



PRESS RELEASE

THURSDAY 31 JULY 2025. SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

When Solidarity is Silenced: Gaza, Islamophobia, and Racism in Australia

This statement is issued on behalf of the Board and Community Advisory Group (CAG) of the Islamophobia Register Australia (the Register).

Over the past 21 months, we have been monitoring and documenting a significant rise in both Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian racism across multiple sectors of Australian society. These are not isolated incidents, but signs of [entrenched systemic patterns](#) emerging within workplaces, universities, media institutions, and broader public discourse.

Since 7 October 2023, the Register has recorded an over 530% increase in Islamophobic incidents, with more than 1,500 cases reported, many of which relate to the [expression of solidarity with Palestinian civilians](#).

Among these [cases are reports](#) of both Muslim and non-Muslim individuals facing disciplinary actions, reputational damage, or exclusion from professional and academic settings for expressing support for Palestinian human rights. These have included:

- Reprimands and investigations for social media posts;
- Disinvitations from speaking engagements;
- Workplace complaints, suspension threats, and other punitive measures.

Simultaneously, the Register has observed [a concerning use of force at protests](#), and received reports of anti-Palestinian racism and Islamophobia being [seemingly dismissed prematurely](#) by law enforcement or [inadequately addressed](#). The NSW government, earlier this year, rushed through the passing of anti-democratic and repressive [protest laws](#), and the Victorian government recently talked about introducing similar laws. Australia's public broadcaster unlawfully sacked a journalist for sharing the post of a reputable human rights organisation, which claimed that starvation was being used as a tool of war, and subsequently spent a significant amount of taxpayer money to defend its losing position.

In many cases, community pain and trauma, particularly among Palestinian and Australian Muslims, have been under-recognised or minimised at the state and federal levels. These are just some of the problems the Register has observed.



These patterns are consistent with findings in our [latest *Islamophobia in Australia Report \(Report 5\)*](#), which, for the first time, includes a dedicated chapter on anti-Palestinian racism. It demonstrated incidents involving victims displaying pro-Palestinian symbols rose from 8% in 2023 to 25% of all reported incidents in 2024.

Rasha Abbas, Founder and Chair of PARA, highlighted the broader implications of recent events, stating:

“What we’re seeing is not just a spike in anti-Palestinian incidents; it’s a systemic tolerance of the suppression of voices calling for justice and human rights.”

Echoing this concern, Dr Naser Alziyadat, co-author of the *Islamophobia in Australia (Report 5)*, warned of the deeper societal risks:

“What is truly alarming is the systemic erosion of the democratic values that Australia has long cherished. The documented instances of discrimination, racism, and vilification by the Register are not just a concern for Muslims, Palestinians and pro-Palestinians supporters, but for all Australians. If these values are compromised, it affects everyone in our society. We must all be vigilant in preserving the principles that define us.”

The Register is also concerned by the increasing politicisation of anti-racism frameworks. In particular, the expanded and often vague application of the [IHRA working definition](#) of antisemitism has, in some contexts, been used in ways that [risk conflating legitimate criticism of the Israeli government with antisemitism](#). While the Register has consistently recognised antisemitism as a serious and growing issue, this politicised use of definitions can stifle authentic anti-racism efforts.

As documented in incidents reported to the Register, this expanded interpretation has contributed to silencing public speech and civic participation, particularly when individuals speak out against the humanitarian crisis in Gaza or in support of Palestinian rights.

For example, the Register has received multiple reports from healthcare professionals who say they have been, or have been threatened with being, reported to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) simply for speaking out against the genocide in Gaza. Some have also been doxxed, with their workplace locations exposed online, placing their safety and wellbeing at risk. The psychological impact is significant. One General Practitioner (GP) shared:

“I’m under immense stress and no longer feel safe in my workplace as a GP caring for my patients.”



These developments must be understood within a broader context: the systemic dehumanisation of Palestinians and Australian Muslims, and the normalisation of racism that restricts solidarity and dissent. This occurs at a time when international human rights organisations have documented grave violations of international law in Gaza, including attacks on civilians, forced displacement, the collapse of healthcare and essential infrastructure, as well as clear evidence of [war crimes](#) and [genocide](#).

At this critical juncture, the deeply inadequate responses from governments, institutions, and civil society actors raise urgent ethical questions. The widespread reluctance to adequately acknowledge or respond to the grave humanitarian crisis in Gaza, despite the scale and visibility of the catastrophic suffering, cannot be divorced from the broader normalisation of racialised discourse that devalues Palestinian lives.

We therefore call for:

- Protection from retaliation for individuals expressing support for universal human rights, including Palestinian rights.
- A principled and consistent commitment to combating all forms of racism, including both Islamophobia, antiPalestinianism and antisemitism, without weaponising them to suppress legitimate political discourse.
- The rejection of any definition or framework that stifles public debate or silences advocacy rooted in international human rights law.
- Accurate, fair, and independent media reporting on the crisis in Gaza, and fair representation of Palestinian and Muslim voices in Australia.
- A commitment by the Australian Government to uphold its responsibilities under international humanitarian and human rights law, and to take clear, ethical positions in response to the genocide in Gaza.

This moment calls for moral clarity. We urge all institutions, community leaders, civil society organisations, and individuals of conscience to stand firm in the defence of universal human rights and the right to speak out against injustice.

We invite allies across sectors to act with integrity, challenge racism in all its forms, and help build a society grounded in justice, accountability, and shared humanity.



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.

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. Recently, an organisation focused on ableism has sought advice from the Register on developing its own register.

Media Enquiries

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