What People Think of Islam

Readers' Comments

LEFT, RIGHT & CENTRE

Researched & Published By

Islam Surveyed

December 2015
# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0 Summary</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 What the Liberal Left Thinks of Islam (Courtesy of the Guardian)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 This Survey - What’s Covered &amp; How the Information is Presented</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Why Is There Such Widespread Dislike &amp; Criticism of Islam?</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0 The Guardian</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 The Guardian Regarding the Paris Attacks</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0 The Independent, The Huffington Post UK</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.0 The Telegraph, Daily Mail, The Spectator</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0 Other including Regional &amp; International Press</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.0 Summary

This is a survey of readers' comments on articles about Islam and Muslims published by leading British newspapers. It concentrates on social, religious, cultural and political topics and mostly ignores armed conflict and terrorism.

1.1 What the Liberal Left Thinks of Islam (Courtesy of The Guardian)

The Guardian newspaper publishes an enormous number of articles by Muslims and their supporters complaining about the mistreatment of Muslims by the Media or the government, or supporting Muslims in the latest controversy concerning Islam.

Here are the titles of some recent examples:

"The fight against Islamophobia is going backward"
"How the hijab – and H&M – are reshaping mainstream British culture"
"The Guardian view on Muslims in the west: marginalised by mistrust"
"It’s time the media treated Muslims fairly"
"Ministers fuelling Muslim radicalisation"
"Why Islam doesn't need a reformation"
"Diversity and immigration are not the problem. Political courage is"

To see such articles in a newspaper known for extreme liberal and left-wing opinions is not a surprise.

What is a surprise – a shock, in fact - is the overwhelmingly negative reaction of the Guardian’s own readers to these articles as shown by their comments and their votes on the comments. When it comes to Islam and Muslims Guardian readers don't follow the editorial line.

A staggering 89% of Guardian readers are critical of Islam;

.... nine out of ten!!!!

It demonstrates a widespread distrust and dislike of Islam. And, they are Guardian readers! The comments are usually well written and knowledgeable, as one might expect.

An analysis of 14 representative articles produced the following picture.

**Table 1 – Readers' Votes on Readers' Comments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments that are:</th>
<th>% of Votes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pro Article/Islam</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neutral or Unclassifiable</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Anti Article/Islam</strong></td>
<td><strong>89</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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Table 2 – Readers' Comments

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<th>% of Comments</th>
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<td>Pro Article/Islam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neutral or Unclassifiable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti Article/Islam</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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Readers' Votes on Comments (Illustration of above Tables)

The Guardian, for reasons it keeps to itself, chooses to ignore completely this reader feedback. It is a remarkable publishing phenomenon. The Guardian doesn't care what its readers think of Islam.
As one Guardian reader put it. "I don't think I have ever seen as many Guardian readers so diametrically opposed to the paper's editorial policy, and I have to say that I'm not surprised, because if you genuinely believe that Islam is the victim in all of this then you're hopelessly out of touch not only with the prevailing public mood, but also with the very values the Guardian is supposed to promote.

The UK's leading liberal voice, bending over backwards to accommodate the sensitivities of a religion.... which hates gays, hates Jews, subjugates women and places arbitrary limits on free expression - I never thought I'd see the day."

And as another put it: "If there is one thing I have learned from reading the Guardian it is that Islam is never at fault for anything." [1]

One, perhaps cynical, reader also suggested that such an abundance of articles generating strong feelings and negative comment is a good way to generate site traffic, the articles are "click bait", boosting readership which is good for advertising revenue, even if the readers don't agree with what they read.

That the comments and votes on the comments are coming from genuine Guardian readers is made clear when a comment makes a disparaging remark about David Cameron or the Conservative party or British foreign policy. Any anti-government comment gets a big vote whether it's following the Guardian Islamic line or not. And, comments in general are better written (and much longer) than corresponding comments in the Daily Mail, for example.

A less cynical but even sadder explanation is that those responsible for this editorial policy unlike their readers believe all is well with Islam. Nothing needs to change, or if any change is needed Muslims can take care of it themselves.

It is far more important to protect this sensitive community from criticism than to examine the causes of the distrust and dislike.

Other Newspapers

Readers of other newspapers, The Independent, The Telegraph, Daily Mail, The Spectator, show the same distrust and dislike of Islam as Guardian readers.

It should be noted and emphasised that the distrust and dislike is focussed on Islam, the religion. A number of Daily Mail articles provide particularly strong examples of this. One was about a British Muslim who did a three-minute video verbal attack on violent extremists. The top rated comment on this article was "Brilliant. But we need more Muslims to openly condemn these atrocities".

