# ISLAMOPHOBIA TOOLKIT

ISLAMOPHOBIA STUDIES CENTER

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

STANDING WITH MUSLIMS AGAINST ISLAMOPHOBIA & RACISM

AGAINSTISLAMOPHOBIA.ORG

NETWORK AGAINST ISLAMOPHOBIA
A PROJECT OF
Jewish Voice for Peace

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PARTICIPANTS SURVEYED OVER THE YEARS IDENTIFIED ISLAMOPHOBIA AS A MAJOR CHALLENGE [WITH] A FULL 60 PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS INDICATING THAT: THEY KNEW SOMEONE WHO HAD BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST.
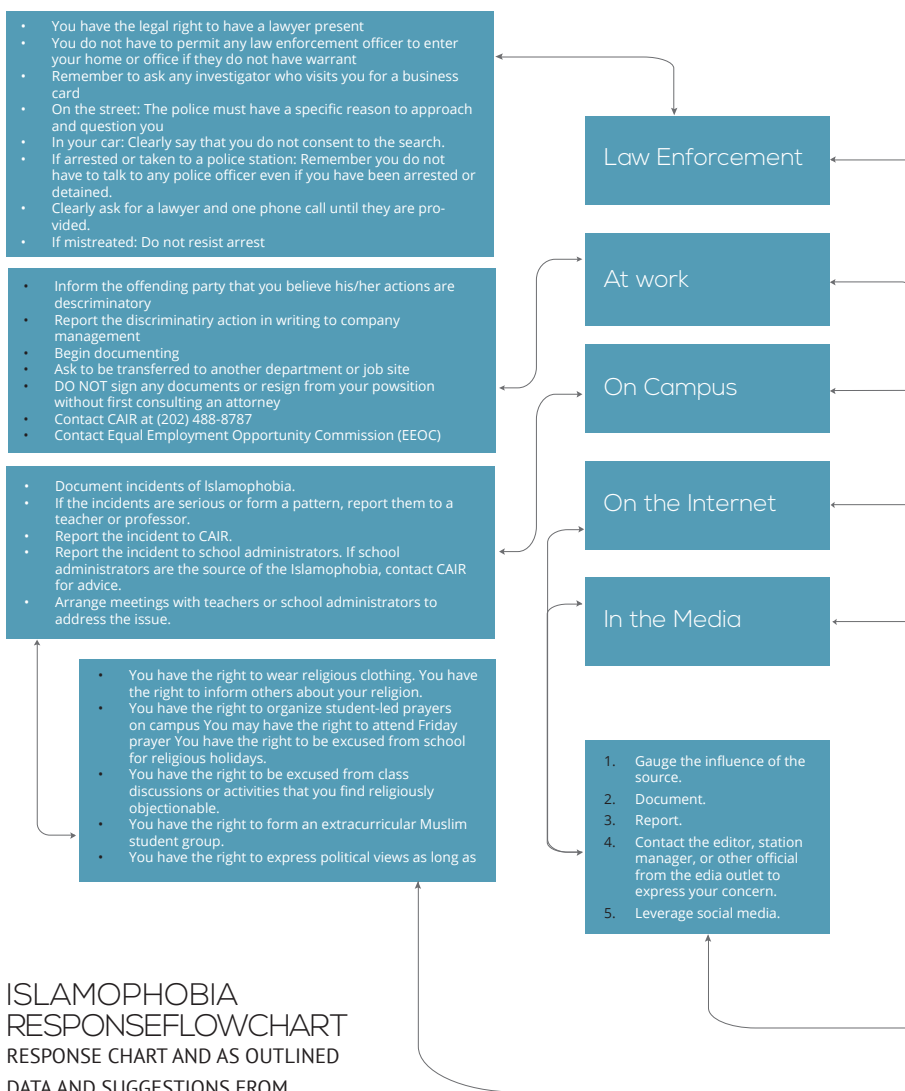
## THE CHALLENGE

The primary challenge, is to:

