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ISLAMOPHOBIA AND SECULARISM

Introduction

Humans have always been known for living together in groups. We started from being a hunter and gatherers. And then started making small colonies live together. We started agriculture. We started living together. From small families which usually used to be a male-female and their kids, who moved across the forest to get food, now we were settling at places near rivers and started growing food and cooking the That's when we started choosing someone to represent us and started believing in religions. They started understanding things which earlier which they could not. They started to make some assumptions and started accepting some beliefs. Like sun and stars revolve around earth or if they eat the meat of an animal they will acquire its strength. This was the time when we humans started choosing leaders. One who would represent the whole tribe. His/her words were to be the most important things. And that was the time when we started getting involved in clashes. What one leader might think to be correct would be wrong for other tribes. For some forest became a god and for some land and water. This all created a mess which was way too difficult to clean. This is the problem that has been traveling with human society for a long time.

But we are in the 21st century now. We are no longer living in tribes. We live in big countries, some of which are following one of the many religions as a state religion. Some are secular and some are so-called secular. One would gladly say that now we don't hate or discriminate against each other based on religions which we cant understand. It's not been more than a century since we saw one of the biggest religious massacres of all time. It was the time when Adolf Hitler, dictator of Germany started his pogrom against the Jew people. Many were killed in gas chambers, some killed while being used as slaves or laborers. Women were raped, tortured and killed just

because of their religion. But one might think it was still a century ago. But in the modern-day also such discrimination occurs. And one of the most common is Islamophobia.

Islam currently is the second-largest religion in the world with a total population of around 1.8 billion, the largest being Christianity. Islam is often considered to have originated in the 7th century making it the youngest of the major world religion. It was started from mecca, in modern-day Saudi Arabia during the prophet Muhammad's life.

WHAT IS ISLAMOPHOBIA?

Various attempts have been made at different times to explain this term. The Runnymede Trust explains that The term Islamophobia refers to unfounded hostility towards Islam. It refers also to the practical consequences of such hostility in unfair discrimination against Muslim individuals and communities, and the exclusion of Muslims from mainstream political and social affairs.¹

Ouis & Roald indicate that Islamophobia refers to the term refers partly to a fear or a phobia against the religion 'Islam' and of its supporters, Muslims, and also on a campaign against Islam and Muslims that originate from this fear...Expressions of Islamophobia are built upon the majority's vision about the minority.

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on British Muslims released a report 'Islamophobia Defined'² in November 2018, requesting the government of Britain to adopt a legal definition of Islamophobia.

The proposed definition from the APPG is as follows:

“Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness.”³

¹The Runnymede Trust, Islamophobia a challenge for us all, (1997) p.1,

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/islamophobia.pdf>

² The All Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims, “Islamophobia defined”,(Nov. 2018),

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/599c3d2febbd1a90cffdd8a9/t/5bfd1ea3352f531a6170ceee/1543315109493/Islamophobia+Defined.pdf>

³The All Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims, “Islamophobia defined”,(Nov. 2018) P.11,

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/599c3d2febbd1a90cffdd8a9/t/5bfd1ea3352f531a6170ceee/1543315109493/Islamophobia+Defined.pdf>

After reading the APPG's definition of Islamophobia one might ask, what is Muslimness? Because its Muslimness on which whole definition of Islamophobia works. What exactly is 'Muslimness' has been left undefined, perhaps deliberately. The proposed definition of Islamophobia is revolving around the words "perceived Muslimness", which makes the definition completely subjective. It is not clear whether the "perceived Muslimness" is perceived by the perpetrator or the victim. This question is what about those Muslims who are different from other Muslims, who don't look like other Muslims don't wear similar clothes. Problem is that the interpretation of the word "Muslimness" which leaves behind those Muslims who, because of how they choose to live their lives or practice their religion, don't have a "Muslimness" that other Muslims find acceptable. Any formulation that seeks to redress embedded disadvantages and injustices will be contested. Likewise, any definition of Islamophobia will be challenged. One could replace 'expressions of Muslimness' with 'Muslim identity', or 'Muslim' and it would not alter the thrust of the objections, nor the fact that it would be questioned. The only definition of Islamophobia that is likely not to be questioned is one that does not challenge anything, that is, one that does not deliver change or even the hope of something better.⁴