Another Mail article authored by a Muslim and entitled “We Muslims MUST stop blaming others for the way our young are radicalised, writes chairman of the Muslim Forum” got the top rated comment "Thank you from the bottom of my heart for writing this article! Everything you wrote just clicked with me! It’s true they play the victim card all the time and people are SICK AND TIRED of it!"
1.2 This Survey - What's Covered and How the Information is presented

This is a survey of readers' comments on articles about Islam and Muslims published by leading British newspapers over the nine months February to November 2015. It updates a similar survey covering 2014 [2].

It concentrates on social, religious, cultural and political topics and mostly ignores armed conflict and terrorism in Afghanistan, the Middle East, Africa, Israel and Palestine, and strongly cultural issues such as FGM and honour killings. ISIS is covered because it has such a strong Islamic dimension.

It is divided into five sections, covering the Left, Right and Centre of British politics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Articles</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Guardian</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>The Independent, The Huffington Post UK (a website only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Telegraph, Daily Mail, The Spectator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (e.g. Times) including regional and international</td>
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For each article you are given:

1. Title and date

2. A short extract from the article giving the purpose or main message

3. The most popular readers' comments - those with the highest number of votes, or recommendations, or likes, from other readers.

Where appropriate comments have been edited for brevity.

A Huge Sample

What you see here regarding the distrust and criticism of Islam comes from a huge sample of the British public.

The 72 Guardian articles in this survey attracted on average 1053 comments per article. The most commented article attracted 2495 comments (until the Paris outrage when an article attracted 7155 comments). The top rated comment typically gets 300 to 400 readers' votes.

We estimate that some 5,000 readers are involved in commenting and voting on just one article. Allowance has been made for the fact that readers can make more than one comment and vote on more than one comment. Altogether the section of this survey covering the Guardian could represent the views of some 50,000 to 100,000 people.

In the case of the Daily Mail, a single top rated comment attracts 10,000 to 20,000 readers' votes!
1.3 Why Is There Such Widespread Dislike and Criticism of Islam?

For non-Muslims the answer is simple and obvious.

Muslims do and believe many things that non-Muslims object to. Here are some of the things you could have read about recently in your newspaper, on the web, or seen on TV:

- **British Sharia councils are leaving women open to abuse**
  - Sharia law is blight on UK .... a man may divorce his wife just by saying “I divorce you” three times
  - Girls [banned] from mixed sports because it made "male staff uncomfortable"

- **Teachers "gave pupils handout saying wives cannot refuse sex"**
  - ex-Muslim family are driven from their home .... after they converted to Christianity
  - Muslim children could miss out on a free flu vaccine scheme due to it containing pig gelatin

- BBC has found evidence of young people suffering threats, in some cases, encountering serious physical abuse when they told their families they were no longer Muslims
- 'Free speech is dead!': Reaction after Students’ Union bans speaker over Islam offence fears
- .... the Imams we spoke too [had never] heard of marital rape; they weren’t aware it was against British law

- Islam isn’t a religion of peace, and the so-called extremists are seeking to implement what is arguably the most honest reading of the faith's actual doctrine
- .... a 16-year-old .... admits it sometimes feels uncomfortable wearing a normal hijab when playing basketball
- Muslim countries refuse to take a single Syrian refugee, cite risk of exposure to terrorism

- .... the majority of mosques follow a patriarchal model with poor access for women, and women’s representation on mosques’ governing structures was non-existent
- **Apostates and married adulterers too must be killed, like homosexuals. Those who disrupt Muslim "unity" may be killed too. Thieves will lose hands. Even wine drinkers must be lashed eighty times. .... Mr Khan will be welcomed at the East London Mosque this Saturday**

- [Muslim] Faith School Bans Pupils From Meeting "Outsiders"
- **Muslims "cannot" be asked to have only one wife**
  - The UK has seen a surge in sharia marriages with many of them involving polygamy ... which are not recognised under UK law and leave women without full legal rights

- Probe into "undue spiritual influence" in Birmingham election
- John Cleese .... "You Can't Make Jokes About Muslims, They'll Kill You"
- Public want to know if animals have not been stunned
- **MP warns of "religions intimidation" of Muslim voters**

- Politicians face religious bullying ban to stop another Tower Hamlets
- Lutfur Rahman played the Islamophobia card to silence his critics
- Islamist teachers could be banned from schools after investigation .... found dozens claiming Lee Rigby’s murder was a hoax
● .... Most ex-Muslims are in the closet because they live with the fear of violence
● **Over a quarter of British Muslims have sympathy for the Charlie Hebdo terrorists**

● Islamic school is "undermining British values" and "limits girls to knitting and sewing"
● **Islington Council scraps pork from menus in all primary schools**

● .... as many as 20,000 polygamous Muslim marriages exist in the UK. .... documentary will... find out... how a religious group is able to put its own practices above UK law.

