

MCN HATE CRIME PREVENTION REPORT 2022

AN ANALYSIS OF HATE CRIME INCIDENTS EXPERIENCED BY THE NYC MUSLIM POPULATION AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



In collaboration with the NYC Commission on Human Rights, MCN hosted a hate crime prevention and know your rights training during Ramadan at Masjid Al Haram. Ryan DuBois, Associate Human Rights Specialist facilitating the Bystander Intervention Training. April 23rd, 2022.

MCN Hate Crime Prevention Program

2019- 2022 Survey structure

Survey Results and Incident Reports

Policy Recommendations and Tools for prevention



MUSLIM COMMUNITY NETWORK MISSION

Founded in 2003, the Muslim Community Network (MCN) is NYC's go-to civil-society Muslim organization engaged in interfaith and civic-education work. MCN's mission, which emerged following the rise in Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims in the United States after September 11, 2001, is to shape the public's understanding of Islam and what it means to be Muslim in the United States through civic education, leadership development, community service, diversity education, and advocacy.

VISION

MCN's vision is to help facilitate the emergence of a Muslim-American identity that transcends generational, ethnic, gender, racial, and class-based boundaries while building bridges with other communities of faith to build peaceful, just, and inclusive communities.







PROGRAMS

Advocacy and Hate Crime Prevention

Collect data on hate crimes and provide training on mechanisms for prevention. Advocate for policies that impact Muslims in the U.S.

Community Education

Educate the public about Muslims in America through diversity education workshops. Engage in interfaith bridgebuilding work to collectively address issues in the community.

Civic Empowerment Program

Women & Youth 8 week program to learn valuable leadership & civic engagement skills.

MCNServes-Community Service

MCN hosts monthly food drives, free PPE, and covid relief across NYC.



HATE CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM

MCN's Hate Crime Prevention Initiative is divided into 3 main areas: Community Safety training, Hate Crime Prevention Survey Data Collection, and Policy Advocacy. MCN engaged community members, especially youth and Mosque goers in training sessions and conversations about hate crime prevention. During these sessions, data was collected through our survey on how the Muslim community has been experiencing hate crimes. Additionally, we have been advocating on the city, state, and national levels to speak up against hate crimes and advocate for bills and resolutions to prevent hate.



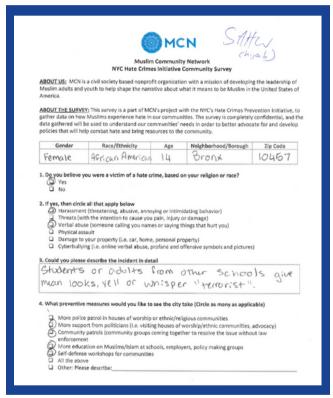
Muslim girls at Al Mamoor Islamic School having a discussion about hate crimes with MCN Advocacy Program Manager, AjiFanta Marenah, during a safety and self-defense training session. June 16, 2022.

MCN Community Safety Training sessions have been offered at various institutions and communities across NYC. So far, our training sessions have taken place in Bronx, Harlem, Queens, and Brooklyn (NYC Council Districts 8, 9, 11, 48, and 24). We have provided community safety training to over 100 NYC residents and since 2019 have surveyed over 200 NYC Muslims on their experiences with hate crimes. The data we have collected depicts the urgent need to address hate crimes and pass policies that will prevent them. This report is a summary of the surveys collected between 2019 and 2022 including policy recommendations to address the rise in anti-religious hate crimes in NYC.



HATE CRIME PREVENTION SURVEY THE SURVEY

In 2019, we collected 116 surveys and created a report with data from that survey. Due to Covid-19, we stopped collecting surveys in person in 2020. Towards the second half of 2021, we digitalized the hate crime prevention survey, added new questions, and also translated it into Arabic. The information in this preliminary report is a culmination of data from both the 2019 and 2022 survey results. The survey is divided into three main parts: a demographic assessment to get a better understanding of who is taking the survey, an incident report, and a recommendations section. The data collected includes gender, age, race & ethnicity, neighborhood/borough, type of crime experienced or witnessed, the narrative of the incident, and thoughts on best practices to address hate crimes.







