



## PRESS RELEASE

Sydney, 17 February 2026

### **The Islamophobia Register Australia Rejects Senator Hanson’s Divisive and Baseless Remarks**

The Islamophobia Register Australia (Register) is deeply outraged by the harmful and inflammatory comments made today by Senator Pauline Hanson about Australian Muslims and Muslims globally. In a televised Sky News interview, Senator Hanson claimed that continued Muslim immigration could bring “suffering” to Australia and asserted that “Muslims hate Westerners”, even implying that there are “no good Muslims”. These sweeping, baseless accusations not only vilify an entire faith community, they rely on the false premise that Muslims are somehow *not* Westerners.

This is factually wrong. It is offensive. And it erases the lived reality of millions of Muslims who are themselves Western, including the Australian Muslims who have been part of this country for generations, some since the 1800s.

Dr Nora Amath, Executive Director of the Register stated:

*Such rhetoric from an elected representative is reckless and dangerous. It fuels hostility, legitimises prejudice, and deepens the social exclusion already experienced by many Australian Muslims. It undermines the foundations of Australia’s multicultural society and emboldens those who seek to target Muslim communities with suspicion and hate.*

And let’s be clear: today’s remarks are not a slip of the tongue. They are part of a long-running pattern in which Senator Hanson has repeatedly targeted minority groups, especially Australian Muslims, with fear-fuelled narratives and broad-brush misrepresentations.

These remarks reflect structural Islamophobia and Australians have heard this script before, and it is long past its expiry date. Her history of inflammatory statements has contributed to a climate in which discrimination is normalised and Australian Muslims are routinely misrepresented and are repeatedly framed as outsiders to the very societies they belong to.

But Senator Hanson's comments raise a more fundamental question: *what exactly is she proposing?*

She never says. Instead, she relies on sweeping statements without the courage to articulate the policies they imply. Australians deserve leaders who are honest about their intentions, not politicians who trade in fear while refusing to spell out what they would actually do. Empty provocation is not leadership.

The Register emphasises the following:

- **Australian Muslims are Westerners.** They are diverse, valued and integral to the fabric of this nation. They contribute across every sector- culturally, economically and civically- and deserve to live free from vilification.
- **Public debate must be anchored in truth and respect.** Those elected to serve the public have a responsibility to uphold facts and strengthen society, not weaponise misinformation against entire communities.
- **Portraying a religion as inherently hostile is unacceptable.** Claims that Muslims "hate Westerners" or are incompatible with Australian values distort the lived reality of over a billion Muslims worldwide, including the many Muslims who *are* Western, who *are* Australian and who contribute to this country every day.

The Register calls on Senator Hanson to:

1. Clarify whether her remarks reflect actual policy intentions.
2. Withdraw her statements that malign Australian Muslims as a collective.
3. Commit to engaging in public discourse that does not endanger or marginalise minority communities.

Australia's strength lies in its diversity, its fairness and its refusal to allow any community to be vilified. Leaders who trade in division undermine these values. If we are to build a cohesive and safe society, we need representatives who bring people together, not those who recycle tired tropes at the expense of the communities they are meant to serve.

To move beyond misinformation and caricature, the Register extends an open invitation to Senator Hanson to meet with Australian Muslims directly, over a cuppa, in any community she chooses. If she is willing to listen, she will find what her comments deny: that Australian Muslims are her fellow Westerners, her fellow citizens, and her fellow contributors to this country. Engagement, not ignorance, is the path to understanding.



**ISLAMOPHOBIA  
REGISTER**  
AUSTRALIA

### **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 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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