

UNDERSTANDING ISLAMOPHOBIC INCIDENTS

ISLAMOPHOBIA

There are many ways to define and understand Islamophobia. Islamophobia is “rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness”.¹ Very simply, Islamophobia “is anti-Muslim racism”.²

ISLAMOPHOBIC INCIDENTS

Islamophobic incidents are unique for everyone, but an Islamophobic incident can be understood as:

- anti-Muslim language or actions directed at Muslims.
- experiences of anti-Muslim discrimination, harassment, vilification and/or violence.

DIRECT DISCRIMINATION

Has someone (or a group of people) treated you unfairly or differently because you’re a Muslim? This is direct discrimination.³

INDIRECT DISCRIMINATION

Has someone (or a group of people) imposed an unreasonable condition that negatively affects you because you’re a Muslim? This is indirect discrimination.⁴

HARASSMENT

Has someone (or a group of people) offended, insulted, humiliated or intimidated you because you’re a Muslim? This is harassment.⁵

VILIFICATION

Has someone (or a group of people) behaved in a way that has encouraged hatred, contempt, revulsion or ridicule towards you because you’re a Muslim? This is vilification.⁶

VIOLENCE

Has someone (or a group of people) intimidated, threatened or been violent towards either you, an organisation or property because you’re a Muslim? This is violence.⁷

¹“Report on the inquiry into A working definition of Islamophobia / anti-Muslim hatred”, All Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims (2018). Available from: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/599c3d2febbd1a90cfffdd8a9/t/5bfd1ea3352f531a6170ceee/1543315109493/Islamophobia+Defined.pdf> P50
²Elahi, F., Khan, O., “Islamophobia: Still a challenge us all”, Runnymede Trust (2017). Available from: <https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/Islamophobia%20Report%202018%20FINAL.pdf> P7
³Australian Human Rights Commission, “Discrimination”, Australian Human Rights Commission. Available from: <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/quick-guide/12030>
⁴Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission, “Discrimination- Workplace”, Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission. Available from: <https://www.humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au/the-workplace/workplace-discrimination>
⁵Australian Human Rights Commission, “Harassment”, Australian Human Rights Commission. Available from: <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/quick-guide/12040>
⁶Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission, “Racial and Religious Discrimination”, Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission. Available from: <https://www.humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au/discrimination/types-of-discrimination/racial-and-religious-vilification>
⁷Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, “Report of the National Inquiry into Racist Violence in Australia”, Australian Government (1991). Available from: <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/document/publication/NIRV.pdf> P7