



National Association of
Muslim Police

Muslims Making a Positive Difference to Policing

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NAMP Release

Islamophobia Awareness Month November 2024

Islamophobia Awareness Month (IAM) is an annual campaign held throughout November in various countries, particularly in the UK, to raise awareness of the growing issue of Islamophobia and challenge the stereotypes and negative perceptions surrounding Muslims. It was established in 2012 in response to the rise in anti-Muslim hate crimes, discrimination, and prejudice, aiming to create a more informed and inclusive society. The initiative seeks to highlight the impact of Islamophobia on individuals and communities.

IAM typically features a wide range of activities, including community events, panel discussions, workshops, exhibitions, and educational programs to foster interfaith dialogue and unite people against hatred and division.

The National Association of Muslim Police (NAMP) this year, is hosting a NAMP Muslim networking event themed “Seeds of Change” to highlight the work NAMP and other organisations are doing to support Muslims.

The conflict in the Middle East has led to heightened tensions and protests around the world, including the UK. For British Muslims, many of whom sympathise with the Palestinian cause, the situation led to increased polarisation and targeted hate. In the aftermath of demonstrations, some Muslims faced backlash and accusations of anti-Semitism, despite peaceful intentions.

Terrorist attacks carried out by extremists, whether in Europe or elsewhere, often result in spikes in Islamophobic incidents in the UK. Innocent Muslims are frequently subjected to verbal and physical abuse, which leads to Muslim communities feeling collectively blamed for the actions of extremists they do not support.

There is an ongoing concern where some media outlets or high-profile figures conflate Islam with terrorism or frame Muslims in a negative light. There has been an increase in the spreading of misinformation and the misrepresentation of Muslims, such as sensationalised stories about Muslims and extremism, deepening fears within the community. This biased coverage has also emboldened extremist groups, further threatening the safety and well-being of Muslims.

The rise of right-wing extremism, both in the UK and globally, has raised serious concerns for Muslims. Extreme right-wing groups have increasingly targeted Muslim communities through online platforms and protests. These groups have often spread misinformation and rhetoric which revolves around portraying Muslims as incompatible with Western values, which fuels division and hostility.

In the workplace and education sectors, there is growing concern about the systemic discrimination faced by Muslims in the UK, particularly in employment and education. Research continues to show that Muslims, especially Muslim women who wear the hijab, face higher levels of job discrimination. We are aware of several high-profile cases where Muslim employees were subjected to unfair treatment or were passed over for promotions due to their faith or perceived beliefs.

Islamophobia may take form as a hate crime, and it can have more than one motivating factor such as Religion or Race. Anti-Muslim hate crime can be committed online and offline and is taken very seriously.

Please report hate incidents whether you are a victim or a witness. Remember to note down as much detail about what you saw or heard and the date, time and location of the incident.

- Call 101 for non-emergencies.
- If you're deaf or hard of hearing, use textphone 18001 101.
- Visit your local police force, details on how to contact them can be found online at www.police.uk.
- Report online at www.report-it.org.uk.
- Third party reporting: [www.report-it.org.uk/organisations that can help](http://www.report-it.org.uk/organisations_that_can_help).
- If you or someone else is in immediate danger, call 999. If you're deaf or hard of hearing, use textphone service 18000 or text 999.

For further information about NAMP and guidance in relation to Anti-Muslim hatred and discrimination please visit: www.muslim.police.uk/resources

The National Association of Muslim Police Executive Cabinet