Some incidents that happened in the UK which can be classified as giving an example of what Muslimness is are;

1. Man tried to kill Muslim woman and 12-year-old girl as 'revenge' for terror attacks.⁵
2. "We don't like Muslims over here" - women tied up and tortured man.⁶
3. Muslim mother 'attacked for wearing hijab' as she went to collect children from London primary school.⁷

⁵ Lizzie Dearden, "Man tried to Kill Muslim Woman and 12-year-old girl as 'revenge' for Terror Attacks", The Independent (Mar. 2, 2018, 13:00)

⁶ Neil Hunter, "Guisborough friends jailed for attack on would-be soldier", The Northern Echo, (Aug. 14, 2018,)<http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/16397452.guisborough-friends-jailed-for-attack-on-would-be-soldier/?ref=twtr>

⁷ Tom Marshall "Muslim mother 'attacked for wearing hijab' as she went to collect children from London primary school", Evening Standard, (Jun. 5,

4. Racists leave pig's head on mosque's doorstep⁸

Research was conducted at Newcastle University with the objective to investigate the extent to which Islamophobia impacts other faith groups on the basis of Muslimness. It also focused on the experience of Sikhs, South Asians, Eastern Europeans, and black young people, the research found that many had been abused for being perceived to be Muslim. Nearly all Sikhs interviewed reported being mistaken for Muslims. While showing, as the research notes, the extent to which Muslims are being scapegoated in our society, this example clarifies ways in which Islamophobia can develop merely on the stereotypical construction of Muslimness – not on the actual Muslim identity of the target. This is why we believe that stressing the impact of perceptions of Muslimness is critical to provide a comprehensive explanation of the many ways in which Islamophobia can manifest itself.⁹

The United States of America, the superpower of our times is one of the most Islamophobic countries. Their president Mr. Donald Trump was heard saying that Muslims would be stopped from entering the USA. Their entry to the USA would be restricted. While one of the other contestants asked for specifically keeping an eye over the Muslims neighborhood in the United States of America.

INDIA AND ISLAMOPHOBIA

When we have seen some of the western countries making Islamophobic comments its time to move towards India.

India is the world's seventh-largest nation and second most populated nation. Human Rights Watch in 2018, reported on a range of crucial human rights issues in question across India including violent protest and impunity from security forces, limited freedom of expression, women, girls, children's and gender rights.¹⁰ In the journal article entitled "A Measure of Islamophobia," Salman Sayyid laid out the multiplicity

2015,16:11)<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/muslim-mother-attacked-by-group-of-women-for-wearing-hijab-as-she-went-to-collect-childrenfrom-10300208.html>

⁸Ashitha Nagesh "Racists leave pig's head on mosque's doorstep", Metro, (Aug.24, 2017, 5:04 pm) <https://metro.co.uk/2017/08/24/racists-leave-pigs-head-onmosques-doorstep-6876285/?ito=cbshare>

⁹"Mistaken for Being Muslim", Newcastle University Press Office, (Mar. 2, 2017), <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/press/articles/archive/2017/03/islamophobia-otherethnicgroups/>

¹⁰ Human Rights Watch, "World Report 2018",

https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/world_report_download/201801world_report_web.pdf

of ways Islamophobia is utilized to describe situations "conditioned by the specific cultural, socio-economic and historical factors that have influenced the way in which Islam can be performed."¹¹ Sayyid wrote that Islamophobia in India operates within what he determines to be the "second theater" - when "Muslims are a clear minority, marginal to the national narrative, even though their presence is simultaneous to or predates the formation of the state." Expressions of Islamophobia are often diverse and occur through a range of deployments, he emphasized. Sayyid argued that "a gesture, a speech, and a police action can all be aspects of Islamophobia reflecting not an underlying unity, but a series of overlapping similarities."

