



How to Counter Islamophobia

Countering Islamophobia can be achieved through different methods including conducting public awareness campaigns about Muslims and Islam designed to dispel negative myths and misconceptions, organizing interfaith meetings covering discrimination against Muslims, tackling hate speech online by engaging with social media companies to develop counter-narratives on hate speech, establishing anti-hate crime legislation, indicating a deliberative response to this phenomenon and developing action plans to include educational outreach, capacity-building and measures to prevent and prosecute hate crimes especially crimes that target Muslims.

A four-step approach is recommended to counter Islamophobia: first defining, and second documenting Islamophobia, next deconstructing its narratives, and then reconstructing new positive and realistic narratives around Muslims.



Enlightenment is the ultimate weapon capable of fully eradicating all forms of extremism, we need to eradicate islamophobia through dialogue.



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The International Day
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The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution by consensus sponsored by 60 Member-States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which designated 15 March as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. The document stresses that terrorism and violent extremism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization, or ethnic group. It calls for a global dialogue on the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace, based on respect for human rights and the diversity of religions and beliefs.

Some Extreme Cases of Islamophobia

Christchurch mosque attacks

On March 15, 2019, 50 people were killed after a gunman opened fire at two Christchurch mosques in New Zealand. Another 50 people were injured, with one person dying of his injuries seven weeks later. The anniversary of the massacre was chosen by the United Nations as the International Day of Combating Islamophobia.

Burning Quran

Cases of desecration of the holy Quran in some European and other countries have been raising global criticisms. In 2023, Salwan Momika, burned the Quran in Sweden one month after an Iraqi, who was in Sweden since 2018, burned pages from the Holy book outside a Stockholm Mosque during the major Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha. Another example is setting fire to Qurans in front of the Turkish and Egyptian embassies in 2023 by a small anti-Islam group called the Danish Patriots.

Assault Against Muslim Women

There have been many reports of attacks on Muslim women for wearing Hijab. In 2016, a Muslim woman was dragged along the pavement by her hijab by two teenage whites, in a "horrific" Islamophobic attack in London. Witnesses said the attackers attempted to rip the woman's hijab off, pulling her down to the ground before fleeing the scene

Studies show that the incidents of Islamophobic hate crimes have increased following events beyond the control of most Muslims, including terrorist attacks and anniversaries of such attacks. These events illustrate how Islamophobia may attribute collective responsibility to all Muslims for the actions of a very select few people who act in the name of Islam.

Islamophobia is a fear of, hatred of, or prejudice against the religion of Islam or Muslims that leads to provocation, hostility and intolerance by means of threatening, harassment, abuse, incitement and intimidation of Muslims and non-Muslims, both online and offline. Islamophobia turns into structural and cultural racism and targets the symbols and markers of being a Muslim.

