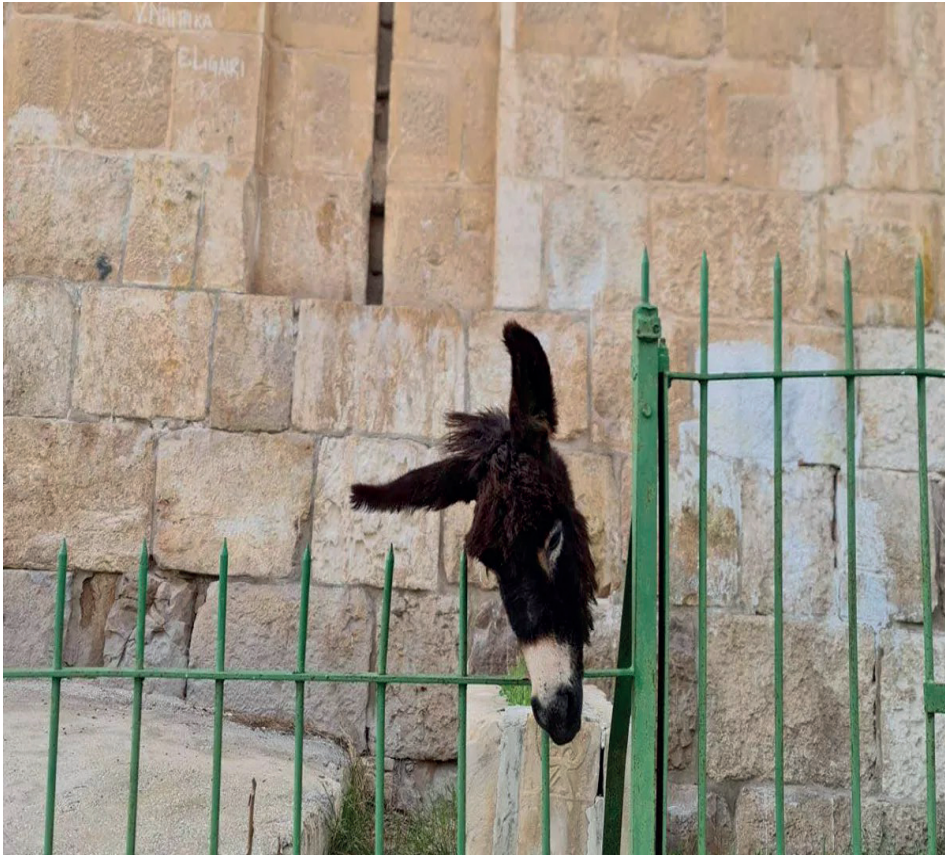
India: Hyderabad: Tension prevailed in Narketpally village of Nalgonda

district on 21 January 2024 night when a mob of 200-250 right-wing outfits like VHP, Bajrang Dal, RSS and BJP assembled on an open plot admeasuring 2,840 square yards besides a mosque, which was registered as Waqf property, and tried to construct a Hanuman Temple there. The mob was also seen performing puja on the Waqf land. According to the Amjedullah Khan, MBT spokesperson, the Muslims who were performing namaz inside the Masjid alerted Narketpally Police Station but no action was taken against them due to “lack of personnel”. Then, Hafeez Khan (Secretary of Peace Committee) Nalgonda, Moulana Ahsan Uddin (president of Jamiat-e-Ulema, Nalgonda) and Mufti Siddiqui informed the Nalgonda SP Chandana Deepti, who immediately rushed force to Narketpally. Despite police force reaching the spot no action was taken against the mob and Muslims, who were holed up in the masjid had to leave through an alternate door.³¹⁴



India: A mob attempted to hoist saffron flags on the centuries’ old Diwanji Begum mosque in Uttar Pradesh’s Agra on 22 January, in celebration of the Ram Temple consecration. In videos of the incident that went viral, the mob could be seen dancing and holding saffron flags as they climb on top of the mosque, attempting to hoist them. The mosque, in Agra’s Tajganj area, was built in A.D. 1677 and was commissioned by Diwanji Begum, mother of Mumtaz Mahal. The Mughal era mosque comes under the Agra circle of the Archaeological Survey of India. The caretaker of the mosque, Zahir Uddin, filed a complaint in the Tajganj police after the incident, where he claimed that “1000-1500 people” were present at the gate of the

mosque, trying to hoist the flags. The complainant also claimed that several slogans were being raised,” and the “anti-social elements” had “desecrated the mosque”. 12 people have been arrested for the act, so far.³¹⁵



The Occupied Palestinian Territory: Israeli settlers hung a donkey’s head on a grave in occupied East Jerusalem amid growing tensions across the occupied West Bank, according to local authorities on 27 December 2023. “A settler stormed the Bab Al-Rahma cemetery and hung a donkey’s head on a grave there,” the Jerusalem governor’s office said in a statement.³¹⁶



US: ON 23 February 2024, A Long Island attorney was charged with criminal trespassing and harassment for entering a mosque and chanting about freeing Israeli hostages. Staff and worshipers were alarmed when a man entered the Islamic Center of Melville Wednesday afternoon and began chanting. “Free Israeli hostages now! Free the Israeli hostages now,” Jordan Endler allegedly said during the incident. “We opened the door, open the door to talk to him, but he was not coming to talk,” Essam Ibrahim, chairman of the Islamic Center of Melville. “Are you praying for the Israeli Jewish women? Will you specifically you’re praying for Israeli Jewish?” the man could be heard asking on the video. Witnesses said Endler rubbed his shoes on prayer rugs - a show of disrespect - used obscenities about a call for a ceasefire, and refused to leave. Responding police spoke with Endler, of East Northport, but didn’t arrest him until after mosque leaders met with Suffolk Police and showed them the video.³¹⁷

Canada: The chairperson of the Islamic Centre of Cambridge said they were thankful for the support people had shown to them in light of a police investigation into graffiti on the centre’s building. “This was a very small incident, someone marking a cross on the exit pillars. This is the first incident since we started work here during the 1980s,” Mohammad Darr said in an email to CBC News. Police said they were called on 12 February 2024 to the building in the area of Dunbar and Hespeler roads in Cambridge. “The graffiti included hate-motivated symbols,” police said in a release. The graffiti was condemned by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as “alarming, abhorrent, and unacceptable” in a post on X, formerly Twitter, on 14 February.³¹⁸

Sweden: A mosque in the Swedish capital of Stockholm had been the target of Islamophobic attacks for over a year, with the latest incident occurring on 21 February 2024 when Muslim faithful read graffiti on the mosque wall with a Swastika sign and the threatening message “kill Muslims.” The Stockholm Mosque in the capital’s Sodermalm district had been subjected to hate crimes for the second time in a week. On 20 February, the perpetrator also scrawled graffiti with a Swastika mark and a threatening message, saying “go home” carved on a door, the mosque’s administration said in a post on its website. Mohamed Amin, a member of the Stockholm Mosque committee, told SVT TV that “soon we will have to put bars in front of the windows to protect them, like in a prison.” The mosque had previously been targeted by scrawled doors in November 2023.³¹⁹

US: Police had charged a man with urinating on Chattanooga’s Islamic Center, but a police report said he was unaware the building was a mosque and did not deface the building due to his religious beliefs. On 1 March 2024 CAIR condemned the incident and said the matter should be investigated as a hate crime. “Given the recent spike in anti-Muslim bigotry we have witnessed nationwide, it would only make sense for law enforcement authorities to consider a possible bias motive for this incident,” said CAIR National Communications Director Ibrahim Hooper. “Americans of all faiths must be free to worship as they wish without fear of harassment.”³²⁰

The Occupied Palestinian Territory: On 14 May 2024, More than 400 illegal Israeli settlers forced their way into the Al-Aqsa Mosque complex in occupied East Jerusalem amid restrictions on the entry of Palestinian worshippers into the site, according to a Palestinian agency. “Some 423 illegal settlers stormed the complex, with some settlers waving the Israeli flag,” the Jordan-run Islamic Endowments Department in Jerusalem said in a statement. According to the agency, Palestinian worshippers of all ages were denied entry into the mosque. “Some Palestinian youth and women were forced out of the mosque by an Israeli officer without any apparent reason,” the statement said.³²¹