In the year 1947 when India got independence that was the time when for the first time India started seeing Islamophobic statements and situations. Though the situation was different at that time. India was burning in communal riots. And the right-wing was asking only one question when Muslims have been given a separate nation why are there still Muslims in India. It was the time since when this fear of Islam, was fed to India's semiconscious mind. Since then till now this fear has been changed into hatred. Earlier few could be said as Islamophobic but now many have become Islamophobic. But how did it happen? How did such drastic changes occur in a secular India?

Initially, India did a great job of defending itself from discrimination based on religion and color. Though we faced discrimination based on caste and race we hoped that our constitution which was formed at that time would be enough to stop all those practices. The first time we started to see Islamophobic work from the government was during the time India was under emergency. In the book "*For The Reasons of the state; Delhi under Emergency*", John Dayal gives a vivid description of how the government had used that time when media was suppressed to exploit Muslims. In name of renovating houses of old Delhi, people were asked to leave the houses which have been there ancestral house. They were given places to settle in the area which were unclean, had no proper drainage system. This was a time that Delhi saw a massive Resistance from the normal public against the Delhi police. Delhi was under the control of a person who wasn't elected, should not have any authority for anything but due to his mother's position had a lot of power. He was Indra's second son Sanjay Gandhi.

Sanjay Gandhi had shown how easily the "foolproof" Constitution created by the likes of Dr. BR Ambedkar and his grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru, could be subverted, castrated and, for all practical purposes, thrown into the dustbin.¹²

It was the time when secularism of India was under thread. The Turkman Incident will always be remembered by Delhites as a struggle against Islamophobic power getting too many powers.

Then the next incident that happened was during the *Mohd. Ahmed Khan v. Shah Bano Begum*¹³ case. Shah Bano, a divorced Muslim woman filed a petition in court which was done to get maintenance from her ex-husband, Mohammed Ahmed Khan. This petition claimed maintenance under section 125 of Code Of Criminal Procedure, which makes providing of maintenance to wife by a man during marriage and after divorce too if she is in a condition where she can't fend for herself. However, Khan contested the claim on the grounds of a clause lifted from the Muslim personal law: that the husband must only provide maintenance for the iddat period. He got support from All India Muslim Personal Law Board, which was contending that our courts cannot take the liberty of in cases that were based on Muslim Personal Law.

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This case becomes landmark as the decision was passed by the supreme court of India on the question that whether the Code of Criminal Procedure- which legally applies to all citizens regardless of religion is also applicable in this case. The Chief Justice Y.V. Chandrachud upheld the judgment in favor of Shah Bano. This was thus the first case that did not follow the general practice of deciding cases on the basis of interpretation of personal law.

The government which was headed by Rajiv Gandhi worsened the situation in the following year. Though the government-backed the supreme court judgment in the Shah Bano case, they enacted the Muslim Women Act in 1986.

This created a strong backlash from the Hindu community, which was politically consolidated by the BJP, using it as justification for the resurgence of Hindutva. In order to neutralize the backlash, the government opened the land upon which the

¹² John Dayal, "What Drove Sanjay Gandhi and His Coterie During the Emergency", Scroll.in, (26th Jun. 2015, 11:30 am), <https://scroll.in/article/735576/what-drove-sanjay-gandhi-and-his-coterie-during-the-emergency>

¹³ Mohd. Ahmed Khan v. Shah Bano Begum, 1985 SCR (3) 844 (India)

BabriMasjid was constructed for worship – a decision that would set the stage for events that have come to define the nature of communalism in India.

Then something happened which could have been avoided. Despite being a pending case in court, Babri Masjid was demolished. This demolition was pre-planned condemned by the whole of India and yet its organizers went to become Deputy Prime Minister of India, Union ministers. This moment was followed by the 1993 bomb blast in Mumbai. Followed by many riots including the 2002 Gujrat riots. What is to be noted that even the approach of the court in these cases was questionable. Bails were given to those who were Hindu but it became a difficult task for Muslims to get bail if they were involved in riots. This was also something that could be taken as Islamophobic.

