

Islamophobia & Its Impact

Presentation Outline

- Islamophobia and its roots
- Impact of Islamophobia on students
- Educator tools for countering Islamophobia
 - Start with yourself
 - Teaching tips and resources
 - Interacting with Muslim students and families



Islamophobia & Its Roots

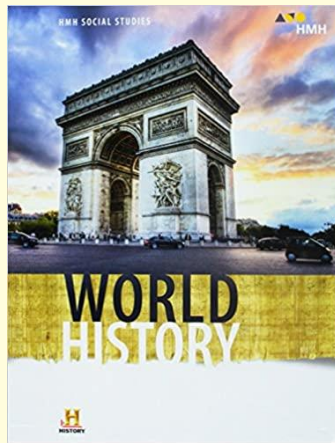
What is Islamophobia

Islamophobia is anti-Muslim racism, which portrays Muslims and their culture as follows:

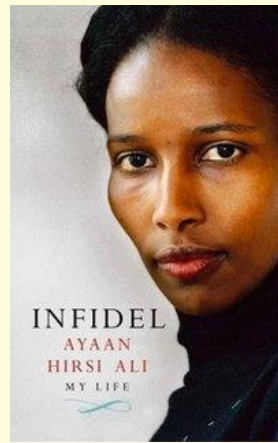
- Monolithic and static
- Separate and "other"
- Inferior to the West
- Barbaric, irrational, primitive, and sexist
- Violent, aggressive, supportive of terrorism
- Engaged in a clash of civilizations
- A political ideology



Islamophobia as Systemic Racism



Education



Literature



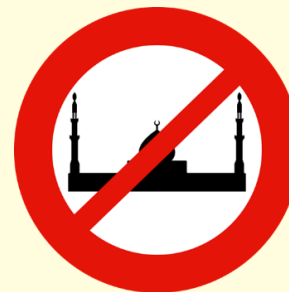
Media



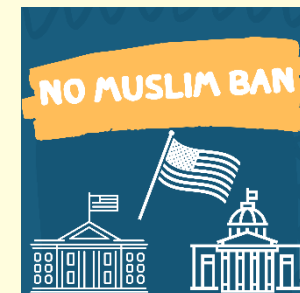
Hollywood



Video Games



Islamophobic
Campaigns



Government
Policy

Impact of Islamophobia on Muslim Students and Their Families

Bullying of Muslim Students



- [2020 ISPU survey](#) found that 51% of Muslim families say their child was bullied for their faith, double the level of families in the general public (27%).
- According to a [CAIR report](#) about Muslim students in California, 40% of students report being bullied because they are Muslim.
 - Verbal bullying often associates Muslims with terrorism using common insults such as “*bomber,*” “*killer,*” “*Allahu Akbar,*” or comments such as, “*Hey, gonna bomb the school now?*”
 - Girls wearing hijab often have their scarves offensively touched.
 - 35% of students report seeing posts containing offensive comments about Islam or Muslims on social media.

Impact on Muslim Students



- The impact of persistent bullying and harassment includes:
 - Depression
 - Anxiety
 - Sleep difficulties
 - Poor school adjustment
- Muslim students describe their experiences in their own words:
 - “[My] teacher stereotyp[ed] Muslims and call[ed] on me to be ‘expert’ to explain horrific acts carried out by people in rural places of some Muslim countries I had never been to.”*
 - “A lot of my classmates in 4th grade thought that Muslims shouldn’t be allowed in the country and one person said to me that Muslims are terrorists.”*
 - “People made fun of my religion and name. I would go home and tell my mom and cry in my room.”*
 - “When I want to play with anyone they run away or they bully me or they say I can’t play.”*
 - “I heard another student call a Muslim student a terrorist and felt scared to portray my faith.”*

Countering Islamophobia for Educators

Calls to Action

- Start with yourself: challenge your assumptions
- Apply teaching tips and recommended resources
- Apply cultural sensitivity to Muslim students

Educator Resources

K-12 Educator Training



- Addresses challenges faced by Muslim students in current environment
- Provides solutions, including school policies to prevent bullying
- Concludes with guidelines for teaching about religion in general and educational resources for teaching about Muslim history and culture.

ING's Presentations and Panels Supplementing Content Standards 6-12

Islamic Speakers Bureau:
www.ing.org/presentation

- *Getting to Know American Muslims and Their Faith*
- *Muslim Contributions to Civilization*
- *A History of Muslims in America*
- *Muslim Women Beyond the Stereotypes*



ING's Presentations and Panels

Supplementing Content Standards 6-12

Interfaith Speakers Bureau:

www.ing.org/panel

- *Living the Faith*
- *Shared Values Among Faiths*
- *Religion and Pluralism*
- *Religion and Extremism*
- *Women and Religion*
- *Peacemaking in Religion*
- *Separation of Church and State*
- *Three Abrahamic Faiths*
- *Muslim-Jewish Panel*



ING's Presentations and Panels

Supplementing Content Standards 6-12

Intercultural Speakers Bureau:
www.ing.org/intercultural

- *Understanding the Origins and Impact of Bigotry in the U.S. Today and What We Can Do About It*
- *What We Want You to Know About Us – Americans of African, Hispanic, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian, Muslim and Jewish Backgrounds*



ING's Online Educator Curricula Supplementing Content Standards 6-12

- Online curricula:

www.ing.org/academic

- *Countering Racism (14 lesson plans)*
- *Getting to Know American Muslims & Their Faith*
- *A History of Muslims in America*
- *Muslim Contributions to Civilization*
- *Muslim Women Beyond the Stereotypes*
- *Emir Abd El-Kader: A Muslim Hero for Our Time*
- *Multi-faith: Living the Faith and Shared Values*

- Each curriculum includes presentation notes, discussion questions, activities, and films.



A History of Muslims in America



LESSON THREE: Enslaved West African Muslims

Presentation Content, Discussion Questions and Activities

Online Answers to 150+ Frequently Asked Questions About Muslims



Muslims and Islam



Sharia

www.ing.org/all-faqs

School and Classroom Tools

www.ing.org/educator-toolkit