

# WHAT IS ISLAMOPHOBIA?

## Definition

In November 2020, The United Nations adopted the following working definition of Islamophobia.

“Islamophobia is a fear, prejudice and hatred of Muslims that leads to provocation, hostility, and intolerance by means of threatening, harassment, abuse, incitement, and intimidation of Muslims and non-Muslims, both in the online and offline world. Motivated by institutional, ideological, political, and religious hostility that transcends into structural and cultural racism, it targets the symbols and markers of being a Muslim.”

## Examples

Some examples of Islamophobia include the following:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Muslims.
- Accusing all Muslims of being responsible for wrongdoing committed by a single Muslim person or group (or even for acts committed by non-Muslims.)
- Claiming the Quran encourages Muslims to commit violence against non-Muslims.
- Assuming all Muslims are Arab and accusing Muslim citizens of being more loyal to Arab nations, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Defining all Muslims as “high-risk” of radicalization.
- Harassing or discriminating against Muslim women for wearing headscarves.

## Reporting Hate Crimes

In Pennsylvania, a hate crime is defined as a criminal act motivated by ill will or hatred toward a victim's race, color, religion, or national origin. Contact your local police department or Pennsylvania State Police if you are reporting a crime that you believe was motivated by hate, such as assault or property damage.

The PHRC can help you in determining if an act of hate also violates the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. To file a complaint, call 717-787-4410 (717-787-7279 TTY) or contact the regional office nearest you:

**Harrisburg**  
333 Market Street, 8th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
717-787-9780 | 717-787-7279  
(TTY)

**Philadelphia**  
110 N. 8th Street, Suite 501  
Philadelphia, Pa 19107  
215-560-2496 | 215-560-3599  
(TTY)

**Pittsburgh**  
301 5th Avenue, Suite 390, Piatt  
Place  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
412-545-5395 | 412-565-5711 (TTY)