



PRESS RELEASE

Islamophobia Register Australia Responds to Claims of “Fictitious Islamophobia”

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The Islamophobia Register Australia (The Register) firmly refutes recent statements by Liberal Senator Dave Sharma dismissing Islamophobia as “fictitious”. Evidence from the Register’s data, lived experiences as well as Sunday night’s arson attack on an Islamic school bus in Adelaide demonstrate that Islamophobia is not only real but also escalating to unprecedented levels, posing a serious threat to the safety of Australian Muslims.

The Register, which has documented Islamophobic incidents across Australia since its inception in 2014, continues to receive daily reports of intimidation, discrimination, verbal abuse, physical assaults and online hate targeting Muslims.

Recent statistics from the Register highlight an alarming trend with over a 600% increase in reported Islamophobic incidents over the past year. These reports represent only a fraction of the actual incidents, as many victims feel discouraged from reporting due to fear, stigma, or the normalisation of Islamophobia.

Dr Nora Amath, Executive Director of the Register stated:

“The evidence is undeniable. The rise in Islamophobic incidents is corroborated by not just by our data, but by other reports as well. To dismiss this issue as fictitious undermines the lived experiences of thousands of Australian Muslims who face discrimination, hatred, and violence simply because of their faith”

Unfortunately, these incidents are not isolated; they reflect a broader societal issue fuelled by divisive and dangerous political rhetoric. For politicians to dismiss Islamophobia as “fictitious” risks emboldening perpetrators and discourages meaningful policy action to address the issue.

The Register calls on all leaders to acknowledge the reality of Islamophobia and take concrete steps to combat it including publicly condemning Islamophobia in all its forms.

“We must not allow uninformed political rhetoric to overshadow the real and harmful impact of Islamophobia” added Dr Amath. “It is imperative that we come together as a nation to reject hate and ensure that all Australians feel safe and valued, regardless of their faith”.

The Register urges anyone who has experienced or witnessed Islamophobia to report the incident to us. Together, we can shed light on this pressing issue and work towards a more inclusive and safe Australia.

-ENDS-



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

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