

The 1<sup>st</sup> Commemoration of the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, March 15, 2023.  
It aims to promote unity, tolerance, and solidarity with all humanity.

## Islamophobia Scorecard™

Grade: 0/10

We gather content from publicly available sources and aggregate this information into an easily understood format, providing free access to the public. While the information reviewed is believed to be accurate, we have not independently verified it and do not purport to have done so. The listed individuals and entities are invited to submit information identifying any oversight, errors, or omissions for consideration. The grades supplied herein represent our subjective evaluation and opinions based on review of the publicly available sources referenced. We all have the right to know if an individual or organization engages, condones, aids, or acquiesces in prejudice, hate, and discrimination against Muslims and Islam. This includes individuals and organizations that may not actively profess or even believe in such manner, but who financially or otherwise support or invest in others that do. By exposing Islamophobia, society is better informed about bigotry in their communities. *Updated: August 22, 2023.*



**Instigator & Provocateur:** Tommy Robinson (United Kingdom)  
**Organizational Affiliation:** English Defense League (EDL), UKIP, British National Party (BNP), British Freedom Party (BFP).

### Character Introduction and Islamophobia Status<sup>1</sup>

Grade 0

Is the instigator an established Islamophobe?	YES
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### Islamophobic Organization and Strength<sup>2</sup>

Grade 0

Does the instigator represent an Islamophobic organization	YES
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### Funding Sources for Islamophobia<sup>3</sup>

Grade 0

Instigator and/or organization funded by one or more third-party sources	YES
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### Statements Inciting Islamophobia<sup>4</sup>

Grade 0

Engaged and made statements inciting Islamophobia	YES
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### Act of Islamophobia Violence<sup>5</sup>

Grade 0

Engaged in acts of Islamophobia, violence	YES
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### Desecration of Islamic Symbols<sup>6</sup>

Grade 0

Engaged in desecration of Islamic symbols	YES
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### Racism against Muslims and Other Communities<sup>7</sup>

Grade 0

Incites racism against Muslims and other minorities	YES
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### Indictments and Judicial Actions<sup>8</sup>

Grade 0

The instigator or organization has been indicted, and legal actions taken against	YES
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### Scope of Influence (local and/or global)<sup>9</sup>

Grade 0

Extend of influence local or global	local
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### International Acknowledgements and Condemnation<sup>10</sup>

Grade 0

### Character Introduction and Islamophobia Status<sup>1</sup>

*At the initiative of the organization of Islamic countries, the OIC, on March 15, 2022, the United Nations designated March 15 as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. The UN resolution invites, all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations, and civil society, private sector and faith-based organizations to organize and support various high-visibility events aimed at effectively increasing awareness at all levels about curbing Islamophobia, and to observe the International Day in an appropriate manner.*

Stephen Christopher Yaxley-Lennon, better known as Tommy Robinson, is a British far-right activist noted for his strong anti-Islam stance. He is a [far right and Islamophobic extremist](#). He played a foundational role in the [English Defence League \(EDL\)](#), an organization that has protested against perceived Islamic extremism and the spread of Sharia in the UK. Following a jail term in the UK for disrupting the course of justice, Robinson relocated his family to [Spain](#) and sought assistance from [rich US supporters](#) to request asylum in the US. His movement was [found in Havana, Cuba](#) in June 2023.

While Robinson asserts that his criticisms are primarily [against radical Islamic factions](#), many believe that his remarks broadly target the entire Muslim community. His participation in protests, some of which became violent, and his repeated arrests on [various charges](#), including assault and fraud, have only heightened controversy around him.

In his discourse and writings, Robinson voices his apprehension about what he sees as the growing influence [of Islam in Britain and Europe](#). He posits that there is an inherent conflict between Western values and those of Islam. Detractors contend that Robinson's views are steeped in Islamophobia, often conflating the actions of a radical few with the beliefs of the larger Muslim community.

Robinson penned an autobiography titled "[Enemy of the State](#)" and co-wrote "[Mohammed's Koran: Why Muslims Kill for Islam](#)." He has also expressed ties to Hindutva proponents and claims that before being banned from Twitter, [15% of his following was from India](#); he has described the election of Modi as "the start of a populist revolution". Nupur J Sharma, a Hindu far-[right propagandist and editor-in-chief of the Hindu militant](#) and anti-Muslim propaganda website OpIndia, has [interviewed Robinson](#) after the Leicester riots in UK.