The Occupied Palestinian Territory: On 22 May 2024, Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir forced his way into the Al-Aqsa Mosque complex in occupied East Jerusalem. The intrusion was the first by the extremist minister since Israel launched its deadly offensive on the Gaza Strip that killed more than 35,600 people.³²²

The Occupied Palestinian Territory: On 26 May 2024, Scores of illegal Israeli settlers forced their way into the Al-Aqsa Mosque complex in occupied East Jerusalem, according to Palestinian media. The state news agency Wafa said at least 115 illegal settlers had stormed the site from its Al-Mugharbah Gate area, west of the mosque. Many Palestinian worshippers were barred entry into the site by Israeli police, Wafa said.³²³



The Occupied Palestinian Territory: Israeli soldiers had turned a mosque in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip into a cooking place, a video showed on 13 June 2024. The clip, circulated by an Israeli soldier on social media, showed the Muslim worship place being used by soldiers to serve meals. It features large tables inside the mosque on which Israeli soldiers placed various types of food items. A sticker affixed to a cardboard food box used by soldiers is also shown with a production date showed 22 May 2024, which was likely the time when the video was shot.³²⁴

The Occupied Palestinian Territory: Israeli settlers dance at Al-Aqsa Mosque to mark Flag Day. Israelis marked the annual Flag Day by raiding the streets of occupied East Jerusalem and singing and dancing in the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. Palestinians reported being threatened and attacked, while videos circulating on social media show local and foreign members of the press being attacked as they covered the events that were unfolding.³²⁵

US: In a press release, Mashpee Police Chief Scott Carline told CWN that on 12 June 2024, the Mashpee Police Department responded to the area of Cotuit Road and Windsor Way for the report of vandalism. Upon arrival, officers observed an approximately 3 foot retaining wall alongside the southbound lane of Cotuit Road spray painted with the words “Muslims not welcome”. While investigating this incident, it was discovered that there was a second incident of vandalism on a large stone in the area of Emma Oakley Mills Way and Route 130. Written in spray paint at this scene were the words “[expletive deleted] off Muslims”.³²⁶



US: Detectives were looking for a man they said smashed a sign in front of a Brooklyn mosque during a hate-filled anti-muslim attack, police said on 5 July 2024. The vandal allegedly chucked an unidentified object at the sign posted outside Muhammad Mosque 7C located on Pennsylvania Ave. near Glenmore Ave. in East New York about 1:30 a.m. on 29 May 2024. The sign was part of a banner that spanned across a narrow driveway between two buildings, police said. The sign was damaged when the object the suspect

threw tore a hole into it, cops said. The suspect was caught on surveillance video running away from the scene.³²⁷



US: A social media post under the username “JewishBiker88” sparked outrage as it depicted a man urinating on the sign of the East Texas Islamic Society Mosque and School in Tyler, Texas. The post, accompanied by the caption “Found a good place to take a p**s while out on the motorcycle this morning,” has since been deleted along with the account.³²⁸

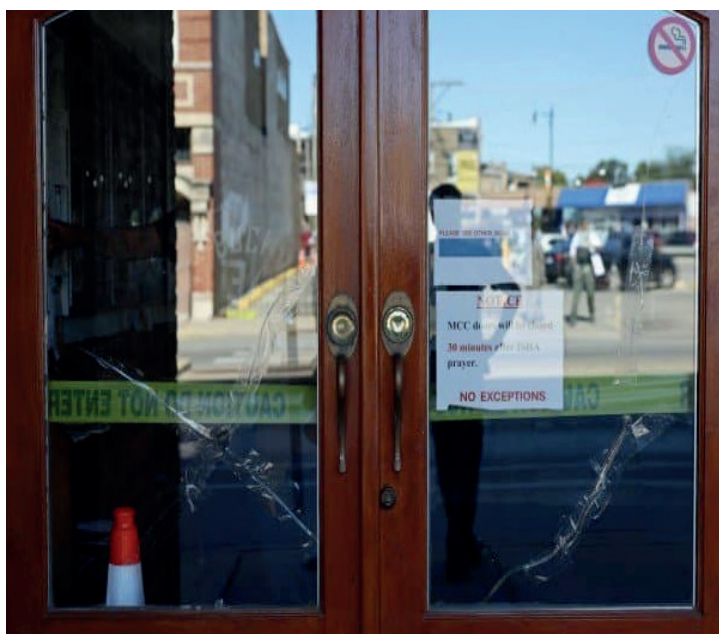
US: Police were investigating a series of burglaries and acts of vandalism at the site of a planned Muslim community center and mosque. In the last two months, a vacant former bank building in St. Anthony and the site of the newly established Tibyan Center had been targeted repeatedly. It appeared that the same group of young people had shattered windows, broken in multiple times, or attempted to, and caused about \$20,000 worth of damage. Jaylani Hussein, the executive director of CAIR-MN, said the building had been vacant for more than a year without incident, then the plans for the space were announced to neighbors in May. Since then, police have five different open cases at the location.³²⁹



UK: A large crowd of far-right, anti-Muslim protesters had clashed with police in Southport in the northwest of England, hours after the town held a vigil for those killed and injured in a knife attack on a Taylor Swift-themed children’s dance and yoga class. Merseyside Police said that 22 officers were injured in 30 July night’s violence, eight of them seriously. The unrest began when several hundred people, most of them men, began targeting a Southport mosque, setting vehicles and wheelie bins on fire and attacking a local shop. Bottles and bricks were thrown at police who linked the rioters to the English Defence League, a group that has sometimes staged violent demonstrations against Islam.³³⁰



The Occupied Palestinian Territory: On 13 August 2024, Israeli crowds had stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem, as well as villages in the occupied West Bank, as they marked a Jewish holiday. Far-right national security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir led a crowd of thousands into the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem and performed prayers. Despite Jewish religious rites been banned at the location, Israeli police reportedly offered protection, as well as to illegal settlers involved in violence in the West Bank.³³¹



US: After possible bullet holes were discovered at the Muslim Community Center, the Chicago office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations announced on 7 September 2024 that they were calling upon police to investigate the incident as a potential hate crime. According to Saif Mazhar, chair of the security committee for the Muslim Community Center, office staff first found what looked like bullet holes on the building’s glass doors during Labor Day weekend. When multiple new holes were found on September 3, two days later, Mazhar said he then realized that the mosque was being targeted. The community had since been very “shaken up,” Mazhar said. On September 5, he reached out to the Federal Bureau of Investigation to request they look into the incident as a potential hate crime, concurrent to the Chicago Police Department’s own investigation.³³²



Canada: Three victims were injured while trying to disarm a knife-wielding man during Friday afternoon prayers at a Montreal-area mosque on 20 September 2024. A spokesperson for Chateauguay police told reporters that the victims received minor injuries, although one was taken to hospital. About 100 men, women and children were inside the Centre Culturel Musulman in Chateauguay, Quebec, when administrator Richid Amane said a man acted suspiciously after entering the mosque, CTV News reported. Several men approached the suspect and suffered cuts to their hands and one to his body.³³³



Australia: An Adelaide Muslim leader said a “bizarre” act in which a

dead kangaroo was left outside a local mosque was a message to “intimidate or express hate” towards the community. South Australia Police were investigating the incident from 29 August 2024, when a man left the dead animal in front of the Marion Mosque in Park Holme. CCTV showed a man covering his face, pushing a wheelbarrow and leaving the kangaroo in front of the place of worship before walking away.³³⁴



India: Amid numerous violent incidents targeting minority communities during Durga Puja processions across India, the Rauza Mosque in Qasba Echauli village, Silaouri Gauspur, Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh, came under attack by Hindutva mobs. On 13 October 2024, an idol immersion rally that was allowed to peacefully halt in the village for 45 minutes, stayed longer than decided and in between the crowd played offensive-abusive songs and abhorrent slogans with saffron flags. Muslim villagers complained that the extremist masses threw slippers, shoes, colours and beer cans at the Rauza mosque to insult them. “They stood right in front of the mosque for more than one and a half hours and played extremely obnoxious songs, loaded with sexist words and communal slurs that even degrade our mothers and sisters,” Naseer* told The Observer Post while fumbling over the filthy words.³³⁵

