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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York



Image Source: New York Post

Campus Unrest: AMP Under Scrutiny for Alleged Anti-Israel Activities

Jamshed Mozumder

Senator Bill Cassidy has launched an investigation into American Muslims for Palestine (AMP) over alleged connections to Hamas and its role in supporting anti-Israel demonstrations on U.S. university campuses.

The investigation follows a reported 500% increase in antisemitic incidents on U.S. campuses. Cassidy has requested information from the Department of Justice and universities.

activities and potential foreign influence. The investigation comes amid reports of a 500% increase in antisemitic incidents on college campuses between 2023 and 2024.

determine whether AMP has engaged in activities that violate U.S. laws or pose a threat to campus safety. AMP has denied the allegations, with its attorney, Christina Jump, stating that the organization operates legally in the U.S.

Hijab-Clad Eiffel Tower Ad Sparks Controversy in France

Merrachi defends brand, denies religious affiliation

Farhana Azmi

A recent advertisement by Islamic fashion brand Merrachi has ignited controversy in France after depicting the Eiffel Tower draped in a hijab. The ad, captioned "The French government hates to see Merrachi coming," drew immediate backlash from politicians and the public.

France's strict secularism laws ban hijabs in schools and public offices.

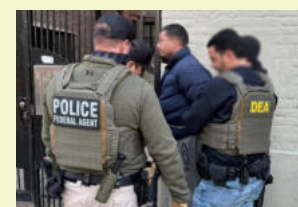
Critics argue the ad could deepen religious and cultural tensions.

the nation's secular principles, while critics say they unfairly target Muslim women. Merrachi has defended the ad, insisting that its clothing represents "modest fashion" rather than religious attire.

The SHORT

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Opposition Grows Against NYC's 'Cop City' Training Facility

Hamid Abdullah

New York City's proposed \$225 million public safety training facility, dubbed "Cop City," has come under fire from several Democratic mayoral candidates. Among the critics are Andrew Cuomo and Zohran Mamdani, who argue that the project is an unnecessary use of taxpayer dollars.



Image Source : npr.org

community-based initiatives and crime prevention programs. Supporters of the project, including Mayor Eric Adams, argue that improved training facilities will enhance public safety and modernize police operations.



Community News

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Iran Qualifies!

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Man arrested by mistake in New York will receive \$10,000

Staff Reporter

More than 10,000 immigrants have been arrested across the United States in recent months as part of Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations. However, about 50 percent of these individuals had no criminal records. Their illegal detention has raised serious concerns. A class-action lawsuit alleges that the city violated the law

by detaining immigrants after their scheduled release date based solely on an ICE detention request. Although the city authorities have denied any wrongdoing, they agreed to the settlement to avoid the burden, expense and uncertainty of an ongoing lawsuit, according to court documents. As a result, certain immigrants may be eligible for up to \$10,000. Who is eligible for compensation? To receive

compensation, your incarceration must have occurred between April 1, 1997 and December 21, 2012. If you meet these requirements, you may be eligible to receive money. However, you must submit your claim by May 15, 2025. Eligible individuals include those who were detained by the New York City Department of Corrections.

Farmis Akhtar receives public service award in New York

Reporter

The 10th Interfaith Iftar Mahfil was organized by the Bangladeshi-American Community Council. The Iftar Mahfil was organized at Khalil Halal Chinese Restaurant in the Bronx, New York. The event was attended by prominent figures from the Bangladeshi-American community, including leaders of various religions, cultures and communities. The event was chaired by Bangladeshi-

American Community Council President Mohammad N. Majumder and moderated by Executive Vice Presidents Nazrul Haque and A. Islam Mamun. At the event, State Senator Natalia Fernandez presented a commemorative plaque to women organizer Farmis Akhtar for her public service. New York City Mayor's Office Representative Alena Doss and Bronx Borough President's Office Representative David Ahmed were

present to express solidarity. In addition, City Council members Rafael Salamanca and

Amanda Faria were present as special guests.



Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
05:24	01:00	04:34	07:20	08:37
05:22	12:59	04:35	07:21	08:38
05:20	12:59	04:35	07:22	08:39
05:18	12:59	04:35	07:23	08:41
05:16	12:58	04:36	07:24	08:42
05:15	12:58	04:36	07:25	08:43
05:13	12:58	04:36	07:26	08:44

Number 1

New York Faces Fiscal Crisis Amid Looming Federal Budget Cuts

NYN DESK

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand issued a stark warning on Friday about the potential consequences of President Trump's proposed federal funding cuts, stating that New York State simply cannot compensate for the billions of dollars that could be lost. With the April 1 budget deadline rapidly approaching, the state faces significant uncertainty as Republican-led federal budget negotiations continue.



Image Source: amny.com

New York's budget relies heavily on federal aid, with \$96 billion of the current \$237 billion spending plan coming from Washington. Governor Kathy Hochul has echoed Gillibrand's concerns, emphasizing that no state has the resources to fill such a massive funding gap. Essential services such as Medicaid, public education, and law enforcement could be severely impacted if the cuts go through. The situation is further complicated by policy disputes between state lawmakers, delaying budget negotiations. Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie acknowledged the ongoing deadlock, suggesting that a resolution may not come before the April 1 deadline. Meanwhile, Gillibrand criticized Congressional Republicans for prioritizing loyalty to Trump over their constituents, warning that New Yorkers would bear the brunt of these decisions. With the fate of federal aid still uncertain, state leaders continue to push for intervention, hoping to mitigate the potential damage to millions of New Yorkers.

Unity

President Trump Thanks Muslim Americans at White House Iftar

A Message of Unity and Gratitude



Abdul Alim

President Donald Trump, newly elected for a second term, hosted an Iftar dinner at the White House, where he extended his gratitude to Muslim Americans for their support in the 2024 presidential election. Addressing the gathering, Trump acknowledged the significant role that Muslim voters played in securing his victory, emphasizing their record turnout and engagement in the political process. During his speech, Trump expressed appreciation for the strong backing his campaign received from Muslim voters across the country, while also giving special recognition to the mayor of Hamtramck, Michigan, Amer Ghalib. He recalled how his initial support among Muslim Americans was limited but grew rapidly over time, comparing it to a "rocket ship" as his campaign progressed. "We started a little slow with you, but we came along, and by the time that lecture was finished, we figured we went up like a rocket

