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## ***Islamophobia: Revisiting Prophetic Teachings in the Modern Context of Intolerance***

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## Islamophobia: Revisiting Prophetic Teachings in the Modern Context of Intolerance

Muhammad Saleem Sarwar<sup>1</sup>

### ABSTRACT:

*Islamophobia is the term used to describe the irrational fear, prejudice, and discrimination that are directed against Islam and Muslims. It is a common occurrence in the modern world. It is crucial to review the timeless lessons of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and their applicability in combating contemporary bigotry in light of the growing Islamophobia. This paper examines the principles of tolerance, compassion and social justice espoused by the Prophet Muhammad, as documented in Islamic sources such as the Qur'an and Hadith. Through a critical examination of the Prophet's major teachings and deeds, this research aims to shed light on the moral framework that Islam offers for fostering harmonious coexistence and combating prejudice. The paper looks into the core reasons of Islamophobia, such as political rhetoric, historical inaccuracies, and media misrepresentation, and examines how these things lead to the persistence of hostility towards Muslims. It emphasizes how crucial community involvement, interfaith communication and education are in combating Islamophobia and promoting understanding among people of different faiths. This dissertation tries to show the ongoing significance of Islamic principles in opposing discrimination and fostering peaceful coexistence through a comparative analysis of prophetic teachings and modern forms of Islamophobia. By equating the Prophet's handling of diversity with contemporary issues, it highlights the universal principles of justice, compassion, and human dignity ingrained in Islam.*

**Keywords:** Islamophobia, Tolerance, Intolerance, Contemporary context, Prejudice, Peaceful coexistence, interfaith dialogue, social justice.

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## Introduction

The Muslim Ummah faces the most dangerous cultural challenge in the contemporary era, known as Islamophobia. This phenomenon leads to Islam being targeted with criticism worldwide, and Muslims facing defamation. Below is an exploration of the meanings and definitions of the term Islamophobia, its history, causes, and potential solutions in the modern context.

Islamophobia is a compound term comprising two words:

- Islam
- Phobia

Islam is a monotheistic religion revealed to humanity through the last Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad bin Abdullah bin Abdul Muttalib (peace be upon him), based on the teachings of the final divine book, the Quran, and the Hadith of the Prophet (peace be upon him). Islam began from a worldly and religious perspective during the 23-year period from 610 CE to 632 CE when the divine book, the Quran, was revealed to Muhammad (peace be upon him) by Allah. The term "Islam" linguistically is derived from the root "S-L-M," and it belongs to the form IV verb pattern. Its literal meanings include:

- Being free and protected from apparent and hidden defects.
- Peace and security.
- Safety.
- Obedience and submission.<sup>2</sup>

In terms of terminology, the meaning of Islam can be summarized as:

"And the meaning of this word is submission or surrender (to Allah)."<sup>3</sup>

Additionally, Ibn Manzur defines the terminological meaning of "Islam" as:

”والاسلام من الشريعة: اظهار الخضوع و اظهار الشريعة والتزام ما أتى به النبي ﷺ“<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Dāirah Ma'ārif Islāmiyah, Dānishgāh Jāmi'ah Punjāb Lahore, 35/21

<sup>3</sup> Dāirah Ma'ārif Islāmiyah, Dār al-Ma'arifah, Bayrūt, Lubnān, 151/2

<sup>4</sup> Ibn Manzūr, Afrīqī, Lisān al-'Arab, Dār al-Šādir Bayrūt, 1414H, 293/12



"And Islam, according to the Sharia, means the manifestation of humility, the expression of adherence to the Sharia, and the commitment to follow all the commands brought by the Prophet (ﷺ)."

**Phobia** is a Greek word meaning "to fear." In English, it is used with the same meaning. According to the American Psychiatric Association:

"A phobia is a type of anxiety disorder defined by a persistent and excessive fear of an object or situation."<sup>5</sup>

Phobia refers to a state of anxiety or apprehension where a person experiences excessive fear of a specific object or situation.

"Islamophobia is the fear of, hatred of, or prejudice against the religion of Islam or Muslims in general."<sup>6</sup>

Islamophobia refers to the fear, hatred, or prejudice against the religion of Islam or Muslims in general.

