



PRESS RELEASE

Increase in Islamophobic incidents on Australian University Campuses

FRIDAY 24 May 2024. Sydney, Australia

As the leading organisation dedicated to monitoring and combating Islamophobia in Australia, the Islamophobia Register Australia (“The Register”), has continued to see a concerning increase in Islamophobic incidents when compared to pre-October 7 levels in 2023. The Register previously reported on 23 October 2023 that reports of Islamophobia had increased ten-fold, followed by a thirteen-fold increase a month later. Unfortunately, since then, the number of incidents reported to the Register has continued to spike at an alarming rate.

In the same time period post-October 7, we have observed an alarming 39-fold increase in reported incidents on university campuses across the country. The Register is deeply concerned about this surge and its impact on Muslim students, staff, and faculty.

The Register’s Executive Director, Dr Nora Amath, said:

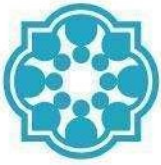
“We have seen a significant rise in reported Islamophobic incidents occurring within university premises. Reported incidents include verbal abuse, intimidation, threats, harassment and physical assault. One such incident occurred at a university food court in NSW where a group of Muslim female students wearing hijabs were reportedly called “terrorists” by a group of male students. In another reported incident, a male made a threatening gesture of slitting the throat to Muslim students at a University in Sydney before he was chased away. In an incident earlier this week, a Muslim male was physically assaulted by the perpetrator when he attempted to prevent a hijab-wearing female from being recorded without her consent.”

Since late April 2024, students across Australian university campuses have joined their peers around the world to establish encampments protest for Gaza. The students are demanding their university disclose its ties and divest from Israel.

Despite the surge in reported incidents, there remains a lack of awareness and understanding about Islamophobia and its manifestations across university communities.

The Register urgently calls upon universities, student associations, and policymakers to address this alarming trend. By fostering an environment of respect, understanding, and empathy, we can combat Islamophobia, anti-semitism and all forms of racism to create safer and inclusive campuses for all.

-ENDS-



**ISLAMOPHOBIA
REGISTER**
AUSTRALIA

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

For media enquiries please contact:
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