

Neckties are a sign of the cross, says Taliban official

[Kabul \(AFP\)](#) – Neckties worn by men were a sign of the Christian cross, a senior Afghan Taliban official said Wednesday, adding they should be eliminated.

“Sometimes, when I go to hospitals and other areas, an Afghan Muslim engineer or doctor uses a necktie,” said Mohammad Hashim Shaheed Wror, head of the Invitation and Guidance Directorate, a department that seeks to guide people along proper Islamic lines.

He said in a speech broadcast by Tolo TV that the symbolism of the tie “is obvious in Islam”. “What is a tie? It is the cross. It is ordered in Sharia that you should break it and eliminate it,” he said.

Taliban authorities have not imposed any dress rules on men since taking over in August 2021, but women must cover up with a hijab when out in public.

Casual Western clothes became less common after the Taliban takeover but some professionals – as well as newsreaders on TV channels – still don a collar and tie. Afghan Taliban officials almost all dress the same – shalwar kameez, a waistcoat, and turban.



Taliban officials at a meeting in Qatar in 2021. Even when abroad, Taliban officials wear traditional attire © KARIM JAAFAR / AFP/File

I wonder if that is why Sadiq Khan only [wears a tie](#) “to meet the king or something bad has happened”