India kept on getting in grips of Islamophobia through the years. The next such decision was of the Modi government which led to a complete ban on beef. Aakar Patel the Executive Director of Amnesty International India has drawn a link between increasing cow legislation that predominantly targets Muslims and the “growing trend of Islamophobia that needs to be stopped in its tracks.”¹⁴

Article 48 in the Constitution of India delineates that states shall take steps to prohibit the “slaughter of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle.”¹⁵

It is correct that the cow has a sacred position in the Hindu religion and it should be given enough importance. But a question arises that where are these cow vigilantes when cows die on road after being hit by a car, eating plastic bags or by other reasons die an unnatural death. India is one of the largest democracy still have avoided all this by keeping the slaughter of beef in a scientific manner and not completely restrict it. They should have tried respecting the personal religion and fundamental rights both. Subramanian Swamy of the BJP introduced a bill making the death penalty a possibility in cases over cow slaughter that was recently withdrawn.¹⁶

¹⁴India: Hate Crimes against Muslims and Rising Islamophobia Must Be Condemned, "Amnesty International, (Jun. 28, 2017, 16:35), www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/06/india-hate-crimes-against-muslims-and-rising-islamophobia-must-be-condemned/

¹⁵Article 48, The Constitution of India, 1949

¹⁶ Anahita Khanna, "Bill Seeking Death Penalty For Cow Slaughter Introduced in RS By Brahmanism Seamy." HuffPost India, (Mar. 25, 2017, 04:07 pm), www.huffingtonpost.in/2017/03/25/bill-seeking-death-penalty-for-cow-slaughter-introduced-in-rs-by_a_22011334/

Violence related to cow vigilance at the had of so-called gau rakshaks or the cow saviors who have now taken law in their own hand in the name of 'cow protection' is leading recorded source of Violence against Muslims. It has kept increasing in recent times.

Data relating to cow vigilantes show that nearly 73% victims of these attacks in 2018 are Muslims¹⁷, meanwhile for 2017 60%, for 2016 42% and 2015 it was 50%. This clearly shows how Muslims are being persecuted in light of an Islamophobic law. Though nothing justifies the killing of a person, not a single Muslim killed in these incidents was caught with beef. Either they were carrying mutton or livestock.

Next in line is the concept of love jihad. The 'love jihad' conspiracy argues that Muslim men are waging Jihad in India by luring Hindu women into marriages through trickery, to convert them to Islam. Proponents of 'love jihad' claim that these young men are waging war the capture of innocent Hindu women's hearts, referred to as 'Love Romeos'. This topic came into the media's eye in 2009. Followed by the initial flare-up, concerns about 'love jihad' emerged in 2010, 11, and 2014. Initially, this topic wasn't given much importance as most of the claims were with no support. But this topic became a nationwide sensation when in 2014 BJP formed government. Media houses started giving utmost importance to these petty issues. They started portraying Muslim men as hyper-sexualized, evil, licentious, and sexually perverted males. MP at that time Yogi Adityanath started a campaign asking for specific laws regarding the same. What is of the most important is that in answer session in parliament home ministry accepted that there is no definition of love jihad and there are no such cases in India.¹⁸

But this doesn't stop the media channels from feeding up the nation with nonsensical things. The Zee media groups news channel ZEE NEWS on their prime time show

¹⁷Abraham and Rao, "86% killed in cow-related violence since 2010 are Muslim, 97% attacks after Modi govt came to power", Hindustan Times, (Jul.16, 2017, 07:21 am),

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/86-killed-in-cow-related-violence-since-2010-are-muslims-97-attacks-after-modi-govt-came-to-power/story-w9CYOksvgk9joGSSaXgpLO.html>

¹⁸Ragamalika Karthikeyan, "No 'Love Jihad', No 'Tukde Tukde Gang' says govt: But on the Ground, that hardly matters", the news minute, (Feb 5th, 2020, 12:24 pm),

<https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/no-love-jihad-no-tukde-tukde-gang-says-govt-ground-hardly-matters-117537>

'DNA' on 11th march 2020 showcased 13 different types of Jihad that exist in India. It contained love jihad¹⁹