US: CNN has said it will no longer feature appearances from writer Ryan Girdusky, after he made a comment amid a chaotic and bad tempered panel discussion appearing to say he hoped that a Muslim journalist got blown up in a bomb attack. “There is zero room for racism or bigotry at CNN or

on our air,” the network said in a statement. “We aim to foster thoughtful conversations and debate including between people who profoundly disagree with each other in order to explore important issues and promote mutual understanding. But we will not allow guests to be demeaned or for the line of civility to be crossed. Ryan Girdusky will not be welcomed back at our network.” The incident began during a panel on 28 October 2024, when Girdusky and fellow panelist Mehdi Hasan were discussing Donald Trump’s recent rally at Madison Square Garden and accusations that the Trump campaign is spreading Nazi-style ideas. Girdusky began to make a comment about labels, and how Hasan, an outspoken supporter of Palestinian rights, is frequently branded an antisemite by his opponents. Hasan, editor-in-chief of the news site Zeteo, said he’s used to the attack, given his vocal support for Palestinians. “Yeah, well, I hope your beeper doesn’t go off,” Girdusky then said. The comment, in context, appears to be a reference to the month before large-scale explosion of pagers and walkie-talkies belonging to alleged Hezbollah members, which killed 37 people and injured thousands, many of them civilians.³³⁶



US: A Midlands Mosque was defaced after it was spray painted with messages and symbols. Muhammad Mosque #38, located at 5646 Farrow Road in Columbia, was defaced with red crosses and a message that reads

“get out.” The Richland County Sheriff’s Department responded to the mosque about vandalism.³³⁷

France: The cultural association responsible for the Assounna Mosque in the city of Amiens, France filed on 6 December 2024 a legal complaint after a suspected arson attack in front of the mosque’s door. The mosque’s entrance on Victorine Autier Street was set on fire on 29 October 2024. While the fire caused limited damage, it had deeply concerned worshippers and neighboring residents, who saw it as a deliberate act targeting their community. According to Bilel Furtado, vice president of the association, worshippers arriving for dawn prayers were alerted by the smell of smoke. Matches and firelighters found near the scene later pointed to the intentional nature of the act.³³⁸



The Occupied Palestinian Territory: Israeli authorities demolished a mosque in the town of Jabal al-Mukaber in occupied East Jerusalem on 10 December 2024, in the latest demolition of Palestinian structures in the West Bank. Israeli police escorted teams to raze the 50-square-meter Muslim house of worship in the town, citing lack of a building permit, witnesses said. According to witnesses, the mosque was built 20 years ago to serve Palestinians residing in the area.³³⁹

Incident Targeting Muslim Individual



US: On 3 January 2024, a Muslim imam was fatally shot outside his mosque in New Jersey, as police continued to search for the assailant. Imam Hassan Sharif was at the Masjid Muhammad, a mosque in Newark, for fajr (dawn) prayers when he was reportedly shot multiple times while in his vehicle. Sharif was rushed to a local hospital in critical condition, where he succumbed to his wounds.³⁴⁰



India: Five policemen, including an outpost in charge, were in the dock for allegedly assaulting a Muslim youth accused of slaughtering cows in the Uttar Pradesh city of Badaun. Reports later revealed that the victim was picked up by the police in a case of mistaken identity. Social activist Kashif Arsalan exposed the incident, revealing that “five police officers tortured a Muslim youth by inserting a stick in his faecal path and administering electric shocks.” According to a media report, the mother of the 22-year-old

victim alleged that the police, led by an assistant inspector, subjected her son to inhuman treatment that included inserting a stick into a sensitive part of the body and administering repeated electric shocks. The victim, a vegetable vendor, residing in the Kakrala area of Alapur police station. The victim's sister-in-law claimed that her brother-in-law was beaten throughout the night. Upon realising they had detained the wrong person, the police reportedly handed him Rs 100 before releasing him after two days. Since then, the victim had been grappling with continuous seizures.³⁴¹

India: A Muslim Auto driver was brutally beaten by a group of Hindu nationalists in the Vasna, Gupta Nagar area of Gujarat's Ahmedabad district on 14 January. Ahmed Hussain Sheikh, was transporting three passengers in his auto: two women carrying catering supplies for a wedding, and a man sitting beside the driver's seat. Sheikh was transporting his passengers as usual. While the passenger seated with the driver, a Hindu sporting a Tilak, accidentally spat the tobacco he was chewing. It landed on one of the men in the Hindutva group standing just behind the auto. The Hindutva group then stopped the vehicle and started beating Sheikh, even though the Hindu passenger confessed that it was he and not the driver who spat the tobacco outside, and his intention was not to spit on anyone. The incident turned anti-Muslim when Sheikh was beaten by the group mercilessly and let the Hindu man go away, the other two women also ran away, leaving behind the catering items in the auto.³⁴²



India: A day after the Ram temple was inaugurated in Ayodhya, a commerce student Mohammad Tariq Chaudhary offered to help out his

father, who run a tempo transport service in Mira Road, a neighbourhood in the far north of Mumbai. The regular driver was absent, so Tariq said he would deliver a cargo of empty plastic cans and scrap metal in the area. On 23 January 2024, as he was driving through the Shanti Nagar neighbourhood along with two workers, a mob stopped the tempo and assaulted the three men, all Muslim. “The name Rashid Tempo Service on the body of the vehicle and a sticker of the moon and stars on the window pane revealed our Muslim identity,” said Abdul Chaudhary, Tariq’s father. Tariq, who was in the driver’s seat, was the first one to be attacked. He told his father he was slapped by the mob. They then dragged him out. He was kicked and beaten with sticks and a belt. He had blood all over his head, back and hands.³⁴³

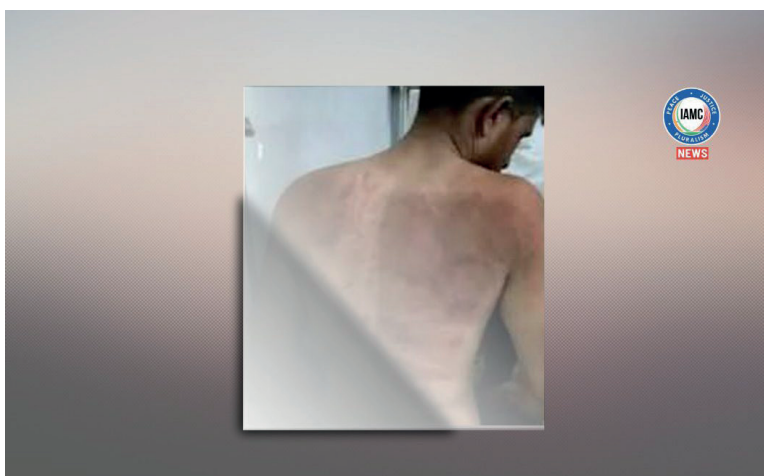
India: A bookseller, Irshad alias Sheru, was allegedly arrested by the Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) police on 4 February 2024, for “selling religious books” in Gonda district, Uttar Pradesh. The shop, Makthabathool Madina Kanzul Imaan, sells different kinds of Islamic books including the holy Quran and other religious items such as prayer mats, topi etc. The shop was located in Rakabanj, near Pandey Bazar police station.³⁴⁴



India: In north Delhi’s Inderlok locality on 8 March 2024 as Delhi police sub-inspector Manoj Kumar Tomar kicked men offering prayer on the road outside a mosque. A video of the incident went viral on social media, and Tomar was subsequently suspended. Newslaundry spoke to the locals in the area to piece together what happened. Several locals said the mosque was crowded because of which some people began praying in the parking

area outside the mosque. One of the locals said the police personnel did not stop the people from praying outside at first, but eventually kicked the men, abused them and asked them to leave.³⁴⁵