Distributed at Mosque, schools, summits, social media, community centers, street fairs



Available in Arabic and online, with new questions

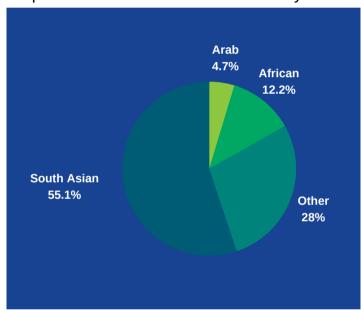


100 new surveys added in 2022 with more diverse demographic



HATE CRIME PREVENTION SURVEY SUMMARY OF RESULTS: DEMOGRAPHICS

In both 2019 and 2022, the survey was taken by Muslims from various ethnic backgrounds. In 2022, we were able to expand our reach in terms of the different racial and ethnic groups that were surveyed. Muslims in the United States are the most ethnically diverse religious group, therefore it is important to us that our survey was distributed in all the different Muslim communities to capture the full experience of all Muslim New Yorkers. Asian Muslims and Black Muslims top the list as the ethnic groups most impacted by hate crimes. Out of all the Asian and Black people surveyed, everyone either witnessed a Hate crime or was a victim. This shows the need for resources to be allocated in Asian and Black Muslim communities in order to address the rise in hate crimes and the traumatic impacts it leaves in addition to other systemic injustices these communities are facing.



Arab/Middle Eastern
9.5%

Asian
31.9%

South Asian
24.1%

Figure 1: Race & Ethnicity
Distribution 2019

FIGURE 2: RACE & ETHNICITY DISTRIBUTION 2022

- The demographic of individuals surveyed greatly expanded in 2022.
- The 26.3% of Black Muslims surveyed included African Americans, Africans, and Caribbeans.
- The 23.7% of South Asians include Indians, Bengali, Pakistani, and Burmese descent.
- The 3% of White Muslims surveyed were White from Albania, Montenegro, and the Middle East.
- In addition to the groups listed in the graph, Hispanics and Native American Muslims were also among the ethnic groups that were surveyed.



HATE CRIME PREVENTION SURVEY SUMMARY OF RESULTS: DEMOGRAPHICS

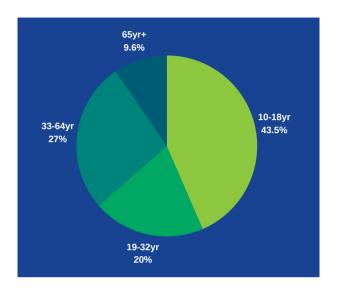


Figure 3: Age Distribution 2019

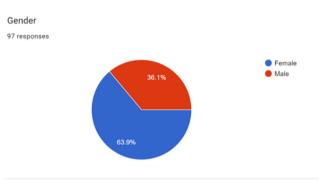


Figure 5: Gender Distribution 2022

In terms of gender, the majority of those that participated in the survey and expressed having an experience with a hate crime are Muslim females. The intersection of having multiple marginalized identities makes Muslim women, especially immigrant Muslim women, more vulnerable to the damaging impacts of hate crimes and bias incidents.

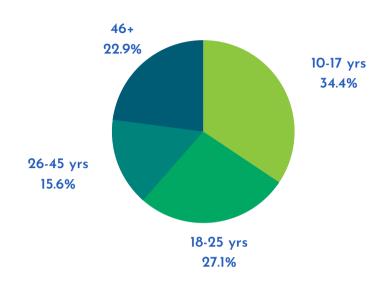


Figure 4: Age Distribution 2022

Capturing the demographics of those surveyed, especially race, age and gender are very significant because it allows us to know which groups are most impacted and where the resources and services need to go in addressing hate crimes.

In both the 2019 and 2022 surveys, we noticed a trend in younger individuals between the ages of 10-18 experiencing the most hate crimes and bias incidents. In the 2022 survey, 15 and 16-year-old were the majority in those who answered yes to experiencing a hate crime.

This data is alarming because it shows that the safety and mental health of Muslim youth are at risk. Additionally, the reported incidents occurred at educational institutions where youth are supposed to feel safe and welcomed in order to confidently participate in society. Being a victim of a hate crime at a young age significantly impacts youths self-esteem and their ability to actively engage with others and grow.