1. Capture a workable and encompassing definition for the lslamophobia phenomenon.
2. Develop a theoretical framework that anchors present and future research.
3. Create a centralized mechanism to document and analyze diverse data sets from around the U.S. and in comparison, with other areas around the world.
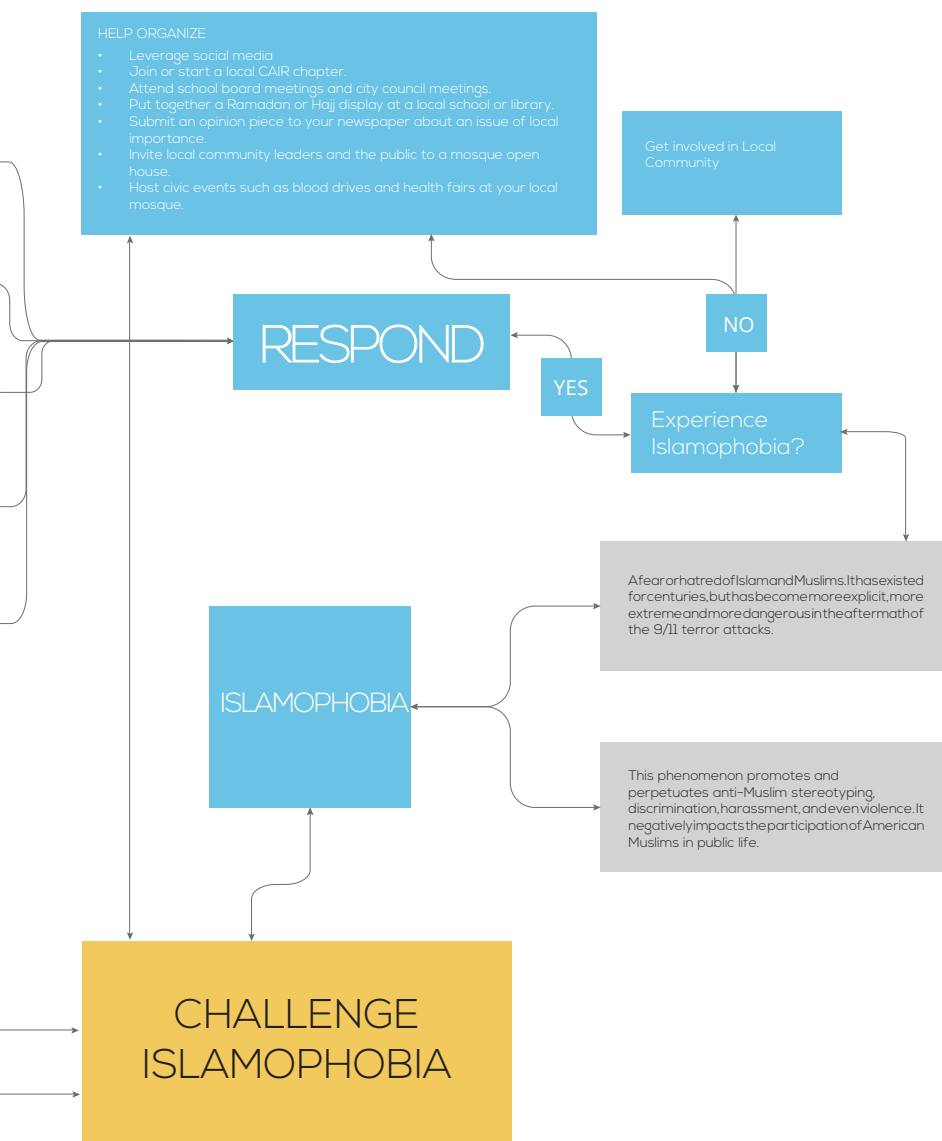
## THE PROBLEM

lslamophobia Studies Center (ISC) focuses on a systematic and empirical approach to the study of lslamophobia and its impact on Muslim communities. Today, Muslims in the U.S., parts of Europe, and around the world have been demonized and feared globally, as the "other," and thus subjected to legal, social, and political discrimination. Even at the highest levels of political discourse, the 2008 U.S. Presidential elections, lslamophobia took center stage as a sizeable number of Americans expressed fear that Barack Obama, the first African American president, is somehow a closet Muslim. Newspaper articles, TV shows, books, popular movies, political debates, and cultural conflicts over immigration and security produce ample evidence of the stigmatization of Islam within dominant culture.

