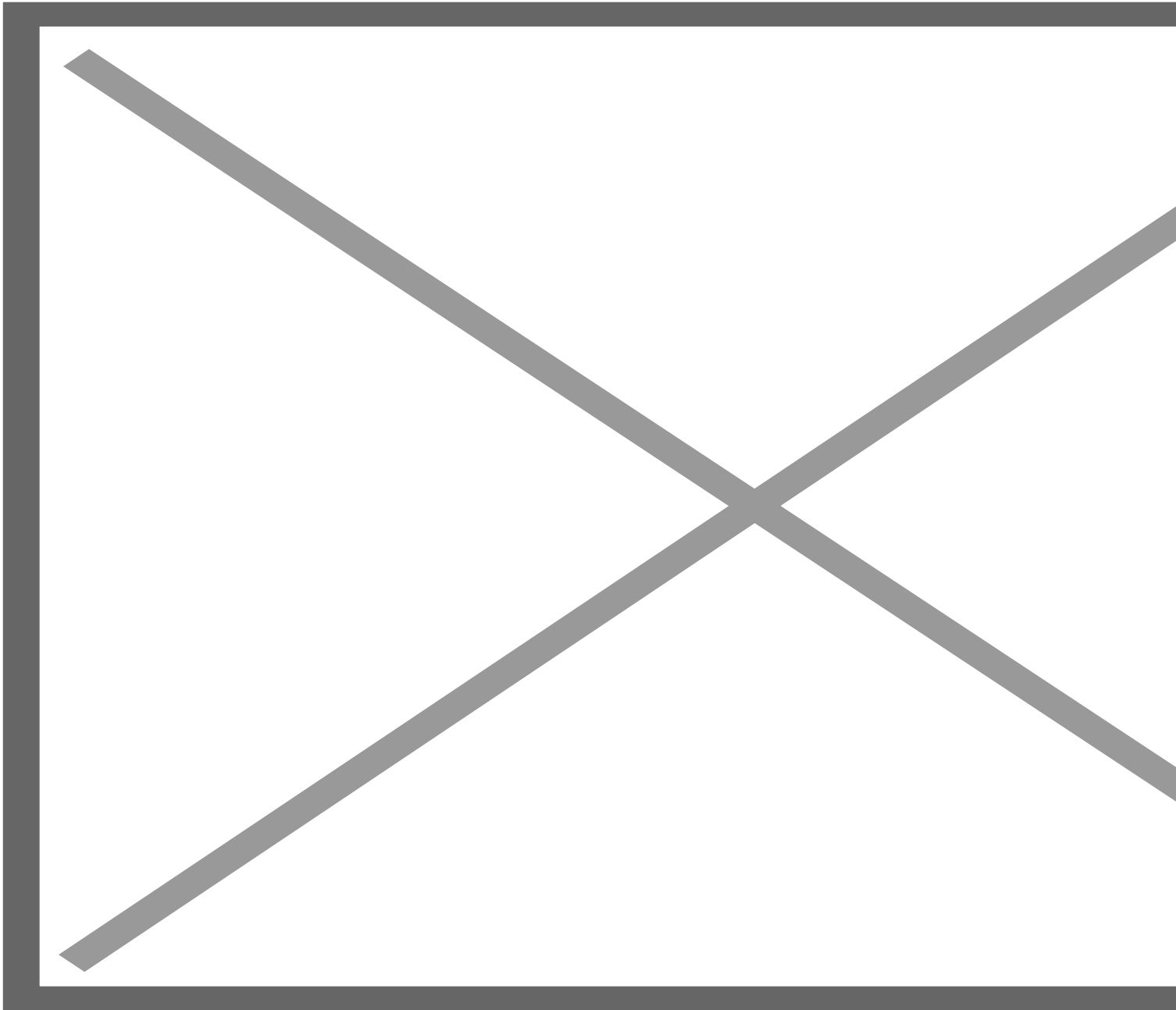


Mike Johnson says Rep. Andy Ogles's anti-Muslim remarks reflect 'popular sentiment'

by [Fiona André](#)

March 11, 2026



US Rep. Andy Ogles, R-Tenn., speaks after being declared the winner in his primary race, August 1, 2024, in Franklin, Tennessee. (AP Photo/Mark Humphrey)

A day after Rep. Andy Ogles, R-Tenn., said on social media that Muslims don't belong in the United States, House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., said that although he questioned Ogles's choice of words, he pointed to a widely shared sentiment in the country.

“Muslims don’t belong in American Society. Pluralism is a lie,” Ogles [posted](#) on his X account on March 9.

Johnson told reporters at a congressional retreat in Doral, Florida, on March 10 that he spoke about Ogles’s remarks with members of Congress and discussed what language they should use on the issue. Ogles’s selection of words, he said, is “a different language than I would use.” Still, Johnson said he believes his comments resonated with many who view Islam as incompatible with US culture.

“There’s a lot of energy in the country and a lot of popular sentiment that the demand to impose Shariah law in America is a serious problem,” Johnson said. “I think that’s a serious issue. Shariah law and the imposition of Shariah law is contrary to the US Constitution.”

Anti-Muslim rhetoric and claims that Muslim Americans are seeking to impose Shariah, or Islamic religious law, on the country have become [popular talking points](#) among Republican lawmakers recently, especially in midterm election races. Claims that Muslims are plotting to impose Shariah gained traction in the early 2010s, leading to dozens of anti-Shariah bills being passed in some states.

House Minority Leader Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., said on [X in response to Ogles’s comments](#), “Disgusting Islamophobes like you do not belong in Congress or in civilized society.”

Richard Grenell, who was appointed by President Donald Trump as special presidential envoy and executive director of Washington’s Kennedy Center, also [condemned](#) Ogles’ comments on X, saying, “Stop attacking the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.”

Ogles, who has represented Tennessee’s 5th District since 2023, has been one of the fiercest anti-Muslim voices among Republican lawmakers and announced his plan to introduce a bill in Congress that [he refers](#) to as a “Muslim ban,” seeking to limit entry to the US for immigrants from some Muslim-majority countries.

“America’s moral exemplar is a meek carpenter who rose from the dead, not a warmonger with 12 wives and countless slaves. My bill will preserve this truth,” Ogles wrote in a Monday [press](#) release announcing the bill, disparaging Islam’s Prophet Muhammad.

The 54-year-old lawmaker is also a member of the newly formed Sharia Free America Caucus, a congressional group that alleges Shariah violates the US Constitution and that has raised concerns about the growing number of mosques across the country, which they see as a sign of Muslims overtaking US society.

Shariah, Arabic for “the path” or “the way,” reflects how God expects Muslims to live their lives. Anti-Shariah campaigns often flatten the concept of Shariah, which can’t be reduced to a set of laws, Khaled Beydoun, a law professor at Arizona State University, previously [told](#) reporters.

Ogles has made derogatory comments against Muslim Americans before. Last week, he published a video on X depicting an image of the Quran, Muslims’ sacred text, with a red-bolded caption reading “Islam = Incompatible,” presumably referring to the United States.

“We’ve seen it across Europe—I literally was with leaders from across Europe and one of the things they talked about is that they are losing their countries to mass Islamic Muslim migration,” Ogles said in the [video](#).

Ogles also repeatedly attacked New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani’s Muslim faith throughout his campaign, arguing that Mamdani’s true motives were to impose Shariah in New York. Ogles also called for a Department of Justice investigation into Mamdani’s path to citizenship.

“I say NO to Sharia law — which is why I’ve presented an argument to have Mamdani sent back to Uganda based on information he clearly withheld,” he [wrote](#) in an October X post. —Religion News Service