- 43.5% of School Age Muslim Youth Between the Ages of 10-18 Years old expressed or witnessed a hate crime in 2019.
- 26.7% of Black Muslims and 31.9% of Asian Muslims experienced or witnessed a hate crime in the first half of 2022.
- 63.9% of Muslim New Yorkers that experienced hate crimes identify as Female.



HATE CRIME PREVENTION SURVEY SUMMARY OF RESULTS: EXPERIENCE

After collecting demographic information of survey participants, the survey asked questions regarding the participants' experience with hate crimes. This section of the survey measures the number of hate crimes experienced, the type of hate crimes Muslims are subjected to, the locations where they occurred, and a narrative of the incident.

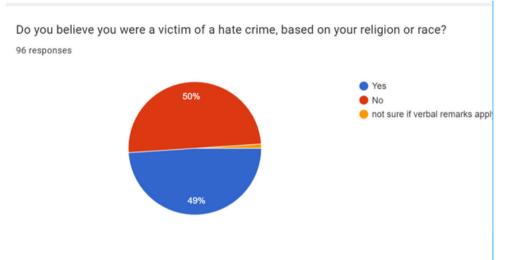


Figure 6: Number of Victims

- 76% WITNESSED A HATE CRIME
- 49% ARE VICTIMS OF A HATE CRIME

The data we have collected shows that there is an immediate and urgent need for CBOs and grassroots organizations to receive victims' services funding.76% of those surveyed by MCN have witnessed a hate crime and 49% are direct victims themselves.

Despite the NYPD report not showing a high percentage when it comes to hate crimes against Muslims, this data shows that the Muslim community in NYC has been and continue to greatly be impacted by hate crimes both on the individual and institutional level.

Have you ever been a witness to or have heard about a hate crime to another individual based on their religion or race?

97 responses

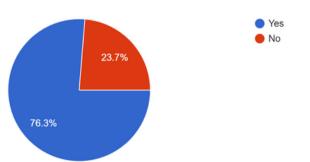


Figure 7: Witness to Hate Crimes

Muslim Americans, especially Muslim youth, continue to be victims of hate crimes rooted in Islamophobia and racism. While MCN's survey captures the experience of New York Muslims, these experiences proof to be part of a larger national trend that puts the lives of Muslim Americans at risk.

These numbers don't stand alone. In a 2020 report by the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, three main statistics stood out that support the data in this survey:

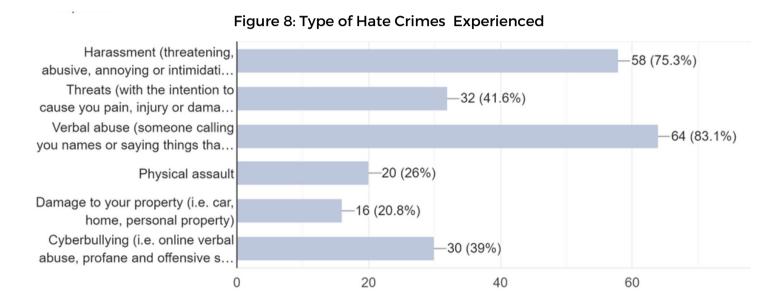
- 1) " In 2020, half of Muslim families (51%) with children in K-12 public schools report a child of theirs has been bullied for their faith in the past year",
- 2) "Muslim children are twice as likely as the general public to be bullied for their faith,"
- 3) "Between 2016 and 2020, about 60% of American Muslims (60-62%) reported experiencing religious discrimination that year."

ISPU, American Muslim Poll 2020



HATE CRIME PREVENTION SURVEY SUMMARY OF RESULTS: TYPES OF CRIMES

After collecting demographic information of survey participants, the survey asked questions regarding the participants' experience with hate crimes. This section of the survey measures the number of hate crimes experienced, the type of hate crimes Muslims are subjected to, the locations where it occurs, and a narrative of the incident.



Muslims in New York City have experienced various forms of violent hate crimes ranging from being threatened to physical assault and damage to their property. The United States Department of Justice explained that violent hate crimes that constitute a crime include acts " such as assault, murder, arson, vandalism, or threats to commit such crimes." as well as "conspiring or asking another person to commit such crimes, even if the crime was never carried out" (www.justice.gov/hatecrime).