INDIA AND SECULARISM

India in its constitution's preamble writes words like Sovereign, Socialist, Democratic Republic, and **Secular**. Secular is the word that we as Indians are forgetting nowadays. It's not just a word written in the constitution of India, it is one of the core beliefs on which we were made. At a time when our neighboring nations like Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan were declaring themselves as a religious state I.e. they were going to adopt a religion as the state's religion. We explicitly wrote in our fundamental rights that under Article 25 of the constitution we will have freedom for everyone to follow any religion they want without causing problems relating to public order, mortality, and health to other provisions of this part of the constitution.²⁰

It has been held that the secularism character of the Indian constitution is the basic character and hence cant be removed or amended by any act of parliament. This basic structure doctrine has evolved through time after various legislation. The first case where the court said no to the amending power of parliament with regards to the fundamental rights was the Golaknath case in 1967²¹. After this case came Kesavananda Bharti Vs. State of Kerala²², 1971, Indira Gandhi Vs. Raj Narain²³, 1975, Minerva Mills Vs. Union of India²⁴, 1980, Kihoto hollohan Vs. Zachillhu²⁵, 1992, Indira Sawhney Vs. Union of India²⁶, 1992 and finally the S.R Bommai vs Union of India, 1994²⁷, where the supreme court held that secularism is one of the basic structure of the Indian constitution. It was held that a state government cannot follow anyone's religion or give

19 Saif Ullah Khan, "Sudhir Chaudhary's jihad rant on Zee News just got Hit with Eggs, Petrol and some Beauty", The Print, (Mar. 13, 2020 12:18 pm), <https://theprint.in/opinion/pov/sudhir-chaudharys-jihad-rant-on-zee-news-just-got-hit-with-eggs-petrol-and-some-beauty/380349/>

20 Article 25(1), The Constitution of India, 1949

21 Golaknath vs. The State of Punjab, 1967 AIR 1643 (India)

22 Kesavananda Bharti Vs. The state of Kerala, (1973) 4 SCC 225 (India)

23 Minerva Mills Vs. Union of India, 1975 AIR 865 (India)

24 Supra 22

25 Kihoto hollohan Vs. Zachillhu, 1992 SCR (1) 686 (India)

26 Indira Sawhney Vs. Union of India, AIR 1993 SC 477 (India)

27 S.R Bommai vs Union of India, AIR 1994 SC 1918 (India)

an unreasonable preference to one religion. It stated that "In matters of state, there is no space for religion"²⁸.

These words of the Supreme Court of India makes no doubt in making an impression that India has no space for any kind of religious discrimination. But what is disheartening that in modern times India has been adopting a policy of anti-muslim or Islamophobic ideas. Media as we know today has been reduced to just a way to feed our brain with different ideologies. They pedal fear, hatred, and anger in mind of one religion about others and in the Indian case, they incite Hindus against Muslims. The most recent case can be how easily just because of the foolishness of a few people coronavirus is being compared to jihad in India. People are claiming that it is a planned attack of Muslims in India. Similarly, Islamophobia is being fed into our brains when our legislators also support it. Whether its one of the most brainy people in our ruling party Mr. Swamy also made an Islamophobic statement in the past which was calling upon Muslims in India to "take an oath declaring that their ancestors were Hindu if they want to prove their citizenship".

We have the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh sitting on a stage where the speaker urges Hindus to rape Muslim women and girls even in their graves. Things like these are needed to be stopped as they just incite hatred.

WHAT MAKES INDIAN CONSTITUTION SECULAR

Further, many more provisions in the Indian Constitution make India a secular state. They are:

- Article 16 states that no citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for or discriminated against in respect of, any employment or office under the State²⁹.
- Article 15 prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. It further states that The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them and No

²⁸ Supra 26

²⁹Article 16(2), The Constitution of India, 1949

citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them, be subject to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to:

- (a) access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and palaces of public entertainment; or
- (b) the use of wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads and places of public resort maintained wholly or partly out of State funds or dedicated to the use of the general public.³⁰