● British mosques aren’t that moderate after all .... only two out of 1,700 mosques in Britain follow modernist interpretations of the Koran
● .... even the ice cream lady wears a burka: How Dewsbury, the once great textile town of the North, has undergone a terrifying transformation
● **Islamic primary school .... found with books promoting stoning, lashing and execution**

● Marks & Spencer has apologised after a Muslim member of staff refused to serve a customer trying to buy alcohol
● Ban the veil in courts, say barristers
● Teacher "forced out of school" for failure to wear Muslim hijab

● **More than a dozen Muslim clerics at some of the biggest mosques in Britain have been caught on camera agreeing to marry off girls as young as 14**
● One Imam .... explained that no formal record would be made .... implying that these unofficial [underage] marriages are not so uncommon

● Jesus and Mohammed T-shirts banned
● **Islamic TV channel fined £85,000 by watchdog for broadcasting hate preacher’s saying it was "acceptable to murder anyone who disrespected Mohammed"**

This covers only news reports concerning the UK. You could also read about:

● Saudi court upholds blogger’s 10 years and 1,000 lashes ● Pakistan church bombing protests, 10 more Christians killed ● Afghan woman stoned to death ● No to sports for girls ● Another atheist sentenced in Egypt ● Grand Mufti says no opposition to underage marriage ● "Women should not laugh in public" ● PE Classes For Girls Is First Step To Prostitution ● Pakistani Christian gets death penalty for blasphemy ● Mufti slams advocates of free mixing of sexes ● Iranian jailed for distributing Bibles, and a lot more [3]

**What do Muslims Think?**

Muslims themselves blame the media. They lambast the press itself, especially the popular press, for the "negative" news concerning Islam and Muslims.

An imam recently complained "almost daily vilification and demonisation of Muslims through a conveyor belt of media stories has had a deeply traumatising effect". [4]

Another Muslim spokesman went so far as to say "It [the press] should be threatened with sanctions to make it stop its misrepresented portrayal of Muslims (and other minorities)". [5]
Muslims like this – and there are many continually complaining about the media - think there are no problems, just problems in how others relate to Islam. They think they are being picked on by the media for no reason at all.

Muslims can't bring themselves to recognise the great majority of news stories about them are accurate and report events fairly, that they do and say things others don't like and there are no deliberately missed good stories. Even sympathetic news media such as the Guardian can't ignore the negative news concerning Islam and Muslims. [6]

And, Lord Leveson said in his report following his extensive year-long inquiry into the culture, practices and ethics of the press ".... it is important that stories .... are accurate, and not calculated to exacerbate community divisions or increase resentment. ..... the majority of the Press appear to discharge this responsibility with care ...." [7]

In another dodge of the issues Muslim organisations complain that coverage of "extreme" beliefs unjustly picks on Muslims with conservative views or Muslims with a "normative" understanding of Islam. They don't explain normative. And, they don't say who decides what is normative. It would help to know how the topics covered in the news stories listed above relate to so-called normative beliefs.

**The Heart of the Matter**

Sadly, Muslims do nothing, or at best very little, to address the topics of these "negative" stories, the behaviours and beliefs that cause so much concern;

Circumvention of English law
Extremism in schools
Imams who know and care nothing of Britain
Freedom of religion
Segregation and treatment of women
Exemptions
Political corruption
Freedom of speech
Violence
Self-segregation, etc., etc.

This, of course, is the heart of the matter. Many Islamic beliefs and practices create problems, and one of the biggest is the continued reluctance of Muslims to admit this.

The dislike and criticism, so starkly demonstrated in this survey, has little to do with the media and a lot to do with Islam in the modern world.
NOTES

[1] Here are further examples of protesting Guardian readers:

"I stopped buying The Guardian recently after enjoying it and believing in its principles for the last 35 years. I stopped because it became clear to me that in order to be seen not to be opposing what was perceived as a persecuted racial minority it began to become an "excusenik" for a right-wing, religiously extreme group of fascist bigots."

".... I have enjoyed the Guardian for decades. But too many of its contributors have lost their wits and abandoned their principles over radical Islam. They show no signs of finding either soon."

"Have I really read this in the Guardian. It is a pity that the guardian did not realise that people who were worried about multi-culturalism 10 years ago, did not do so because they were ravening hate filled racists ...."

" I remember when The Guardian was a paper that promoted secularism and rational thought. It turns out now it’s the media arm of a seventh century religion that is wholly incompatible with its previous core ethos of liberal, secular democracy."


