DOKUSTELLE
Islamfeindlichkeit & antimuslimischer Rassismus

Anti-Muslim Racism Report 2024[1] - Summary

The Documentation and Counseling Center Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim Racism (Dokustelle Austria for short) is a self-organized civil society contact point for people affected by anti-Muslim racism. For ten years, the team has been systematically documenting cases of anti-Muslim discrimination and attacks in Austria, monitoring media discourse and offering advice and support to those affected.

Additionally the Dokustelle Austria organizes empowerment offers for those affected and awareness-raising training for people who want to come to terms with their racist privileges. Its central goal: coexistence based on equity in Austria - with just opportunities for all.

On June 10, 2025, the Dokustelle Austria will present the **10th Anti-Muslim Racism Report**.

Annual overview

In 2024, the Dokustelle Austria documented a total of **1336 anti-Muslim racist attacks** - both against Muslims and against people who are perceived as Muslim. The figures are made up of reported offline cases and online incidents that were recorded as part of systematic monitoring.

It should be emphasized at this point that the statistics presented are a snapshot and can in no way be considered representative of the full extent of anti-Muslim racism in Austria. We assume that there is a considerable gray area. The aim of our documentation is to make trends graspable - because every single case is one too many.

Based on an intersectional understanding of racist structures in a majority-dominated society, the data at hand is collected and evaluated while taking into account possible multiple discrimination.

In 2024, **340 people contacted the Dokustelle Austria in person to actively report assaults** - many also sought psychosocial or legal support. At the same time, 996 cases of anti-Muslim hate were documented in the digital space.

The peaks in August and September are striking – an increase that is directly linked to the National Council elections in the fall of 2024. As in previous years, it is clear that election campaigns in Austria have a concrete impact on the everyday lives of Muslims and those perceived as such.

Acts of Attacks and Crimes (documented offline cases)

The analysis of offline cases shows: The most frequently reported incidents were **insults (19.9%)** and **unequal treatment (19.4%)**. Especially Muslim women described discriminatory experiences in the healthcare system — for example, being reduced to their appearance, devalued, or not taken seriously. Muslim doctors also reported structural unequal treatment and a lack of recognition of their professional expertise.

As in previous years, the category of **spreading hatred (13.3%)** is strongly represented in the documentation and analysis, followed by **police violence (9.3%)** and **dangerous threats (8.8%)**. In

[1] The entire report can be downloaded as a PDF from dokustelle.at from 10 June 2025.

the category of spreading hate, we observe an increasing number of cases in which Muslim organizations are deliberately targeted with hateful messages. The Dokustelle Austria itself was also increasingly targeted by hate messages via email and social media in 2024. This trend shows: the more visible the work against anti-Muslim racism becomes, the more severe the attacks.

Other recorded offenses in the offline area in 2024 involved the connection between police violence and demonstrations in solidarity with Palestinians. Numerous affected individuals reported unjustified bans or dissolutions of assemblies — even when these were lawfully registered. Participants were sometimes subjected to excessive and unlawful penalties. Anti-Muslim racism manifested both on an individual level — for example, through discriminatory behavior by officials — and structurally, such as through the systematic restriction of freedom of assembly. Particularly Muslim women who visibly identify themselves, for example by wearing religious clothing, reported often being perceived as potential security risks and being routinely criminalized. This approach severely restricts the political participation of the Muslim civil society.

Among the cases of property damage actively reported to the Dokustelle Austria, **vandalism (7.7%)** and **racist graffiti (7.7%)** were especially common. For example, an Islamic school was once again the target of an attack: early in the morning, staff found a large-scale slogan with the phrase “Islamists out” painted on the exterior wall.

A look back over ten years shows: insults, unequal treatment, and the spread of hatred are the most frequently documented forms of abuse. This underscores that Muslims in Austria are inadequately protected from discrimination both at the individual and institutional levels. The results align with the 2024 study “Being Muslim in the EU” published by the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), which points to similar deficiencies.

The majority of documented incidents occurred in **public spaces (31.8%)** — such as on streets or in parks. Women in particular reported insults, spitting, or threats. Islamophobic graffiti and vandalism were also recorded here. Other common locations **include workplaces (11.8%)** and **educational institutions (10%).**

Gender of those affected (documented offline cases)

In the documented category “Gender”[2] of those affected, **“female”** continues to dominate with **76.8%**, while **23.2%** of those affected identify as **“male”.** This trend is consistent across all years of the Dokustelle Austria survey and makes it clear that anti-Muslim racism particularly often befalls those who are affected by discrimination at multiple points of intersection.

In addition to gender, other factors play a central role - such as wearing a headscarf, racialized attributions, age, socio-economic status or an attributed migration history. The documentation practice of the Dokustelle Austria follows an intersectional approach: it visually details the interweaving of different forms of discrimination visible and thus reveals the multiple ways in which many Muslims in Austria are affected, making their everyday lives more difficult.

[2] Gender is currently recorded primarily in the categories “female” and “male”, based on self-assignment in reports or counseling sessions - but also partly on ascribed identifications. This categorization reflects the available data, but at the same time shows a structural limitation that has so far taken insufficient account of non-binary persons; the Dokustelle Austria is working on a more inclusive survey.

Perpetrators (documented offline cases)

The evaluation of the perpetrators is based on the descriptions given by those affected — therefore, it mainly reflects external perceptions. However, the information clearly shows that, in addition to individuals, organizations, media representatives, civil servants, and politicians also appear as perpetrators. Especially when police officers, journalists, or political actors are involved, existing power relations become particularly evident — with far-reaching social consequences.

