

THE IMPACT OF THE FIRST ISLAMOPHOBIA IN AUSTRALIA REPORT

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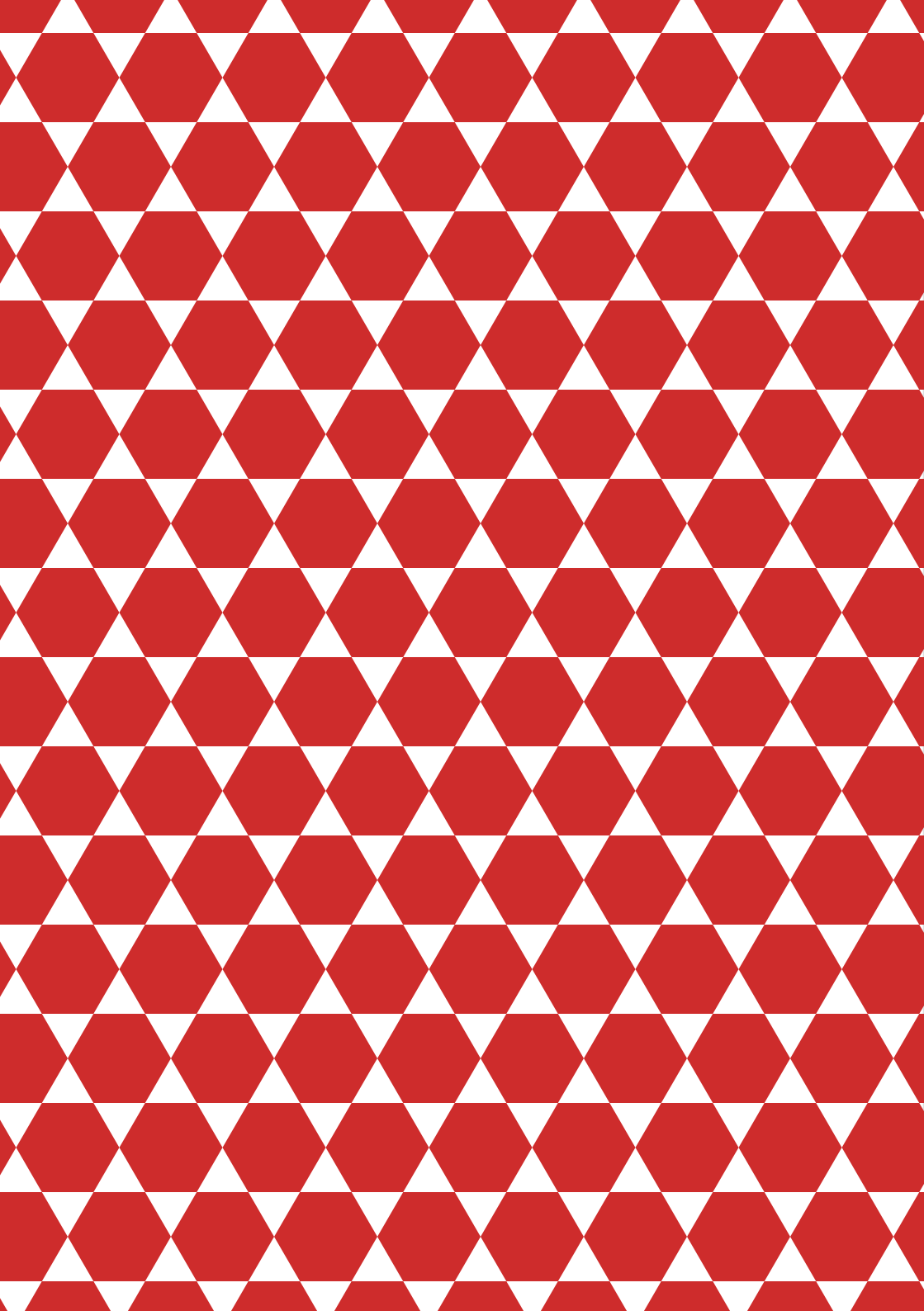


ISLAMOPHOBIA
REGISTER
AUSTRALIA



Charles Sturt
University





Research conducted by the Centre for Islamic Studies and Civilisation, Charles Sturt University and the Islamophobia Register of Australia has revealed women who are alone and wearing Islamic headwear were the most likely to be targets of attacks.

A study released by Charles Sturt University on Monday analysed 243 verified reports to the online Islamophobia Register of Australia from September 2014 to December 2015. The report found of 130 cases where the victim's gender was reported, women were targets in 88, men in 27 and both genders in 15. Dr Iner said it showed hostility toward Muslims went beyond apprehensions of violence, even as reports of Islamophobia tended to peak after terrorist attacks such as the Lindt cafe siege. I have been working as a researcher on the Islamophobic incidents reported to the Islamophobia Register Australia since its inception. Now that effort has come to fruition with a comprehensive report.

The report is co-authored with the field expert academics to tackle institutional and individual Islamophobia that is manifested within the socio-political and everyday landscape of Australia.

