



PRESS RELEASE

The Islamophobia Register Australia ('The Register') is pleased to welcome the announcement of Aftab Malik as the Islamophobia Envoy appointment

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The Islamophobia Register Australia ('The Register') is pleased to welcome the announcement of Aftab Malik as the Islamophobia Envoy appointment.

While we have been critical of the process leading up to this appointment, we hope that this significant step marks a crucial milestone in addressing the unprecedented increase of reported incidents of Islamophobia and promoting a more inclusive society. We are particularly glad to note the new Envoy identifies the importance of addressing anti-Palestinian sentiment in his role.

In 2023, the Scanlon Foundation's *Social Cohesion Report* found that a significant proportion of respondents hold negative views against Muslims. This finding has been consistent for a number of years now. More recently, the Register has seen an over 600% increase of reported incidents post 7 October 2023.

Thus, the appointment of the Envoy demonstrates an acknowledgement of the challenges faced by Australian Muslims and the necessity of a dedicated and funded approach to combating Islamophobia.

While we have yet to be briefed on the job description and the terms of reference, the Register hopes that their role will include monitoring and addressing incidents of Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian hate, working with grassroots community organisations, and directly advising the Prime Minister frankly and fearlessly on policies to address Islamophobia.

Executive Director, Dr Nora Amath, said:

For over a decade, The Register has been at the forefront of advocating for greater awareness and robust, well-funded initiatives to combat Islamophobia. This action is long overdue, particularly in the wake of the Christchurch tragedy, when such measures should have become a priority. We firmly hope that the establishment of this new position will serve as a crucial platform for addressing the distinct challenges faced by Muslim communities in Australia and for tackling the key drivers underpinning Islamophobia. It also reflects a strong commitment to protecting the rights and freedoms of all Australians, regardless of their faith or background.

We are committed to collaborating with Mr Malik and other stakeholders to ensure that the voices of the Australian Muslim community are heard and their concerns are addressed.

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About the Islamophobia Register Australia

[Islamophobia Register Australia](https://www.islamophobia.com.au) 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. Having recently expanded its board and appointed an inaugural Executive Director, the Register has 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 recently 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

For media enquiries please contact:
contact@islamophobia.com.au