

Queen's Park Trust

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Asian Muslim Lady Jewellery Muggings

Muggings and thefts targeting the gold necklaces and jewellery of South Asian Muslim women are highly prevalent crimes driven using opportunistic distraction techniques. "Family gold" passed down through generations or given as wedding gifts in Asian and Muslim communities is typically easy to melt down. Street thieves often target pendants (such as openwork Allah pendants or Ayat-ul-Kursi necklaces) worn during daily commutes or while walking near places of worship.

Street criminals frequently use distraction tactics such as asking for directions, offering unsolicited hugs, staging a fake plea for help, or engaging victims in conversations to get close enough to snatch necklaces right off their necks.

They may ask victims to pray with them and then offer a gift. The suspects will get close and put fake jewellery around the victim's neck or slide a ring onto the victim's fingers when shaking their hand. During this embrace, the suspects will remove real jewellery that the victim is already wearing. The suspects will then flee the area before the victim realizes their property has been stolen.

Anyone who encounters individuals acting suspiciously in this manner are encouraged to contact police immediately and record any important details such as vehicle licence plates, clothing descriptions, and directions of travel.

Be highly cautious of strangers approaching too close to ask for directions or attempting physical contact. Never let strangers put jewellery on you or get too close to your personal belongings.

Take clear, high-resolution photographs of all jewellery and register them to help authorities track the items if stolen.

If this crime happens to you, report it to police as soon as possible. If your bag or purse was also taken, quickly freeze your bank accounts.