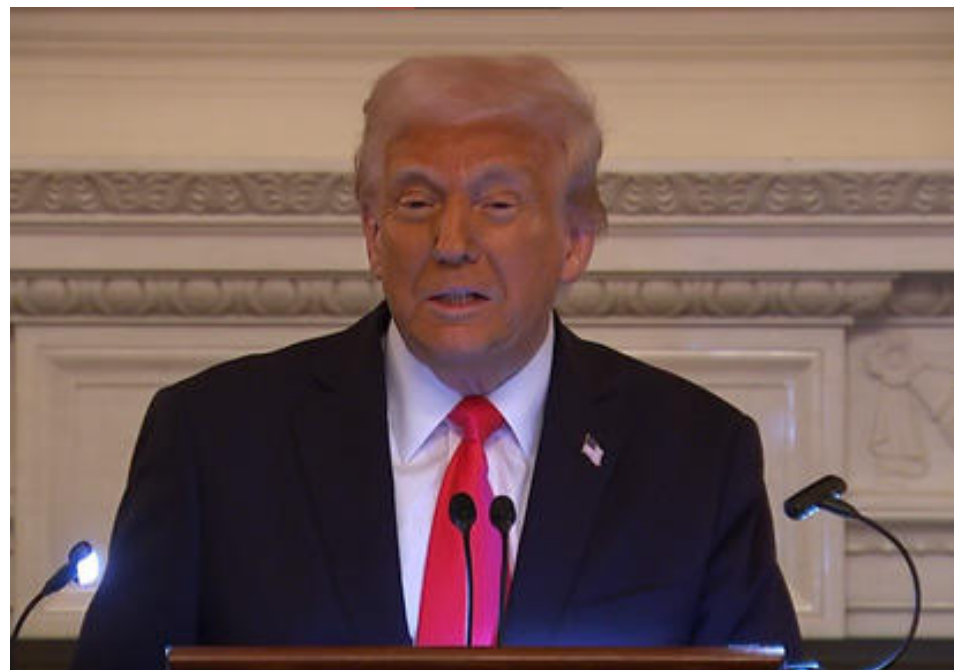
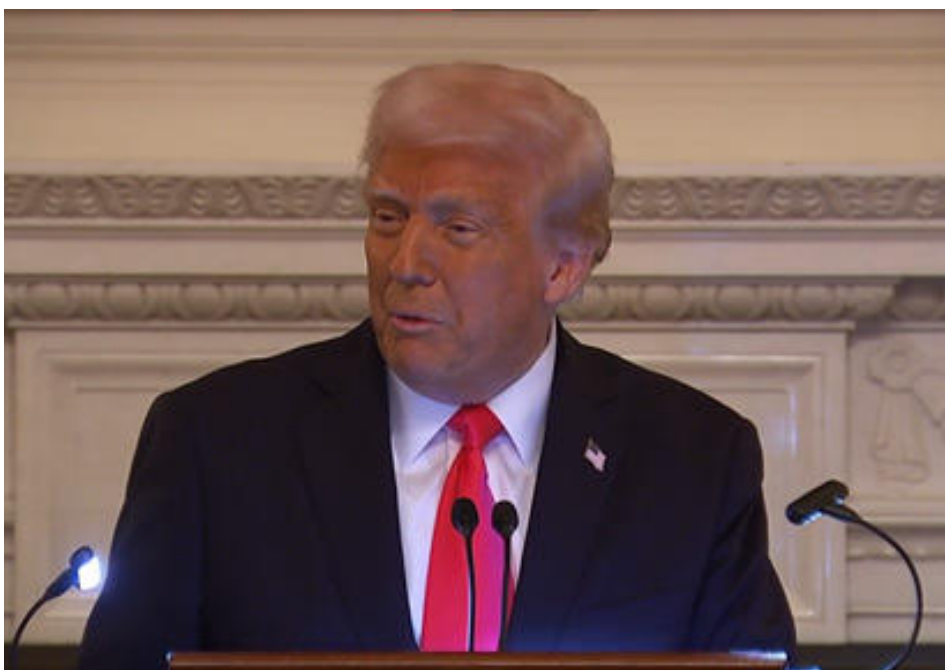
ship," Trump remarked, drawing applause from the audience. Trump particularly highlighted the contributions of Muslim leaders and community figures who endorsed him at crucial moments. He singled out Mayor Amer Ghalib for his support and described his endorsement as coming "right at the right time." This acknowledgment reinforced Trump's efforts to build alliances with influential figures in the Muslim community, particularly in key battleground states like Michigan, where Hamtramck became the first Muslim-majority city in the United States. As part of his remarks, Trump assured Muslim Americans that his administration would stand by them. "The Muslim community was there for us in November, and while I'm president, I will be there for you," he declared. He emphasized his commitment to engaging with Muslim leaders and addressing their concerns, signalling a shift from the often contentious relationship he had with the

community during his first presidency. Trump recalled his visits to Michigan, where he met with various faith leaders and community representatives. He described the conversations as deeply insightful, noting that many of those he spoke with expressed a strong desire for peace, stability, and prosperity. "When I was in Michigan, I met with so many leaders of faith, and I said, what about your attitude here, your attitude there? All of the attitudes and all of the things I heard, they said, sir, all we want is peace," Trump said. He also shared a moment from one of these meetings, where he initially misunderstood the perspective of some Muslim leaders regarding conflict and life in America. "I said, but I understand you don't mind death. They said, no, sir, we want to live. We want to live, and we want to be happy, and we want to love everybody," Trump recalled, describing the interaction as "very inspirational." Trump's recognition

