

# UNHOSTILE *Campus*

August 2025, Vol. 2

Newsletter



## Back to School, Back to No Bullying

The Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, would like to welcome you back to a new school year. In recent months, CAIR has seen and received multiple reports of students being harassed online and at school due to advocacy for Palestinian human rights, including reports of bullying against visibly Muslim students and disciplinary action in public school settings and instances of threatening messages targeting students online.<sup>1</sup> In California, one study found that Muslim students are bullied at twice the rate of other students.<sup>2</sup> In New York, over half of the students surveyed reported being bullied at school because of being Muslim.<sup>3</sup> Preventing bullying is both a moral duty and a legal responsibility under federal civil rights laws. Let's work together to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and included.

Sincerely,  
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The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) is the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization. CAIR's vision is to be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding. CAIR's mission is to enhance understanding of Islam, protect civil rights, promote justice, and empower American Muslims.

1. Council on American-Islamic Relations. "CAIR Know Your Rights as a Student." [https://www.cair.com/know\\_your\\_rights/your-rights-as-a-student/#elementor-toc\\_\\_heading-anchor-6](https://www.cair.com/know_your_rights/your-rights-as-a-student/#elementor-toc__heading-anchor-6).
2. CAIR California. CAIR-CA Reports: Muslim Students Twice as Likely to Be Bullied. Press release, November 3, 2023. [https://www.cair.com/press\\_releases/cair-ca-reports-shows-muslim-students-twice-as-likely-to-be-bullied-video/](https://www.cair.com/press_releases/cair-ca-reports-shows-muslim-students-twice-as-likely-to-be-bullied-video/)
3. CAIR New York. Feeling the Hate in Our Schools. September 2024. [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57db6af7f7e0abec41695d80/t/66e1fc67605bbc519ff38098/1726086300246/Bullying+Report\\_compressed+%281%29.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57db6af7f7e0abec41695d80/t/66e1fc67605bbc519ff38098/1726086300246/Bullying+Report_compressed+%281%29.pdf)

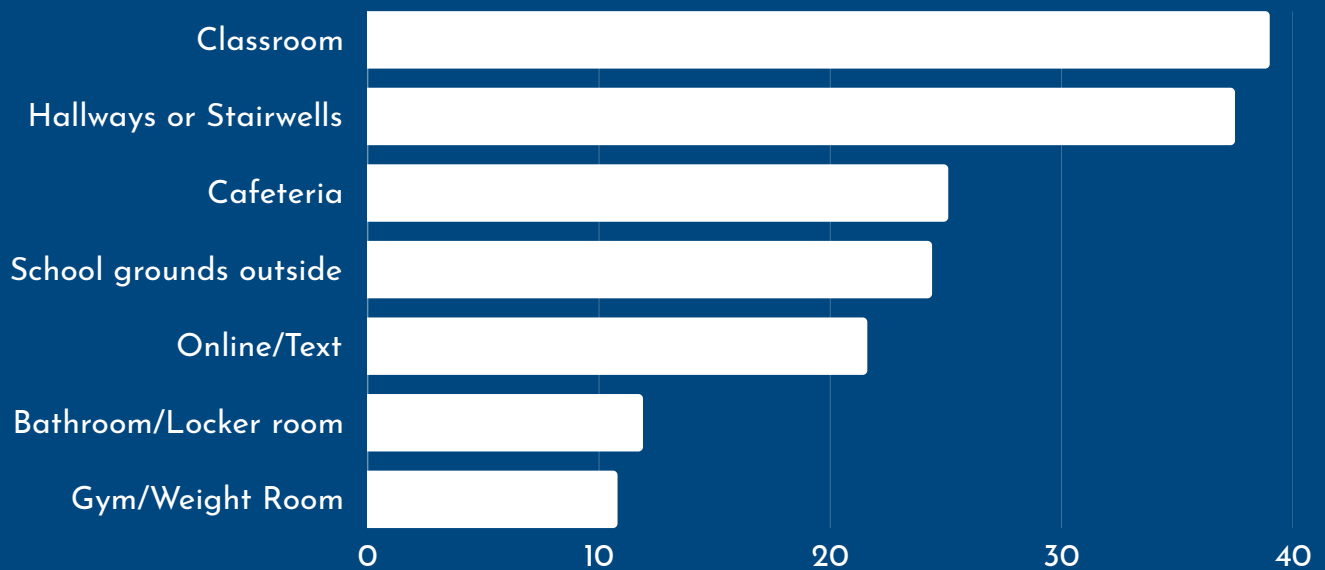
## What is Bullying?

Bullying is sustained abusive treatment in a K-12 or higher education setting, such as physical force, hurtful teasing, and intimidation leveled at someone with relatively less social power by someone with relatively more.<sup>4</sup>

## What is Islamophobia?

Islamophobia is anti-Muslim racism. It is a fear, hatred, or prejudice toward Islam and Muslims that results in a pattern of discrimination and oppression.<sup>5</sup>

## Where Does Bullying Occur? <sup>6</sup>



Among bullied students, **21.6%** experienced cyberbullying, and girls reported nearly twice the rate of boys **(27.7% vs. 14.1%).<sup>6</sup>**