- It states that no person shall be compelled to pay any taxes, the proceeds of which are specifically appropriated in payment of expenses for the promotion or maintenance of any particular religion or religious denomination.³¹
- No religious instruction shall be provided in any educational institution wholly maintained out of State funds. it further states that.³²
- No person attending any educational institution recognized by the State or receiving aid out of State funds shall be required to take part in any religious instruction that may be imparted in such institution or to attend any religious worship that may be conducted in such institution or in any premises attached thereto unless such person or, if such person is a minor, his guardian has given his consent thereto.³³
- No citizen shall be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by the State or receiving aid out of State funds on grounds only of religion, race, caste, language or any of them.³⁴
- All minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.³⁵
- The State shall not, in granting aid to educational institutions, discriminate against any educational institution on the ground that it is under the management of a minority, whether based on religion or language.³⁶

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT ISLAMOPHOBIA

³⁰ Article 15, The Constitution of India, 1949

³¹ Article 27, The Constitution of India, 1949

³² Article 28, The Constitution of India, 1949

³³ Supra 31

³⁴ Article 29 (2), The Constitution of India, 1949

³⁵ Article 30 (2), The Constitution of India, 1949

³⁶ Supra 34

What is the main cause of this Islamophobia? It is a subjective question, different people will answer differently but there is one thing on which everyone will tend to agree. It is the common misconception that we all have about Islam in our minds. They have been fed by right-wing orthodox, politicians, media and sometimes our parents who were also fed such misconceptions by someone else. So here is a small attempt by us to debunk to misconceptions.

1. **All Islam followers are from Arab or middle eastern;** Islam was started from the middle eastern country and has the holiest place for Muslims but still, it has only 20% of Muslims live there. As of now, India is the home to the second-largest Muslim population all over the world.
2. **Islam is a violent religion and Muslims identify with terrorism;** every religion in this world has a group of a specific types of people who misinterpret the teachings of the religion. But what is the most important thing is that not all Islamic or Muslims should be confused with these terrorists. In 2015, the PEW Research Center collected data from 11 Muslim nations or nations with a significant Muslim population. Muslim people overwhelmingly expressed a negative review of ISIS. It is important to always remember the like other religions of Abrahamic origin, includes a large pool of people who have different opinions and have a different way to understand the traditional holy text of different religions. There is also a perception even among many Muslims that Muslim groups and leaders do not sufficiently denounce acts of terrorism. Chapter 2 of the Quran, verse 256 states that "There is no compulsion in Quran." Chapter 22, Verse 67 of the book says, "We have appointed for every community ways of worship to observe. Let them not dispute with you on this matter."
3. **Islam oppresses women and forces them into a subservient role;** what is one of the biggest stereotypes of Islam is that the religion oppresses women and forces them into a submissive role. The holy book of Islam explicitly states that all the men and women are equal in the eye of God. It also prohibits female infanticide, instructs Muslims to not differentiate between daughter and sons for education. Quran lays specific importance on the rights of women which includes a woman's right to reject a person as a future husband. However, one can't deny that there are gender-specific roles in Islam but they differ from region to region. One of most

amazing fact is that 8 Muslim countries Indonesia, Senegal, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Bangladesh (two different women), Pakistan and Mauritius have had a woman as head of the state since 1988. there are countries who have more women in parliament as to compared to the United States of America. These countries are Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia.

WAYS TO TACKLE ISLAMOPHOBIA

There is a need to talk about Islamophobia. There is a need for Muslims to tell the world that what people generally think about their religion is wrong. Its duty of every Muslim to speak about it, its duty of every learned person to speak the truth and check the facts before sharing. But Islamophobia should never be confused with saying what's wrong as wrong. If there is a wrong thing happening under Islam, it should be talked about. Criticizing Islam in the right manner is not Islamophobia.

There is a need that Muslim preachers and imams should more clearly criticize terrorism and all wrong acts that are being done in the name of Islam. This topic 'Islamophobia' is so less talked about that the software which was used to write about this, doesn't even have the word Islamophobia in its dictionary.

A small step towards fighting discrimination can make a lot of change. Few things that one can do to avoid falling prey to Islamophobia are;

1. Speak out against news organizations that do discriminatory coverage and bias.
2. Talk about religion with people who know about them.
3. Make friends with Muslims of the community you live in.
4. Encourage people to report hate crimes they face and help them in reporting them.
5. Refuse to stay silent about hate.
6. Try learning about Islam.
7. Always do check the facts of the news, that you hear.