[3] A fuller list of news reports also covering other Western countries and the Muslim world is available as an Annex to this survey and is downloadable from: http://readerscommentsonislam.com/view-download-reports/


[6] "The Search for Common Ground: Muslims, non-Muslims and the UK Media" a study published by the Greater London Authority in 2007 showed that in a particular week 85% of the Guardian's stories about Islam or Muslims were negative. (For the Independent it was 80%, Sun 100%, Daily Mail 97%, Telegraph 91%, Express 70%(!), Times 89%, Financial Times 89%)


For further information about "Islam Surveyed" see: http://islamsurveyed.com/
2.0 The Guardian

November 5, 2015

The integrated school that could teach a divided town to live together

Radiyah and Olivia live in Oldham and are best friends. They are 12 years old and met on transition day, when primary school students are introduced for the first time to their secondary school. They have been inseparable ever since. Olivia says one thing that binds them together is that they both love the colour purple. She thinks Radiyah is crazy and Radiyah thinks Olivia is crazy. "When she sees my brother at school she always says, 'Hi brother,'" Radiyah says. "She never says, 'Hi Radiya's brother'. It’s crazy." Olivia accepts that it is a bit crazy.

They help each other with homework. Radiyah excels at science and English. Olivia is solid at maths.

Olivia does not attend church, but Radiyah, like almost every Asian student in the school, goes to mosque. What does Olivia think of Radiyah’s culture? "They work so hard for what they believe in. They pray five times a day, they fast. I admire that."

.... Back in Oldham, Radiyah and Olivia could serve as poster girls for Cameron’s integration agenda. At school their cultural differences – of which they are aware – seem small compared to what they have in common. Olivia is joking about Radiyah’s purple pencil case, and her obsession with all things purple.

Their rapport has an infectious quality. Even so, it is more complex than appears at first sight. They have never visited each other's homes – they do not even know where the other lives, though they regularly talk on Skype after school.

That is not unusual for cross-racial friendships at Waterhead – the friendship checks in and then checks out again at the school gate. As they stream out of school at 3pm, the Asian and white kids go home to separate neighbourhoods. Radiyah and Olivia live less than two miles apart – though the psychological distance between their two neighbourhoods is substantially greater. [315 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 112 votes] Ban all religious schools in the UK. Separating children aged 4 or 5 based on their parents’ often lapsed sky fairy of choice is backwards, illogical and wrong. It creates divisions in society.

Here in Scotland it is the reason for so much hatred, especially in west central Scotland.

I’m all for religious freedoms but religious observation and indoctrination should be for the home and places of worship.

[2ND 67] Children say what they think is supposed to be said rather than what they really feel. Muslims are only Muslims because they have no choice. If you let them choose, Islam would be gone in two generations. It only survives through strict application and the threat of being physically harmed and socially excluded if you don’t adhere. Ironically, that is evil.

[3RD 61] "They work so hard for what they believe in. They pray five times a day, they fast. I admire that."
I truly, truly do not believe that is a quote from a 12 year old girl that does not attend a church. Or even one who does.

[4TH 52] A secular state is the requirement.

[5TH 51] This article is so lightweight and fluffy it’s hard to know where to start but I’ll begin with not believing a 12 year old said "they work so hard for what they believe in, they pray five times a day and fast. I admire that". Really? A 12 year old?

It misses the point that not long after 12 Pakistani girls have to start wearing at least scarves if not hijab and are kept at home much more. As for being allowed to have white boy friends, forget it. I absolutely agree mixed schools are the way forward but please be a bit more aware of the huge issue of Islam being anti integration. And try not to beat us readers into submission by producing such massive articles!

[6TH 50] The problem starts young – some of the Asian kids are not allowed to visit the homes of school friends, not allowed to go to parties etc. we moved to an area with a large Asian population (approx 1/3 school) and it was a steep learning curve for my kids – I was told categorically no, they (the new friends) did not visit the homes of non family members, they socialized with cousins.

One if my daughters new friends is Asian (with more laid back parents) and my daughter was the first white friend she had. I was told by another parent that they (the Asian parents) don’t trust us not to give them pork / any meat (a lot here are Hindu and vegetarian) and want to keep the kids in "their" culture, thinking if they have white friends they would be too English. By secondary school these prejudices are ingrained, very hard to change.

Its not universal, some of our Asian families are friendly, and integrated but it is not the norm. Now older my daughter tells me its like two schools, the Asian kids don’t even speak English in their free time for the most part (they are all very bright, its a selective sixth form, nothing wrong with their English skills). I don’t have the solution but it needs to start back in nursery, and its a culture change that needs to happen

[7TH 46] This could be any Northern town with a sizeable Muslim population, and whilst I applaud the efforts from this school, the cultural requirements of Islam will always be a barrier to meaningful friendships and integration.

My eldest invited a Muslim classmate to his party at a laser game venue, before he was allowed to go his parents rang up with a boatload of questions such as "What do they cook the chips in?’

‘Does the Pizza have real Ham on it’?, ‘Will the children be given alcohol?’ (they’re 8!!), and can I message you about his ‘requirements’, and on they went.

