



## Fact Sheet: Bullying in Schools

### 1. Bullying comes in many different forms.

Bullying can consist of physical or verbal harassment, the destruction of students' property, or forms of social isolation such as the spreading of malicious rumors. Bullying online (cyberbullying) has also grown in recent years.

### 2. As many as 70% of Muslim students report being bullied.

Muslim students report being bullied at rates between 50% and 70%.<sup>1</sup> In contrast, 25% to 33% of American students as a whole report being bullied.<sup>2</sup>

### 3. Anti-Muslim bullying can also come from educators.

In a 2017 survey, educators were identified as the perpetrators in approximately 25% of cases of Muslim students being bullied.<sup>3</sup>

### 4. Students from marginalized groups are particularly at risk of being bullied.

Students from ethnic and religious minority backgrounds, LGBT students, students with disabilities, and students from other marginalized groups are more likely to be bullied.<sup>4</sup>

### 5. Anti-Muslim bullying increases with Islamophobic rhetoric.

Reports of anti-Muslim bullying to hotlines spike after events, such as terrorist attacks, that lead to Muslims being discussed negatively by politicians and in the media.<sup>5</sup>

### 6. Bullying denies students their right to an education.

Research shows that bullying undermines students' mental health as well as their ability to participate fully in their education. Students who are bullied may experience a decrease in their grades and are more likely to drop out of school.<sup>6</sup>

### 7. Bullying is a public health issue.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine have called on policymakers to treat bullying as a serious threat to students' health and life outcomes.<sup>7</sup>

### 8. Students do not have full legal protection from religion-based bullying.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects students from discrimination based on categories such as race or national origin, but does not include religion as a protected category.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Bullying Prevention Guide*. Islamic Network Group (ING), 2015. <https://ing.org/bullying-prevention-guide/>

<sup>2</sup> *stopbullying.gov*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2017. <http://bit.ly/2yFfHqA>

<sup>3</sup> *American Muslim Poll 2017*. Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, 2017. <http://bit.ly/2x2klx8>

<sup>4</sup> *stopbullying.gov*, 2017.

<sup>5</sup> *Unshakeable*. CAIR-California, 2017. <http://bit.ly/2yfp33f>

<sup>6</sup> *stopbullying.gov*, 2017.

<sup>7</sup> *Preventing Bullying Through Science, Policy, and Practice*. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2016.

<sup>8</sup> "Know Your Rights: Title VI and Religion." U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights. 2017.

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/know-rights-201701-religious-disc.pdf>