India: On 19 March 2024, Abdul Aziz from Bihar’s Kishanganj was beaten up by a local resident named Neeraj Bhatti at his village in Noida, police said. DCP (Noida) Vidya Sagar Mishra said, “A 35-year-old man, who had come to Salarpur from Bihar to collect donations, was assaulted by a 45-year-old local resident in the afternoon. The accused also made objectionable remarks towards the victim.”³⁴⁶



India: In Karnataka state, a Muslim cattle trader, Bande Nawaz, was violently attacked by extremists affiliated with the Hindu militant group Bajrang Dal. Upon discovering cattle in the victim’s truck, the militants assaulted him, leaving him severely injured and bleeding profusely. A video of the attack shows Nawaz’s body covered in multiple wounds and blood stains.³⁴⁷



India: A mob of Hindutva supporters brutally assaulted a doctor at a petrol station in Uttar Pradesh’s Moradabad city after ascertaining his

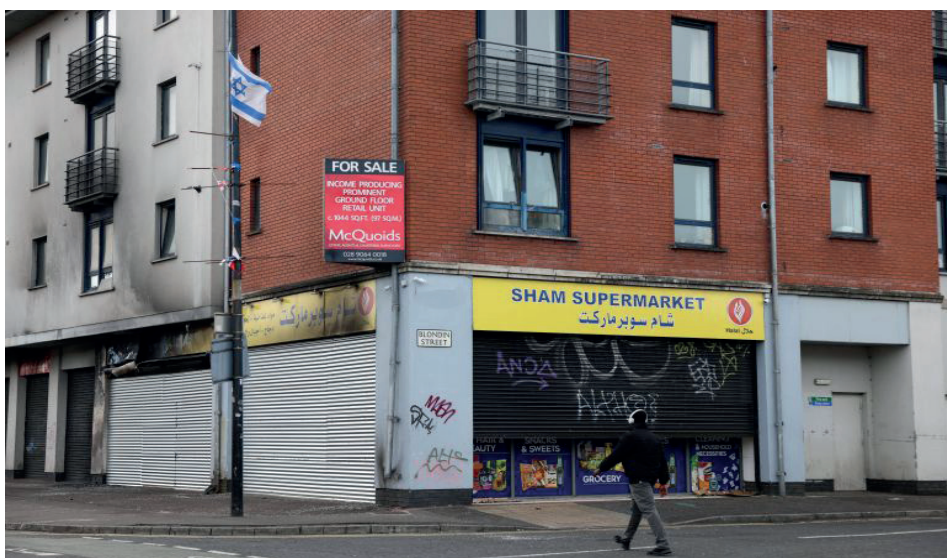
Muslim identity. The victim, identified as Istekhar, ran a clinic in the city’s Asalatpura locality. The incident happened on 30 June 2024 when the young medical professional was returning from his clinic and stopped at a petrol pump to refill fuel in his motorbike. According to Istekhar, two persons stopped and abused him after learning that he was a Muslim. They also started assaulting him and called more people to take part in the attack, reports said on 4 July 2024. “I was coming back from my clinic. My bike ran out of fuel and I stopped to refuel at a petrol pump. As I crossed the road, two people stopped me, asked my name, and then started abusing and beating me. They called more people, and soon around 25 people surrounded me. I was helpless against them,” Istekhar was quoted by The Observer Post as saying.³⁴⁸

India: A Muslim man, Ibrar Ansari who runs a coaching centre called JMD (Join Mentors of Discipline) in Shakurpur, Delhi, was allegedly beaten by members of right-wing groups who alleged that Ibrar forcibly converted people to Islam. In a video that surfaced online, Ibrar Ansari’s younger brother, Irfan alleged that Vishwa Hindu Parishad beat them up after a complaint made by one of the parents over a dispute about fees. Irfan, the younger brother in his video, showed his injured brother and said “My brother was beaten by the Tiger group and Vishwa Hindu Parishad. He was in ICU for some days after the incident. Now the Tiger group, VHP and parents of the students are threatening to kill us”. Irfan alleged that the Police were not helping them and asked them to seek help from other places. “We are living in fear. They are sending man after man to see if we are home to kill us. We are hiding in one of our relatives’ homes,” he said.³⁴⁹





UK: Mohammed Idris, who owns Bash café, in south Belfast, said he will not reopen after his business was set alight during violent protests. Disorder broke out after an anti-immigration protest in the city on 3 August 2024. Mr Idris told BBC News NI his businesses had been targeted before, saying his shop on Sandy Row was targeted on 2023. “My computer shop was completely damaged just like this café. This café was a hope, a place for a community - there is no hope here now.” Recounting the night his cafe was attacked he said a group of people “shouted my name, ‘Where is Mohammed?’, then they smashed all windows on the ground floor.” However, he told BBC News NI that the worst came overnight when his business was set on fire. “For me it’s not easy - it is so difficult when they know your name. It’s scary - my life threatened. A group of people coming - shouting my name, just people who came from different areas.” Mohammed Idris has lived in Belfast since 2002, but says living here has become “more difficult” in recent years.³⁵⁰



UK: As rioters went on the attack in dozens of British towns and cities, some targeted businesses belonging to ethnic minority Britons. The unrest began in the aftermath of a fatal stabbing attack in Southport that killed three young girls, which agitators misleadingly blamed on a Muslim migrant. As disinformation about the suspect travelled at pace online, angry crowds took to the streets to abuse migrants and Muslims at random. Black and Asian Britons were also targeted. On 3 August 2024, as many brought chaos to the northern English city of Liverpool, which was near Southport, Ardalan Othman watched in real time as his convenience shop was looted and vandalised. His security cameras filmed the incident. In one scene, a group of men steal boxes of cigarettes. Some take expensive items like vapes. A couple spend their efforts trying to break into the till. But some were seen placing singular bars of chocolate into their rucksacks.³⁵¹

UK: A train station stabbing left Liverpool’s Muslim community on edge. Megan Rimmer, was getting the train back from Liverpool with her daughters when she saw the attack in Blundellsands & Crosby train station just after 2pm. As she wheeled her buggy off the platform, a man turned around and stabbed a man, believed to be Muslim, who had been walking out of the station behind him. ‘They were both going through the same gate and the white guy just turned around and lunged at him with a knife’, she told Metro. ‘He put his hand out and the knife went into his hand.’ She added: ‘He was just stood there with blood pouring out of his hand. It looked really bad. There was blood everywhere.’ Megan emerged to help the man. He was still in shock as she removed her keffiyeh, wrapped it around his hand and told him to apply pressure to the wound.³⁵²

US: The Muslim community was “shaken” after a man was shot multiple times 19 August 2024 night outside a mosque in north Minneapolis. The shooting occurred about 5:30 p.m. as people were leaving Masjid An-Nur after the third prayer of the day. The victim remains hospitalized but was expected to survive; the suspected shooter is in custody. Makram El-Amin, the mosque’s imam, said at a news conference Tuesday that a respected elder in the community noticed people loitering near the mosque who appeared to be engaging in criminal activity. The elder and another member of the mosque asked them to leave. A suspect drove away in a white SUV, made a

U-turn and then opened fire. The elder was shot at least three times in the arm and shoulder, El-Amin said.³⁵³



