

Tackling Islamophobia

You Are Not Alone! Get Support!

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE!
CAMPAIGN**

What Sort of Things Should I Report?

- Physical attacks.
- Attacks on property.
- Negative comments - written or verbal about Muslim people, their dress or their culture.
- Islamophobic letters (Anti-Muslim hate mail).
- Online Islamophobia, hate comments after an article or on forums.
- Islamophobic graffiti
- Offensive substances or items put on your property.
- Discrimination because you are Muslim e.g. you think someone is treating you badly or differently in a negative way. (Please note discrimination like this should be reported in the first instance to someone like SARI not the Police.)

Where Can It Happen?

Anywhere! This can include:

- Home, Work, School.
- Public Places e.g. Parks, Libraries, Doctor's surgeries, Council Offices etc.
- Public transport, such as buses, trains etc.
- Mosques - On your way to or from Mosque or Mosques can be attacked
- In the papers or local bulletins.
- Online e.g. Facebook; Twitter; other social media.

If you have experienced an Islamophobic crime it is important to report it. It is important this data is collected and that you get the support you need.

Does This Mean Bristol Is a Dangerous Place to Live in for Muslim People?

No, on the whole Bristol is still a safe place to live and most people live here very happily regardless of their race or faith. Bristol is a City of Sanctuary and welcomes the diversity that makes up the city. Unfortunately it is the actions of a few misguided people that cause this type of hate crime and abuse.

Acknowledgements

Several organizations and individuals have supported this initiative to tackle Islamophobia. Some of those involved are shown below.



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Have you been **TARGETED** because you are **MUSLIM**?

Do you know **SOMEONE** who is **MUSLIM** who has been **TARGETED**?

REPORT IT! GET SUPPORT!

Tackling Anti-Muslim Hate Crime

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People who are Muslim or who are perceived to be Muslim can face abuse or hatred and we want to stop this.

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE!
REPORT IT! GET SUPPORT!**

**TACKLING
ISLAMOPHOBIA
TOGETHER!**

Tackling Islamophobia

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What Is Islamophobia or Anti Muslim Hate Crime?

Islamophobia / Anti Muslim Hate Crime is the irrational fear or hatred of Islam, Muslims or Islamic culture. It is when people stereotype Muslims as religious fanatics, as being violent people or terrorists - these people do not understand how such behaviour is the opposite of that taught by the Qur'an.

Islamophobia is a type of racism as Muslim people are treated as an ethnic group that is perceived negatively by some people and viewed with hatred even though being Muslim is a faith and not a race.

Islamophobia affects all Muslim people even if it is directed only at some as it is stereotyping the whole group in a negative way.

What Is the Difference between Islamophobia and Racism?

This is not always easy to answer. Sometimes hate crime or abuse can be both. Victims will sometimes say that the incident is both racist and Islamophobic.

However, Islamophobia is a growing type of abuse where individuals are targeted because they are Muslim or perceived to be Muslims. Sikh, Hindu and other people can be perceived to be Muslim even when they are not and then targeted because of this.

Those few people who don't like Muslims do not care whether an individual is White, Black, Asian etc and will direct their abuse at anyone they think is a Muslim.

If you feel that you have been targeted because of your faith then it is important when reporting an incident to make it clear that you feel it was because of your religion and not just on the basis of your race.

Even if you are not sure but think your faith maybe one of the reasons you are being targeted let someone know about this.

Where To Report Incidences

Please report to the Police in the first instance by ringing 101 if not an emergency. Please also report to SARI and any of the other agencies listed.

The Police - Call 101 - If an emergency response is not required.

The Police - Call 999 - If an emergency response is required.

Why Do We Need to Report It?

We know people are suffering in silence about this. We know people who suffer this type of abuse can be very upset and stressed because it is very hard to cope with. Also not enough information on this growing crime has been collected so agencies don't realise how big a problem it is.

It is important to report such crimes so that enough information and data on this issue can be collected. It is only by collecting this data that an accurate picture about the problem can be built up. This can then be reported back to the appropriate authorities and action can be taken. This will include educating children, Police Officers, Housing Officers and others about this type of hate crime to tackle it.

What's the Point in Reporting It as the Police Won't Do Anything Anyway?

The police are working with us to take this form of abuse very seriously and they want you to report it and they want to respond to this well. They know it is a serious form of crime.

If an officer has not taken your report seriously enough you also need to tell someone such as SARI (Support Against Racism and Inequality).

Even if you don't think the incident is serious enough to warrant action or you are too afraid to take action, it is important to report it so that it can be logged as an official statistic. As mentioned above it is vitally important that we build up a picture of how bad the problem is to present an accurate picture to authorities.

Even the less serious incidents can have a big effect on you and you may really benefit from talking to someone about it. We will take all such incidents seriously.

Where Should I Report It and Who To?

In the first instance if it a serious crime it is important to report it to the Police. We would encourage you to also report to SARI (Support Against Racism and Inequality) whom as mentioned above are trained to offer support in such a situation. Or report to the other organisations in Bristol listed below in the banner across the bottom of this page so that we can build up a picture of what is happening.

SARI - 0800 171 2272 (freephone) or 0117 942 0060

or email: sari@sariweb.org.uk

BMCS (Bristol Muslim Cultural Society) - **Email: bmcs@bmcs.org.uk**.

BMFF (Bristol Multi Faith Forum) - **Email: info@bristolmultifaithforum.org.uk**.