## THE GOAL

- Given the rise of lslamophobia, we work towards countering the phenomena by:
- Supporting graduate and undergraduate research and documentation focused on issues of lslamophobia through mentorship and intellectual exchange
- Establishing an advisory group of a diverse community of faculty working on issues related to lslamophobia
- Providing seed funding for specific research projects that work to counter lslamophobia
- Publishing an annual report documenting the status of lslamophobia within the United States
- Publishing a bi-annual peer reviewed academic periodical focusing on emerging research on lslamophobia
- Hosting an annual conference to discuss and analyze research outcomes
- Conduct research with an agenda that is centered on Muslims in the Diaspora and the intersection between two categories of inquiry:
    1. Race, ethnicity, gender, nationality, and religion,
    2. The global "war on terror," its impact on Muslim communities and American culture, and the use of the war to reintroduce long discredited Eurocentric paradigms

- You have the legal right to have a lawyer present
- You do not have to permit any law enforcement officer to enter your home or office if they do not have warrant
- Remember to ask any investigator who visits you for a business card
- On the street: The police must have a specific reason to approach and question you
- In your car: Clearly say that you do not consent to the search.
- If arrested or taken to a police station: Remember you do not have to talk to any police officer even if you have been arrested or detained.
- Clearly ask for a lawyer and one phone call until they are provided.
- If mistreated: Do not resist arrest

**Law Enforcement**

- Inform the offending party that you believe his/her actions are descriminatory
- Report the discriminatiry action in writing to company management
- Begin documenting
- Ask to be transferred to another department or job site
- DO NOT sign any documents or resign from your powsition without first consulting an attorney
- Contact CAIR at (202) 488-8787
- Contact Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

**At work**

- Document incidents of Islamophobia.
- If the incidents are serious or form a pattern, report them to a teacher or professor.
- Report the incident to CAIR.
- Report the incident to school administrators. If school administrators are the source of the Islamophobia, contact CAIR for advice.
- Arrange meetings with teachers or school administrators to address the issue.

**On Campus**

**On the Internet**

- You have the right to wear religious clothing. You have the right to inform others about your religion.
- You have the right to organize student-led prayers on campus You may have the right to attend Friday prayer You have the right to be excused from school for religious holidays.
- You have the right to be excused from class discussions or activities that you find religiously objectionable.
- You have the right to form an extracurricular Muslim student group.
- You have the right to express political views as long as

**In the Media**

1. Gauge the influence of the source.
2. Document.
3. Report.
4. Contact the editor, station manager, or other official from the edia outlet to express your concern.
5. Leverage social media.

## ISLAMOPHOBIA RESPONSEFLOWCHART
### RESPONSE CHART AND AS OUTLINED

DATA AND SUGGESTIONS FROM

**CAIR**
Council on American-Islamic Relations

**HELP ORGANIZE**
- Leverage social media
- Join or start a local CAIR chapter.
- Attend school board meetings and city council meetings.
- Put together a Ramadan or Hajj display at a local school or library.
- Submit an opinion piece to your newspaper about an issue of local importance.
- Invite local community leaders and the public to a mosque open house.
- Host civic events such as blood drives and health fairs at your local mosque.

Get involved in Local Community

RESPOND

NO

YES

Experience Islamophobia?

A fear or hatred of Islam and Muslims. It has existed for centuries, but has become more explicit, more extreme and more dangerous in the aftermath of the 9/11 terror attacks.

ISLAMOPHOBIA

This phenomenon promotes and perpetuates anti-Muslim stereotyping, discrimination, harassment, and even violence. It negatively impacts the participation of American Muslims in public life.

CHALLENGE ISLAMOPHOBIA

# ISLAMOPHOBIA STUDIES CENTER

**T**he Islamophobia Studies Center (ISC) responds to the challenge of Islamophobia with systematic and empirical approach to the study of the issue, and its impact on the Muslim communities around the world. We seek to collect the data about these incidents of Islamophobia, and provide this data to policy makers, politicians, and community members.

This data will be readily available for users and researchers in open forms, so that the information can be used, formatted and presented in any way to counter Islamophoboa. The data can be used for a range of purposes, including political bills, academia, video production, or seminar material. We want our data to be far-reaching and comprehensive enough to capture unreported anti-Muslim incidents, and bolster the collective awareness of Muslim Americans.