From the above definitions, it is clear that Islamophobia means instilling fear of Islam in non-Muslims to the extent that they feel terror and dread upon hearing the name of Islam. Many non-Muslims are incited against Islam, resulting in the instillation of fear towards Islam in their hearts. This process is termed Islamophobia. Islamophobia is a relatively modern term created to defame Islam and Muslims. Its purpose is to unjustly propagate fear, racial discrimination, and religious prejudice, thereby distancing the world from Islam.

- **The Origin of the Term Islamophobia:**

The use of this term, based on hostility towards Islam, first appeared in the French language in 1910 and in the English language in 1923. In 1997, an attempt was made to define this term when the British writer Runnymede Trust, in their report titled "Islamophobia: A Challenge for Us All," defined it as an excessive fear of Islam, which consequently leads

<sup>5</sup> American Psychiatric Association (2013), Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (5th ed.), Arlington: American Psychiatric Publishing, p. 190

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.lexico.com/definition/islamophobia>



to a fear that engenders hatred and hostility against Muslims in people's hearts.<sup>7</sup>

- **Islamophobia and Western Countries:**

A scholarly examination of the current Western countries reveals that European nations are grappling with a crisis larger than the financial crisis, namely, the crisis of the degradation of human values. This crisis is partly expressed through the increasing animosity and hatred towards Muslims. Public opinion polls have shown that in several European countries, there exists fear, enmity, prejudice, negative thinking, and doubts about Muslims and Islamic culture.

These Islamophobic prejudices are often coupled with a racist mentality, which targets not only Muslims from Turkey, Arab countries, and South Asia but all Muslims in general. In many European countries, Muslims from these backgrounds face overt discrimination in the fields of employment and education.

- **A Glance at Some Major Incidents of Islamophobia:**

As mentioned in the above lines, Islamophobia essentially involves attempts to defame Islam out of fear of it. Below is a review of some significant recent incidents driven by Islamophobia.

**Publication of Blasphemous Cartoons:** In European countries such as Switzerland, France, and Norway, the deliberate insult of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is carried out under government patronage and is termed freedom of expression. When the Muslim world reacts to these incidents, the global media portrays this reaction in a way that brands Islam and Muslims as terrorists. Last September, the infamous magazine Charlie Hebdo republished the inflammatory cartoons from 2015, which resulted in a strong reaction across the Islamic world. On the other hand, Western countries tend to honor and reward the so-called

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<sup>7</sup> Iqbal Zafar (2020). Islamophobia: History, Context and Deconstruction. B1/1-1 Mohan Cooperative Industrial Area, Mathura Road New Delhi 110 044: SAGE Publications Pvt Ltd., P.40



writers who make vile attacks on Islam under the guise of freedom of expression.<sup>8</sup>

**European Union and the Perpetrators of Blasphemy:** In April of this year, the European Union demanded that Pakistan release individuals convicted of blasphemy, who had been sentenced by Pakistani courts after investigations and trials. This was a unique incident where the EU, representing secular European countries, demanded the release of blasphemy convicts by threatening economic sanctions or blackmail. This act also falls under Islamophobia. Those affected by Islamophobia insult the Prophet Muhammad under the pretext of freedom of expression, causing distress to 1.5 billion Muslims worldwide.<sup>9</sup>

**Incidents of Quran Burning:** In November 2019, in Norway, and on August 29 last year, in Malmö, Sweden, the Quran was burned. The motive behind these incidents was deliberate disrespect towards Islam. Due to these Islamophobic acts, when riots erupted in several countries, Muslims were ultimately labeled as terrorists for reacting to Islamophobia and were held responsible for disturbing peace. The question arises, why are such incidents not prevented, and instead, miscreants are supported, causing severe emotional distress to Muslims and intensifying their reactions.<sup>10</sup>

**Christchurch Incident:** On March 15, 2019, in Christchurch, New Zealand, 28-year-old Australian Brenton Tarrant opened fire in two mosques, martyring over 50 Muslims. The entire Islamic world was in grief and sorrow over the New Zealand tragedy. Numerous living individuals were killed in moments. Not only this, but the assailant also broadcasted the massacre on Facebook to instill fear among immigrants and particularly Muslims worldwide. This terrorist attack, while

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<sup>8</sup> Francois, Guillot. (2020, Sep, 2), Charlie Hebdo reprints offensive Prophet Muhammad caricatures. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/9/2/charlie-hebdo-reprints-offensive-prophet-muhammad-caricatures>

