



Action Against  
**Islamophobia**

Empowerment . Advocacy . Justice

Fact Sheet

# Responding to Online Islamophobia



## National Fact Sheet – Responding to Online Islamophobia

All people in Australia are entitled to protection against discrimination and racism under various state and federal laws. Online Islamophobia includes anti-Muslim hate, prejudice, discrimination, abuse or harassment occurring through digital and online platforms. Examples include hateful comments, threats, misinformation, cyberbullying and discriminatory content. Online Islamophobia can constitute a criminal offence if it is very serious or harmful. However, online hate can be reported whether it is criminal in nature or not. **Please read through the information below to help you understand the best ways to respond to online Islamophobia.**

### Capture the Evidence

- Take clear screenshots or record the offensive content
- Copy and save the web links (URLs) to the content
- Gather as much information on the account's handle name or username

### Report it to Regulatory Bodies

- Start by reporting the offensive content to the **social media platform** (e.g., Meta, YouTube...)
- Report the content to the **eSafety Commissioner** if it is likely to cause serious harm

### eSafety Commissioner

The purpose of the eSafety Commissioner is to “help safeguard Australians at risk of online harms and to promote safer, more positive online experiences” ([eSafety Commissioner](#)). This includes harm that is perpetuated on the basis of a person's Muslim identity. The eSafety Commissioner **will not** investigate online harm, threats, bullying, intimidation and harassment directed at groups of people or communities. **It will only respond** to online misconduct directed at an **individual**.

Areas that the eSafety Commissioner can address include:

1. **Cyberbullying**
  - Authority to remove serious cyberbullying targeting a child
2. **Adult cyber-abuse**
  - Pathway for material to be removed
  - High threshold of serious harm
3. **Image-based abuse**
  - Removal of explicit or intimate images
4. **Illegal or restricted content**
  - Removal of illegal content
  - Protection from exposure to harmful content
  - Content in Australia and overseas can be investigated

Other ways that the eSafety Commissioner may be able to assist is through rapid website blocking to protect Australians from extremely harmful material.

## Report it to Police

- Report the matter online to the **Australian Federal Police (AFP)** using this link:  
[forms.afp.gov.au/online\\_forms/report-commonwealth-crime](https://forms.afp.gov.au/online_forms/report-commonwealth-crime)
  - The AFP portal is the best place to report online incidents as most online offences are covered by Commonwealth legislation.
  - When completing the form, choose “*Hate crime*” as the type of Commonwealth crime you would like to report.
- Report the matter at **your local police station**. Ensure you have evidence of the content with you including screenshots, videos, USB drive for large files.
- Police will take the report even if the content does not constitute a criminal offence
  - If the content is not criminal, police will record the matter as a Hate Incident.
  - If the content is criminal, police and the Courts will take action to gather sufficient evidence to lay charges.
  - The matter will be directed to the relevant police unit which guards hate or race related matters if available in the state.

## Report it to Action Against Islamophobia (AAI)

Reporting to AAI helps:

- support the victim;
- document the incident;
- identify trends;
- assist with referrals to police, legal services and support services where appropriate.

**Report here:** [Report an Incident to AAI](#)

**Support Line:** (02) 8377 4199