While the majority of those surveyed experienced verbal abuse where someone called them names such as "terrorist,", 26% experienced physical assault and 41.6% received violent threats. Although they vary in severity, all these are serious hate crimes that are traumatizing and dangerous to those who experienced them. The different types of hate crimes experienced by Muslims displayed in figure 8 above show the multiple ways members of the Muslim community have been violated, hurt, and abused sorely because of their faith. For example, in the narrative portion of the survey, victims and witnesses of hate crimes against Muslims have shared physical assault incidents where the perpetrator violently pulled on someone's hijab, pushed, beat, or spat on them, and destroyed their personal property. 64% of respondents were verbally abused, and many were called "terrorists" and asked to "go back home." Hate crimes can happen in many different ways and places, even on the internet as cyberbullying. All these different crimes can instill fear in a person and have both immediate and long-term impacts on a person's confidence, their physical and mental health, and their sense of belonging.



THE NARRATIVE

This is a random sample of surveys from 2019 and 2022 that included a description of an incident they had witnessed or experienced. These three occurrences are all some form of harassment and verbal abuse, which corresponds to the aggregate survey data that deems this type of hate crime to be the most common in the Muslim community.

Gender	Race & Ethnicity	Age	Type of Hate Crime	Incident Description
Male	South Asian	63	Harassment	"I was sitting in the subway train. Someone try to him me from outside."
Male	African	34	n/a* *can be classified as harassment and possibly physical assault given the language of the surveyed individual	"I witnessed a Muslim woman who was assaulted by a white woman because she was Muslim. I ran over to the location where the incident occurred to assist the Muslim woman who was with her daughter."
Female	Black	12	Verbal abuse	"The person called me a freak for wearing a hijab."

Table 1: This is a table of three incidents that had been recorded via survey that exemplify the context and scenarios of hate

I'm school, I received my first and last death threat from a child who went on to bully me for the next four years. He said that he was going to come to my house at night an murder me. I didn't know what murder meant at the time. I went to ask my mother, "Mama, what does murder mean?", and she, confused, asked where I heard that word. I told her that my classmate said that he would murder me because I was a terrorist. I was six. A few years later, when trump was running for president, the same kid said that when his friend was elected, he would have his cop dad personally deport my family and I to Afghanistan because we caused 9/11. I was born here, my parents were teenagers when the attacks happened, living in a completely different part of the world, and we're from India. Teachers did absolutely nothing about this.

Female, 15

My friends take the train all the time i'm brooklyn this all these issues happened on the train such as one time a man threatened me and my friend to take out a gun stating "u muslims deserve nothing" and so on. **Female, 16**

It occurred in school and a Muslim hijabi girl got her hijab pulled off Female, 15

A random man started shouting at my fencing team for no reason. My team is predominantly Asian, and he only attacked the ones that were East Asian. He said he would "mess them up" and followed us until we walked far enough away. Female, 16



THE NARRATIVE

Gender	Race & Ethnicity	Age	Type of Hate Crime	Incident Description
Female	Black		Verbal abuse Threats Harassment	"My daughter and I were outside in the adjacent neighborhood coming from the supermarket when a lady cane up to us yelling we were terrorists and need to be killed. She then tried to attack my daughter who was y at the time and I had to defend her."
Female		20	Physical Assault	"I heard about this Muslim girl in high school who's hijab was pulled off and then physically attacked by a group of white boys who said she didn't belong"
Female		16	Threats Verbal Abuse	"My friend was on the R train in Brooklyn when a man yelled at her and stated that Muslims are all terrorist and threatened to pull out a gun"
Female	Black	21	Physical Assault	"I was in the elevator and they spit on my Islamic wear and headscarf."

