

Viral Kathy Hochul Hijab Images Fuel Stunning Debate Over Democrats, Feminism and Islam

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul is facing a political firestorm after appearing in a black hijab while addressing Muslim leaders in New York City, with critics pointing to what they see as a glaring contradiction between the Democratic Party's feminist messaging and its approach to Islamic customs.

And the internet wasted absolutely no time noticing.

According to RedState, Hochul appeared Friday at the Islamic Cultural Center of New York, where video showed the Democratic governor wearing the head covering while speaking before Muslim religious and community leaders.

"I want to thank His Excellency Mr. [Tareq] Albanai," Hochul said in the circulating clip before acknowledging an imam and other officials associated with the organization, according to RedState.

The footage quickly exploded across social media, but it wasn't simply the hijab that caught people's attention. Many began juxtaposing Hochul's appearance with years of warnings from Democrats and progressive activists about women's rights, patriarchy and the supposed threat conservative politics poses to female freedom.

Political commentator Benny Johnson took that argument one step further, posting images of several prominent Democratic women wearing head coverings in Muslim settings alongside a blistering observation about their previous political rhetoric.

“Every one of these women ran for office on the horrors of Trump’s patriarchy which will strip them of rights and put them in the Handmaids Tale,” Johnson wrote on X, as the images highlighted women of power including Michelle Obama and Hillary Clinton.

For years, The Handmaid’s Tale has been wielded as a political symbol by activists warning that conservative policies could usher America toward a patriarchal dystopia where women’s freedoms disappear. Women dressed as characters from the Margaret Atwood story have even appeared at protests against Republican-backed abortion restrictions.



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Hochul herself has openly embraced the feminist label.

Now, images of the self-described feminist governor covering her hair before Muslim leaders are nothing short of hypocritical and ironic.

The controversy is particularly combustible because of its timing. Hochul’s appearance came less than two weeks before America marks the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Now, only time will tell how much of the Islamic agenda the Democratic Party will push as the midterm elections loom just around the corner.

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