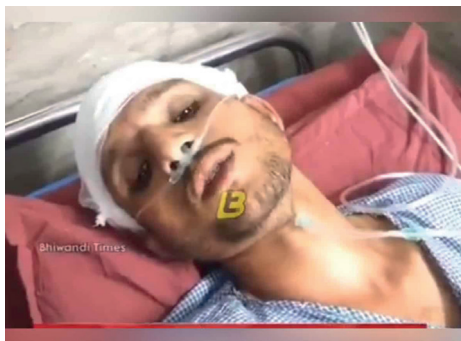
India: Muslim auto driver’s house bulldozed after tenant’s minor son injures Classmate, the house in Udaipur’s Khanjipeer had been demolished by the administration. In February 2019, Rashid Khan decided to purchase a single-storey house in Khanjipeer populated predominantly by residents from the Muslim community. Khan had saved money from his income as an autorickshaw driver ferrying passengers everyday for many years and also took a loan from his acquaintances to arrange the amount of around Rs 17 lakh that he paid to the family of Shafi Mohammad, who earlier had possession of the house. On 17 August 2024, Khan, watched as bulldozers demolished the house on the orders of the Udaipur district administration and the Rajasthan Forest Department, just a day after the 15-year-old son of a man who lived as a tenant in the house and paid rent to Khan, allegedly stabbed and injured his classmate at a city school over a dispute. “How is it justice that a house is demolished because the son of the tenant living in it has committed a crime? I am the owner of the house and the family of the accused was living as rented tenants. Why is the punishment of a crime committed by one person given to me? If the administration says that the house is illegal, why did it wake up just after this incident? They demolished the house on a day’s notice,” Khan told The Wire. The dispute between the minor accused (a Muslim) and the minor victim (a Hindu) – both students of class 10 – had turned communal after Hindu outfits

staged massive protests. As an angry mob set fire to several cars and closed markets, the Udaipur district administration issued prohibitory orders banning the assembly of people and also shut down mobile internet. “We received information about a dispute between two kids. One of the kids was attacked with a knife. Since the injury was deep, the boy had to be referred to hospital immediately. He is presently in the ICU and his condition is stable,” Udaipur District Collector Arvind Poswal had told reporters on August 16, the day of the incident. Poswal had also appealed to the public to not pay heed to rumour and maintain peace so that communal harmony is not disrupted. Hindu outfits, BJP MLA call for ‘bulldozer action’ As the angry mob along with Hindu groups converged outside the hospital where the student is being treated, the call grew for ‘bulldozer action.’ Soon, the demand for the use of bulldozers was echoed by public representatives. “I believe that the Bhajan Lal government has done bulldozer action previously as well and it will again be used against such criminals. It should be used so that such criminals are taught a lesson,” Phool Singh Meena, BJP MLA from Udaipur rural told reporters after the incident. Amid calls for ‘bulldozer action’, on August 16 – the same day when the Hindu student was stabbed – the office of the Regional Forest Officer, Udaipur West issued a notice in the name of the father of the minor accused. The notice said that the area where the house had been constructed was protected forest land and carrying out construction work in the place was illegal and amounts to encroaching and harming the original form of the protected forest land, which was a violation of the Rajasthan Forest Act, 1953 and Rajasthan Land Revenue Act, 1956. “Therefore, you are being informed through this notice that you voluntarily remove the encroached structure built on forest land by 20.08.2024. If you yourself don’t remove the aforementioned encroachment sand, stones, pucca constructions from the forest land, then the department will oust you from the forest land and action will be taken to remove encroachments from the forest land,” says the notice in Hindi issued by the Forest Department. “How can an encroachment notice be addressed to a tenant and not the owner of the house. After knowing about the notice, I visited numerous government offices including the district collectorate. But in most places, I was told that the offices were closed because August

17 was a holiday. Around the afternoon, despite the notice giving time till August 20, the bulldozers arrived to demolish the house on August 17. If it was a case of the house being illegal, why didn't the administration wake up before?," said Khan.³⁵⁴



India: An elderly man was allegedly assaulted by his co-passengers on a moving train in Maharashtra's Nashik district on suspicion of carrying beef. In a video that went viral on social media shows a dozen people surrounding and assaulting the man, verbally abusing him and even hurling rape threats. The Government Railway Police (GRP) had begun a probe into the incident, identifying some individuals involved. According to the GRP, the victim, Haji Ashraf Munyar, a resident of Jalgaon district was travelling to his daughter's house. The elderly man was also heard saying that it was goat meat and not beef. The assaulters were dissatisfied with his response and kept aggressively questioning him about it.³⁵⁵



India: A Hinduva mob brutally attacked three Muslim youths and forced them to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'. The incident occurred on 18 September 2024 in Maharashtra's Bhiwandi city. The victims had been identified as Ghulam Dastagir, Mohammed Ayub, and Akif were attacked while returning from

a petrol station on their motorcycle. While speaking to the media, Dastagir and Ayub stated that they were riding their motorcycle when they came across a disturbing scene. “The Hindutva mob had already apprehended another person who was being ruthlessly beaten. As they attempted to pass by, the assailants turned their attention to them, blocking their way and launching an unprovoked attack.” In a fortunate turn of events, the third person managed to escape before the mob could target him further, Ayub explained. “However, we both were violently beaten up without any warning and demanded to chant Jai Shri Ram”.

India: A Muslim businessman, Muhammad Hazek, was brutally attacked by a group of cow vigilantes in the historic town of Beed in Maharashtra late on 5 September 2024. The assailants falsely accused Hazek of stealing cows and beat him mercilessly with sticks, leaving him seriously injured. The incident occurred when Hazek, a shoe trader, was returning home. He was on the phone with his fiancée when he witnessed a speeding vehicle hitting a cow and driving away. Hazek attempted to capture a photo of the fleeing vehicle but was unsuccessful. Instead, he took a picture of the injured cow and sent it to his fiancée. While on his way home, he was suddenly confronted by a group of people armed with sticks. The assailants, mistakenly believing that Hazek was involved in cattle theft, attacked him. His cries for help alerted his family, who rushed to the scene and managed to rescue him. Hazek was subsequently taken to a private hospital, where he is currently receiving treatment.³⁵⁶



India: On 8 September 2024, a Hindutva mob vandalized several Muslim-owned shops and a local Eidgah in the Kathlal-Balasinor area of Gujarat. The violence erupted after a minor road accident and quickly escalated, with properties associated with the Muslim community been targeted. This incident had raised serious concerns about growing communal tensions and increasing violence in the region. The conflict began when a car, reportedly driven by a Muslim man from Godhra, collided with a motorbike ridden by a Hindu resident of Kathlal. The situation escalated into communal violence, reigniting tensions between the two communities.³⁵⁷

India: Eight Muslim families, living in this picturesque district for generations, had been forced to abandon their abodes after attacks on members of the community and their shops during a protest over an incident of women harassment. On 1 September 2024, some members of the Muslim community were attacked and their shops were vandalised and looted by a mob protesting against the alleged harassment of a woman by a Muslim barber in Nandanagar town a week earlier. Ahmed, a resident of Nandanagar, said 10 families were living in the area. Now, eight of them have fled after attacks on some members of the community.³⁵⁸

The Occupied Palestinian Territory: A Palestinian pregnant woman miscarried after an Israeli military raid on her home in the West Bank city of Hebron, according to local media on 22 September 2024. Israeli forces raided several houses in southern Hebron and assaulted a Palestinian man and his wife, who suffered a miscarriage, the official news agency Wafa reported.³⁵⁹



US: A suspect was accused of slashing a girl at a park in Detroit on 8 October 2024. Saida Mashrah, 7 Years old, was at Ryan Park near Ford Road and the Southfield Freeway with her grandmother when a 73-year-old Detroit man approached her around 3:45 p.m. “A guy came up to me,” Mashrah said. “He pulled my face up and then in the other hand was a knife. He just came out of nowhere and slid the knife on me.” Mashrah said she kicked him – and ran to her nearby home, showing mom what he’d done, slashing her throat and trying to puncture her stomach with a pocket knife. “My grandma was screaming, ‘What? What? What?’” Mashrah said. Once her grandma realized what had happened, she screamed, scaring off the suspect. “She said, ‘No!’, and then he got scared. He ran,” Mashrah said. She suffered a laceration underneath her neck that required three stitches, Detroit Police Cmdr. Vernal Newson said. Mashrah described her alleged attacker - Gary Lansky – now charged with assault with intent to murder, and assault with a deadly weapon.³⁶⁰

India: A 12-year-old Muslim student, Furqan was intentionally “targeted in deadly attacks” during the Navratri Dandiya celebrations in the Green Way Public school in Faridipur, Lucknow. Some students brutally beat, assaulted and harassed Furqan allegedly due to his visible Muslim identity, that was noticeable through his academic-genius and amicable social presence. The 8th grade student did not receive any preventive action or support from the school administration. Instead of helping the victim, the school exploded with “victim-blaming” and asked him not to oppose or be vocal. They also threatened Furqan “to issue a T.C. (transfer certificate)” and drop his name from the register.³⁶¹



