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## **COMBATting ISLAMOPHOBIA AND INCLUDING MUSLIM WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS**

**WHEREAS**, Islamophobia has increased in the United States since 9/11, and the “war on terror” launched by the US government in 2001 has continued to victimize Muslim women, men, and children; and,

**WHEREAS**, government-manufactured Islamophobia has filtered into institutions, including feminist organizations, and are affecting our basic values of equity and tolerance toward Muslim people, especially women; and,

**WHEREAS**, Islamophobia injures the central tenet of NOW to advocate for human rights and women’s rights, regardless of their color, ethnicity, gender, age, ability and other identity markers; and,

**WHEREAS**, Muslim women have been enduring constant harassment, assaults, desecration of their places of worship, and gun violence, and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, and not be ignored and negated in the discussion of issues that involve them; and,

**WHEREAS**, the National Organization for Women does not have Muslim women in leadership positions who can bring issues of Islamophobia to the attention of its members.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that NOW condemns Islamophobia in all the issues of violence against women that it handles; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NOW will include Muslim women in leadership positions to advocate for Muslim women and combat Islamophobia within the organization and take action to oppose violence against Muslim women in all communities; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NOW calls upon all agencies of federal and state governments and elected officials, as well as non-government organizations, especially those working in human rights, to combat Islamophobia in their communities and in their institutions, and to see Muslims as full and equal human beings; and,

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NOW reiterates its founding principle to demand equality, dignity, and respect for all women. NOW must adhere to the draft resolution to combat Islamophobia as stated in the United Nations Resolution to Combat Islamophobia, document [A/78/L.48](#), as well as abide by the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

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