Online Monitoring

In 2024, a total of **996 anti-Muslim incidents were documented in the online sphere**. While the number of cases remained stable at the beginning of the year, there was a significant increase starting in June. In August, 137 cases were reported, accounting for 13.8% of all online incidents for the year. In September, the number rose to 196 cases, representing 19.8% of the total. Although the numbers slightly decreased again in October with 108 reports, they still remained well above the monthly average for the year.

This increase can be linked to several social and political developments. The EU election campaign in June, particularly driven by right-wing populist actors such as the FPÖ, was strongly characterized by Islam- and migration-hostile narratives. Campaign topics like “overforeignization” or “Islamization” dominated public debate and fueled racist resentments.

Sporting political events, such as the UEFA European Championship in Germany, also influenced the online climate in Austria. Especially in connection with matches against Turkey or teams from Southeastern Europe, there was a rise in racist slogans, symbols, and comments — both in stadiums and on social media. Media coverage of these events, combined with already heated societal debates, further reinforced anti-Muslim stereotypes.

Another key factor was the reporting on the Gaza war. In this context, Muslims were increasingly associated with violence and extremism — a dangerous discourse that quickly escalated in digital spaces into hate messages, threats, and discrimination. The high number of documented cases in late summer and early autumn can therefore also be understood as a reaction to the increasingly hostile media and political climate.

Particularly affected were again Muslim women with visible religious expression — for example, by wearing a headscarf — as well as refugees and people with Arab-Palestinian backgrounds. The attacks documented in the online sphere in 2024 also showed a pronounced intersectional component: where racist, sexist, and classist forms of discrimination intersect, those affected are especially vulnerable.

Overall, the analysis clearly shows how strongly anti-Muslim incidents in the digital space are influenced by political events, media discourses, and international developments — and how much societal tensions manifest in the form of digital violence against Muslims.

Report Focus: 10 years of work against anti-Muslim racism

Ten years after its founding, Dokustelle Austria stands at a turning point — in a year that exemplifies what it means to document anti-Muslim racism in an increasingly repressive climate, to counteract it, and to stand in solidarity alongside affected communities.

The year 2024 is marked by a societal and political backlash: less space for participation and free expression, intensified criminalization of Muslim and Muslim-identified self-organization, as well as attacks on fundamental and civil rights — particularly impacting multiple marginalized groups. The Dokustelle Austria finds itself in the midst of these developments — with a firm stance, limited resources, and growing responsibility.

What does it mean to document anti-Muslim racism in Austria in 2024? It means creating alternative knowledge where dominant narratives put Muslims under general suspicion; opening spaces where state structures restrict them; and strengthening alliances — with those affected, allies, and organizations committed to a more just society.

In the past ten years, the Dokustelle Austria has documented more than 9,000 cases of anti-Muslim racism. These figures offer only a glimpse into life realities shaped by degrading everyday experiences, structural discrimination, police violence, political campaigns, legal tightening, and media hate speech. The reports reveal deeply rooted racism that questions the bodies, language, clothing, and belonging of Muslim or Muslim-perceived people. The contributions in the focus section “10 Years of Dokustelle Austria” as well as our project work provide insight into these developments in this year’s report.

Dokustelle Austria Demands

Every case is one too many. The Dokustelle Austria examines the question of how racist violence affects those impacted, Muslim actors, as well as self-organized Muslim communities and their allies.

Many Muslims and people perceived as Muslim are not only subjected to physical and verbal attacks but also to systematic discrimination, biased media coverage, state censorship, criminalization, and dehumanization — all of which have a profound impact on their daily lives. What is missing in political debates about Muslims is a serious and critical examination of the concrete effects these discourses have on Muslims in Austria.

To this matter the Dokustelle Austria demands:

- Recognition of the phenomenon of anti-Muslim racism and a unified working definition, as well as the implementation of comprehensive awareness-raising measures.
- Effectively addressing multiple discriminations through an intersectional perspective and providing targeted protection for those affected.
- Racism-critical education: Teachers must be continuously trained — in cooperation with community-based and affected-centered organizations. Students also need awareness-raising and empowerment workshops, as well as healing spaces in schools.
- Independent psychosocial counseling and secured funding for the expansion and maintenance of free, locally accessible psychosocial counseling services and therapies.
- Those affected must be protected in criminal proceedings, emotionally and financially supported, and secondary victimization must be prevented.

- Consistent investigations into racially motivated crimes: The Ministry of Justice must systematically evaluate racially motivated offenses, identify weaknesses, and implement improvements.
- Human rights-compliant security policy: The criminal offense § 247b of the Penal Code ("religiously motivated extremist association") must not lead to the stigmatization of Muslim individuals. Security policy must uphold fundamental rights.
- Freedom of religion & protection against discrimination: Equal treatment of all religious communities and freedom of religious practice must be guaranteed without state control.
- Independent oversight bodies for the executive and security services: Police violence must be investigated independently, and victims compensated.
- Solidarity against racism, community strengthening, and protection of civil society spaces & freedom of expression: Civic engagement by human rights activists and affected-centered human rights organizations, as well as press and freedom of expression, must be legally protected and strengthened.
- Racism-critical media: Racism-critical perspectives must be an integral part of journalistic training and continuing education to recognize, avoid, and counter discriminatory narratives and distorted public portrayals.