### Organizational Engagement and Strength<sup>2</sup>

*Does the instigator or provocateur represent or lead an organization that routinely engages in Islamophobic acts, and what is the organization's strength?*

In 2009, Robinson, and his cousin Kevin Carroll, established the [English Defence League](#) (EDL), taking on the role of its leader, while Carroll served as deputy. Although Robinson consistently emphasized that the EDL was formed to oppose "radical Islam," many of its members were known to [harbor anti-Muslim sentiments](#), with some even associating with football hooliganism. They later [resigned from EDL](#) in 2013. Furthermore, Robinson initiated the [European Defence League](#), aiming to unify similar groups across Europe.

Before the UK's 2019 general elections, Robinson expressed support for the Conservative Party leader, [Boris Johnson](#), for the Prime Minister's position. In 2013, he voiced his endorsement for

the UK Independence Party ([UKIP](#)), noticing parallels in their stances. Some UKIP members have made controversial remarks about Islam, proposing bans on full-face veils and Sharia law.

Delving into Robinson's political affiliations, he was aligned with the [British National Party \(BNP\)](#), known for its neo-fascist and white nationalist ideologies, between 2004 and 2005. Briefly, in 2012, he held a position with the British Freedom Party (BFP).

Robinson has contributed to [Rebel Media](#), a Canadian far-right media platform.

### **Funding Sources for Islamophobia<sup>3</sup>**

*Instigator, provocateur, or the organization that routinely engages in Islamophobia, and how they receive their funds and/or who funds them.*

Robinson has amassed over [£2m](#) from donations and sponsorships, a significant portion originating from overseas since 2018 to 2021. In 2017, American billionaire [Robert Shillman](#) sponsored a fellowship for Robinson at the right-leaning Canadian site, Rebel Media, granting him over \$6,000 (£5,000) monthly. In 2018, Robinson's imprisonment galvanized his opponents to donate £2m. That year, the US-based [Middle East Forum](#), known for its strong anti-Muslim leanings, financially supported Robinson's rallies and legal appeals. He also secured funds from the right-wing group Yellow Vest Australia. Moreover, in 2018, Robinson misused [Facebook's charity](#) donation feature to garner funds for his personal ventures. After discovering the misuse, Facebook took corrective action. By the end of 2018, PayPal ceased its services for Robinson, citing his promotion of hate and intolerance. In response, Robinson labeled [PayPal's move as "fascism"](#).

### **Statements Inciting Islamophobia<sup>4</sup>**

*The nature of statements made by the instigators, provocateurs, or organizations inciting Islamophobia violence.*

On the night of 19 June 2017, a van targeted Muslim worshippers leaving the Muslim Welfare House in what was identified as a terrorist attack. The incident resulted in one fatality and ten injuries. This event was broadly condemned, with local Muslim figures attributing it to a [rise in Islamophobia in the UK](#). Investigations revealed that the 48-year-old perpetrator was rapidly radicalized within a month, with his digital footprint showing interactions with posts by [Tommy Robinson](#), the ex-leader of the English Defence League, and the far-right group Britain First, among others. Joe Mulhall, a senior researcher at Hope Not Hate, an organization in London that researches hate groups said “His divisive, anti-Muslim rhetoric [has resulted in acts of violence](#),” he added, the most extreme of which occurred when a man, inspired by Mr. Robinson, rammed a van into a congregation of Muslims leaving a mosque in north London in January.

A year later, in June 2018, a mix of far-right activists, [neo-Nazis, and others rallied in](#) Trafalgar Square, London, demanding Robinson's release. This gathering, involving about 15,000 protestors, escalated into violence on June 9, 2018, with attendees clashing with the police and throwing objects, as detailed by [The Guardian](#).

The Facebook blocked his page and said in a [blog post](#) on February 2019 that Robinson had posted content that “uses dehumanizing language and calls for violence targeted at Muslims.”

## **Acts of Islamophobia Violence<sup>5</sup>**

*Acts of Islamophobia incited by the instigators, provocateurs, or the organization representing them.*

Robinson has been vocal about his views on Islam, describing [Islam a “disease” and a “threat](#) to our way of life.” In 2013. He commented in 2016, "I'm not far-right... I'm just opposed to Islam. I believe it's [backward and it's fascist](#)," He further expressed concerns over the refugee influx, "The current refugee crisis is nothing to do with refugees. It's a Muslim invasion of Europe. On another occasion, Robinson suggested that the entirety of the UK's Muslim community had silently condoned the 7/7 bombings, an implication that sought to [hold an entire Muslim community accountable for the acts of a few](#). Furthermore, he termed Birmingham as the [“terrorist epicenter of Britain.”](#)"

Tommy Robinson is the driving force behind a national movement that seeks to ban [Muslim immigration](#) to Britain. Robinson has advocated for halting "Muslim immigration" into Europe, asserting that many migrants are causing harm and will fail to assimilate. In a 2016 tweet cited by The Guardian, he stated his willingness to [deport all adult male Muslims](#) who had entered the EU in the preceding year, accusing them of being "fake refugees." He said “Islam is the [biggest threat](#) we face,”

In the wake of the [Telford child exploitation incident](#), Robinson organized a protest in January 2022, during which he showcased a documentary titled "The Rape of Britain: Survivor Stories," delving into the issue of Muslim grooming gangs. He has often made sweeping statements, like, "[Islam is violent, and we've had enough!](#)" and has taken to platforms like Twitter to share such sentiments.

