



Combatting Islamophobia

Australian Government response to the Special Envoy's National Response to Islamophobia

‘There is no place for hate and violence in Australia. We will do everything to stamp out Islamophobia.’

- Muslim Australians have made a longstanding contribution to Australia's social, economic and cultural life. Muslims have been present in Australia since before European settlement.
- Muslim communities have made undeniable contributions to Australia. However, Muslim Australians continue to experience prejudice and suspicion caused by fear, misinformation and historical biases.
- Anti-Muslim hate weakens social cohesion and harms the whole community.

Australian Government response

- The Australian Government thanks Australia's Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia, Mr Aftab Malik, for his report, *A National Response to Islamophobia: A Strategic Framework for Inclusion, Safety and Prosperity (National Response to Islamophobia)*. The government also thanks Mr Malik for his ongoing work to eradicate Islamophobia in Australia.
- The government is responding to the recommendations through a whole-of-government package of new measures. These measures build on existing work across government to address Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate.
- In-line with the 4 key themes in the Special Envoy's National Response to Islamophobia, the government will implement the following:

Education and awareness

- establish the Islamophobia Education Taskforce and an ongoing Social Cohesion Education Advisory Council
- review the Australian Curriculum to identify opportunities to strengthen racial and religious tolerance
- develop a Social Cohesion Framework for schools
- establish a research institute on Australian Muslim affairs
- develop training and professional development resources for parliamentarians, the Australian Public Service, and law enforcement, justice and legal professionals.

Protection and support

- provide targeted funding for Primary Health Networks to support Muslim community organisations to assist with wellbeing and resilience initiatives
- provide grants to support participation, leadership and capacity building for Muslim women, youth and Muslim organisations.

Building social cohesion

- provide grants to support sporting events, community and cross-cultural connection events, creative works, and educational initiatives.

Accountability and responsibility

- expand the Australian Federal Police (AFP) Community Liaison teams, including the establishment of a communications portal
 - establish the AFP Social Cohesion Consultative Board, to strengthen trust, accountability and community-informed responses to hate crime and social cohesion challenges, including Islamophobia.
- This new package of measures is part of a sustained, long-term effort to address Islamophobia that progresses a range of recommendations. The Australian Government will continue to work on the remaining recommendations alongside the Special Envoy and the Australian Muslim community.

Everyone can help

- Addressing Islamophobia is a shared national responsibility.
- If you experience or witness hate, racism or prejudice, **stand up; speak up; and report it.** When you report, you can help stop the behaviour from continuing or growing. You also become part of a larger movement to remove hate, racism and prejudice from our society.
- In an emergency or life-threatening situation, call Triple Zero (000) and ask for Police. If there is no immediate danger, call the Police Assistance Line (131 444) or report anonymously via Crime Stoppers (1800 333 000).
- Reporting hate lets authorities understand patterns of behaviour in local areas, so they can create a safer community for everyone. More information on reporting a hate crime or incident is available on the Department of Home Affairs website, along with contact information for support services for those targeted: [Addressing hate](#).
- If you have witnessed or suspect a hate crime, call the 24-hour National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400.

Support services

- Traumatic events and/or experiences can cause significant psychological distress; it is important to connect with supports when they are needed. If you are experiencing distress, you can seek advice through Lifeline on 13 11 14, text on 0477 13 11 14, or through their online crisis chat service at any time at [Lifeline Crisis Chat](#).

‘Every Australian, regardless of race or religion, should be able to feel safe, welcome and included in Australia, without prejudice or discrimination.’