The boy came, ate non halal pizza and chips and everyone had a great time.

If it’s so difficult to let your kid even go to a birthday party what’s the rest of it going to be like?

Take five Muslim kids and five non Muslim kids, and give them a football, then you’ll see integration at work.

It’s the religions that create all the discord.
Sounds more to do with culture rooted in religion, than a race problem. I never understand why the left are so keen to make cultural problems those of race, unless they have a corrupt ulterior motive.

Skin colour does not matter. Attitudes do matter – a lot.

It all stems from the home and that little radiyah girl will be getting endless religious claptrap thrown at her. Taught that white food is dirty and you shouldn’t eat it. By the time she is 17 the trips to family weddings in Pakistan will start and pressure will mount for her to get married. Once she does the whole vicious circle will start again.

The Guardian Read more
http://www.theguardian.com/news/2015/nov/05/integrated-school-waterford-academy-oldham

October 19, 2015

The fight against Islamophobia is going backwards

Islamophobia does not only affect British Muslims; it plays directly into the hands of extremists who claim that western societies will never accept Islam and its followers. Challenging this type of prejudice thus goes hand-in-hand with any successful counter-extremism strategy, the latest of which the home secretary has outlined.

It is for this reason that, in the aftermath of the 2010 general election, Sayeeda Warsi worked hard to form a government working group on anti-Muslim hatred. Against the backdrop of her warning in 2011 that Islamophobia had "passed the dinner-table test", the then Conservative minister brought together representatives from Muslim communities, anti-racism groups and academia.

.... When Lady Warsi resigned from the government in 2014, she argued that the government's failure to engage with Muslim communities was undermining Britain’s fight against extremism. She was right. We are today no closer to understanding and tackling anti-Muslim hatred. If anything, it feels as though we have gone backwards.

The success of Britain’s counter-extremism strategy will ultimately hinge on its ability to engage across all communities and inspire their trust. Working in this way, in sharp contrast, is only likely to fuel their disappointment. [Matthew Goodwin, 1392 comments]

The seriousness of Islamophobia will no doubt manifest itself via a plethora of rightwing posts on this very thread.

Indeed – such as those based around an ideology that views homosexuals and women with utter disdain; and aims violent rhetoric at any who challenge it.

I’m struggling to think of any examples, care to enlighten me?

Encouraging inclusive secularism and pushing out faith groups from the public realm might work better for genuine integration surely?

Bollocks. ‘Islamophobia’ (it’s not a phobia, since it’s entirely rational) is a natural reaction to the terrible things done in the name of Islam.

Islamism would chug along happily without Islamophobia.

“The seriousness of Islamophobia will no doubt manifest itself via a plethora of rightwing posts on this very thread.”

What does right and left-wing have to do with it? You do understand that right-wing isn’t short for ‘doesn’t agree with me’?
Also, if you must make it about politics, I think you’ll find the left has traditionally been more anti-religion than the right. Islam itself is more than a little conservative, wouldn’t you say?

"what causes Islamophobia..."

The list is long. I’ll start with the belief by some radical Muslims that the key to anti-gravity involves gay people.

The ‘rooftop research’ continues.

Why do we need a group to find out what causes hatred against muslims. I would have thought it fairly obvious. People are frightened of them. Why dont we tackle muslim hatred toward the rest of us.

Doesn’t their religion explicitly state they should kill us all and our should die? Who is chopping good peoples heads off? Stoning women? Treating women as third class citizens?

I dont hate anybody but you have to admit there is a huge PR problem here.

I think people are fed up with it always being the rest of us who are wrong and need to try harder. Well guess what its a two way street.

Of course religion is the root cause again, again and again !!!!!

"with the hate passages deleted"

One of the world’s shortest books, then?

Problem is that "Islamophobia" is often used as a catch-all term which describes a range of opinions. These range from the atheist’s distrust of a rather silly set of beliefs to your actual swivel- eyed racist loonies.

"more must be done"

Like perhaps, not terrorising people so that they don’t experience ‘phobia’?

"Instead, the taskforce consulted widely with the Quilliam Foundation, a thinktank that, some say, lacks credibility with many ordinary Muslims, pushes theories of radicalisation that are typically not supported within the academic community, and undertakes research that is seldom subject to rigorous peer review."

Another attack on the Quilliam Foundation. What on earth are you aiming for here?

Well, apart from giving column inches to another Islamist, as usual. [Guardian Cif] Read more


October 13, 2015

Why I speak out against Islamism
Historically, criticism of religion has been a crucial aspect of free expression and intrinsically linked with anti-clericalism and the dismantling of that which is deemed taboo and sacred by the gatekeepers of power.