Getting called a terrorist on public transportation and bus drivers refusing to stop for me because of my hijab

Female, 23

I used to go to Archimedes Academy in White Plains rd, Bronx and i was called a "fucking immigrant" in 7th grade and witnessed a girl pull at my friends hijab as a "joke" and was called several slurs when i spoke up about it. I was also called many slurs whenever i wore a hijab around school(not by my school students but surrounding schools) and that made me not want to wear the hijab as a kid. Female, 17

The incident took place on a mta bus and a south Asian female got yelled and physically abused by an older women because she was wearing a hijab. Female, 15

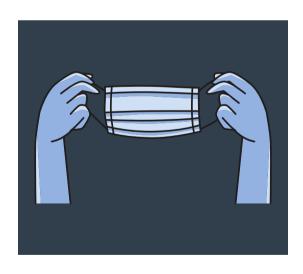
These snapshots only capture a few of thousands of hate crime incidents that continue to brutalize and reign terror on Muslims in the United States. The narratives shared show that Muslims are constantly targeted, harassed, verbally abused, threatened with violence, physically assaulted and more. These incidents are taking place at everyday places like supermarkets, schools, train stations, social media, in front of their homes, or while walking in the streets. These narratives are a cry for help and a cry for us to be viewed as humans and provided an equal opportunity to freely exist as who we are.



HATE CRIME PREVENTION SURVEY

COVID-19 IMPACT

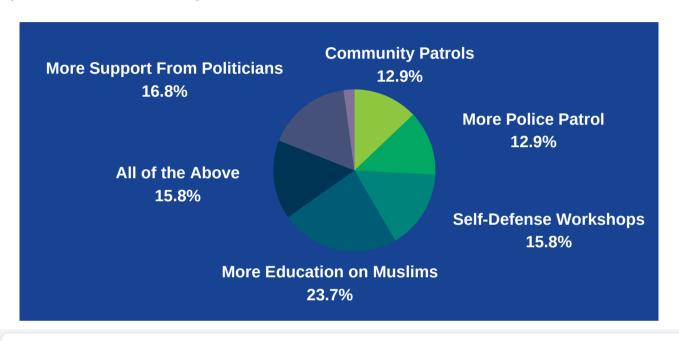
Although not recorded in this survey, fear of the pandemic can manifest into hate crimes due to the need to assign blame to others as a method of stress relief. The Asian community is at the forefront of the pandemic due to the presumed beginning of COVID-19 in Wuhan, China, and this has unfortunately contributed to a rise in Sinophobia on the web and incidents of hate crime regard to the Muslim Asian American community, our surveyed data, which reports hate crimes against Muslims, and recent reports on the impact of COVID-19 on hate crime experienced by Asian Americans imply a double vulnerability that would need to be accounted for when going forward with the reopening.

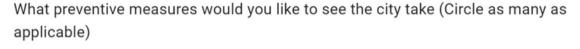




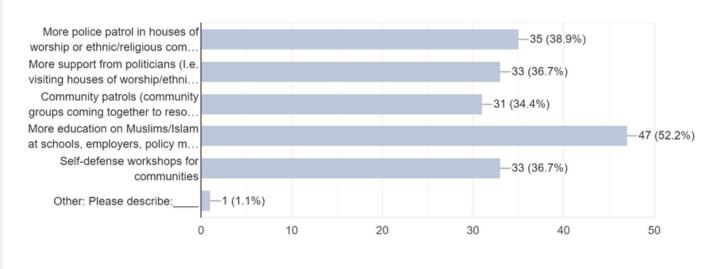
HATE CRIME PREVENTION SURVEY

In both 2019 and 2022, survey respondents were asked to give recommendations on policies and practices they believe are solutions to ending and preventing hate crimes. In 2019, 23.7% answered that they want more education about Muslims. In 2022, that number doubled with 52.2% of survey respondents wanting more education on Muslims and Islam at schools, places of work and other public institutions.





90 responses





COMMUNITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PREVENTIVE MEASURES

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NY LAWMAKERS

01 — Pass Resolution 1257

For the DOE to include religious diversity courses in the curriculum and provide training for school staff, administration, and educators in this area. Consequently, the preferred preventative measure to counter hate crime, in our surveyed population, is more education on Islam so that fewer of these outbursts occur out of a lack of knowledge and a generalized association of Muslims with 9/11 [1].

Mandate accurate classification of hate crimes in school reporting and immediate and full disclosure to parents of hate crime stats.

Establish a zero-tolerance policy in schools for faith-based bullying and discrimination, including policies about: respect for clothing and in-school accommodations for prayer space and time all year round.