If you or someone you know have been experienced Islamophobia, help us document it. This could be legal, social, or political discrimination. This could also include anti-Muslim prejudice, incidents or hate crimes. We need your help to document the situation and draw the comprehensive picture of Islamophobia.

> "The constant demand on Muslims to condemn every terrorist act, problematize[ation of] Muslim critique of foreign policy, and the constant insinuation of double talk or taqiah... [where] ...the only speech magnified and permitted is the one affirming empire and interventionist policies. Muslims are to be spoken for, and not to speak on their own terms."
>
> *– Dr. Hatem Bazian, ISC Director*

# CAIR 2018 CIVIL RIGHTS REPORT: TARGETED

**C**AIR recorded a 17 percent increase in anti-Muslim bias incidents nationwide in 2017 over 2016. This was accompanied by a 15 percent increase in hate crimes targeting American Muslims, including children, youth, and families, over the same period.

Of particular alarm is the fact that federal government agencies instigated 35 percent of all anti-Muslim bias incidents recorded in 2017. This represents an almost unprecedented level of government hostility toward a religious minority within the United States, and is counter to the American value of religious freedom.

Following the executive order barring the entry of individuals from several Muslim-majority countries into the U.S., the first version of which was signed on January 27, 2017, CAIR received a deluge of cases. Over the course of the year, CAIR recorded 464 incidents pertaining to the unconstitutional Muslim Ban. That is a staggering 18 percent of the total number of anti-Muslim bias incidents documented in 2017.

Overall, the top five types of abuse were:

1. Harassment, a non-violent or non-threatening incident of bias, at 14 percent of cases.
2. Incidents in which the complainant was inappropriately targeted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection accounted for 14 percent.
3. Hate crimes, including physical violence targeting individuals and damage targeting property, making up 12 percent.
4. Cases in which the FBI harassed or otherwise inappropriately targeted the complainant, constituting 10 percent.
5. Employment discrimination – including denial of work, being passed over for promotion, or harassment by a supervisor or other senior staff – accounting for 9 percent.

Additionally, CAIR recorded 144 anti-mosque incidents, including harassment, intimidation, and hate crimes.

**2017**
Anti-Muslim Bias Incidents
Increase Nationwide

**2,213**

**2018**
386 Increase in 2018 in
Anti-Muslim Bias Incidents

**2,599**

**2017**
Anti-Muslim Bias Incidents
Increase Nationwide

**260**

**2018**
40 Additional Anti-Muslim
Bias Incidents

**300**
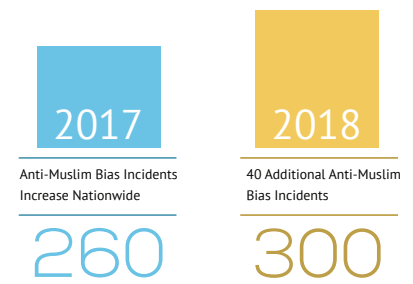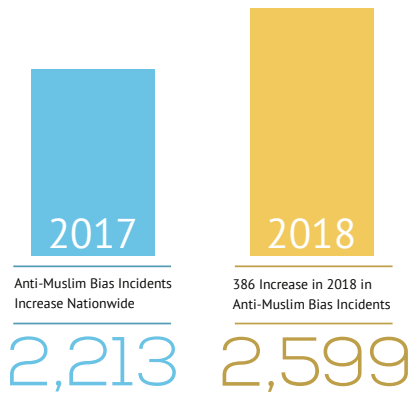
# CHALLENGING ISLAMOPHOBIA IN THE MEDIA

YOU CAN USE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO CONTACT MEDIA OUTLETS WITH FEEDBACK, EITHER TO COMPLIMENT BALANCED PROGRAMS OR CRITICIZE UNBALANCED COVERAGE ON ISLAM.

React quickly to the news of the day.negative coverage or views you support. If possible. have the letter in the hands of an editor on the same day.

- Check online letter submission guidelines for that particular publication.
- Address the letter to the organization & send opinion to editor.
- Keep your letter to no more than 150 to 250 words.
- State the purpose of the letter in 25 words or less.
- Pick one main topic and focus only on that one issue.
- Be authoritative. If possible, speak on behalf of a local organization in which you are involved.
- Give background information on the issue or misconception. Cite impartial and objective sources.
- Offer a reasonable and fair solution to the problem you are addressing in your letter.
- Be passionate or even controversial, but avoid rhetoric and defamation.