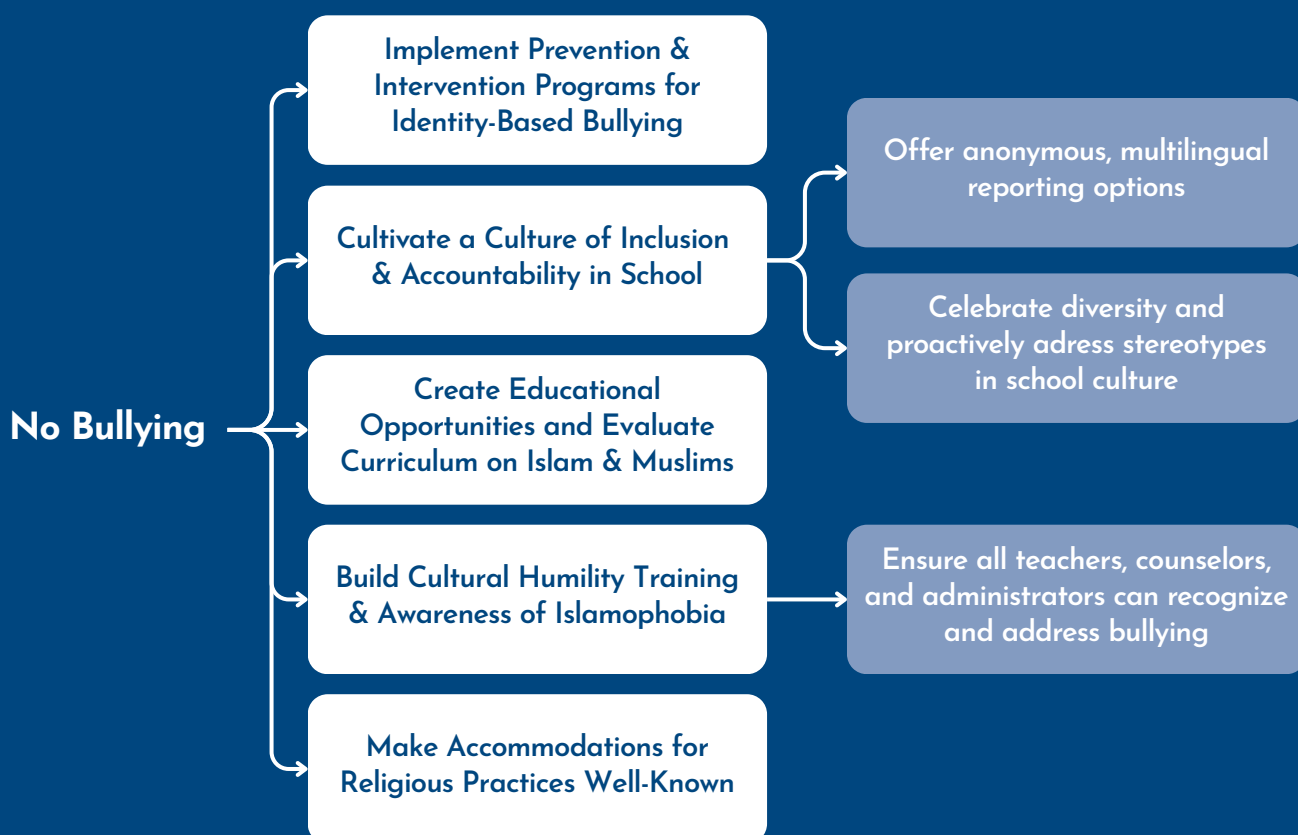


4. Council on American-Islamic Relations. 2025 Civil Rights Report: Unconstitutional Crackdowns. Islamophobia.org. <https://islamophobia.org/civil-rights-reports/2025-civil-rights-report-unconstitutional-crackdowns/>.

5. Council on American-Islamic Relations. 2025 Civil Rights Report: Unconstitutional Crackdowns. Islamophobia.org. <https://islamophobia.org/civil-rights-reports/2025-civil-rights-report-unconstitutional-crackdowns/>.

6. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "Facts About Bullying." StopBullying.gov. <https://www.stopbullying.gov/resources/facts>.

# How Do We Implement "No Bullying" in Schools?





# Special Focus: Creating a Sense of Belonging for Muslim Students



Addressing all harmful effects of Islamophobia, discrimination, and racism will create a sense of belonging for Muslim students and improve the quality of the overall school environment. Muslim students who constantly feel “different” or “out of place” due to bullying or bias should be offered leadership opportunities through service-learning and community engagement programs to strengthen their sense of belonging:

- Partner with Muslim community organizations to host job fairs, book fairs, community service projects, and civic leadership activities.
- Support student organizations that center religious identity in planning events that celebrate heritage. For Muslim students, this may include Ramadan, Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, Muslim Heritage Month, Islamic History Month, and similar observances.
- Promote awareness in the broader school community through student-led advocacy, such as World Hijab Day in February and Fast-a-thon during Ramadan.
- Recognize Ramadan and Eid across the district as opportunities for unity and inclusivity. Encourage participation by wishing students Ramadan Mubarak or Eid Mubarak and joining in school-hosted festivities.



*At CAIR, we believe that schools should be places where every student, regardless of faith, race, or background, feels safe, valued, and empowered to succeed. As this school year begins, we urge you to go beyond simply responding to bullying. Proactively confront bias, champion inclusion, and create opportunities for students to lead and thrive. Together, we can ensure that no child is made to feel invisible, unwelcome, or afraid because of who they are or what their viewpoints are. CAIR is here to stand with you to offer training, policy guidance, and community partnership, so that every student walks through your school doors knowing they belong.*

## Educator Tools & Resources

- [An Educator's Guide to Islamic Religious Practices](#)
- [CAIR's Guide to Bullying and Bias in Schools](#)

## Highlighted Report

- [CAIR's Civil Rights Report Shows Islamophobia Complaints at All-Time High, Viewpoint Discrimination Key Factor](#)



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