02 — Fund CBOs to Provide Resources &

Workshops

Provide Funding for Self-Defense and Bystander Intervention Training

Provide Victim Support funding to faith-based CBOs and ethnic communities targeted by hate crimes.

Providing Funding and Training opportunities for faith-based Community Patrol Teams made up of local community members. 34.4 % of survey participants support community patrols.

03 — Engaging with and Supporting Houses of

Worship

36.7% of those surveyed asked for more support from politicians and city agencies. Community members want to see more of their elected officials engage with them at their places of worship, meaning more visits to Mosques to hear about issues and stand in solidarity with them even before hate incidents happen. The vocal support and presence of elected officials in local community centers and houses of worship are crucial in showing that they will not condone discrimination and violence against that community.

Make city resources and training accessible. New York City Agencies such as the Commission on Human Rights, the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, the Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes, and the Community Affairs Unit should be accessible and constantly engaging with religious and ethnically diverse communities to make sure that they can access the services they provide and feel empowered as residents of NYC.



COMMUNITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PREVENTIVE MEASURES

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NY LAWMAKERS

04 — End Surveillance and Profiling of Muslims

Ban the use of facial recognition technology and Abolish the gang database.

Numerous reports and research have shown that facial recognition and gang database intelligence disproportionately targeted and negatively impacted Muslim communities and communities of color.

Additionally, even if proven innocent, it is near impossible to be removed from the gang database once individuals are listed.

05 — Oversight of NYPD and the Intelligence Bureau's Interaction and Targeting of Muslim Individuals and Organizations

MCN continues to be concerned about the NYPD's alarming history of surveilling and profiling members of the Muslim community in NYC. Muslim New Yorkers who come from various ethnic backgrounds and make up religious and community leaders, students, healthcare workers, business owners, taxi drivers, and all parts of the NYC community at large continue to feel discriminated against, unsafe and traumatized by the heavy and unlawful surveillance on our communities since the rollout of the NYPD's Muslim Surveillance Program in 2002.

MCN calls on NYC Council and NY lawmakers to provide oversight on DOI's Office of the Inspector General for the NYPD and ensure that incidents of bias, profiling, and discrimination are immediately and properly reported and the individuals are held accountable.

funding that is being used to increase surveillance technology in our communities under the "Blueprint to End Gun Violence" should be allocated towards strengthening our schools, hospitals, youth, and adult programs and providing social services to the most vulnerable, as well as providing more culturally and religious relevant training, and de-escalation workshops to NYPD officers.

Having cultural competency, language access and sensitivity is crucial in the NYPD's work to report and investigate anti-religious hate crimes not just against the Muslim community, but also against Jews, Sikhs, and other religious minorities. Unfortunately, the NYPD's annual hate crime report fails to account for the many incidents of hate and bias experienced by Muslims in NYC. Our experiences with hate are too often disregarded, minimized, and never investigated. MCN recommends for NYPD officials and members of the hate crime task force receive bi-annual religious and ethnic diversity training from community-based organizations such as MCN.



MCN SPONSORS AND PARTNERS IN PREVENTING HATE

Muslim Community Network recognizes that the fight against hate and discrimination is a fight we must do together. We thank our partners at The Asian American Federation, Mayor's Office for the Prevention of Hate
Crimes, MYC Commission on Human Rights, MALIKAH, and New York
City Council for sponsoring and collaborating with us to make the initiatives under our hate crime prevention program possible.

















JOIN MCN & MALIKAH FOR A SAFETY TRAINING AT JAMES MADISON HS

MONDAY JUNE 13TH, 2022 (3:00-5:00 PM)

LEARN HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR COMMUNITIES AGAINST HATE CRIMES.

WORKSHOP INCLUDES

WHAT ARE ANTI-ASIAN, ANTI-BLACK & ANTI-RELIGIOUS HATE CRIMES?

REPORTING MECHANISMS AND WHERE TO FILE COMPLAINTS
ANONYMOUS SURVEY ON EXPERIENCE WITH HATE CRIMES
SELF DEFENSE, VERBAL DE-ESCALATION & BYSTANDER INTERVENTION
TRAINING

his program is made possible by an Innovation Grant awarded by the NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes











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