



SHIA MUSLIM
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

18th February 2025

The Shia Muslim Council of Australia

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Subject: Islamophobic Attack in Melbourne, A Call to Serious Action to Address Islamophobia

The Muslim community is shocked by the **vicious attacks on two Muslim women in Epping, Victoria on 13th February 2025**. The two [hijab-wearing Muslim women](#) were assaulted and seriously injured, requiring treatment in hospital. In the aftermath of the incident, the response from police, government and media has been very disappointing. The police response to the incident has been inadequate, there have been **no condemnations from senior political leaders**, and very little mainstream media coverage of the attacks.

This incident takes place in an environment of **escalating Islamophobia**. In the past few weeks we have seen a hate-motivated attempt to [run over and kill a prominent Muslim cleric](#) in Sydney, as well as several incidents of Islamophobic graffiti. Incidents [reported to the Islamophobia Register](#) increased **thirteen-fold** since October 2023. Incidents on University campuses had increased **thirty-nine** times in the same period.

We call upon the Prime Minister and senior political leaders to **take meaningful action to ensure that Muslim women and girls can continue to go about their life in public spaces without fear of attack** or intimidation, and to ensure that the two women who were attacked in the incident in Victoria, receive justice.

The SMCA emphasizes the importance of a **harmonious and inclusive Australia**, free from divisive political rhetoric and media bias. Selective outrage and sensationalized reporting only further compromise social cohesion. We urge leaders to uphold justice, fairness, and the protection of all communities. **No Australian should feel less protected than their fellow citizens.**

The Shia Muslim Council of Australia

The Shia Muslim Council of Australia is an umbrella organisation for Shia Muslim communities in Australia. It currently has 37 member organisations from across the 8 states and territories of Australia.