of Muslim American voters marks a notable political shift, given his historically controversial policies regarding Muslim-majority nations and immigration. During his first term, his administration faced criticism over the so-called "Muslim ban," which restricted travel from several Muslim-majority countries. However, in his re-election campaign, Trump worked to rebuild relationships with Muslim communities, particularly in states like Michigan and Minnesota, where their votes carried significant electoral weight. His remarks at the Iftar suggest a continued effort to maintain and strengthen this relationship. By acknowledging the support of Muslim Americans and highlighting their role in his victory, Trump is likely aiming to solidify their backing for future policy initiatives. Analysts suggest that his renewed engagement with Muslim leaders could be an attempt to broaden his coalition and appeal

to a more diverse voter base. Muslim American leaders and attendees at the White House Iftar responded positively to Trump's remarks, though some remained cautiously optimistic about his promises. Many saw the event as a step toward greater inclusivity and recognition of the community's political influence. "It's important that we are seen and heard at the highest levels of government," one attendee remarked. Others, however, expressed skepticism, pointing to past policies and statements that created tensions between Trump and Muslim Americans. Advocacy groups emphasized the need for concrete actions beyond words, calling for greater protection of religious freedoms, more inclusive immigration policies, and efforts to combat Islamophobia. Despite differing perspectives, Trump's outreach to Muslim Americans has undeniably marked a shift in his approach. His speech at the Iftar dinner underscored

an effort to build stronger ties with a community that has often felt marginalized in American politics. As Trump begins his second term, his relationship with Muslim Americans will be closely watched. His administration's policies, particularly on immigration, civil rights, and foreign relations with Muslim-majority countries, will determine whether his words translate into meaningful action. For many Muslim voters, the key question remains: Will Trump's commitment extend beyond rhetoric to tangible changes that benefit their communities? For now, the White House Iftar stands as a symbolic moment—one that acknowledges the growing political power of Muslim Americans and their role in shaping the nation's future. Trump's promise to "be there" for Muslim Americans will be tested in the coming years, as expectations for greater inclusivity and policy reforms continue to rise.



International



Image Source: Financial Times

Myanmar's Darkest Hour: Civil War and Natural Disaster Collide

Survivors struggle for food, medical care, and shelter amid destruction.

Mirza Hasib

Myanmar is reeling from one of the deadliest earthquakes in its history, a disaster that has only compounded the suffering of a nation already battered by years of civil war. On Friday, March 28, a powerful 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck near Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city, killing at least 1,644 people and injuring over 3,400. The toll is expected to rise as rescue efforts continue under dire conditions, with many trapped under the rubble of collapsed buildings. The earthquake struck at the worst possible time for Myanmar, a country that has been locked in a brutal conflict since a military junta seized power in 2021. The civil war has devastated infrastructure, leaving roads impassable and communications networks fragile. These challenges have severely hampered rescue operations, with volunteers digging

through debris with their bare hands in a desperate attempt to save lives. Despite their efforts, many remain missing, feared to be trapped under the wreckage of homes, offices, mosques, and monasteries. Mandalay, the city closest to the epicentre, has suffered immense damage. Entire neighbourhoods have been reduced to rubble, and places of worship that were busy with Friday prayers collapsed on worshippers. The tragedy extends to the rural Sagaing region, where many live in fragile wooden houses that, while better at withstanding earthquakes, have still left residents vulnerable. Hospitals, overwhelmed with the injured, have turned away victims due to a lack of space and medical supplies. One survivor in Mandalay recalled the moment her home crumbled around her. "It hit very strong and very fast," she said. She had been boiling water for her baby's milk

when the walls came crashing down, trapping her grandmother under the debris. Her husband managed to force open the jammed door to rescue her, but thousands of others were not as lucky. In a rare move, Myanmar's junta leader, Min Aung Hlaing, quickly appealed for international aid, a stark departure from the military's usual rejection of foreign assistance. China, a long-time ally of the junta, was among the first to send supplies and rescue teams. Russia, India, Malaysia, and Singapore also pledged assistance, but for those trapped under the rubble, help could not come soon enough. Adding to the misery, aftershocks as strong as 6.7-magnitude have continued to rattle the region, leaving survivors too afraid to return to their homes. Many are sleeping in the open, exposed to the elements, with food and water supplies running dangerously low. The United Nations has

