Islamophobia Awareness Month

A time for reflection & conversation



This Year's Theme is
Seeds of Change

The goal of this year's campaign is to emphasise the importance of how small actions contribute to big change.

We believe there are small steps everyone can take to raise awareness.

Whether it's starting a conversation, participating in training or making a donation, we can all plant seeds that help tackle Islamophobia.



Imam Rayhan

Luton Council of Mosques

Contributions

Muslims in the UK contribute **over £31 billion** annually to the economy.



More than 46,000 Muslims work in the NHS, of which 13,000 are Doctors (**~10%** of the medical workforce).

In the NHS Muslims are referred to Prevent **eight** times more often than non-Muslims – Runnymede, 2024



Since Mohamed Salah's signing to Liverpool FC, there has been a **18.9% drop** in the number of hate crimes in the Merseyside Area, and the number of anti-Muslim tweets posted by the club's supporters **halved.**

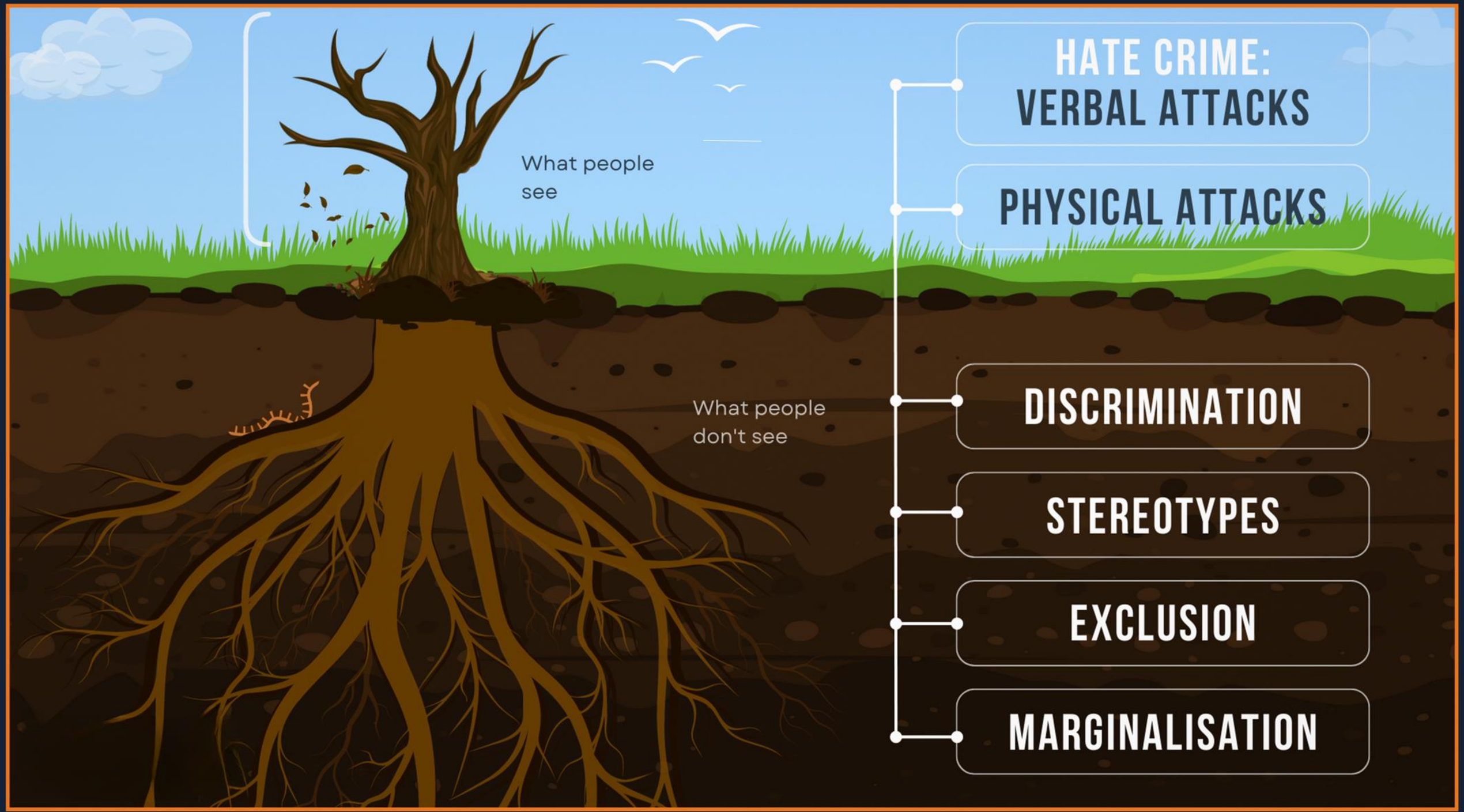
Over 230,000 Muslims study at UK universities, around **8-9%** of the total student population.

Fundraising UK data shows that **a third of British Muslims** donate to food banks.





WHAT IS ISLAMOPHOBIA?


