

# Halal conspiracy theories

**Halal conspiracy theories** revolve around a series of [Islamophobic conspiracy theories](#) and [hoaxes](#) regarding [halal](#) certification in products such as food, beverages and cosmetics.<sup>[1][2]</sup> The claims usually made include that the sale of halal-certified goods in stores is a precursor to the [terrorization](#) or institution of [Sharia law](#) in a non-Muslim country,<sup>[3][4]</sup> that the fees paid by companies for halal certification fund [Islamic terrorism](#),<sup>[5][6][7]</sup> that [halal slaughter](#) for meat is [cruel](#), [unhygienic](#) or constitutes as [animal sacrifice](#),<sup>[1][7][8]</sup> among others. The spread of these claims has resulted in [boycotts](#) and harassment campaigns against businesses who sell halal-certified products, most notably in Australia and India,<sup>[5][7][9]</sup> although anti-halal boycott movements also exist in [Denmark](#), [France](#), [Canada](#), [New Zealand](#), the [United Kingdom](#), and the [United States](#).<sup>[1][10]</sup>



Halal certificate stamp on a German [salami](#) package.

## Background

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*Halal*, an [Arabic](#) word which translates to "permissible" in English, contrasted with [haram](#) ("forbidden"), designates things – including but not limited to food – that are lawful for [Muslims](#) to practice or consume, in accordance with the [Quran](#). [Islamic dietary laws](#) dictate that food items must not contain pork or [alcohol](#), and that halal animals must be slaughtered by a Muslim with the butcher uttering "[In the name of Allah](#)" before quickly slashing the animal's throat with a sharp knife, letting all blood drain out.<sup>[11][12]</sup> [Certification for halal products](#) is given by legal authorities in most [Muslim-majority](#) countries, while in other countries it is voluntarily acquired by companies and issued by non-governmental organizations for an annual fee.<sup>[7][8]</sup>

## Claims

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The sale of products with halal certification or the establishment of halal shops and businesses is perceived by anti-halal conspiracy theorists as a precursor to the Islamization of their countries or

as an [Islamist](#) effort to force another religion on consumers,<sup>[2][3][9]</sup> and some claim that fees paid by companies for halal certification fund Islamic terrorism, the implementation of Sharia law or cause consumers to subsidize another religious belief; makers and endorsers of such claims include politicians such as [Pauline Hanson](#)<sup>[13]</sup> and [George Christensen](#)<sup>[14]</sup> in Australia and [Jörg Meuthen](#) in Germany,<sup>[15][16]</sup> counter-jihad organizations such as [Sharia Watch UK](#),<sup>[17]</sup> the [Q Society of Australia](#)<sup>[18]</sup> and [Britain First](#),<sup>[2]</sup> and Indian [Hindutva](#) supporters and figures.<sup>[8][9][19]</sup> A fact-check by [ABC News](#) of Australia concluded that while the proceeds of halal certification do occasionally fund Islamic organizations, there is no evidence that any of those funds have ever flowed to terrorist groups. The report also consulted several food companies that are halal-certified, including [Nestlé](#), and they disclosed that the yearly fees for halal certification are negligible and do not influence the final price of their products.<sup>[20]</sup> A [Cadbury](#) spokesperson told the [Herald Sun](#) that the fees did not affect pricing and were more than offset by access to broader markets.<sup>[21]</sup>

Others claim that halal slaughter is cruel and inhumane,<sup>[1]</sup> an accusation also made towards [kosher slaughter](#) and mostly based on the assumption that animals are not [stunned](#) prior to religious slaughters. The [Food Standards Agency](#) in the United Kingdom asserts that 88% of halal-slaughtered animals in Britain are stunned first,<sup>[12]</sup> though there is debate among Islamic (as well as Jewish) scholars on what manners of stunning are more acceptable or whether stunning itself is humane at all.<sup>[22]</sup>

In India, claims made by right-wing [Hindutva](#) activists include that halal-certified goods contain meat extracts and are thus unlawful for [Hindus](#) to consume, that uttering the name of [Allah](#) during halal slaughter means that the meat is an [offering](#) to another deity, that halal-certified companies only employ Muslims, and that [spitting](#) on food is part of the halal process.<sup>[8][9][23]</sup> Indian fact-checking agencies have labeled these claims as "misleading," "ludicrous" and "certifiably false".<sup>[9][24]</sup>

## Incidents

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The spread of conspiracy theories and rumors regarding halal and halal certification has led to boycotts and harassment campaigns against companies and businesses.<sup>[1]</sup> In November 2014, [South Australian](#) dairy company [Fleurieu Milk and Yoghurt](#) was forced to drop a \$50,000 contract with airline [Emirates](#) due to public pressure, as the contract required the products to be halal-certified.<sup>[25]</sup> In January 2015, a [Malaysian](#)-owned [café](#) in [Western Australia](#) was subject to online harassment and calls for boycott after the owners made a Facebook post explaining what halal means in response to a negative review.<sup>[4][26]</sup>

[Himalaya Drug Company](#) has been targeted in social media for its halal certification in several occasions in 2021 and 2022, accused of using [beef extracts](#) in products and of having a pro-Muslim

and anti-Hindu bias among executives and employees as a result.<sup>[27]</sup> An [Alt News](#) fact-check on the former claim concluded that Himalaya does not use animal-based [gelatin](#) in the accused products ([tablets](#)), but vegetarian [hypromellose](#), and that, by comparison, 98% of Indian pharmaceutical companies make use of animal-based capsules.<sup>[28]</sup> Campaigns against state-owned companies such as [Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation](#) and [Air India](#) for offering halal-certified products have also been proposed in 2022.<sup>[23][29]</sup>

## See also

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- [Kosher tax conspiracy theory](#)
- [Islamophobic trope](#)
- [Islamophobia in Australia](#)
- [Violence against Muslims in India](#)

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