allocated \$5 million in emergency aid, and the European Union has pledged €2.5 million, but the situation remains desperate. The destruction comes as Muslims in Myanmar and around the world were preparing for Eid ul-Fitr, marking the end of Ramadan. Instead of celebrating with traditional feasts, thousands of families in Myanmar are mourning their dead. Across the country, Eid prayers were overshadowed by the grief of lost loved ones and the struggle for survival. For those who could still celebrate, Eid ul-Fitr remained a symbol of resilience. Despite the devastation, families in refugee camps and makeshift shelters tried to uphold traditions. In some areas, small gatherings took place where children still received "Eid" from elders—a momentary escape from the harsh realities of the disaster. Elsewhere in the world, Eid celebrations continued, though many

expressed solidarity with Myanmar's victims. In Egypt, Indonesia, and Malaysia, families marked the occasion with traditional sweets, while in Turkey, baklava and Turkish delight were shared among neighbours. In the United States, diverse Muslim communities came together for charity drives, sending aid to disaster-stricken areas. But in Myanmar, where the crisis deepens by the day, the spirit of Eid has been replaced with mourning. The earthquake has also put a temporary halt to some of the fighting between Myanmar's military and pro-democracy forces. The opposition National Unity Government (NUG) announced a two-week pause in offensive operations in affected areas to allow for rescue efforts. However, reports indicate that the junta has continued airstrikes in some regions, further complicating relief operations. Myanmar's tragedy

has underscored the vulnerability of conflict-ridden nations to natural disasters. The combination of war, weak infrastructure, and political instability has made it nearly impossible to mount an effective response. Aid groups have pleaded for unrestricted access to affected areas, warning that the situation could deteriorate further without immediate international intervention. As the world watches, the people of Myanmar face a long and difficult road to recovery. With thousands dead, countless homes destroyed, and a humanitarian crisis unfolding, the country now stands at the intersection of war and disaster. Whether the international community's response will be enough to prevent further loss remains to be seen, but for the survivors trapped under the weight of both rubble and conflict, time is running out.



Image Source : Daily Express



Image Source: Al Jazeera



Image Source: baohaiduong.vn



Image Source: Mathrubhumi English



Image Source: BBC

Faith & Celebrations

Diverse Dates, Unified Spirit: Eid ul-Fitr Celebrations Across the Globe

Exploring the Rich Traditions of Eid ul-Fitr Across Continents

Tayeb Ali

Eid ul-Fitr, the "Festival of Breaking the Fast," is being celebrated across the world, marking the end of Ramadan's month-long fasting, spiritual reflection, and devotion. As one of the most significant Islamic festivals, Eid is a time for prayer, gratitude, and community gatherings. The exact date of Eid varies by region due to the sighting of the new moon, leading to different countries observing the festival on separate days. In Saudi Arabia and the United States, Eid ul-Fitr commenced on Sunday, March 30, 2025, following the confirmed sighting of the Shawwal crescent moon. Mosques and open spaces were filled with worshippers performing the special Eid prayer, a moment of unity and gratitude. Families gathered for festive meals, dressed in new clothes, and exchanged gifts, particularly "Eidi"—money or presents given to children. Meanwhile, countries including Oman, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Morocco, Indonesia, Pakistan, Malaysia, and others are celebrating today, Monday, March 31, 2025, or will observe Eid