📷 Muslim Youth Tied to Tree, Beaten by Mob in Kamram Bhim Asifabad District

India: A Muslim boy Abid Hussain was brutally beaten up on 26 October 2024 in Isgaon of Kagaznagar mandal for allegedly been seen with a Hindu girl. The mob, reportedly from the majority community, launched the assault upon discovering Hussain with the Hindu girl. Responding to a tip-off, police arrived on the scene but faced hostility from the crowd, who attempted to attack them and even damaged a police vehicle. After a strenuous effort, law enforcement managed to rescue Hussain, who was taken to a nearby hospital in Mancherial for urgent medical care.³⁶²

India: An incident had come to light from Rampur district in Uttar Pradesh, where the local police had been accused of vandalising a Muslim wedding celebration, discarding food, and stealing money. These grave allegations emerged after the police allegedly intervened at the wedding based on rumours that beef was been served. The incident had sparked outrage, and the Superintendent of Police, Vidya Sagar Mishra, had ordered an investigation into the matter. The incident occurred during the wedding ceremony of Mohammad Ahmed's daughter, held in Dhanupura village, located in the Bhot police station area of Rampur. According to reports, guests were enjoying a meal when rumours began circulating that beef was included in the food. This led the police to arrive at the scene, where they were accused of causing chaos. Family members of the bride claimed that the police not only threw away food but also beat up the people present at the event. In addition to this, the police allegedly confiscated the money

that was given during the Bhaat ceremony, a traditional ritual in which gifts and money are given to the bride’s family.³⁶³

US: A woman wearing a keffiyeh was beaten up on a Brooklyn street by two strangers who called her a Nazi, police said on 14 October 2024. The victim was attacked by two women on Franklin Ave. near St. Mark’s Ave. in Crown Heights on 13 October, cops said. The victim was wearing a keffiyeh, the scarf associated with the plight of Palestinians, when the assailants called her a Nazi, punched her in the face and shoved her to the ground. The victim fought back and all three women suffered minor injuries. Suspects Hanna Hammerschlag and Deanna Cohen, were arrested by cops responding to the scene. They were charged with misdemeanor assault. It was not immediately clear if Brooklyn prosecutors will pursue hate crime charges.³⁶⁴



US: On 10 October 2024, an unidentified man stabbed Ayman Moustafa, a worker at the halal cart outside of Fordham’s Lincoln Center campus. Moustafa said the assailant came around the back of the halal cart and attempted to enter. He told the individual not to enter the cart, and in response, the man revealed a knife. The individual then attempted to forcibly enter the cart, starting a physical altercation between the two where the man stabbed Moustafa in the left tricep just above the elbow. Moustafa called the police after the incident. The attacker fled south, according to

Fordham Public Safety, before two NYPD officers responded less than five minutes after the assault. Moustafa then filed a police report and received medical attention in an ambulance.³⁶⁵

India: A 16-year-old Dalit boy was allegedly assaulted by a group of students who forced him to chant ‘Jai Shri Ram’ here, police said on 20 October 2024. A purported video of the incident surfaced online, prompting police to register an FIR under sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Assistant Commissioner of Police (Ghatampur) Ranjeet Kumar said that a boy, belonging to a Dalit community was allegedly assaulted by a group of students after seeing his Instagram status that carried images of BR Ambedkar. The boy was later forced to chant ‘Jai Shri Ram’. The attackers made his video and uploaded it on social media, the ACP said.³⁶⁶



India: In a tragic incident, a Syrian refugee and his 11-month-old son were targeted in West Delhi’s Vikaspuri town where residents allegedly splashed the boy and his father with a corrosive substance. The incident took place on 30 September 2024. The victim Rafat, his wife Marisa, and their son had been living in a makeshift house outside the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Vikaspuri. Speaking to the media, Rafat described the harrowing moment when he noticed the attackers approaching with a canister. Despite his efforts to escape, he and his son were doused with a corrosive liquid that caused immediate burning sensations. After the attack, they struggled to find transport to Safdarjung Hospital and eventually received help from a passerby.³⁶⁷



US: The intersection of Highway 525 and Goat Trail Road in Old Town Mukilteo, became a scene of a politically motivated attack against former Mukilteo City Councilman and current Republican candidate for the Washington State House of Representatives, 21st Legislative District, Riaz Khan. “You f**ing foreigners, you come to America, you son of a b**ch,” Khan recalled with trepidation in his voice of the words said to him by two assailants just seconds before the brutal attack. “You mother**ing Trump supporter...” The two men, according to Khan, began hitting him with wooden stakes and shouting words at him. “if I didn’t have the hammer, they would have killed me,” Khan told the Lynnwood Times. “When they saw the hammer in my hand, they backed off and walked off real fast.” At approximately 2 a.m on 29 October 2024, two white males, followed the former Mukilteo City Councilman as he left Mukilteo Lane at the waterfront. Khan was performing his nightly “sign patrol” routine across the 21st District.³⁶⁸



US: A Muslim civil rights organization called for a hate crime investigation after a Palestinian-owned business in Baltimore received threatening packages. The packages were mailed, shortly after waves of exploding pagers were detonated by Israeli forces in Lebanon. Inside the two packages were fake pagers and a sweatshirt with the Israeli military logo on it, according to the business owner, who said he now fears for his safety.³⁶⁹



India: Rajasthan: According to the reports, Zahid a resident of Dhanj village in Mukundgarh was forcibly taken by the group in a camper van on 21 October 2024. Two hours later, his father Jamil received a call

from kidnappers ordering him to retrieve his son. Upon arriving at the designated location, the assailants dragged him out of the vehicle before speeding away. Jamil found Zahid in unconscious condition with severe injuries. Subsequently, Zahid was rushed to Navagarh Hospital in Jaipur for treatment. However, despite efforts he succumbed to his injuries. His death sparked significant unrest in Dhanj village and tensions escalated when Zahid's family refused to accept his body demanding the arrest of the all accused involved in the murder. The case had drawn public attention and condemnation. Former minister Rajendra Singh Gudha visited Zahid's family expressing solidarity. He accused the authorities of doing nothing to stop the killings, saying, "The only crime Zahid committed was that he was a Muslim." He was abducted and killed. Surprisingly, the accused dared to call the father to come and take the body which was packed in a bag as we speak." This incident highlights ongoing concerns about communal violence and security for the minorities in India.³⁷⁰

India: Several Muslim students had claimed beating, abuse, discrimination and humiliation at the hands of their teachers in a government school in the national capital. The teachers were also accused of regularly throwing religious slurs at them and ill-treating them because of the Muslim identity of the students. The abhorrent incidents occurred in Sarvodya Bal Vidyala in Nand Nagri area of northeast Delhi and were brought to light in a letter from the victim students to Supreme Court lawyer Ashok Agarwal, who visited their institutions. The religious bigotry displayed by teachers, expected to uphold communal amity and secular values, was symptomatic of the deep malaise that had set in a section of society and dented the country's democratic and pluralistic ethos during the last decade.³⁷¹



India: A Muslim barber named Shahid was assaulted and paraded through the streets by a Hindutva mob after accusing him of committing ‘Love Jihad’ against a woman from the different community in Uttarakhand’s Rishikesh district. The incident took place on 8 November 2024 but came to light on 10 November 2024 when a video of the incident surfaced on social media. According to reports, Shahid was accused of harassing and trapping a woman colleague, who works at the same Salon, in his maneuver of love. The viral video shows Shahid, who works at a local salon, been dragged through streets with his shirt torn, while the agitated mob shouts religious slogans “Jai Shri Ram”. Following the attack, Sahil was handed over to the police. In the state, there had been many incidents where Muslim community members had 372 been violently targeted based on mere allegations, often leading to mob attack.



