



Threatening graffiti referencing Christchurch-mosque gunman discovered by Muslim University of Melbourne student

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Threatening Islamophobic graffiti, referencing Christchurch-mosque gunman Brenton Tarrant, was discovered by a Muslim engineering student in University of Melbourne toilets on Wednesday night.

Mohammad Hadi, 23, found the words “LONG LIVE BRENTON TARRANT” and “I KILL ALL MUSLIM SCUM” written in permanent marker on a toilet stall door.

The graffiti references Tarrant, the Australian right-wing extremist who was convicted of terrorism and sentenced to life imprisonment without parole after murdering 51 people in two Christchurch mosques in 2019.

Mohammad Hadi said that he was extremely shocked to find the disturbing graffiti on Wednesday evening in the busy university toilets.

“To see his name [Brenton Tarrant] written so boldly and then the message underneath his name took me aback,” Mr Hadi said.

“I was here in 2019 when the Christchurch massacres happened.

“We never mentioned his name as we didn’t want to give him the attention.

“We wanted to focus on the victims, yet five years later, this is allowed to happen.

“This has made us feel so unsafe, this is terrifying, this unchecked, unrestricted racism and hate of Muslims on campus.”

This incident, which was reported to the Islamophobia Register Australia overnight, has occurred during an unprecedented surge in Islamophobic incidents around the country since 7 October last year.

Reports to [Islamophobia Register Australia](https://www.islamophobia.com.au) have increased at least ten-fold since October.

Executive Director of Islamophobia Register Australia Dr Nora Amath said that it is widely known that Islamophobic incidents have particularly increased at university campuses during this period.

“We are deeply concerned at the significant rise in Islamophobic incidents, especially the number reported to us by Muslim students at universities,” Dr Amath said.

“A Muslim student reported finding ‘Allah sucks cocks!!’, among other highly offensive Islamophobic graffiti, on a University of Melbourne pathway sign in April.

“The student submitted a photo of the graffiti to campus authorities, later informing me that next to nothing was done about it and that many incidents go unreported because students don’t see the point, despite feeling so unsafe. This latest incident has left them terrified.



“Islamophobia Register Australia calls upon university administrators, student associations and policymakers to be more responsive to such incidents and effectively address this alarming trend.

“By fostering an environment of respect, understanding and empathy, we can together combat Islamophobia, antisemitism and all forms of racism to create safer and inclusive campuses for all students and staff.”

Dr Amath said she and other Muslim leaders are deeply concerned about the surge in Islamophobia on Australian university campuses and its impacts on Muslim students and staff.

“Other recently reported incidents of Islamophobia on Australian university campuses include a group of students wearing hijabs being called ‘terrorists’ by a group of male students in a Sydney university food court and a male student making a throat-slitting gesture toward Muslim students at a Sydney university,” she said.

“A Muslim man was allegedly physically assaulted after he tried to peacefully stop another man from recording a woman, who was wearing a hijab, without her consent on a Sydney campus earlier this year.”

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About the Islamophobia Register Australia

The Register is a not-for-profit organisation that has been leading the tracking and tackling of Islamophobia across Australia since its launch in 2014. It provides a secure and reliable online reporting platform that captures nation-wide data and offers first-hand support to victims of Islamophobia. The Register has published four academic reports on Islamophobia in Australia and more recently a media report examining post October 7 2023 media coverage of Israel-Gaza. In addition to its reporting platform, victim support services and academic research, the Register also provides education and training on Islamophobia and engages in policy and law reform. Having expanded its board and appointed an inaugural Executive Director in December 2022, the Register has since grown its operations to take its work and influence to the next level.

Its operating model has been commended and replicated by multiple other marginalised groups who have approached the Register to support them in the establishment of their own reporting models. This includes the First Nations Racism Register, ‘Call it Out’ founded by the National Justice Project and the Jumbunna Institute. The Register was also invited to provide evidence at the Disability Royal Commission who are looking to make formal recommendations to create a similar organisation to track and tackle disability hate.

Media Enquiries

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