

Sexual Misconduct Campus Climate Survey Results

Spring 2026

BIS is committed to maintaining a learning environment grounded in Islamic ethics, human dignity, safety, and respect. BIS prohibits sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, gender-based violence, violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, retaliation, and other conduct prohibited by applicable law and BIS policy. BIS also prohibits discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or verbal harassment based on actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, disability, religion, or any other protected status. Students may report concerns to the designated BIS official identified in the Student Handbook and on the BIS website. BIS will respond promptly and equitably, provide appropriate supportive measures, protect against retaliation, and refer individuals to emergency, medical, counseling, pastoral, legal, or community resources as appropriate.

Executive Summary

- **Survey population and response rate:** BIS invited all 39 active Spring 2026 students to participate. 28 students responded, for a response rate of 71.8%.
- **Sexual misconduct prevalence findings:** Respondents did not report valid, unambiguous incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, or intimate partner violence in the behavior-specific items.
- **Bias-related harassment concern:** One respondent reported general intimidation/verbal harassment and indicated that it was connected to actual or perceived racial or ethnic background. Because of the small respondent pool, this report describes the concern only in aggregate terms.
- **Community climate:** Across the eight sense-of-community items, 181 of 224 item-responses were positive (80.8%).
- **Reporting awareness:** Across the three help/reporting-knowledge items, 60 of 78 item responses were positive (76.9%), while 9 item responses were negative. BIS should clarify reporting pathways, support resources, and what happens after a report.

Methodology

Item	Detail
Institution	Boston Islamic Seminary
Survey term	Spring 2026
Population invited	All 39 active Spring 2026 students
Completed responses	28

Response rate	28/39 = 71.8%
Administration	Anonymous electronic survey distributed by email
Initial invitation	March 11, 2026
Survey close	April 7, 2026
Reporting limitation	Results reflect respondents only. Because BIS has a small student population, results are reported in aggregate form and sensitive comments are summarized by theme to protect confidentiality.

Respondent Profile

Respondent category	Count	Percent
Master's students	27	96.4%
Non-degree students	1	3.6%
Female	15	53.6%
Male	13	46.4%
First-year master's respondents	10	37.0%
Second-year master's respondents	5	18.5%
Third-year master's respondents	12	44.4%

Aggregate Results

1. Campus Community and Belonging

Across eight sense-of-community items, 181 of 224 item-responses were positive (80.8%), 35 were neutral (15.6%), and 8 were negative (3.6%).

Response category	Item-responses	Percent
Strongly Agree	76	33.9%
Agree	105	46.9%
Neutral	35	15.6%
Disagree	7	3.1%
Strongly Disagree	1	0.4%

2. Institutional Response and Confidence

Across eight Seminary response/institutional confidence items, 157 of 197 item-responses were positive (79.7%), 33 were neutral (16.8%), and 7 were negative (3.6%).

3. Sexual Misconduct and Related Conduct

The behavior-specific questions did not identify valid, unambiguous reports of sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, or intimate partner violence among respondents. One respondent reported general intimidation/verbal harassment and indicated that it was connected to actual or perceived racial or ethnic background. BIS should treat this as a prevention and

climate-improvement priority, even though the survey data do not establish a formal Title IX or Clery incident determination.

Area assessed	Aggregate finding
Harassment examples such as sexist remarks, racist remarks, body/appearance comments, crude sexual remarks, unwanted sexual images/stories, unwanted sexual disclosures, and quid pro quo/reward behavior	27 of 28 respondents indicated they had never witnessed or experienced the listed conduct at BIS; one respondent did not answer this item set.
Stalking/unwanted communication	No respondent reported this occurring since becoming a BIS student.
Intimate partner violence / controlling or abusive relationship	No respondent reported this occurring since becoming a BIS student.
Sexual harassment or sexual assault	No valid, unambiguous respondent reported sexual harassment or sexual assault in the behavior-specific items.
General intimidation/verbal harassment tied to racial or ethnic identity	One respondent reported this concern. The report protects confidentiality by avoiding details that could identify the respondent.

4. Perceptions of Reporting Climate

Across five reporting-climate perception items, 91 of 129 item-responses indicated that negative reactions were unlikely (70.5%), 29 were neutral (22.5%), and 9 indicated that negative reactions were likely or very likely (7.0%).

5. Knowledge of Help and Reporting

Across the three help/reporting-knowledge items, 60 of 78 item-responses were positive (76.9%). 9 item-responses were neutral, and 9 were negative. The greatest immediate improvement is to make reporting channels, available support, and the post-report process easy to find and to communicate with them consistently.

Item	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
If a friend or I were sexually assaulted, I know where to go to get help on campus.	6	15	4	1
I understand what happens when a student reports a sexual assault to BIS.	6	14	2	4
If a friend or I were sexually assaulted, I know where to go to make a report of sexual assault.	6	13	3	4

6. Bystander Questions

Most respondents indicated that they had not encountered the listed bystander situations. One response in the bystander section was internally inconsistent, and one respondent stated that others intervened, but no prior behavior-specific item described a matching incident. Therefore, BIS should not overinterpret this item. The next survey should include a clear “Not applicable / I have not encountered this situation” option.

Qualitative Themes

To protect confidentiality in a small institution, this report summarizes qualitative comments by theme rather than reproducing sensitive comments verbatim.

- Strong positive comments about feeling safe, supported, and academically focused at BIS.
- Requests to clarify where reports should be made and what process follows a report.
- A concern that some cultural attitudes may be experienced as patriarchal or inconsistent with the inclusive dignity expected in an Islamic academic setting.
- Recommendations to improve survey design, including demographics, multi-select functionality, “not applicable” answer choices, and clearer wording.

Institutional Actions

Action	Owner	Timeline	Evidence of completion
Publish this public results report on a BIS webpage and send the link to DHE.	President / Administration / Website lead	Immediate	Stable public URL submitted to DHE.
Publish a one-page “Where to Get Help and How to Report” guide for students.	Student Affairs / Academic Affairs	Before next term	Guide posted in handbook, LMS/Populi, website, and orientation materials.
Add or strengthen handbook language on sexual misconduct, harassment, discrimination, retaliation, supportive measures, and reporting options.	President / Policy owner / Board or delegated approving authority	Next handbook update	Approved policy or handbook revision.
Provide annual student and faculty/staff reminders on reporting channels, anti-retaliation, and available support.	Administration / Academic Affairs	Annually	Email, orientation slide, or training record.

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Revise the next survey instrument to align more directly with DHE model topics and improve validity.	Administration / Title IX or CSVP contact	Before next survey cycle	Revised survey and updated matrix retained in compliance files.
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