



IMPROVING COMMUNITY SAFETY

Ways you can help your community:

- Join your community's neighbourhood watch program
- Attend community events so you are aware of the latest news and issues
- Call the non-emergency number if you see any suspicious activity in your neighbourhood
- Toronto non-emergency number: 416-808-2222

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IN CANADA!

- Freedom of Religion
- Freedom of thought, belief, opinion
- **The right to life, liberty, and security**

For More Information, Contact:

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STREET & COMMUNITY SAFETY

STREET SAFETY

- Deals with the skills an individual needs to safely conduct themselves in dangerous situations
- These skills are especially important for individuals living in risky neighbourhoods



COMMUNITY SAFETY

- Deals with the feeling of safety that the inhabitants of a community experiences
- Programs such as 'Neighbourhood Watch' are part of the collective safety that a community provides

STREET SMARTS

Things to note when in an unknown neighbourhood:

- Dress modestly, do not wear excessive jewellery or flaunt expensive clothing
- Always know your destination so you do not look lost
- Find the nearest subway station; transit systems are easy to navigate

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ISLAMOPHOBIA

Islamophobia is the dislike of or prejudice against Muslims and Islam. It describes irrational thought processes, harmful actions, and overall discriminatory treatments that demean an entire group of individuals because of their beliefs.

ISLAMOPHOBIA VS. XENOPHOBIA

Xenophobia is the intense or irrational dislike of people from other countries, whereas Islamophobia focuses specifically on the believers of Islam.

AM I BEING TARGETED?

If you ever fall victim to hate crimes, harassment, intimidation, employment issues, denial of a service, and/or bullying for being a Muslim, you are being targeted.

ISLAMOPHOBIA AND SAFETY

Islamophobia makes achieving street and community safety difficult for Muslims. Wearing religious clothing such as hijabs makes Muslims highly visible. Harassment (verbal and physical) is on the rise toward Muslims; this is extremely prevalent in the transit system, even in large multicultural cities such as Toronto.

If I Am Targeted...

There are numerous options that are available to de-escalate an Islamophobic situation. Determining which method to apply depends on the specific scenario and what you deem as the most appropriate course of action.

SAY SOMETHING!

Speak out! Letting the attacker know how you feel can help, especially if the incident is taking place in a professional setting.

REPORT THE INCIDENT

If you ever feel threatened or unsafe, immediately call 911. You can also report the incident to the Human Rights Commission in your area.

FLAG IT

There are policies in place on most social media platforms to remove content that breaches the platform's terms of use.

TALK TO SOMEONE

Reach out to an authority figure whenever possible, be it a teacher, bus driver, or human resources department, if you believe it can help deescalate the situation.

DO NOTHING

Often, people provoke others simply to get a reaction. Walking away is sometimes the best alternative in these situations.

If Others Are Targeted...

Any kind of support, no matter how minimal it may seem, can truly go a long way. Artist, Maeril, developed an excellent guide on what to do if you ever witness Islamophobic harassment in public:

STEP 1: Engage in Conversation

Go to the targeted individual, sit beside them, and say hello.

STEP 2: Pick a Random Subject and Start Discussing It

It can be about movies, books, the weather...just about anything.

STEP 3: Keep Building the Safe Space

Keep eye contact with them and don't acknowledge the attacker's presence; the absence of response from the two of you will push them to leave the area shortly.

Step 4: Continue the conversation until the attacker leaves, and escort the targeted individual to a safe place if necessary

Bring them to a neutral area where they can recollect themselves; respect their wishes if they tell you that they are okay and just want to go.