RASHTRA JYOTI

ANALYSIS BRIEF
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Bollywood Must Drop Kaafir and Make Amends

Original analysis by **Swati Goel Sharma and Sanjeev Newar**

The authors argue that Bollywood has normalised ‘kaafir’ as a slur against Hindus and other non-Muslims and should stop using it and make amends. They cite dialogue and lyrics from three films, rulings by Darul Uloom Deoband and a 2009 appeal by the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind against using the term for non-Muslims.



A scene from a movie.

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- In Bobby, a Hindu businessman’s son tells a woman that meeting her taught him worship, and describes himself as never having been a kaafir.
- In Hamari Adhuri Kahani, Vasudha thanks God for blessing her with love and invokes kaafirs as people who otherwise cannot reach God.
- The authors cite Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind’s 2009 statement urging Muslims to stop using the term for non-Muslims, made in response to Ashok Singhal’s demand.
- The proposed remedy reaches back to the films already made. The authors ask producers to bleep the term in existing songs and dialogue.

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SCAN TO SUPPORT

Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma and Sanjeev Newar in October 2020. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.