

## *Organization for Defending Victims of Violence*

Item 9: General Debate



**Mr. President,**

We note the designation of 15 March as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, however, we express worries over the continuous pattern of discriminations, assaults, attacks and violations against Muslims, globally.

We renew the memory of Christchurch mosques hate crime against Muslims where 51 people lost their lives in the shootings. In addition to killings, Muslims, especially women wearing hijabs or other religious attire, have been physically assaulted in various countries, including verbal harassment and physical violence. In 2016, a Muslim woman was dragged along the pavement by her hijab by two teenage whites, in a “horrific” Islamophobic attack in London.

Other instances of Islamophobia include discrimination against Muslims in employment and education such as denied job opportunities or promotions or students who may face bullying or exclusion at schools. Online harassments are also among the manifestation of Islamophobia experienced by Muslims including threats, and hate speech. Finally, Muslims may face discrimination and profiling when traveling, particularly at airports and border crossings, where they are subjected to additional security checks or denied entry based solely on their religion.

**Mr. President,**

We consider the current Islamophobia trend alarming and call on the UN member States to fortify efforts to take meaningful steps toward equal treatment of Muslims globally. The targeting of individuals based on their religious beliefs has no place in our world, and we must stand together to confront and eradicate such bigotry wherever it may arise.