

actionagainstislamophobia.org.au



action against
islamophobia

Reporting a
Hate Crime



What is a hate crime?

In Western Australia (WA), a hate crime refers to a criminal offense committed against a person or property that is motivated by prejudice.

These crimes can be committed for a myriad of reasons however but are committed against a person of a certain Race, Ethnicity, Religion, Sexual Orientation or Disability.

What this guide does:

Being a victim of such a crime is always daunting. Most people try to premeditate or anticipate what they would do if they ever found themselves in a similar situation.

We have included a simple guide below which you should familiarise yourself with. It will provide a general sense of direction on what to do should you or someone you know be a victim of a Hate crime in Western Australia.



Are you in Immediate Danger?

Yes

Seek safety in a public space OR
Call 000 if safe to do so

If safe to do so, document/record everything in the encounter. Collecting data is essential. This includes:

- Conversations
- Physical injuries
- Injuries can also be psychological such as shock
- Note your reactions too if possible

File a police report and
consult with a Solicitor

Consult with a GP to assess your
physical/mental health

No

Is someone you know
in immediate danger?

Do not engage with the attacker.
This can be dangerous. Remove yourself
and friend from the situation.

Report the hate crime to the relevant
authorities with all the data you have
collected.

- Reporting the crime at Crime Stoppers
- Call the Police Assistance Line on 131 444
- Or visit your nearest police station or police area command

Your community is your asset. USE IT

- Action Against Islamophobia (AAI) is a reporting mechanism founded by the Australian National Imams Council (ANIC)
- ANIC is the peak body in representing the interests of Muslims in Australia
- If you are a victim of hate crime, you can report it to (02) 8377 4199 or online at www.actionagainstislamophobia.org.au
- How do I report? It is simple, just report the facts and if possible, add the case number the police give you

Experienced a Hate Crime?

If you are in immediate danger or risk of injury, contact emergency services at 000. If safe, contact a friend or relative and seek assistance. If possible, you will need to report the hate crime to Crime Stoppers. Crime stoppers is an independent Non-Profit which works closely with Police.

Other methods of reporting include:

- Reporting the crime at **Crime Stoppers**
- Call the Police Assistance Line on **131 444**
- Or visit your nearest police station. Find your police area command and nearest police station.

Additional Things to Consider

- Document the incident and note, photograph everything that relates to the event.
 - Seek Medical and Mental health Assistance.
- A state of shock can be common, so it is recommended to seek assistance as soon as possible.

What to expect when you report

When you call the police, you can tell them where you are and what you experienced or witnessed. When you report to the police, they will request your details. You can choose not to provide these details at the time of reporting however, this will likely affect how police can proceed with an investigation. Your report helps to paint a larger picture of what is happening in local areas and shows patterns of behaviour that we can address.

Witnessed a Hate Crime?

The WA Police recommends calling **000** if there is an emergency. Do not approach the offender if they are still present. Once safe, ask the person if they are okay and listen to them and aid if possible. This can include helping them contact a friend, relative or if necessary.

You do not need to be a victim to make a report of a hate crime that has taken place.

The Role of your community

Remaining observant of Hate Crimes is not your duty to carry out alone. It is the responsibility of a collection of people, NGOs and community organisations to keep a watchful eye and affect change. Whether this be through direct action like reporting the hate crime itself or working through Advocacy and Community organisations to push for legislative and policy change. Organisations you can speak and reach out to include:

The **Muslim Legal Network** is an example of a professional association of legal practitioners who offer networking opportunities, mentoring, community legal education workshops, legal referral services, opportunities to assist in law reform submissions. Although largely comprised of legal practitioners, they provide a Legal Referral Service operated by volunteers and work extensively with community legal centres.

The Australian Muslim Advocacy Network (AMAN). A national advocacy organisation that upholds human and civil rights, religious freedoms, justice, and peace. More specifically, the network pushes for policy development, law reform, and through using complaints, parliamentary processes and litigation.

The Role of the Police

- The Police in WA have an obligation to uphold the law and ensure fairness for all members of society.
- The WA Police Force's Hate Crime Unit collaborates with all Police Area Commands and Districts to investigate hate-motivated incidents.

A close-up photograph of a woman wearing a grey hijab, looking slightly to the side while holding a black mobile phone to her ear. The image is framed with a white, torn-edge border.

See it?

Experience it?

Report it

Keep in Mind:

There are different forms of Hate Crime. Both Islamophobia and Hate crimes in general can manifest in different forms. Each may vary in severity but have identical root motivations.

Type of Offence	Who to contact
Physical Violence	The most severe expression of a hate crime. Victims should contact. - 000 - Report online at crimestoppers.com.au or 1800 333 000 - Report in person at any police station.
Verbal Abuse	Although not as severe there are still avenues where verbal abuse can & should be reported. Victims should contact. - Report online at crimestoppers.com.au or 1800 333 000 - Report in person at any police station.
Threatening letters/phone calls/social media content	If you or someone you know experiences online abuse, you can go to the eSafety Commissioner (eSafety) - Australia's regulator for online safety. - For cyberbullying and adult cyber abuse: Report to the online service or social platform first. If they don't remove the content within 48 hours, report to eSafety. - For image-based abuse or illegal and restricted content: Report to eSafety immediately. www.esafety.gov.au
Not sure if you've been discriminated against?	Australian Human Rights Commission - They protect and promote human rights in Australia and internationally. They offer free and informal enquires and complaint service to deal with unlawful discrimination and racial and sexual harassment issues. National Information Services link below: https://humanrights.gov.au/complaints Western Australian Equal Opportunity Commission - They have an enquiry service that can provide you with information about discrimination. You can also lodge a complaint with them if you have experienced discrimination, harassment and victimisation in Western Australia. http://www.eoc.wa.gov.au/
Are you a victim of a specific Hate Crime Like Islamophobia?	All hate crimes are poor conduct however the reporting mechanisms and peak bodies for each category can often vary. This can confuse many people. - When it comes to Islamophobia, there is a robust community and agencies which have the duty to look out for you. This includes the Australian National Imams Council (ANIC). - ANIC is the peak body which aims to provide religious and spiritual leadership to Muslims through Community outreach such as Counselling and teaching programs. - ANIC also keeps a watchful eye out for Anti-Muslim sentiment and hate. This is done through its reporting mechanism, Action Against Islamophobia (AAI). If you are a victim of a Hate Crime, please reach out directly on (02) 8377 4199 or online at https://www.actionagainstislamophobia.org.au/

Reporting a Hate Crime



We're Here to Help:

Action Against Islamophobia (AAI) Supporting families in responding to and addressing Islamophobia in schools.

Telephone: (02) 8377 4199

Email: support@actionagainstislamophobia.org.au

actionagainstislamophobia.org.au

Suite 3 20 Worth Street
Chullora NSW 2190 Australia



See It? Experience It? Report It.

Scan QR Code to Report