Such criticism has been key for social progress. It is also a matter of life and death for many living under Islamist rule, such as in those areas where Isis has seized power, Saudi Arabia, or in Iran where criticism of religion and the state are analogous. There, anything from demanding women’s equality or trade union rights to condemning sexual jihad and the "Islamic cultural revolution" (which banned books and "purified" higher education) can be met with arrest, imprisonment and even the death penalty.

.... The labelling of much-needed criticism of Islamism as antisocial, even dangerous by left apologists sees dissent through the eyes of Islamists and not the many who refuse and resist. How else are we to show real solidarity with those who struggle against the theocracies we have fled from – if not through criticism? The fight against Islamism and the need for international solidarity apparently does not enter into their calculation.

Even their paternalistic "concern" for British Muslims is incoherent. After all, aren’t many critics of Islamism Muslims too? In fact, Muslims or those labelled as such are often the first victims of Islamism and are at the forefront of resistance. Also, not everyone in what’s referred to as the Muslim "community" is a Muslim, and even if they are, religion is not the only characteristic that defines them. [Maryam Namazie, 352 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 183 votes] Wow. Didn’t expect to read such an article in the Guardian today.

"Ironically, these postmodernist "leftists" have one set of progressive politics for themselves (they rightly want gay marriage, women’s equality and the right to criticise the pope and Christian right) and another for us."

Yes, this is pertinent. I broadly identify as a liberal, and am frequently bemused at the cultural relativism so many others who do the same indulge in when it comes to Islamism.

[2ND 163] "At its core, this is a global fight between theocrats and the religious right on the one hand, and secularists and those fighting for social justice on the other. ... Now is the time to reclaim the left and the values it represents for us all."

A thousand recommends. This is a much-needed call to action. Is the left capable of responding?

[3RD 133] Great article. A contrast to the drivel spouted by Shariatmadari last week

[4TH 127] This has been a monumental betrayal by much of the left, who have stood around while the rights of women have been decimated, freedoms have been curtailed and minorities have been persecuted.

More than that, these same people who claim to be of the left have chucked around accusations of racism at those who have tried to speak out, have ‘no-platformed’ critical intellectuals, and generally done their damnedest to shut down anybody who might point out their moral and intellectual bankruptcy.

[5TH 123] And I admit, I’m a socialist who is baffled by the Left’s attitude to reactionary religion and don’t know how to respond. Recently I’ve started arguing with other lefties, but that upsets my friends and lets the rest simply write me off as a ‘racist’. What does anyone else suggest?
There is so much to say about this issue, and no doubt, more will be written about this incident and the response to it.

In the meantime, thanks to the Guardian for publishing Maryam’s response. Hopefully you will be able to find space for more Exmuslim secular voices in future.

Great stuff, well done.

I too am puzzled about how the left can be pro LGBT and feminism and yet also embracing a homophobic and misogynist religion (note: not race)

"After all, aren't many critics of Islamism Muslims too?"

A point often overlooked by those who seek to silence criticism of islamism with cries of xenophobia etc.

"if we're going to go after one we ought to go after all of them"

That’s exactly what she’s saying – that this one particular religion shouldn't be any more protected than any of the others. We are perfectly free to openly condemn Christianity, yet criticism of Islam is being actively censored.

And why shouldn't we be able to say that Islam is currently more harmful than the others? It is illogical to think that they are all precisely as good or bad as each other, we should be able to judge them like we would judge anything else.

Excellent article. I stopped buying The Guardian recently after enjoying it and believing in its principles for the last 35 years. I stopped because it became clear to me that in order to be seen not to be opposing what was perceived as a persecuted racial minority it began to become an “excusenik” for a right-wing, religiously extreme group of fascist bigots.

This became a step too far for me. Sadly other left-wing pillars that I have supported since I became politically aware: Universities and the Labour Party for example, have also painted themselves into this particular corner.

There should be no doubt among the Left….if organisations seek to appease Fascist organisations, whatever their race whatever their religion, they will not be forgiven by our children or grandchildren, particularly if those children are women, are gay or who seek not to believe in a particular pre-medieval superstition.

I have to say I am quite shocked with the Guardian’s behaviour when it comes to Islam. They published Shariamadari’s article fairly prominently on their front page, then censored a large portion of the comments (overall most of them were highly critical of that ridiculous piece).

And now it appears that despite having given Maryam the right of reply, she’s had her article heavily edited in order to avoid upsetting "sensitivities" and as a final insult, buried deep in the recesses of website. Completely inaccessible to most people, who have to discover it from second hand sources.

Judging by the overwhelming majority of opinions, you are failing your readership. Big time. It’s time you started siding with sanity. [Guardian Cif] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/oct/13/islamism
The ‘Muslim penalty’ in the workplace can be overcome

A report released today by the cross-party thinktank Demos highlights how British Muslims are strongly under-represented in the "top professions" compared to the population at large, and refers to the "Muslim penalty" that exists across ethnic groups in the labour market.