Derya Iner is Senior Lecturer in the Centre for Islamic Studies and Civilisation at Charles Sturt University, and the Principal Researcher and Editor of the Islamophobia in Australia Report

Women who are alone and wearing Islamic headwear were the most likely to be targets of attacks.

National & International

MEDIA COVERAGE



The report found that men were mostly perpetrators (68.5%) and women (67.7%) were mostly victims. Women and children in particular bear the brunt of Islamophobia.

79.6% of women were wearing the hijab. Even if the number of children is counted as one per incident (31.5%; N=27), when it is summed up with the number of victims under 18 years of age in the collated data (42%; N=36), children's direct and indirect exposure to Islamophobia reaches 47.7% (N=63 out of 132) within the range of offline cases.

The Islamophobia in Australia report, which surveyed 243 incidents involving physical, verbal and online attacks, found in cases where the gender of the victim was known, 67.7 per cent were female. Nearly three-quarters of abusers were male.

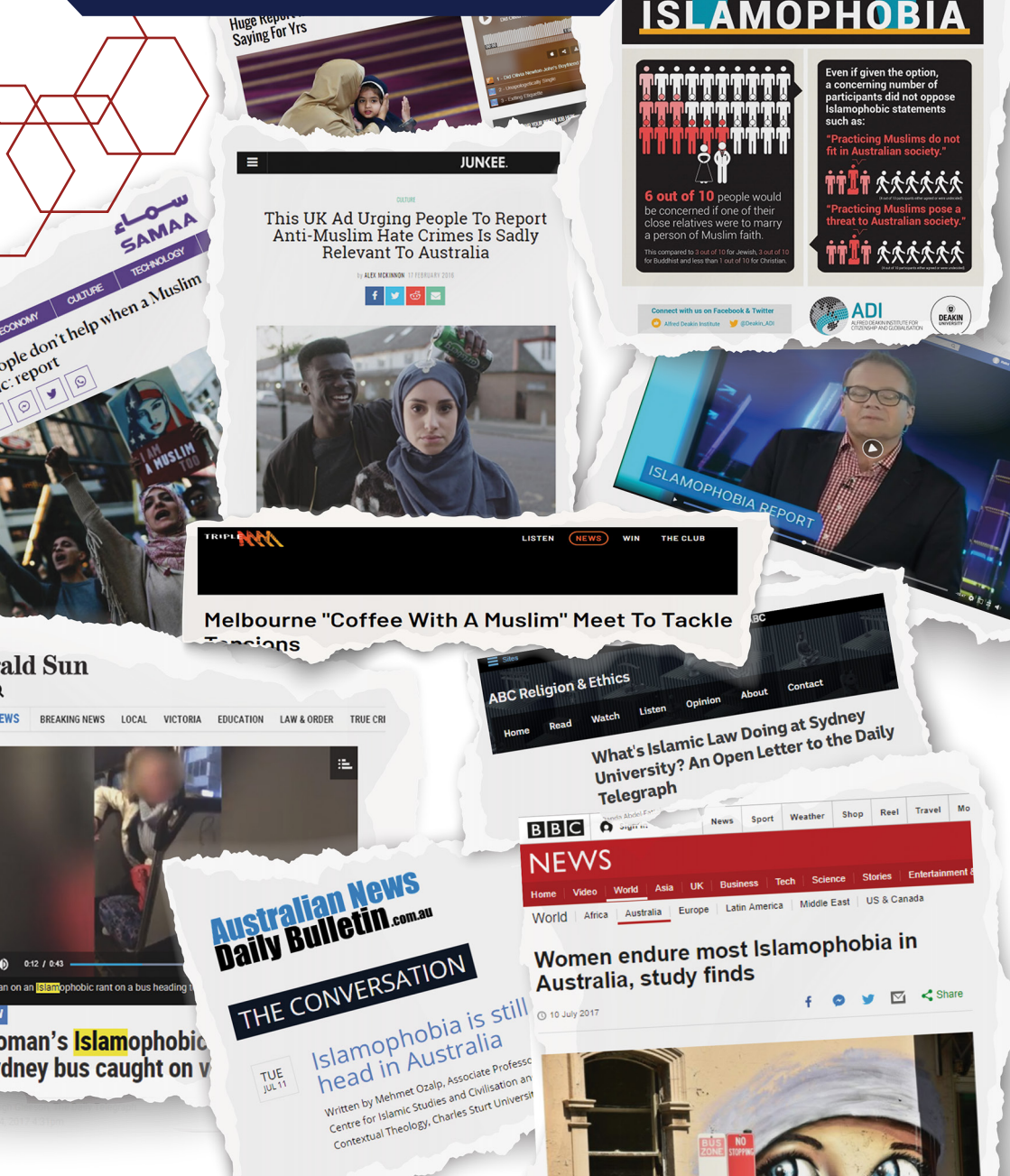
The report was able to document the profoundly destructive impact of such incidents through the testimony of the victims themselves, but what is transpiring in the emotional world of children remains a question for us.

