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## Islamophobia causes and effects.

### Introduction:

The term 'Islamophobia' consists of two words, 'Islam' and 'Phobia'. Islam applies to monotheistic religion or belief which that Muhammed (PBUH) is the prophet of Allah. While phobia is an excessive and irrational fear of a thing. Hence Islamophobia refers to the irrational fear, anxiety and prejudice people hold against Islam and Muslims. And excessive fear and anxiety lead to discriminatory acts against Muslims. For instance Quran burning in Sweden and Denmark, laws and policies introduced by France, Belgium and India.

### Current Situation of Islamophobia:

Currently, Muslims worldwide are witnessing massacres, killings, discrimination, hate speech, and the destruction of Islamic centres. Recently, in June and July 2023 two far-right figures burned copies of the Quran in



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Sweden and Denmark. In July 2023 a Muslim woman was attacked and verbally abused because she was wearing hijab. Recently anti Muslim graffiti was painted in several locations of Paris. A Muslim man was lynched in India. This man accused of stealing a cow. In France a mosque is profaned or vandalized every three weeks. In Britain, a Muslim was punched and called a terrorist in front of her petrified daughter. In Netherlands, the fascist Geert Wilders party wins many seats to sign an alliance with anti Islamic liberals. Sweden Democrats party Chairman Jimmie Ahvenom warns Islam is "our biggest threat since world war two". In Poland, the mainstream media and some politicians aggressively attack small community of Muslims, depicting them as the new folk devil. The list goes on but, to put it briefly, xenophobic activities towards Muslims are continuously, and they continue to harras Muslims throughout the world.



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## Consequences of Islamophobia:-

Socially, the increasing Islamophobia has threatened Muslim lives and religious places. From legitimized destruction of the Babri Masjid in India to the terrorist shooting at Christchurch mosque in New Zealand, Muslims are being oppressed, targeted and subjugated world wide.

More than one-fourth of American Muslims surveyed by several public opinion polls reveal personal experiences of Islamophobia or know someone who experienced it. Muslims are also facing restrictions in practising religion.

Further more many countries like France, Belgium, and India have declared Islam a legally false religion and legalized anti Muslim activities in their states. For personal and political gains, world leaders like Donald Trump, the former US President, Netanyahu, the former Israel Prime minister, and Emmanuel Macron, the French president have initiated political campaigns



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Muslims as a threat to society and ban religious symbols of Islam.

Beside social and political discrimination against Muslims around the world. The Muslims living in European countries are forced to emigrate from their long remained home towns as Islamophobia rises. Olivier Estevès a professor of British Studies at the University of Lille and researcher says "People who wear visible signs of religious belonging, such as a beard or hijab, often find it impossible to access job market in France. Thus more than 80% of Muslims in Western states - most of them are well-educated - cannot find jobs and resultantly suffer from a high level of unemployment rate because they Muslims - sounding names.

### Causes of Islamophobia:-

There are multiple factors responsible for wide spread anti-Islamic attitude of the world.

Predominantly, the lack of unity among Muslim states is the most significant cause responsible exaggerated Islamophobia in the world.



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After 9/11 attacks, when the western world initially targeted Muslims, no Muslim country has come forward to clear the status of Islam on international forums. They have been busy fueling or settling internal disputes for instance both Iran and Saudi Arabia always have always have aggressive policies against each other and one has always been busy suppressing the other and vice versa.

Another critical factor responsible for aggravating Islamophobia is the misinterpretation of Islam a way of life. Since most British nationals and general public are unaware of the true nature of Islam, they <sup>are</sup> brainwashed, by Islam's enemy mindset. For instance, Shahram Hadian - an Iranian-born pastor who converted to Islam to Christianity - tried to inculcate his point in their youth against Islam with statistics and scripture. Further, the world is unaware of Islamic teachings of Jihad, its need, and its limitation. As a result ignorant Muslims Islam is an extremist religion that exhorts its followers and humanity.



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Together with Muslims disunity and misinterpreted concepts of Islam, the vested interests of the politicians both in Western and Islamic world have aggravated the prevalence of Islamophobia in the world. The anti-Muslims campaigns are for political gains. Recent studies show that Islamophobic attacks and hatred in Western countries are relatively high near elections. According to Estares a British researcher, "It is dog-whistle politics to talk about Muslims without sounding Islamophobic."

Above all, the biased role of international media has contributed the most to instilling Islamophobic perception. The world is living in the age of information warfare, where particular incidents are exaggerated. Recent history is full of events when the media highlighted Islamophobic incidents to spread hate for the Muslim community. Any bearded man responsible for any suspicious activity is regarded as a terrorist attack. Conversely, the violent attacks performed by non-Muslims are justified as a mishap.



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## Tackling Islamophobia:-

First and foremost, the Muslim ummah needs to be united on the cause of Islamophobia. Since unity is prerequisite for developing relations and enhancing cooperation among nations, the Muslims world should gather at a common point to address the world against Anti-Islamic ideology so that Islam enemies apprehend before initiating any hatred move towards Muslims.

The world must know the true meaning of Islam as the religion of peace, happiness, and kindness. For this purpose awareness campaigns and peace talks are to be conducted at the international level, particularly in western countries where Islamophobia is the most prevalent. The world's needs to be explained that Islam does not exhort its followers initiate any kind of war. As it is clearly depicted in the Holy Quran.

"You may fight in cause of Allah those who attack you but don't aggress. Allah doesnot love aggressors"



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International peace organizations like United Nations are to call out insensitive hyper nationalist groups that are using Islamophobia to win their vested interests. Although the UN has passed a resolution against Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim hatred urging tolerance and neutrality, the organization has not made any strict laws against anti-Islamic politics.

Organization of Islamic Council - the collective voice of Muslim world to enforce and safe guard their interest in economic, social and political areas with its power of fifty-two countries, need to play role efficiently.

### Conclusion:

In a nutshell, the rising tide of Islamophobia has led the world towards social, cultural and religious turmoil, posing an existential threat to global peace and harmony. Islamophobia is reality today. Its manifestation is in the rampant attacks on Muslims in the west at different levels of society. However, along the western discriminative framework, Muslim community is equally responsible for prevailing Islamophobia worldwide. Allah says in Quran, "Allah



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Does not change the condition of a people until they change their inner selves. Therefore Muslim Community through international organizations like OIC, needs to play role in tackling such Muslim threats, so real picture of Islam could be manifested.