

**Declaration Condemning Muslim Hate and Recognizing the
Contributions, Rights, and Safety of Muslim Communities in Boulder
February 20, 2025**

WHEREAS, Solidarity and collective action are essential to building safe and inclusive communities, ensuring that all people -- regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity -- can live free from discrimination, harassment, and violence; and

WHEREAS, the Muslim community in Boulder, Colorado, and across the United States has long contributed to education, science, the arts, and the collective well-being of society, guided by the principle of loving for one's neighbor what one loves for oneself, standing in solidarity with our communities for more than a century; and

WHEREAS North America's first Mosque established in 1922, Colorado's first Mosque established in Denver in 1974, and Boulder's first mosque established by CU Boulder students in the late 1970s, stand as testaments to the long-standing presence and contributions of the Muslim community; and

WHEREAS, Muslims have sought safety and opportunity in the U.S. for generations, often fleeing instability, dispossession, displacement, and systemic injustices, only to face discrimination, harassment, and barriers to full inclusion in their new home or life-long community; and

WHEREAS, Muslims and Arabs have a semitic heritage with Jewish residents in Boulder, with the Oxford Dictionary defining the word "semitic" as 1) relating to or denoting a family of languages that includes Hebrew, Arabic, and Aramaic and certain ancient languages...; or 2) relating to the peoples who speak Semitic languages, especially Hebrew and Arabic; and

WHEREAS, Muslim and Arab communities, along with Jewish people, continue to face systemic biases, including being held responsible for the policies and actions of foreign governments or militant groups, leading to unjust stereotyping, ostracization, and suppression of free expression; and

WHEREAS, anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish incidents have reached an all-time high, creating a climate of fear in schools, workplaces, and public spaces, particularly for visibly Muslim women and students, undermining their sense of safety and belonging; and

WHEREAS, Muslim students on the University of Colorado Boulder campus and in Boulder Valley Schools have reported increased harassment, discrimination, and fear of openly expressing their identity or views, forcing some to hide their faith or disengage from public life, and leading to potential loss of jobs, educational opportunities, and student visas; and,

WHEREAS, misinformation, miseducation, biased media narratives, and exclusion of the Muslim voice in educational curricula have erased the significant contributions of Muslim scholars, scientists, doctors, teachers, and engineers, despite their critical role in shaping modern medicine, science, and technological advancements. These biases have helped fuel the decades-long issues of anti-Muslim bigotry and unequal treatment, conflicting with Boulder's goal of fostering a supportive multicultural community; and

WHEREAS, self-determination, representation, and agency are fundamental human rights, and Muslim communities in Boulder deserve to be included in civic engagement and decision-making processes that directly impact them; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon our elected, appointed, civic, educational, and business leaders, as well as our community in Boulder to speak out against all forms of hate speech and violence, and to stand with the Muslim members of our community as allies in solidarity, strengthening our commitment to greater understanding and dignity for all; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BOULDER:

Section 1: Commitment to Safety & Inclusion

The City Council stands in firm opposition to anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish bigotry, pledging to protect all residents from harassment, discrimination, and violence while ensuring that public spaces, workplaces, and schools remain safe and welcoming for all.

Section 2: Boulder Against Hate

The City Council urges all Boulder residents, organizations, and institutions to stand against hate, oppression, and systemic injustice, working together to create a city where all people -- Muslim, Jewish, and beyond -- can live with dignity, peace, and mutual respect.

Section 3: Solidarity & Community Engagement

Boulder commits to fostering interfaith and intercultural solidarity, embracing the principle of loving for one's neighbor what one loves for oneself, and supporting initiatives that combat misinformation and build mutual understanding.

Section 4: Commitment to Humanitarian Efforts

Boulder recognizes the struggles of displaced and oppressed communities, locally and globally, and will support humanitarian efforts that promote justice, peace, and human rights for all.

Section 5: Recognition of Historical Contributions - Call to Action

The city will combat miseducation, under-education, media bias, and unfair treatment by actively promoting education in schools, universities, and organizations about the historical and ongoing contributions of Muslim communities in Boulder, Colorado, and the United States, ensuring that the Muslim community's role in shaping society is acknowledged and valued.

Section 6: Representation & Agency - Call to Action

The city shall advocate for policies that ensure Muslim voices are included in civic engagement, education, and public policy decisions that affect them.

Section 7: Boulder's Commitment

That the City Council supports Boulder's Muslim communities and affirms its ongoing commitment to diligently counter anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish sentiments and hate in all its forms, and to cultivate an inclusive city that celebrates both the individuality and commonality of its people.

Section 8: Prompt Distribution

This declaration shall be promptly distributed to Muslim, Jewish, all relevant organizations, and the community at large throughout Boulder to ensure widespread awareness and implementation.



Aaron Brockett, Mayor