<sup>9</sup> Joint Motion for A Resolution. (2021). [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/B-9-2021-0254\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/B-9-2021-0254_EN.html)

<sup>10</sup> Ahmed, Ashfaq, (2019, Nov, 24) Outcry in Pakistan over Quran desecration in Norway <https://gulfnnews.com/world/asia/pakistan/outcry-in-pakistan-over-quran-desecration-in-norway-pakistan-summons-norways-ambassador-1.68048508>



extremely painful and condemnable, also confirmed the stance of peaceful Islamic movements and organizations globally that terrorism has no religion.<sup>11</sup>

### **Incident of Pakistani Family Being Run Over in Canada:**

A recent violent example of Islamophobia was seen on June 6, 2021, in Canada, where, according to authorities, four members of the Afzaal family of Pakistani origin – Salman Afzaal, his wife, their teenage daughter, and Afzaal's mother – were out for a walk in London, Ontario, when a truck driver ran them over. According to media reports, the 20-year-old killer had been spying on the victim's family for several days and eventually found an opportunity to run them over.<sup>12</sup>

**Anti-Islam Attitudes in U.S. Military Training Curriculum:** It is evident from the U.S. military curriculum that the U.S. and its allies are engaged in a crusade. On May 12, 2012, Pakistan's Defense Council revealed that the U.S. military training curriculum included teachings on targeting sacred Islamic sites like Mecca and Medina and fostering enmity towards Islam. This clearly indicates that the U.S. is training its soldiers based on Islamophobia.<sup>13</sup>

- **Overview of Some Global Reports on Islamophobia:**

**Amnesty International's Report:** On April 24, 2012, the global human rights organization Amnesty International released a 123-page research report titled "Choice and Prejudice: Discrimination against Muslims in Europe." The report reveals that instead of eliminating discrimination and prejudice against Muslims, it is often observed that political parties and authorities pander to anti-Islam and anti-Muslim elements to gain votes. Amnesty urged European governments to take more measures to

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<sup>11</sup> Christchurch mosque attack, (2021, Jun, 14). <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-57465471>

<sup>12</sup> Trudeau denounces truck attack that targeted Muslim family, (2021, Jun, 8). <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/pakistans-prime-minister-denounces-truck-attack-that-killed-muslim-family-in-canada-as-terrorism>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/12-May-2012/89751>



eradicate the negative stereotyping and prejudices against Muslims, which are leading to increased discrimination against them.<sup>14</sup>

At that time, the OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) had called on the international community to take effective measures to curb the rising trend of Islamophobia. In Europe, Muslims are facing discrimination in various fields of life based on their religion, ethnic background, gender, or a combination of these factors. These discriminations have negatively impacted their lives, preventing them from exercising their fundamental rights, affecting their individual opportunities, prospects, and self-esteem, and causing them to become marginalized in society.

#### **Charles Sturt University's Report:**

In 2019, Charles Sturt University in Australia prepared a research report on the topic of Islamophobia. According to this report, Islamophobia is not just an issue for Muslims but also a threat to maintaining social harmony in Australia, necessitating action against groups spreading religious hatred. The report highlighted that Muslim women and girls often face verbal harassment in public places, and in some cases, physical violence and death threats. It also noted that white supremacists are often involved in harassing Muslims.<sup>15</sup>

It should be noted that in Australia, there are penalties of up to ten years in prison and fines for spreading hatred, including becoming a member of terrorist organizations, training them, or funding them.

#### **• Causes of Islamophobia in the Modern Era:**

Regarding the discussions that have taken place so far on Islamophobia, a question arises: what are the reasons that lead non-Muslim individuals around the world, including in Western countries, to develop a fear or hatred of Islam? Often, influenced by Western propaganda, even some Muslims with naive mindsets who support modern ideologies from the

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<sup>14</sup> Europe: Choice and prejudice: Discrimination against Muslims in Europe, (2012, Apr 24). <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur01/001/2012/en/>

<sup>15</sup> Islamophobia continues in Australia: 2019 report. (2019, Nov, 18) <https://news.csu.edu.au/latest-news/islamophobia-continues-in-australia-2019-report>





left also fall prey to Islamophobia. The following lines outline the main causes of Islamophobia.

