

## **Defining Islamophobia**

Islamophobia is the fear, hatred or hostility directed towards Islam and Muslims. Islamophobia affects all aspects of Muslim life and can be expressed in several ways, including:

- attacks, abuse and violence against Muslims
- attacks on mosques, Islamic centres and Muslim cemeteries
- discrimination in education, employment, housing, and delivery of goods and services
- lack of provisions and respect for Muslims in public institutions

### **Examples of Islamophobia**

1. A gang of 20 youths shouted anti-Islamic remarks towards a Muslim man and then kicked him unconscious. The victim received a broken jaw, fractured arm and neck injuries.
2. A Muslim woman and her two children were forced to flee their home after their home was continuously attacked by a stone-throwing gang. The gang also shouted racist remarks and insulted the Muslim woman for wearing the hijab.
3. A Muslim student was victim of bullying at school. She had her hijab pulled off and was called 'Paki!' by her fellow students
4. An Asian man wearing a turban was spat at and called 'Dirty Muslim!' when he was travelling on the London Underground. The perpetrators continued to taunt the man until the man was forced to get off the train before his stop.
5. A Muslim man was called 'Osama bin Laden' whilst shopping with his family.
6. Immediately after 9/11 a Muslim woman wearing the hijab was refused service at her local grocery shop.
7. Attacks on Mosques and/or Cemeteries - On 18 March 2004, forty Muslim graves were desecrated in Charlton cemetery in Plumstead, South East London. The faith-hate attack is thought to have been caused by the continuing backlash against Muslims since the bombings in Madrid in March 2004 and the attacks on the United States in September 2001.