Yet while Demos rightly argues the importance of economic integration and social mobility, it notes that many still consider integration in terms of the abstract acceptance of "British values". I very much echo the sentiments in the report which criticise the presenting of integration "as part of a counter-extremism effort", noting: "there are few ways of approaching integration that could be less helpful".

With the government’s work on integration seemingly being linked to extremism and more Muslims being alienated from wider society through counter-terrorism efforts, I hope that this report’s recommendations will be taken on by the government and communities across the UK. [481 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 123 votes] "... more than half the British population see Muslims as a threat;"

The question asked was whether Islam poses a threat. That is not the same as asking whether Muslims pose a threat.

[2ND 117] "With Islamophobia on the rise, a systematic and strategic cross-governmental policy is needed."

Why is that word still in use? A phobia is an irrational fear of something. While some people may fear Islam, the vast majority just seek to question whether it has anything positive to contribute to society.

As your piece states, Islam results in gender discrimination – but that statement itself could be called Islamophobic. The term is meaningless.

[3RD 93] Exactly. I can’t think of a single individual Muslim I know who I would consider a threat. But if you ask me to look at the bigger question, I would certainly consider Islam a threat.

Two very different questions.

[4TH 90] You wear your religion you pay the cost. It’s a choice and not a rational one.

[5TH 83] "... more than half the British population see Muslims as a threat, a view perpetuated by sections of the media."

Those sections that insist on reporting the atrocities done in the name of the Prophet?

[6TH 83] The author concedes that Muslim cultural attitudes towards women is part of the problem, and

"The issue, however, remains a concern and mosques and community organisations can play an important role in tackling this cultural attitude."

You want mosques to deal with the problem of women’s inferior status in Islam? .
You just don't get it, do you

[7TH 79 ] We should not pretend that this is about equality. I should be perfectly entitled to discriminate against someone on the basis of their beliefs.

If you believe it’s OK to beat young children, I probably wouldn’t choose you to babysit my kids. If you believe Santa is real, I probably wouldn’t hire you in any position that required logical thinking.

Faith is a choice, and you must be prepared to accept that people will form opinions on you based upon your choices.

It’s absolutely true that there is probably racial discrimination at play here also, which is unacceptable, but Islam is not a race, let’s not allow people to hide their illiberal opinions and prejudices behind their "culture".

[8TH 76] Where there’s smoke there is fire. There is a reason (actually there are dozens) why Islam is viewed unfavorably all over the world.

[9TH 65] This article does note that the Demos report explained that much of the problem lay in the cultural attitudes of Muslims themselves, but she then brushes this away to concentrate on what the government and non-muslims should be doing. [Guardian Cif] Read more

October 6, 2015

No, Theresa May – immigration is not the real threat to national cohesion

.... It’s not low-paid migrants who traded in credit default swaps, or were bailed out by public funds to the tune of billions and are now back to collecting huge bonuses as though nothing ever happened – that was the Tories’ financial backers.

It’s not asylum seekers who decided that the poor should pay for the mistakes of the rich and slashed funding for libraries, education, youth services, welfare and tax credits. It’s not refugees who decided that the steelworks in Redcar would not be saved or that pits should be closed – thereby devastating entire communities and creating the kind of regional imbalances that render all talk of cohesion meaningless.

The very institutions that have tied this nation isle together – the National Health Service, the BBC, the welfare state – are the very things May’s party is busy dismantling.

Social cohesion cannot be dictated by fiat, less still conjured from thin air. Its greatest threat comes not from immigration but from the claim by those who have much that those who have little should blame their plight on those who have even less. [Gary Younge, 1469 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 539 votes] I suggest this guy go to Leicester, Luton, Slough, Wembley, Southall, etc, etc, if he wants to see the impact of mass immigration, perhaps that’s his ‘vision’ for the UK, which incidentally we were never consulted on.
Nuts article isn’t it? Just because "immigrants" didn’t do credit default swaps (actually they did, just mainly American immigrants) nor cause the closure of Redcar steelworks (actually the Thailand based SSI did that one), there is no problem with mass overnight immigration.

Somewhere in Mr Younge’s mind there is someone blaming immigrants for credit default swaps going wrong and a North East steelworks closing. Throw in some other irrelevant stuff about the SNP and other regional identities and you have an article and thus a paycheck.

There was nothing nuts about the article.

May claimed that immigrants are a threat to social cohesion. Young is pointing out that it’s long been Tory policy to destroy social cohesion.

The hypocrisy is clear and true.

... When you’ve seen children die for the lack of a $3 mosquito net or $5 worth of medicine then you have a slightly better idea of what motivates a lot of these poor people.