### 1. Ignorance about Islam:

Unfortunately, like in the past, there are still some elements in the present modern era that interpret religions based on their preferences and limited knowledge. Due to their ignorance, they cause discrimination and discord among people. Today, our religion Islam is also a victim of such ignorance and misunderstanding, leading some elements to harbor hatred and prejudice and disrespect sacred Islamic figures. A lack of information or ignorance about Muslims also plays a crucial role in fostering this fear.

### 2. Secular and Misguided Groups:

Secular and misguided individuals have highlighted Islamophobia as a movement worldwide, backed by a specific Western lobby aiming to separate religion from humanity. The term and movement of Islamophobia originated in the West. It is evident that Western civilization is secular, viewing religion as a threat and an obstacle to progress. Thus, all traditions of modern civilization are contrary to religious practices. Western civilization adopted what religion prohibited under the guise of freedom and human rights.

### 3. Role of Global Media:

With time, the tools of information dissemination have increased, including biased websites, literature, social media, video games, campaigns against mosques and Sharia, and politics and policies against Muslims. International media, controlled by Western lobbies, have the power to portray black as white and vice versa under a specific agenda. An example of this hypocrisy is evident in the 1980s and early 21st century. The same Western media, led by American outlets, presented Osama bin Laden as a hero and mujahid during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, only to label him as a global terrorist when the US and its allies invaded Afghanistan.

**Film Industry's Role:** Besides the media, Hollywood has played a significant role in spreading fear about Islam. Bollywood films often depict Muslim men as villains and terrorists and Muslim women as living



in subjugation. According to an analysis, nearly a thousand films and TV shows have portrayed Muslims negatively. Despite some increase in information about Islam, Hollywood films still exhibit this prejudice, producing numerous films that depict Muslims in negative roles.

**Social Media Campaigns:** Social media trends can make any incident go viral overnight. Secular groups exploit this by using an individual's mistake to tarnish the entire religion's image and portray Islam as a violent and extremist faith globally. Social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram mock Islamic practices such as hijab, animal sacrifice on Eid, and prayer, while promoting indecent trends.

#### 4. 9/11 and Islamophobia:

The phenomenon of Islamophobia intensified significantly after 9/11, manifesting in negative perceptions of Islam and Muslims, which have been exacerbated by certain Western elements through literature and media. Following the attack on the Twin Towers in New York City, there was a marked increase in hostility towards Muslims. This prejudice against Muslims is not limited to the context of 9/11 but has existed long before. For example, many Europeans prefer not to have a Muslim family as their neighbor. The situation is extremely severe in Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Greece, Malta, Romania, and Finland.

In the current era, the negative sentiment has become even more pronounced after 9/11. Anti-Islamic thought is evident not only in the attitudes of ordinary people in the West but also in the overt demonstration of this mindset by state institutions in Western countries. This public and state-oriented mentality is reflected either in military interventions in various Muslim countries or in efforts to create political and economic turmoil within them.

After 9/11, there was a notable increase in anti-Islamic content in the media. The major American newspapers ABC and CBS recorded an increase of about 80% in such content, while Fox TV saw an increase of approximately 60%. Similarly, incidents involving Muslims were



reported about 3 to 5 times more frequently than those involving non-Muslims.<sup>16</sup>

### 5. Islam and Western Feminist Ideology:

The increase in discrimination and prejudice against Muslims in the West has been driven by negative opinions and false portrayals. One of the most prominent misconceptions about Islam is that it is a religion that oppresses women, whereas Islam has a proud history of women's rights. From the very beginning, Islam not only acknowledged women's religious, social, societal, legal, constitutional, political, and administrative roles but also guaranteed all their rights. However, it is a tragedy that Western scholars, when compiling the history of women's rights, completely ignore Islam's historical contributions and exemplary role in this area.

The arrival of Islam was a message of liberation for women from the bonds of slavery, humiliation, and exploitation. Islam eradicated all the reprehensible customs that were against women's human dignity and granted women rights that made them deserving of the honor and respect equal to men. By guaranteeing respect, dignity, and fundamental rights for women, Islam established a civilization where every individual is an active part of society.

In an Islamic society, women, due to the blessings of the rights granted by Islam, play an active role in social, societal, political, and administrative fields, contributing to the advancement of society towards higher levels of development. The mention of women's roles in national and international life serves as a practical example of this.

