



DEFENDING AGAINST ANTI-MUSLIM DISCRIMINATION

Your right to wear a headscarf or hijab.

- At the airport and border: If asked to remove your hijab, you should assert your right to wear it. Officials may conduct a pat-down of your hijab or ask you to remove it. You have the right to request that the pat-down or removal be conducted by a person of your gender and that it occurs in a private area.
- Places that provide lodging, food service or entertainment to the public cannot turn you away because of your hijab or headscarf, or demand that you remove it in order to obtain goods or services.

When approached by law enforcement.

- The Constitution and federal law prohibit law enforcement officers from performing stops, searches, or arrests based solely on religion, race, national origin, gender, ethnicity, or political beliefs.
- If law enforcement officers ask you to agree to an interview, you have the right to refuse.
- Although it is a crime to provide false information to a federal officer and sometimes to state and local law enforcement, remaining silent is not a crime.

Your rights in the workplace.

- Most employers may not discriminate on the basis of religion. An employer can be liable for religious harassment if workplace harassment creates a hostile work environment. You must be allowed to practice your faith at work unless accommodating your religious practices would be costly or burdensome for your employer.

Over the past several years, our nation has seen a rise in anti-Muslim rhetoric, anti-Muslim hatred, and anti-Muslim discrimination.



We have seen Muslim communities surveilled, profiled, and targeted by unjust immigration laws. Some have been the victims of hate crimes. Some have been asked to sign loyalty oaths by the lawmakers who represent them. And most recently, the President of the United States has taken the first step towards trying to ban Muslims from entering the country. The ACLU of Texas works to counter these measures through lobbying, litigation and public education.