



Australian Muslim Women's
Centre for Human Rights
Equality without Exception

MEDIA RELEASE

Silence and Selective Outrage: Addressing the Surge in Islamophobic Violence Against Muslim Women

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The Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights is deeply concerned by the recent surge in Islamophobic attacks targeting visibly Muslim women. This week's disturbing reports of Muslim women being subjected to physical and verbal abuse in a Melbourne northern suburbs shopping centre reflects the growing climate of hostility and anger towards the Muslim community.

It is inexcusable that acts of violence targeting our community are met with silence from those who are meant to protect and lead by example. When roles are reversed, we witness swift condemnation, yet in this instance, our political leaders have remained silent. This silence emboldens hate and legitimises its expression against our community and perpetuates the dangerous normalisation of Islamophobia. These recent violent assaults highlight the urgent need for unequivocal condemnation.

When violence is committed against women—regardless of their religion, race, or ethnicity—it must be called out and condemned. The failure to act sends a dangerous message that such hate is permissible and will go unchallenged.

Equally troubling is the media's role in creating division, as demonstrated by last week's attempts to fabricate and provoke an incident of antisemitism by The Daily Telegraph. This reckless behaviour—designed to incite conflict—has barely faced any meaningful consequences, despite the danger it poses to community. The disturbing connection between media incitement, the failure to address rising violence, and the selective outrage surrounding these incidents reveal a deeply troubling trend.

The systemic racism and selective outrage that the Muslim community is forced to endure time and time again is harmful and dangerous. We must hold our politicians and media outlets accountable for fuelling division and ensure that all individuals, regardless of their religion, race or ethnicity, are safe.

We urge our leaders and the media to act responsibly, address all racially fuelled attacks, and work towards unity and understanding, rather than actively creating division.

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