Unsurprisingly, the targets of everyday Islamophobia were ordinary Muslims, and the hatred directed at them stemmed from the very existence and visibility of Muslims and Islam rather than the fear of terrorism. The report's analysis of the content of insults found that terrorism is mentioned minimally (11%) in contrast to the visibility of Muslims themselves

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Report finds clear relationship between Islamic terrorist attacks and increases in Islamophobic incidents.

MEDIA COVERAGE



The report, billed as the first of its kind in Australia, was a collaboration between several universities, the Islamic Sciences and Research Academy of Australia, and the Diversity Council Australia. The report found 79.6 per cent of women abused were wearing a head covering, and more than 30 per cent were accompanied by their children. A comprehensive 100 page report on Islamophobia in Australia covering the period of 2014-2016 was launched on Monday 10 July in Melbourne and on Tuesday 11 July in Sydney.

Some of the key highlights of the report included:

Australian Muslim women who ventured out on their own were almost three times more likely to face harassment of an Islamophobic nature.

More than half of the female victims had their children with them at the time of the reported incident.

Most reported physical assaults occurred in NSW (60%) and VIC (26.7%). 48% of offline attacks occurred in crowded spaces that were frequented daily – shopping centres, train stations and mosque surroundings were the most common.

Nobody intervened in 75% of the reported incidents

A 2017 report into Islamophobia in Australia by Charles Sturt University concluded there was a **“disturbing amount”** of the practice at institutional and personal levels in Australia.

RADIO COVERAGE



Radio SYDNEY

ABC radio news(Sydney)Interview at 9.25am, 10.7.17

ABC radio news(Sydney)Interview at 9.44am, 10.7.17

ABC radio news(Sydney)Interview at 10.44am, 10.7.17

ABC radio (Brisbane)(breakfast program)



Radio BRISBANE

Interview at 7.37am on 10.7.17



Radio MELBOURNE

ABC radio (Melbourne)

Interview at 8.48am on 10.7.17



The report was formally launched by Ms Lisa Annese, CEO of Diversity Council Australia. The audience were welcomed by Dr Mehmet Ozalp from ISRA while Ms Randa Abdel-Fattah, writer and researcher introduced the report to those present at the launch.

About the Report

The report was compiled in partnership with Islamic Sciences & Research Academy of Australia (ISRA), the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalization, Deakin University, the University of Western Australia, Diversity Council of Australia and Just Media Advocacy and was critically analysed by field-expert academics ranging from disciplines of sociology and theology to political sciences and criminology.

The report captures and critically analyses 243 verified incidents reported to the Islamophobia Register Australia between September 2014 and December 2015. The report findings signify the circumstances under which anti-Muslim hate incidents exist, operate and affect Australian Muslims and illustrate specific characteristics of Islamophobia operate and affect Australian Muslims and illustrate specific characteristics of Islamophobia

The five key findings of the report included:

Women, especially those with Islamic head covering (79.6% of the female victims), have been the

Dr Derya Iner, a Senior Lecturer at Charles Sturt University, said:

“The report documents and analyses the present manifestations of Islamophobia in Australia both at an institutional and individual level and provides authentic and vigorous data by quoting from the victims, their proxies and witnesses.”

MELBORNE LAUNCH



main targets of Islamophobia and more than 30% of the female victims had their children with them at the time of the reported incident.

98% of perpetrators were identified as ethnically Anglo-Celtic, as indicated by the reporter and the typical perpetrator tended to be male.

Most reported physical assaults (Offline incidents) occurred in NSW (60%) and VIC (26.7%).

48% of offline attacks occurred in crowded spaces that were frequented daily – shopping centres, train stations and mosque surroundings were the most common.

Non-Muslims constituted about 25% of the witness reporters and nobody intervened in 75% of the reported incidents.

The report captures and critically analyses with a rigorous and transparent methodology, 243 verified incidents reported to the Islamophobia Register Australia between September 2014 and December 2015.

An Islamophobic incident is any act comprising of abusive hatred, vilification and violence inflicted on Muslims going about their daily lives.

The report verified incidents by contacting people involved and checking facts and analysed and classified them as online or offline, levels of severity, where and how they happened, the

The simplest definition of Islamophobia is the special form of racism revealing “indiscriminate negative attitudes or emotions directed at Islam and Muslims”.

vulnerability of victims, nature of the abuse, and its impact on victims.

Acquiring data on Islamophobic incidents has been notoriously difficult, as Muslims are generally averse to reporting and there were no safe avenues to turn to until the Islamophobia Register of Australia was established in 2014.

In the first two weeks of the register, 33 incidents were reported. It is safe to assume that the 243 reports are only the tip of the iceberg.

Charles Sturt University's Associate Professor Mehmet Ozalp examined the 243 cases and made some confronting finds.

Assoc Prof Ozalp's analysis found about 80 per cent of verified anti-Islam attacks were inflicted on Muslim women and about 75 per cent of the attacks were inflicted by Anglo men.

Assoc Prof Ozalp wrote in *The Conversation* that while there was a spike in attacks after terrorist-related events, mostly, the attacks were fuelled by the tightly held belief among many Australians that Muslims simply do not belong in Australia.

Professor Mehmet Ozalp examined the 243 cases and said "the report will highlight a social problem that cannot be ignored or downplayed any longer".

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