Image Source: MSM Unify

tomorrow, Tuesday, April 1, 2025, based on their lunar confirmations. In many parts of the world, Eid is synonymous with food, particularly sweet delicacies. The festival is often called the "Sugar Feast" because of the abundance of desserts served. In Turkey, people share classic sweets like Baklava and Turkish delight with neighbours and friends, a tradition that strengthens communal ties. In Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Kleichas, rose-flavored biscuits filled

with nuts and dates, are a staple. These cookies, considered national treats, are often baked in large quantities and distributed among relatives. Yemenis enjoy Bint al-Sahn, a honey-soaked pastry topped with nigella seeds, while Egyptians prepare "Kahk," butter cookies filled with dates or nuts, a tradition passed down through generations. Savory dishes also play a central role in Eid feasts. In Russia, where dumplings are beloved, Manti—seasoned meat-filled dumplings—are a

popular choice. In China, Muslims celebrate Eid by making You Xiang, fried flour-and-water patties that are either gifted or enjoyed with family. In Bangladesh, a traditional Eid meal often includes Korma, a rich and aromatic curry, accompanied by various types of savory pittas shared with loved ones. Eid celebrations extend beyond food, encompassing a variety of cultural traditions. In Indonesia and Malaysia, the "mudik" or "balik kampung" custom sees millions travel back to

their hometowns to celebrate with extended family. Transportation hubs become crowded, and rural areas come alive with festivities. In Afghanistan, an unusual but beloved tradition called "Tokhm-Jangi" takes place—families and friends engage in playful egg fights, where participants try to break their opponent's hard-boiled egg while keeping their own intact. Eid greetings vary by country, reflecting the linguistic and cultural diversity of the Muslim world. While "Eid

Mubarak" is universally recognized, Malaysians say "Selamat Hari Raya," and in Nigeria, the Hausa-speaking population greets one another with "Balla da Sallah." This linguistic variety underscores the global nature of the festival while maintaining regional identities. Charity remains an essential part of Eid, as giving to those in need is one of the five pillars of Islam. Zakat al-Fitr, a form of charitable donation, is given before the Eid prayer to ensure that the less fortunate can also partake in the celebrations. In many communities, organizations arrange food distributions, clothing drives, and financial aid programs, reinforcing the festival's spirit of generosity and compassion. Despite being celebrated on different days, the essence of Eid ul-Fitr remains the same worldwide—a time of gratitude, joy, and unity. Whether in bustling cities or quiet villages, the festival fosters a sense of togetherness, reminding Muslims of their shared faith and the importance of love, charity, and celebration.



Image Source: Middle East Monitor



Image Source: The Statesman



Image Source: BBC



Image Source: Adobe Stock



Iran's Path to 2026 World Cup: Victory, Celebration, and Uncertainty

Diplomatic Tensions Loom Over Travel

Habiba Sultana

Iran has officially qualified for the 2026 World Cup, securing their spot with a hard-fought 2-2 draw against Uzbekistan in Tehran. The match, which marked Iran's fourth consecutive World Cup qualification and seventh overall, was a memorable one for Iranian football fans, with striker Mehdi Taremi playing a key role by scoring both goals for his team. This achievement continues Iran's strong footballing legacy, and the team now looks forward to competing in the 2026 tournament, which will be jointly hosted by the United States, Mexico, and Canada. However, while the Iranian national team is celebrating this monumental accomplishment, there are growing concerns about potential travel restrictions that could impact both players



Image Source: Middle East Monitor

HIGHLIGHT

● **Mehdi Taremi's brace secures Iran's spot in the tournament.**

● **U.S. travel restrictions on Iranian nationals pose a threat to participation.**

and fans. Under the Trump administration, Iran was one of the

countries included in a list of 41 nations facing travel bans to the United States. These restrictions, which were initially put in place as part of a broader effort to control immigration, could pose a significant challenge for Iranian fans hoping to attend the World Cup matches held in the U.S. Additionally, the travel ban could

also complicate the participation of Iranian players and officials, who may face obstacles in traveling to the tournament. The 2026 World Cup will be a historic one, as it will be the first time the tournament is co-hosted by three countries. While the joint hosting arrangement aims to bring the global

footballing community closer together, the looming issue of travel restrictions underscores the political and diplomatic challenges that continue to affect international sports events. The potential for Iranian players and supporters to be excluded from the tournament raises important questions about the intersection of politics and sports. Iran's qualification for the World Cup is a testament to the country's progress in football, but the uncertainty surrounding travel access highlights the need for a broader discussion about the impact of political decisions on international sports. As the world prepares for the tournament, the Iranian football community hopes that diplomatic efforts can resolve the travel issue, allowing them to fully participate in this momentous event.