He contends that Muslims are disproportionately responsible for [crime in Britain](#), particularly crimes against women and girls.

## **Desecration of Islamic Symbols<sup>6</sup>**

*Acts of desecration of Islamic symbols incited by the instigators, provocateurs, or the organization representing them.*

Robinson has made controversial derogatory statements as a “[paedophile](#),” about the Prophet Muhammad and suggested the removal of several “[mosques](#)” in the UK. He states that the purpose of EDL is to address what he sees as the “[Islamification of our countries](#).” Furthermore, he has alleged that London's mayor, Sadiq Khan, is implementing elements of [Sharia law](#). He attacked on the Quran as a “[violent and cursed book](#)”

## **Racism against Muslims and Other Communities<sup>7</sup>**

*Overt acts of racism against Muslims and other communities by the instigators, provocateurs, or the organization representing them.*

Tommy Robinson is a prominent figure known for his strong [anti-Islam, anti-immigration](#) stances, and his skepticism towards multiculturalism in the UK. He has been characterized by many as having [xenophobic](#) views. Furthermore, he has expressed opposition to movements like [Black Lives Matter](#), suggesting he may hold broader reservations about initiatives promoting racial and ethnic equality. He also has [racist and anti-Semitic](#) views.

## **Indictments and Judicial Actions<sup>8</sup>**

*Did the instigator, provocateur, or the organization representing them ever indicted and/or faced judicial actions for their racism or Islamophobia?*

Tommy Robinson has a history of legal run-ins and convictions. Here's a detailed account:

2005: Robinson was sentenced to 12 months in prison for assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

2011: He received a 12-month community order for his involvement in a brawl at a football match. In the same year, he was also convicted of head-butting a fellow EDL member.

2012: Robinson was arrested and later imprisoned for entering the U.S. illegally. This wasn't his only incident related to the U.S.; in 2013, he faced a 10-month jail sentence for traveling on another person's passport to the United States.

2013: Robinson was implicated in a public brawl, where he played a significant role, with around 100 participants, all the while chanting "EDL till I die." Additionally, he breached his bail conditions by showing up at an EDL rally in Tower Hamlets.

2014: He was sentenced to 18 months for mortgage fraud.

Other offenses: Over the years, Robinson has been charged with various other offenses, including drug possession, exhibiting threatening behavior, and violating court orders.

Regarding contempt of court:

May 2017: Robinson faced a three-month suspended sentence for 18 months at Canterbury Crown Court.

[May 2018](#): He was arrested outside Leeds Crown Court for broadcasting a video on Facebook which risked derailing an ongoing trial.

July 2019: Robinson was found guilty of contempt of court relating to the 2018 incident at Leeds Crown Court and was sentenced to nine months in prison.

Throughout his life, Robinson has been frequently arrested and incarcerated, with charges ranging from assault against a police officer in 2005 to the unlawful use of a passport to travel to the U.S. in 2013.

## **Scope of Influence (local and global)<sup>9</sup>**

*What is the scope of influence by the Instigator, provocateur, or the organization?*

Robinson has garnered significant international support beyond just the UK. A [study by Hope Not Hate](#), which examined 61,000 signatures on a Change.org petition advocating for Robinson's release, indicated that while 68% of the supporters were from the UK, a substantial number came from other countries. Specifically, 9% were from the US, 9% from Australia, with the remaining signatures coming from nations such as Canada, Germany, France, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Ireland. Additionally, Robinson has asserted that, prior to his Twitter ban, [15% of his followers originated from India](#), indicating a notable following in that region.

## **International Acknowledgements and Condemnation<sup>10</sup>**

*Has an international organization acknowledged and condemned the acts of Islamophobia by the instigator, or the organization represented by the instigator?*

The [OIC](#) (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) has recognized Robinson's book, "Why Muslims Kill For Islam," as promoting Islamophobia. Robinson has faced bans or restrictions on several

major social media platforms, including [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [TikTok](#), and [Snapchat](#), due to violations of their community guidelines and policies against hate speech. Furthermore, [PayPal](#) has halted processing payments for him.

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