



Islamophobia

Please note, this is a sensitive topic that impacts many people. If you find that this has caused you any upset or distress, please stop and seek appropriate support or feel free to reach out to the Safeguarding team at safeguarding@qa.com



What is Islamophobia?

Islamophobia is a prejudice, aversion, hostility, or hatred towards Muslims and encompasses any distinction, exclusion, restriction, discrimination, or preference against Muslims that has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life. (*MEND's Definition of Islamophobia*)

MEND's definition of Islamophobia can be split into two parts:

1. The overt part: Islamophobia is a prejudice, aversion, hostility, or hatred towards Muslims.
2. The "hidden" part that effects all Muslims both as individuals and as collective groups: that is the discrimination that excludes or limits Muslims' equal exercise of fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.

In other words, Islamophobia is not just hate crime and abuse, but must also be recognised in the ways in which it excludes Muslims from all realms of civic life, whether that be through workplace discrimination, or through institutional Islamophobias that silence Muslim voices within democratic debates.

Islamophobic Views in Society

There are a series of worrying social attitudes about Muslims (what polls have revealed):

- 22% had negative feelings towards Muslims
- 33% believe that equal opportunities have gone too far when it comes to Muslims
- 43% concerned if mosque built near them
- 22% concerned if Muslim family moved next door
- 30% would object to their child visiting a mosque
- 58% blame the media for the rampant Islamophobia in UK
- 47% would not be willing to accept Muslims as members of their family

Islamophobic attacks

Islamophobia exists world wide and attacks occur every day globally. Some examples are below:

- In 2017, Jeremy Joseph Christian became enraged when he saw a young Muslim woman wearing a hijab on a commuter train in the US. He began verbally abusing her and used a knife to kill two passengers who tried to intervene. Christian defended the killings in a courtroom rant that included the following: “Death to the enemies of America. Leave this country if you hate our freedom,” he said. “You call it terrorism, I call it patriotism.”
- Darren Osborne carried out a van attack against Muslim worshippers in Finsbury Park in London. At his trial, it was revealed he had previously threatened to kill all Muslims and had searched for material posted online by both far-right group Britain First and the far-right activist known as Tommy Robinson. In court, it was reported that Osborne had received a group email from Robinson in reference to the recent Manchester arena attack, which read: “There is a nation within a nation forming just beneath the surface of the UK. It is a nation built on hatred, violence and on Islam.”
- Trump had singled Muslims out as a suspect community. In his campaign for the presidency, he proposed a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the US. Despite concerns raised about these statements, the US Supreme Court ruled in mid-2018 that a Trump administration travel ban aimed predominantly at people from Muslim-majority countries could come into full effect.

Activity

Please watch the video below and answer the following:

1. How has/does the media contribute towards Islamophobia?
2. What narrative of Islam is portrayed which leads to islamophobia?
3. Can you name some examples of Islamophobia?



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Islamophobia?**

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