



AMERICAN MUSLIM ADVISORY COUNCIL

October 19, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

The tragic events unfolding across the world today, and specifically in Palestine and Israel, are causing immense pain, suffering, and loss of life.

During these challenging times, we would like to express our deep concern for the well-being and rights of Muslim students in our community. It is crucial to remember that our schools and educational institutions are a diverse and inclusive community, and every student deserves to feel seen, safe, and supported, regardless of their background or beliefs.

We must also acknowledge that moments of conflict and tension, whether domestic or international, can lead to the unfair targeting and bullying of individuals from specific backgrounds, including Muslim and Arab students. According to reports from [Pew Research Center](#) and the [Institute of Social Policy and Understanding](#), Muslim Americans face the highest rates of discrimination among all faith groups in this country. When it comes to schools, [48% of Muslim families indicate that their children face bullying in schools, with 20% reporting that they face harassment on a monthly or daily basis](#). Reports of bullying and harassment in schools and college campuses across Tennessee are becoming increasingly prevalent, and we are concerned about the dangerous rise of Islamophobia within our communities.

Bullying and discrimination have no place in our schools. We must ensure that Muslim students, just like their peers, can learn and grow in an environment that respects their rights and well-being while preventing any form of backlash or mistreatment. They deserve the empathy and care from teachers and administrators needed to thrive at school. AMAC's [School Advocacy Hub](#) (www.amactn.org/schools) and [Muslim Youth Mental Health](#) (www.amactn.org/youth-mental-health) page can help families and educators access resources to address harassment, mental health challenges, and isolation that Muslim students experience.

We recommend school administrators engage with Muslim student groups, community leaders, and organizations. These conversations help us navigate these challenging times and ensure that the well-being of all students is a top priority. If you do not have direct access to the community, we are prepared to help facilitate these conversations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sabina Mohyuddin", written in a cursive style.

Sabina Mohyuddin
Executive Director