Iran's football federation has called on global governing bodies like FIFA to intervene, ensuring that no nation is unfairly excluded from competing based on political considerations. The upcoming World Cup is an opportunity for players from all over the world to showcase their talent and unity, and it is crucial that the spirit of fair competition is upheld, regardless of the political climate. As the 2026 World Cup approaches, the hope is that sports will continue to serve as a bridge for peace and unity, transcending the divisions often created by politics. In conclusion, while Iran's football achievement deserves celebration, the issue of travel restrictions casts a shadow over the excitement, reminding us that the political landscape can sometimes influence the world of sports in unexpected ways.

Universities in Australia Face Backlash Over Proposed Islamophobia Definition

Groups Push for Broader Anti-Racism Framework, Addressing All Communities Equally

Gazi Selim

The debate surrounding the definition of Islamophobia in Australian universities has raised significant concerns, particularly among Muslim and Palestinian organizations. These groups have voiced strong opposition to universities' plans to create a new, separate definition of Islamophobia. Their primary concern is that this move may detract from broader discussions and actions needed to address racism in all its forms. These organizations argue that focusing exclusively on Islamophobia risks isolating a single form of discrimination rather than tackling the root causes of all forms of racism. The opposition coalition is calling for a unified anti-racism standard, which would protect all communities, regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity.

They argue that defining Islamophobia separately could create a double standard, ultimately weakening the fight against discrimination. The groups also express concern that the proposed definition may serve as a way for universities to shield themselves from criticism regarding the controversial antisemitism definition, which has been under scrutiny in recent years. By adopting a new definition of Islamophobia, critics believe universities may inadvertently divert attention from addressing the intersection of various forms of racism that affect multiple communities. For example, Palestinian communities, who face significant challenges related to racism and discrimination, may not see their struggles adequately addressed by a definition focused solely on Islamophobia. In this context, the

coalition argues that Islamophobia should not be treated as a standalone issue but instead be understood as part of a broader framework of anti-racism efforts. The debate has sparked intense discussions not only within academic institutions but also within the broader public sphere. Critics of the new definition argue that creating separate categories for different forms of discrimination could undermine the collective effort to fight all forms of hate. They emphasize that the real issue lies in the way universities and institutions choose to address systemic racism. If universities only tackle specific, isolated forms of discrimination without addressing the underlying causes of racism, these efforts may not lead to meaningful change. On the other hand, proponents of the



Image Source: The Guardian

new definition argue that Islamophobia is a specific issue with unique challenges that require targeted measures. They contend that a definition focusing on Islamophobia can raise awareness about the specific forms of discrimination Muslims face, particularly in academic settings, where prejudice can sometimes manifest through biased curricula or discriminatory practices. Despite these differing views, the debate has highlighted the need for universities to take stronger and more

comprehensive stances against all forms of hate and discrimination. Human rights organizations, including the Australian Human Rights Commission, have emphasized the importance of creating inclusive spaces within academic institutions. These spaces should not only protect the rights of marginalized communities but also actively work to prevent discrimination in all its forms. As this debate continues, it remains unclear how universities will proceed. Will they adopt a broader, more inclusive anti-racism

framework that tackles all forms of hate or continue with efforts to define Islamophobia separately? This issue touches on fundamental questions about how societies confront systemic racism and discrimination, particularly in academic settings. The outcome of this debate could have far-reaching implications for the future of anti-racism policies in Australian universities, as well as for the broader public discourse on race and religion. Ultimately, the conversation reflects a critical moment in the ongoing struggle against racism in Australia. With increasing calls for institutions to prioritize equality and fairness, the way forward may involve building bridges between different communities and developing a shared understanding of what it means to combat hate in all its forms.