India: On August 16, a 15-year-old Muslim student of a government school in Udaipur got into a fight with a classmate during recess. He took out a knife and stabbed the other boy. Three days later, the injured teenager, a Hindu, died. In the three days between the stabbing and the death, a bulldozer ran through the lives of three Muslim families of Udaipur. A day after the stabbing, the Udaipur civic authorities demolished the 15-year-old’s rented home in the Kachchi Basti locality on the ground that it had been built on unauthorised land. The action was taken after Hindutva supporters in the city held violent protests demanding what they called “bulldozer justice”. The 15-year-old was sent to a juvenile home and his father, Saleem Sheikh, arrested on the allegation that he instigated his son. The civic action

also affected the lives of two other families, who had nothing to do with the death of the teenager. This included Abid Khan, a tea-seller who was a tenant at the same home, and the owner, Abdul Rashid Khan. “Why did they bulldoze my home when the accused was my tenant’s son?” Abdul Rashid Khan asked. He answered the question himself: “They wanted to set an example by demolishing a Muslim’s home.”³⁷³



India: A man named Prakash Kumar Manji attacked several Muslims in the city of Varanasi on 17 October 2024. Five Muslim men were injured in the case. The incident took place in Revadi Talab village of Bhelupur police station in Varanasi where he stood by the road with a “sharp spade” in his hands and “intentionally targeted” people “based on their Muslim Identity”. Although Manji had been arrested, Muslim residents were still traumatized after whatever happened. A video of the incident was making rounds on social media platforms in which Prakash Manjhi was standing in the middle of the road to attack and harm Muslim passengers. He could be spotted in half pants and a long T-shirt, attacking two Muslim men on a bike. Some nearby Muslim vendors were also targeted by him.³⁷⁴

India: A Muslim man was allegedly beaten, stripped and forced to chant Jai Shri Ram here, his family alleged on 25 November 2024. However, police had denied that he was stripped and forced to chant by the accused and said that it prima facie appeared to be a case of enmity. The incident took place on 23 October 2024 when Gulfam Saifi, a resident of Sofipur village in Pallavpuram, was returning home after practising at a private

shooting range in Mangal Pandey Nagar, his father, Aftab, said. Aftab alleged that Gulfam Saifi was taken to Victoria Park by three youths on a motorcycle where they beat him, stripped him and forced him to chant Jai Shri Ram. They also snatched his mobile phone. Family members of the victim also claimed that he fell unconscious after he was thrashed and stripped. However, the police have denied the charges of stripping and forced chanting.³⁷⁵

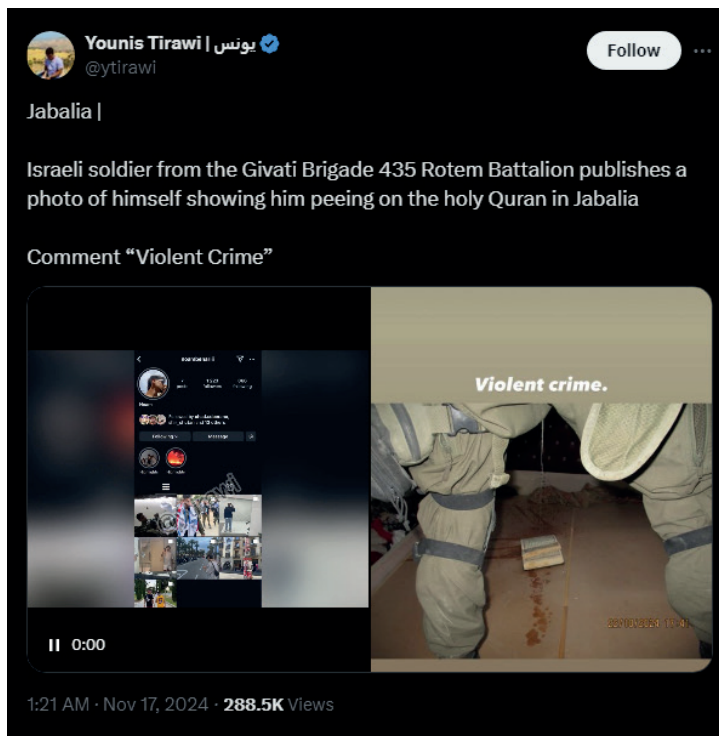
Incident Targeting Copies of the Holy Qur'an



India: An alleged attempt to create communal fire was reported after burnt pages of the Holy Quran were found near Fatehpur Bazar Mosque in Jamtara district in Jharkhand. Locals found the pages lying in the fields, around 300 meters from the mosque. However, both Hindu and Muslim communities had condemned the act, media reported.³⁷⁶



The Occupied Palestinian Territory: A video of an Israeli soldier burning a Qur'an had emerged on social media, sparking a wave of criticism. The video, shared by Israeli Army Radio on 23 May 2024, showed the soldier standing in the ruins of a mosque in East Rafah, Gaza, throwing the Qur'an with its pages open into a fire. According to Israeli broadcaster Kan, the soldier posted the footage on his personal Instagram account a few days ago. The incident was condemned by Israeli authorities, who announced the launch of an investigation.³⁷⁷



The Occupied Palestinian Territory: An Israeli soldier in Gaza had reportedly posed a photo of himself urinating on a copy of the Quran, in the latest offensive gesture toward the local Palestinian population in the enclave. According to local news sites, the photograph was taken in Jabalia, north Gaza, where Israel imposed a month-long siege on the city with residents trapped under heavy bombardment and faced a ground offensive. The alleged image was published on a private Instagram account of a soldier from the Givati Brigade 435 Rotem Battalion and time-stamped with the date 22 October 2024.³⁷⁸

Sweden: Swedish police had given permission to hold a Quran-burning rally before the Eurovision Song Contest in the southern Swedish

city of Malmö, the Goteborgs-Posten newspaper said, APA reported. The demonstration took place on 3 May 2024 afternoon, the day before the official contest, on Gustav Adolf Square in the central part of the city.³⁷⁹

Sweden: On 3 May 2024, Swedish far-right activists burned a Koran in Malmö, shortly before the Eurovision Song Contest (ESC) took place. The Swedish police were criticized for allowing the Koran burning to take place so shortly before the major event. Responsible for the Quran desecration in Malmö city center were the right-wing extremist Christian activist Jade Sandberg and the Iraqi-born Salwan Najem. The two also burned a Palestinian flag.³⁸⁰

Incident Targeting Most-referred Figure in Islam



India: A case had been filed against rabid Hindutva proponent Yati Narasinghanand Saraswati for making derogatory comments about Islam and the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). The case was filed in Ghaziabad’s Sihani Gate police station on 3 October 2024 for his alleged hate speech delivered at Hindi Bhawan in Ghaziabad’s Lohia Nagar on 29 September 2024. The FIR was registered for hurting someone’s religious feelings, based on a complaint by police sub-inspector Trivendra Singh Singh. “We have not arrested him yet,” said Sachin Kumar, SHO of Sihani Gate Police Station, adding the police had taken cognisance of a video of the alleged hate speech that has since gone viral. Addressing the gathering the priest said, “If you have to burn effigies on every Dussehra, then burn the effigies of Muhammad (pbuh).” Known for his controversial remarks, Narasinghanand said last year, “Akhand Hindu Rashtra was the dream of Veer Savarkar and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. This dream should not be limited to Afghanistan; we should strive until Hindutva reaches Makkah

and Kaaba.” He further claimed that a Shiv temple lies beneath the Kaaba, Islam’s holiest site.³⁸¹



Shalabh Mani Tripathi, Narsinghanand and Nand Kishore Gurjar. Photos: Official X accounts.