### 6. Effects of Materialistic Civilization:

European civilization is based on materialism, free from religion, leading to disinterest in the church and religion. One reason for the West's disdain for Islam is their tendency to judge Islam by the same standards they use for Christianity, rejecting Islam due to their historical experiences with the church's excesses. However, Islam is not responsible

<sup>16</sup> Jāsim, Maḥmūd, (2019), Maghrib mein Islām kā Barḥtā Khauf. <https://www.urduweb.org>



for the West's disdain for religion, nor should Islamophobia be promoted based on this.

### **7. Destructive Western Thoughts:**

Ideological assault and intellectual warfare are fought not with weapons of war such as cannons, missiles, tanks, or ammunition, but through other means. These methods involve exceptionally planned and highly organized efforts to change the mentality, education, training, society, economy, civilization, and ideas of nations and peoples. It is a battlefield where, instead of attacking the body, beliefs and ideologies are targeted. The effects of this warfare last for centuries, strengthening and spreading from generation to generation. It results in a complete transformation of mindset and perspective, often leading to apostasy. This is achieved by presenting sins in a glamorous and attractive manner, convincing individuals that they are free from all constraints and responsibilities.<sup>17</sup>

In Western thought, there has been a promotion of absolute freedom and lack of restraint, an open invitation to indulge in life's pleasures, complete fulfillment of desires, and hedonism. High values of human life have been not only ridiculed but also denied, with an emphasis on sensual pleasure, superficiality, and material gain. While the pace of ideological warfare may be slow, its effects are long-lasting, aiming to strip Muslims of their individual identity and force them to emulate Western ideas, erasing the very concept of conflict with the West.

In this regard, ideological and intellectual assault is more dangerous than military or armed conflict. Upon closer examination, it becomes clear that the goals of intellectual and ideological warfare are filled with deeply corrupt and malicious intentions.

### **8. National Chauvinism:**

There is a fear concerning Islam that foreign Muslims might severely damage the superior culture and great values of the West. However, this fear is not only faced by Muslims but also by immigrants of other religions.

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<sup>17</sup> Aqlīyatōn ke Ḥuqūq aur Islāmōphobia, Ā'ifāh Publications, New Dehli, 2011, p. 549



In the United States, at various times, the Irish, Chinese, Italians, Mexicans, and Japanese have been targeted by racial and cultural prejudice. Currently, Muslims and Islam are the primary targets of this campaign. In Western countries, there is an attempt to instill in the minds of ordinary citizens the fear that the spread of Islam poses a severe threat to their culture and religious values, which is leading to increased hatred towards Muslims and fear of Islam.

### **9. Western Hostility towards Islam:**

It is not so long ago that the West was Christian. However, the West began to see flaws and weaknesses in Christianity. Consequently, it initiated a reform movement within Christianity, but this campaign ultimately led to a denial of Christianity itself. Initially, the scope of this denial was limited. However, as philosophy and later science became more influential, the number of those rejecting Christianity grew. This is why the current Pope has referred to the new generations in Europe as "lost generations."

In contrast, when the West looks at the Islamic world, it becomes evident that Islam is alive and thriving. All Islamic beliefs are preserved and effective. Millions of people perform daily prayers, fast during Ramadan, make pilgrimage annually, and give zakat. While Muslims may have flawed practices, their faith remains unwavering. Despite their shortcomings in action and morality, their dedication and faith are such that they cannot tolerate even minor disrespect towards Islam or the Prophet of Islam.

The West, seeing Christianity in a state of decline and Islam in a vibrant state, is both surprised and disheartened, even feeling envy towards Islam and Muslims. In the contemporary era, Islam and the Islamic movements under its influence have rejected the dominance of the West and its secularism. Consequently, Islam has emerged as a powerful resistance force in almost all major Muslim states and societies. This is why the West is actively engaged in promoting and spreading Islamophobia due to its hostility towards Islam. Anti-Islam sentiment and foreign hatred have



enslaved politics, making the general life of Muslims intolerable, and turning efforts to determine state policies into destructive ideologies.

### 10. Linking Islam with Terrorism:

Modern Western media frequently use the term terrorism, attempting to falsely link it with Islam. Even if some terrorists are found to be Muslims, it raises critical questions about whether they genuinely represent Islam. The same Western media that once portrayed Osama bin Laden as a hero later depicted him as a terrorist. This raises doubts about the credibility of their portrayal. Even if some Muslims were involved in terrorist activities, it does not justify hating Islam or holding the entire Muslim community responsible, nor enacting discriminatory laws against Muslims. All religions prioritize respect for human life and the right to live in peace and security.

