

National Fact Sheet: Responding to Intentional Damage or Graffiti

All people in Australia are entitled to protection against discrimination and racism under various state and federal laws. Intentional damage or graffiti can involve the intentional or reckless destruction or defacement of property belonging to another person. These offences may be motivated by Islamophobia and may amount to criminal offences with legal consequences. Accordingly, it is important to report incidents of intentional damage or graffiti. Please read the information below to understand the best ways to respond to intentional damage or graffiti motivated by anti-Muslim hate.



Turn over for strategies →



An incident is occurring now:

- If there is an immediate threat or violence, call 000.
- If it is safe to do so, gather information on:
 - A description of the offender.
 - Verbal or physical conduct, including exact words, symbols or gestures.
 - CCTV footage, if available.
 - The exact nature of the damage or wording.
 - The possible date and time range of the incident.
 - Contact details of witnesses.
- Once it is safe to do so, attend a police station to report the incident.

The incident has been reported to police:

- Police may direct you to the appropriate police station to report the incident and, if necessary, transfer the matter to the station responsible for the area where it occurred.
- It is important to report the incident as soon as possible, as CCTV footage may be automatically erased within 8–28 days.
- A police officer will be allocated to investigate the incident:
 - Police will gather evidence and lay charges where appropriate.
 - To identify an offender, there must be sufficient legal evidence based on verifiable records or other admissible evidence.
 - The courts will determine the final sentence or penalties.
 - Where available, the matter may be referred to the relevant police unit responsible for hate- or race-related matters in that state or territory.
 - If the court accepts that the intentional damage or graffiti was motivated by hate, the hate motivation may be considered an aggravating factor when determining the sentence.

Report it to Action Against Islamophobia (AAI)

Reporting to AAI helps to:

- 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