**ABC News:** 212-456-7583 | abcnews.go.com

**CBS News:** 212-975-3691 | cbsnews.com

**NBC News:** 212-664-7403 I nbc.com

**CNN:** 404-827-1511 I www.cnn.com

**Fox News:** 212-301-3300 I foxnews.com

**MSNBC:** 201-583-5222 I www.msnbc.msn.com

**PBS:** 202-806-3200 I pbs.org

**NPR:** 202-414-2200 I npr.org

**NY Times:** 212-556-1234 I nytimes.com

**USA Today:** 703-276-3400 I usatoday.com

**WS Journal:** 212-416-2000 I wsj.com

**Washington Post:** 202-334-6000 I washingtonpost.com

**Newsweek:** 212-445-4000 I newsweek.com

**Time:** 212-522-1212 I time.com/time

**Associated Press:** 212-621-1600 I ap.org

**Congress:** 202-224-3121 I senate.gov

**White House:** 202-456-1414 I whitehouse.gov

# 10 RESPONSES TO ISLAMOPHOBIA

**1** Countering lslamophobia is a Collective Responsibility. lslamophobia is a civil society problem and not only a Muslim issue. This means everyone has a role to play in countering and pushing against the rising tide of lslamophobia. Attacks on Muslims and immigrants are carried out in the name of unfounded fear that promotes hatred and bigotry. Once we accept that hatred and bigotry harms the majority, then the responsibility to counter lslamophobia and bigotry falls on everyone. We must work collectively towards achieving a fair, just and inclusive society rooted in defense of constitutional rights and promotion of racial, religious and cultural diversity.

**2** Expose and Marginalize lslamophobic Voices. The current political elites on the local, state and national level must speak forcefully and continuously against lslamophobia and be proactive in exploring opportunities to expose the voices of bigotry and fear. The lslamophobia industry is filled with spokespersons, who serve on organizational boards and are active in various civil society arenas with no impact on their standing. Anyone that engages or support any aspect of the lslamophobia industry must be exposed and marginalized in civil society. Racism, bigotry and lslamophobia has no place in civil society and individuals must be exposed for taking part in it.

**3** Embracing Muslims as Equals. Since the right-wing and the lslamophobia industry attempt to isolate and marginalize Muslims, immigrants and racial minorities, the response from the responsible and visionary political leadership should be the opposite. Here, defending and embracing the Muslim subject does not mean or indicate a lack of critique or silence in relations to Islam but the debate itself has nothing to do with the religion, theology or history of 1.6 billion people. The time is right for political leadership to embrace Muslims as equals and partners in developing the agenda for the betterment of the society. Embracing Muslims means to go beyond and indeed to completely change the engagement approach which up this point has been narrowly constructed through a secularization lens. "[How] little we know about their daily longings, their homely joys and sorrows, of their real shortcomings and the meaning of their crimes," wrote Du Bois about African Americans - a remark which is quite valid about Muslim men and women today and embracing them means an all-encompassing engagement, not only security focused. Indeed, engaging Muslims through the single lens of security is an affirmation of the lslamophobic epistemic rooted in demonization, otherization and fomented fear.

**4** Muslim Women Are Primary Targets. The central and most dominant hostility toward Islam And Muslims finds its articulation and sets-up a battleground on the back and bodies of women who are seen as a symbol of Islam. Muslim women are constructed as oppressed and passive individuals who are dominated and violated by a violent, barbaric and uncivilized Muslim male. While violence and structural discrimination against women is a global reality, nevertheless we must recognize the mobilization of constructed Orientalist paradigm in service of lslamophobic discourses and in reality directed at maintaining global male power hierarchies and marginalizing Muslim women and men alike. At a time when violence, sexism and discrimination against women is receiving a much needed and overdue attention, Muslim women are often left out of this focus as if they belong to a different species altogether.