### Suggestions for Addressing Islamophobia:

- **Global Media and Leadership:** At the international level, media and world leaders need to remove the biases against Muslims and Islam. It is essential for global Muslim leaders to present the true identity of Islam to world leaders so that an unaltered image of Islam can be shown. Islam is a religion of peace, and its teachings encompass the welfare and ease of humanity.
- **Educating Anti-Islamic Groups:** There is a need to highlight the true teachings of Islam to those who are hostile to it. Many new Muslims have studied Islam initially to criticize it, only to find their hearts drawn to it and convert upon discovering its truth.
- **Role of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC):** The OIC must actively work to raise global awareness about Islamophobia, helping the international community understand the deep reverence Muslims have for the Prophet Muhammad, his companions, and the Quran. Islam's teachings promote interfaith harmony, whereas Islamophobia divides humanity.
- **Understanding Western Biases:** To tackle Islamophobia and understand the uncivilized and aggressive attitudes within European civilization, it is necessary to examine various factors



contributing to biases against Islam in Western countries, particularly the U.S.

- **Counter-Narrative by Muslims in the West:** Muslims living in Western countries need to develop an effective, fact-based narrative to dispel misconceptions about Islam. This narrative should convey that Islam promotes moderation in all aspects of life and unequivocally rejects terrorism.
- **Unity Among Muslims:** Muslims should rise above sectarian and group differences and unite in their efforts. Modern media and technology should be used to focus on engaging the younger generation and educational institutions.
- **Muslim Media Initiatives:** Muslim countries should collaborate to counter Western media by using their own satellites and channels to present the true image of Islam. They should adopt the advanced technologies and scientific methods utilized by Western nations.
- **Avoiding Disruptive Activities:** Muslims should avoid activities that may lead to disturbances in peace and order.
- **Legal Complaints:** If an individual commits an offense against Islam, Islamic symbols, or the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), complaints should be filed with law enforcement authorities rather than taking the law into one's own hands.
- **Avoiding Extremist Groups:** Muslims should avoid interactions with individuals and organizations that hold extremist ideologies, such as ISIS and other banned groups.
- **Role of Prophet Muhammad's Example:** It should be noted that Islam did not spread through force but through the exemplary character and conduct of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and his companions. Many people converted to Islam due to the Prophet's ethical behavior, despite intense opposition and propaganda against him. Influential figures in Mecca used various methods to keep people away from the Prophet's teachings, yet many leaders from various tribes accepted Islam. Muslims should



strive to improve their own character and conduct to make efforts to spread Islamophobia ineffective.

- **Building Social Relations with Non-Muslims:** Muslims need to establish better social relationships with non-Muslims and adopt behaviors that positively influence their perception of Islam.
- **Active Participation in Western Societies:** Muslims in Western countries should actively participate in society and positively impact the lives of non-Muslims while maintaining their unique and positive identity without assimilating into Western culture.
- **Avoiding Un-Islamic Behaviors:** Many Muslim youths in Western countries engage in activities such as alcohol consumption, eating pork, and participating in nightclub parties. Such behavior does not reflect Islam positively, so Muslims in Western countries should avoid such activities.
- **Global Forums Against Islamophobia:** There is a need to establish global forums that can counter the Western propaganda against Islam and clearly present the truth about Islam to the world.

### Summary of Discussion:

Among the contemporary cultural concerns facing the Muslim Ummah, Islamophobia is significant. Islamophobia refers to hatred and prejudice against the religion of Islam or its adherents. Although the term originated in the early 20th century, it gained specific meaning and relevance by the end of the 20th century. Since then, numerous representative incidents of Islamophobia have occurred in Europe, America, and other non-Islamic countries, and this trend continues. Various reputable and credible institutions have reported on these incidents, among which the reports by Amnesty International and Charles Stuart University are particularly notable.

The discussion then examined the causes of Islamophobia in the modern era. One of the primary factors identified is the tendency to attribute global war crimes to Islam due to prejudiced reasons. Finally, suggestions for addressing Islamophobia were presented, including the need for a neutral study of Islam and the abandonment of prejudiced sentiments.





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