

ISLAMOPHOBIA: SPORT

Sport has the capacity and potential to create a strong sense of community identity and belonging for people all over the world. However, even at grassroots level, Islamophobia exists and needs to be addressed.



Kick It Out received a record **1,007 reports** of discriminatory behaviour in the 2022-23 season.^[1] This total, which includes reports from the professional game, in grassroots and across social media, represents a **65.1% rise** on the previous season.

Racism remains the most common form of discrimination in both professional and grassroots football, accounting for just under half of all reports.

Faith-based discrimination fell slightly this season, due to an 18% drop (from 61-43) in the number of reports received of an antisemitic nature. However, Islamophobia (**up by 300%**, from 4 to 16) and sectarian chanting (**15.8%**, from 19-21) were both up.

This also demonstrates an issue with the low level of reporting of religious discrimination, an issue that exists across groups.

MUSLIM WOMEN & SPORT

A Muslimah Sports Association (MSA) report^[2] found that:

43% of British Muslim Women do not think that current sports facilities are appropriate to them.

65% of respondents agree that there are religious/cultural barriers that limit/stop their participation in sports.

97% of British Muslim women said they want to increase their participation in sport.

33% said that past experiences have negatively impacted their experience in sport.

[There is] “Racism in high level football from coaches and players. I had my hijab ripped off. Not suitable football clothes for women as everything is tight. Taken out because of my ethnicity.”

- 25-34yrs, London

“I used to play netball for a semi pro club in East of England when I was 18 and I was wearing hijab and I got discriminated by my coach and other players as everyone else was white. No one stuck up for me. So I left and my opportunity to go pro.”

- 25-34yrs, London

1. <https://www.kickitout.org/reporting-statistics#:~:text=2022%2F23&text=Kick%20It%20Out%20received%20a,rise%20on%20the%20previous%20season>
2. Muslimah Sports Association - Muslim Women in Sport Report https://mcusercontent.com/9ff512b2c4b15839ae339461f/files/0af3dd9e-0529-4e4a-156c-387635725a7f/MSA_Reserach_Report.pdf