**5** Build a New Civil and Human Rights Coalition. All groups and individuals committed to reclaiming civil society away from the bigots and fear mongers must work hard to develop a broad-based civil and human rights coalition to carry the political agenda forward. Agents of change must propel a shift away from bigotry and racism, which is only possibly if all those impacted communities and their allies come together in a coalition. The same coalition that made it possible to bring about the Civil Rights Act in 1964 is needed today to protect the gains of the past and articulate a vision for the future. No single group can bring about this change and Muslims alone can't defeat lslamophobia, counter the anti-immigrant venom and stop anti-Black racism in today's America. Rather, a collective and broad-based coalition can and will make a difference. Here, the task for current leadership, is to work toward forging this broad-based coalition and assist in securing resources to bring about its success.

**6** Ignore, Report, and Amplify Credible Voices. The internet and social media are the primary fields where the crudest forms of lslamophobia gets deployed before it makes its way to the mainstream outlets. The lslamophobia industry has been very skilled in figuring out how to benefit from search engine optimization with a host of tools used to maximize their reach. While the lslamophobia industry is made of some 101 groups and organization that has a small number of people involved, nevertheless their footprint and reach far exceeds their numbers due to mastery of social media and the internet. Responding to lslamophobic posts and debating bigots online is the worst strategy and amplifies their messages to a new audience. Countering lslamophobia on the internet requires withholding direct response to negative messaging, document and report these occurrences to social media companies, amplify credible voices from civil society and provide sound research.

**7** Develop a Rapid Civil Society Response Team. The lslamophobia industry is well funded and have national and international infrastructure that works to magnify and intensify the negative lslamophobic campaigns with support from key media outlets. Responding individually or organizationally to anyone or any group is a futile endeavor since the opposition operates in a well-coordinated and highly integrated campaign. The national civil rights and human rights coalition need to develop a Rapid Response Team that includes key participants from all groups. The focus of the team should be on the development of immediate counter measures to the effects of the lslamophobic campaigns or minimize its impact on the mainstream public

**8** Incubating Funds and Endowment to Counter lslamophobia. At a time when the right-wing and the lslamophobia industry have access to millions if not billions of resources to push bigotry and fear in civil society, the response calls for mustering resources and deploy it effectively. Civil society leaders and organization should work to incubate resources or develop endowments that can fund projects and community based initiatives working to counter the rising tide of lslamophobia, fear and bigotry. Certainly, the right-wing and the lslamophobia industry seem to have a bottomless pit of resources directed at achieving their agenda and we might not be able to match it dollar for dollar but effectively deployed resources can go a long way in defeating the forces of bigotry, racism and darkness.

**9** De-Link Defeating lslamophobia from CVE. The lslamophobia industry has constantly made the link between demonization of Muslims and acts of terrorism. The link has been so ingrained in the mind of so many in civil society that the discussion about lslamophobia is often coupled with countering violent extremism initiatives. Here, the net effect of this link makes ending lslamophobia or countering it contingent on defeating or countering violent extremism, which is a faulty association and causation. The lslamophobia industry has constructed an imaginary Islam and Muslim, a singular and undifferentiated sweeping image rooted in violence and antithetical to civilization itself.

**10** Share and Highlight Sound Research. Academic and community based projects have been in the forefront in documenting, researching and sharing the evidence on the impacts of lslamophobia with limited national exposure and recognition. Countering lslamophobia calls for highlighting the work of the unsung heroes working tirelessly and underfunded while constantly under attack from the lslamophobia industry. Centering the work, sharing website links and research being produced by these institutions will have long-standing impacts on civil society. It will also reshape the access nodes for evidence-based information concerning the American Muslim experience with lslamophobia and how best to systematically address it.

## IF YOU DON'T REPORT, **IT DIDN'T HAPPEN.**

Experienced Islamophobia?
Report your incident.
Your data will impact policy.

REPORT

Reports    Contact    Statistics

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

# ISLAMOPHOBIA REPORTING APP

The Islamophobia Reporting App is a proposal that seeks to provide collected data to policy makers and politicians, as well as community members, in order to halt the well-funded anti-Muslim campaigns of today. We want to make the data easily available for users and researchers in multiple forms, so that the information can be formatted best and presented to whichever platform it is being used for; whether that be political bills, academia, video production, or seminar material. Our aim is for the data to be far-reaching and comprehensive enough to

### Reporting
Enabling individuals to report anti-Muslim prejudiced incidents or hate crimes.

### Recent Reports
A real-time updated list of the most recent reports of Islamophobia filtered by date, incident type and location.