What people see
What people don't see
HATE CRIME:
VERBAL ATTACKS
PHYSICAL ATTACKS
DISCRIMINATION
STEREOTYPES
EXCLUSION
MARGINALISATION

DEFINITIONS

"Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expression of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness"

APPG on British Muslims

appg

Proposed in November 2018

There is still no single agreed definition of Islamophobia, albeit various civic, social, legal and political sources have attempted to define it.

This is essential for recognising, addressing, and combating the systemic discrimination and hate faced by Muslims in the UK.

WHY IS ISLAMOPHOBIA AWARENESS IMPORTANT?

ISLAMOPHOBIA AWARENESS MONTH

In the year ending March 2023, **over 4 in 10 (44%)** of religious hate crime offences were **targeted against Muslims**, more than any other religious group.



Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2022 to 2023 second Edition: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crimeengland-and-wales-2022-to-2023/hate-crime-england-andwales-2022-to-2023

ISLAMOPHOBIA
AWARENESS MONTH



A review of over 500,000 worldwide news articles mentioning ‘ Muslims' or ‘Islam' over 30 years (1996 to 2016) found that **over three-quarters were ‘negative’** with similar figures between countries; (USA 80%, UK 79%, Canada 79% and Australia 77%).

Bleich. E. and Maurits Van Der Veen. A. (2022), ‘Covering Muslims, American Newspapers in Comparative Perspective,’ Oxford University Press.

ISLAMOPHOBIA
AWARENESS MONTH

Over 70% of Young Muslims say they experienced mental health struggles and also say that they have been victims of Islamophobia.



BCBN, 2021: ‘Hidden Survivors, Uncovering the Mental Health Struggles of Young British Muslims’, http://bcbn.org.uk/Hidden_Survivors_Full_Report.pdf

FAR-RIGHT RIOTS

ISLAMOPHOBIA AWARENESS MONTH



Almost **three in four** Britons are worried about the far-right after the riots.



This shows **Islamophobia and Racism is real** and we need to stand up to it.

Source: The Guardian, Almost three in four Britons worried about far right after riots, Thursday 22nd August 2024, https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/aug/22/almost-three-in-four-britons-worried-about-far-right-after-riots?utm_term=Autofeed&CMP=twt_gu&utm_medium&utm_source=Twitter#Echobox=1724299923

If this happened in your community, what actions would you take?

Misconceptions

What drives Islamophobia?

DAILY EXPRESS

January 2006

Muslims Tell British: Go to Hell!

This headline generalised anti-Western protests by a fringe group of individuals, framing it as representative of the Muslim population.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

March 2014

Muslim plot to take over schools

"Trojan Horse" affair in Birmingham, where schools were falsely accused of being part of an Islamist conspiracy.

THE Sun

November 2015

1 in 5 Brit Muslims' Sympathy for Jihadis

The headline misrepresented survey data, and the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) **later** ruled that it was misleading.

THE TIMES

August 2014

Muslim Sex Grooming Gang Preyed on 1,400 Girls

Following the Rotherham child sexual exploitation scandal, the religious identity of was unnecessarily emphasised.

Which of these myths do you think is most harmful? Why?

Who suffers from Islamophobia?

Direct effects on Muslims

- Mental health
- Barriers to employment & education

Wider community impact

- Erodes social cohesion
- Increased polarisation



British Muslims are cast as ‘outsiders’

UK urged to engage with Muslim groups after Islamophobic rioting

Mosques continue to be targeted and Muslim section of cemetery vandalised, as Keir Starmer called on to restore ties with Muslim Council of Britain



Police officers and locals stand guard outside the Abdullah Quilliam Mosque in Liverpool on 2 August 2024 (AFP/Ian Cooper)

- Demonising peaceful protests as ‘hate marches’ [1]
- Labelling people marching in solidarity with Palestinian rights as ‘Islamist extremists’ [2]
- Even Muslim political participation in the July 2024 general elections, was vilified for behaving in purportedly sectarian and ‘undemocratic’ ways.

[1] ‘Suella Braverman calls pro-Palestine demos ‘hate marches’, Guardian, 30 October,
[2] ‘Islamist extremists must be stopped from intimidating UK MPs, says Jenrick’, Independent, 22 February

British Muslims are cast as ‘outsiders’

	THREAT
- Media reports about terrorism - Prevent strategy	SECURITY
- Integration debates - Dress considered incompatible	CULTURAL
- Political rhetoric - Social attitudes exploiting fear	DEMOCRATIC

How do you think Islamophobia affects community trust in public services?

How can you be a Changemaker?

❶

Educate Yourself and Others

- Provide diversity training.
- Learn about Islam and Muslims beyond stereotypes.

❷

Policy Advocacy

- Push for inclusive policies in public services.
- Support anti-hate crime initiatives.

❸

Foster Safe Spaces

- Encourage dialogue in workplaces and communities.

Reporting

EMERGENCY - DIAL **999**
NON-EMERGENCY - DIAL **101**

IRU
ISLAMOPHOBIA RESPONSE UNIT

THEIRU.ORG.UK
020 3904 6555

childline DIAL **0800 1111**

MWN
MUSLIM WOMENS NETWORK
HELPLINE

DIAL **0800 999 5786**
OR **0303 999 5786**

STOPHATEUK.ORG



LUTON IS NO PLACE FOR HATE