India: In the wake of protests against extremist Hindutva leader Yati Narsinghanand’s provocative remarks against Islamic prophet Muhammad, at least two Bharatiya Janata Party MLAs had tried to add fuel to the fire through their warnings to the Muslim protestors. One of them, Nand Kishore Gurjar, even advocated that the Muslim protestors who allegedly marched towards Narsinghanand’s temple in Dasna, Ghaziabad on 4 October 2024, and “attacked” it, be shot dead in an “encounter.” The Uttar Pradesh police had dismissed reports of any such attack on the temple and threatened action against rumour mongering. The other BJP MLA Shalabh Mani Tripathi threatened protestors that they would get a “taste of Israel” if they tried raising frenzied slogans in UP. “Here, treatment will be given through the constitution of Babasaheb and not the Sharia, and that too a proper one... don’t cry then,” said Tripathi on 6 October 2024 in a post on X.³⁸²

Incident Related to Hijab

India: On 2 February 2024, Two Milwaukee women had pleaded guilty to hate crime charges in connection with an attack at Cathedral Square Park in July 2023. In the attack, the victims said their Hijabs were removed. Miracle Reed pleaded guilty to all three charges against her – felony substantial battery (hate crime), disorderly conduct and misdemeanor bail jumping. Payton Smith pleaded guilty to two counts of misdemeanor battery (hate crime). A third charge of disorderly conduct was dismissed but read into the court record for the purposes of sentencing. The Muslim women’s attorney said the attack was unprovoked, and the women were beaten up because of how they looked. Investigators said the two women immediately became hostile toward the victims at the park. A criminal complaint said the victims told investigators they were with family who were praying in the park and “minding their own business” when Smith approached and asked, “So what’s the problem?” Prosecutors said she followed up by asking the victims where they were from. The complaint said Smith then looked at Reed and said, “You ready?” The victim said Smith then put her in a headlock and punched her. Another victim said Reed began punching her in the back of the head. Both victims said their Hijabs were removed from their heads, the complaint said. A bystander eventually broke up the fight, and the victims said the two women and their 10 children walked away. 383

US: On 12 February 2024, a Seattle woman was robbed of her hijab at knifepoint near the University of Washington campus. Officers responded to a report that a woman was approached from behind and placed in a “chokehold” by a man displaying a “small knife” in the University District around 9 a.m. The suspect was “voicing disparaging remarks and general hatred for the victim’s perceived religious beliefs and national origin,” the Seattle Police said. He stole the woman’s hijab before running off. The victim was not physically injured but was left emotionally shaken.384

US: Muslim civil rights group CAIR had filed a complaint with the US Department of Education Office of Civil Rights to investigate Mace’s Lane Middle School after the harassment and attack of a 12-year-old Muslim student whose Hijab was forcibly removed at least twice which started on

25 March 2024. “My daughter has been deeply traumatized by the ongoing events that have taken place over the last 2 months,” said the child’s parent Ms. Latoya Gibbs. “It is crucial that we speak out to raise awareness about hate and bullying, and as a nation, work towards putting an end to these harmful behaviors.”³⁸⁵

India: In a video, which went viral on social media platforms, a student wearing hijab was seen sitting in a class and the next shot was of her classmates wearing saffron shawls, allegedly in protest. The incident took place on 6 March 2024 at Vidya Soudha College. However, the principal dismissed the hijab controversy, saying the student in question had an ‘ear infection’ and thus had to cover her head.³⁸⁶

US: Lawyer says women begged for ‘humanity’ during ASU arrest, hijab removal A lawyer representing a group of women who were apprehended at Arizona State University said they pleaded and begged the officers arresting them to show “humanity” before their hijabs were forcibly and publicly removed. Zayed Al-Sayyed was representing four women who were among the 72 arrested between 26-27 April during the pro-Palestinian protest at ASU and who were said their hijabs were forcibly removed.³⁸⁷

India: On 5 June 2024, Sanjida Quader, an assistant professor at LJD Law College in Kolkata, had resigned after facing repeated mental harassment for wearing a hijab. Despite continuous pressure from college authorities to remove her hijab, Quader refused and ultimately decided to leave her job. Sanjida Quader was a resident of Murarai block in West Bengal’s Birbhum district. She had been teaching at LJD Law College, a private educational institution under the University of Calcutta, for more than two years. She started wearing the hijab during the month of Ramadan after religious rituals. On 30 May 2024, Ashok Das, the office staff of the college, suddenly told her that she would not be allowed to enter the college wearing a hijab. When asked why it was forbidden to wear the hijab, he said, “This is violating the dress code of our college.” In her resignation letter, Quader wrote, “I am compelled to resign due to the anti-hijab policy of the college authorities. Being asked to remove my hijab is in conflict with my religious beliefs and values.” Sanjida Quader told The Observer Post, “I have been going to college wearing a hijab for quite some time. No one ever

interrupted me. And this is the first time I have heard of a dress code for professors. There is no mention on the college website or in the guidebook that hijab cannot be worn. I asked the authorities if a Sikh wearing a turban would not be allowed to attend classes. They said the Sikh case is different and that I can't wear a hijab here because this is not a religious institution. They want to create a 'neutral space' with no religious activities. If this college is a 'neutral space,' then how can Saraswati Puja and Holi festival be celebrated here? When asked, the authorities could not answer.”³⁸⁸

UK: On 28 June 2024, Footage was shared online of an out-of-shot videographer targeting Muslim women as they reportedly walked around Kensington. The user who reportedly circulated the video, named Bahar Mahroo, wrote: “Just as you take democracy away from us in Iran and force us to wear headscarves, since we have democracy in this country, we'll pull off those very headscarves from you.” Mahroo denied any involvement in the attacks and said she was only sharing the videos. The instagram account that had the video was unavailable this morning.³⁸⁹



US: On 8 July 2024, Robert Pierpont was arrested for ripping the hijab off the head of a teen girl. Robert, who had no prior arrest record, was charged with aggravated harassment. The teen victim was walking on E. 44th St. approaching Second Ave. around noon on 28 April 2024 when she was confronted, police said. “You don't need to be wearing that here,” the suspect yelled before he tore the hijab off her head and ran off, police said.³⁹⁰



UK: A woman was left feeling violated and dehumanised after been subjected to horrific racist abuse and spat on during chaotic ‘protests’ in Manchester. In a shocking display of Islamophobia, Thomas Richard, joined a mob in Piccadilly Gardens on 3 August 2024, where they targeted three young women wearing hijabs and headscarves with vile slurs. Manchester Crown Court was shown footage of the group encircling the women and spitting at them, with one man’s spit hitting a woman’s face as she shopped in the city centre. The unrest was sparked by false rumours about the identity of a man involved in a tragic incident in Southport, leading to the gathering. The court was told that the woman, who identifies as white British and was wearing a hijab and a keffiyeh scarf in support of Palestine, was observing the large group and police in Piccadilly Gardens during the afternoon. Richard, from Miles Platting, in Manchester, who had earlier admitted to violent disorder, was sentenced to prison on 24 September 2024.³⁹¹

France: A Muslim woman was violently attacked by two women because she was wearing a hijab in Gardanne, a commune in the Bouches-du-Rhone region in southern France. The assault took place on 25 November 2024, according to France 3, and was reportedly fueled by Islamophobia, with physical violence and racist insults. The attackers reportedly followed the Muslim woman, describing her as “veiled” and saying that she was “taking advantage of social benefits while we’re starving ... We should get rid of her like the Palestinians,” the attackers said. When the woman intervened, saying “you have no right to talk to me like that,” the two attackers ran and caught her. “They pinned me to the ground and beat me. They ripped off my hijab and hair while calling me a ‘dirty race.’” She said. They also used death threats against her. “We must finish her off,” the perpetrators said. A friend of the victim took her to the emergency room, where she received treatment. Medical staff identified a wrist hematoma, fractured

ribs, abrasions on her legs, and facial bruising. “Two days after the attack, the trauma remains raw,” the news outlet reported, adding that the victim also suffered from psychological challenges.³⁹²

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With the adoption of the Ten-Year Program of Action in 2005 at the historic 3rd Extraordinary Islamic Summit in Makkah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation has pursued a vision of moderation for the Muslim World, and at the same time prescribed on the establishment of the OIC Islamophobia Observatory, in order to monitor all forms of Islamophobia, to report to all Member States, and to cooperate with Governments, and NGOs.

The Islamophobia Observatory monitors manifestations of Islamophobia on daily basis in fulfilment of such mandate, reading the trend, and drawing maps on how the situation related to Islamophobia develops from time to time, being presented in this Report to all Member States, along with policy recommendation to address the issue.

