



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

MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights acknowledges the Special Envoy's report to combat Islamophobia

15 September, 2025

The Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights (AMWCHR) acknowledges the report released by Australia's Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia and support its recommendations to government. In particular, we note recommendation 49 which calls on the government to support Muslim women's empowerment programs in recognition of the unique forms of discrimination we face. Such programs have long been central to the mission of AMWCHR and other Muslim women's organisations in Australia.

The report also highlights the dehumanisation of Palestinian and Arab Australians. As we look at ways to effectively tackle Islamophobia in Australia, we must confront the reality of Australia's complicit role in supporting Israel's genocide in Gaza, and that our inability to take decisive action has enabled this ongoing violence.

It is critical that we honestly address the role and impact of divisive and biased media, political commentary, and lobby groups that have collectively censored, silenced, misrepresented and vilified Muslim, Arab and Palestinian communities.

This report highlights the pervasive extent to which anti-Muslim racism and discrimination have become embedded in Australian society - in our policies, our laws, our institutions, and our language. These systemic and structural forms of Islamophobia result in damaging and lasting impacts on Muslim communities living in Australia.

We know that Islamophobia:

- Is gendered and disproportionately affects Muslim women and girls through both verbal abuse and physical violence.
- Results in lasting trauma for children and young people who are exposed to Islamophobia in schools, public spaces and social media.
- Curtails individual wellbeing and significantly affects mental health, leading to anxiety, depression and social withdrawal.



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- Erodes people's sense of belonging, making it difficult for Muslims to feel safe, accepted and valued in the wider community.
- Results in inequitable social, political, and economic outcomes for Muslim communities, including reduced access to employment, education and leadership opportunities.

Australia must take action to prevent ongoing harm to Muslim communities.

We call on the Australian Government and relevant departments to enact all 54 recommendations of the report and to ensure that Muslim women are central to leading their implementation.

-ENDS-



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