### Notifications
A medium of communication regarding Islamophobia, comprised of emergency notices, calls to action, and events.

# HOW IT WORKS

1. **Incident Details**
   Report the incident and details pertaining to the incident, such as date, time, location, incident type, description, etc.

2. **Demographic Data**
   When collecting data, shaping a holistic statistical image involves getting to know who's reporting, This involves, ethnicity, gender, age group, etc.

3. **Contact Information**
   100% Confidential. We require that you submit your name and email along with your report to avoid spam and to contact you if needed.

### Statisitcs

A statistical picture of Islamophobia with interchangeable x and y coordinates to illustrate the depth of the Islamophobia phenomenon.

### Record of Submissions

A secure location for your reported incidents, accessible and available to you and you only.

### Contact

In the time of need, whether general questions or concerns, this app serves as a direct link to the Islamophobia Studies Center,
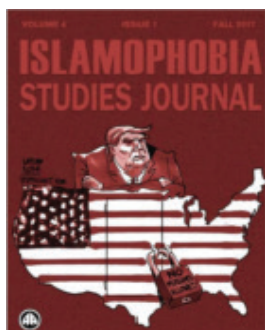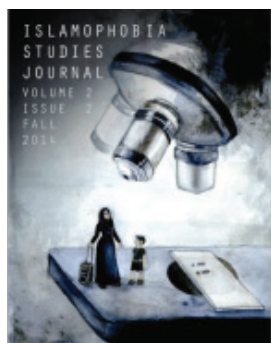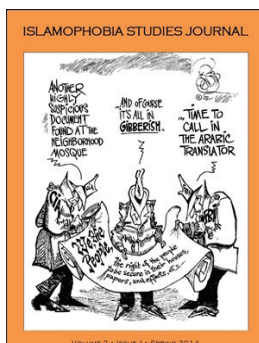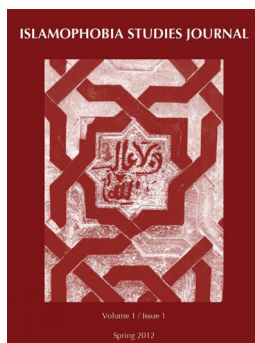
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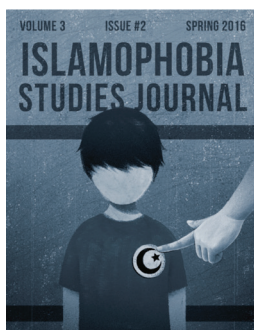

Spring 2016
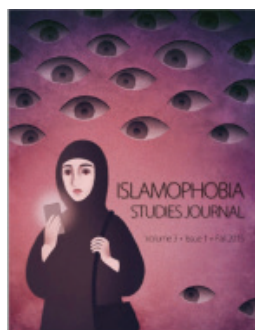

Fall 2015


Fall 2014


Spring 2014


Spring 2012

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ISLAMOPHOBIA STUDIES JOURNAL

JSTOR.ORG/JOURNAL/ISLASTUDJ

# ISLAMOPHOBIA STUDIES **JOURNAL**

## ABOUT THE JOURNAL

The Islamophobia Studies Journal (ISJ) is a bi-annual publication that focuses on the critical analysis of Islamophobia and its multiple manifestations in our contemporary moment.ISJ is an interdisciplinary and multi-lingual academic journal that encourages submissions that theorizes the historical. political. economic. and cultural phenomenon of Islamophobia in relation to the construction. representation. and articulation of "Otherness." The ISJ is an open scholarly exchange.exploring new approaches. methodologies. and contemporary issues.

## ABOUT IRDP

IRDP short for Islamophobia Research & Documentation Project is under the Center for Race and Gender (CRG),an interdisciplinary research center at the University of California, Berkeley that fosters explorations of race and gender and their intersections. Specifically, they facilitate  on-going research projects through hosting working groups and cutting edge projects, such as the Islamophobia

# 10<sup>th</sup> **Annual** Islamophobia Conference

### April 19-21, 2019
### UC Berkeley School of Law

Interested in participating or presenting your
research at the conference?
Contact us at info@iphobiacenter.org

ISLAMOPHOBIA STUDIES CENTER
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

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the Islamophobia Studies Center

## CREDITS

This document is designed and paid for by the
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