Throw in free healthcare, a roof over your head, a toilet, clean running water, the chance for your children to get an education and not spend their lives as dirt farmers menaced by ululating dipshits with AK47’s and a very particular understanding of the Koran...trust me, this is a very attractive proposition for many hundreds of millions of people. Hence they risk their lives to get here. Are they refugees in the strictest sense of the word? No. Can you blame them? No.

How is it not a threat to national cohesion when towns are divided along cultural lines and the rise of identity politics is in clear view. Respect party anyone?

She didn’t say " immigration " is the real threat to national cohesion. She said " UNCONTROLLED immigration ", was a threat to national cohesion.....which it obvious is. Should there be no limits to the numbers who come in...?..if not, do you not expect that all our public services could then be stretched to where they would break? Absolute utter nonsense !

"British identity has long been a very porous, private matter. There were many ways to get there and few prescriptions on how you made the journey. Its vague and fluid nature allowed space for a range of options, hyphens and elisions."

Nonsense, but that’s what you’d like us to believe.

If we convince ourselves (with help from the likes of you) that our culture is nothing more than Morris dancing and fish and chips, it makes it a lot easier to strip us of it and get us to abandon it voluntarily. Genius really.

It has been truly despicable to see how the left has abandoned the UK working class, of all colours and creeds. Left to fight like rats in sacks with even poorer people to supply the wealthy and middle class liberals with cheap labour, and then shouted down as "racists" if they have the temerity to question what has been done to them.

Sickening.
And no one blames the immigrants. They blame the b*stards, in the press and in parliament (both left and right) who have ruined their lives, their communities and their children’s life chances

[9TH 228] Do you think there should be a limit Gary?

How large do you want the UK population to be? 80 million? 100 million? 120 million?

What would life in the UK be like with 120 million people? Would you live here Gary?

[10TH 223] Someone questioned uncontrolled immigration – quick, play the racist card and SHUT THEM UP. [Guardian Cif] Read more
http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/oct/06/theresa-may-immigration-threat-britain

October 4, 2015
How brave Muslims are being silenced

.... I have enjoyed the Guardian for decades. But too many of its contributors have lost their wits and abandoned their principles over radical Islam. They show no signs of finding either soon. As a matter of course, they publish a defence of the silencing of Maryam Namazie, an ex-Muslim feminist, or a piece denouncing Maajid Nawaz, the Muslim leader of the anti-extremist Quilliam Foundation.

In academia, speakers at Bath University, surely the most malign higher education institution in Britain, call ex-Muslims "native informants", as if the decision of free men and women to decide for themselves what they should believe is the equivalent of collaborating with a colonial oppressor. For the religious right and the political and academic left, a liberal Muslim is their trussed-up version of the enemy, the alien, the "other".

None of the above is astonishing. It’s been going on so long that we accept it as the "new normal". What is astonishing and frightening was the look on Mughal’s face when I finished talking to him. He looked defeated. He thinks the extremists are winning and that Britain does not begin to understand the trouble that is coming. [Nick Cohen, 810 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENTS 261 votes] It is indeed ridiculous, on the face of it, how the (so called) ‘liberal’ left defends extreme Islam, even though the latter rides roughshod over so much that the left claims to stand for (homosexuality and equality for women being the obvious examples). It appears that the left’s wish to support any group or process that undermines the security and culture of the civilised West trumps any other principle that they would otherwise stand for.

[2ND 206] Offended Muslims will kill cartoonists who disrespect the prophet, but have no animosity whatsoever against people like IS who allegedly use a distorted version of Islam to justify mass killing, rape and genocide. How come they are not offended by what appears to me to be a greater blasphemy than cartoons?

The Muslim lawyer Aamer Anwar actually described the Scottish born IS terrorist Aqsa Mahmood as a "sacrificial lamb" whose family still love her.

No sign of offence there. This is typical Muslim behaviour towards Islamist terrorists. First the denial that they are nothing to with Islam and then a complete lack of being offended. I find Muslim behaviour to be hypocritical and offensive in regard to terrorism.
" Those squalid victories belong to the Islamist right. "We are being targeted by charlatans who are leading Muslim communities off a cliff," Mughal told me. "I think we have 18 months before we lose a generation of young Muslims."

And what positive steps are they taking to ensure this doesn't happen?

Are they picketing mosques where hate preachers are known to hang out and then confronting them? Do they keep records of the movements of radicalised individuals and their recruiters?

No, they react with shock and horror whenever some "beautiful young person" becomes radicalised and swear "we didn’t see it coming".

Are they writing letters to parliamentarians demanding that foreign hate preachers be deported and kept out? No. They give them the royal treatment and look stunned that anyone could possibly be upset at their message that it’s ok to beat you wife and that Britain is your enemy.

Do they have programmes to reinforce the peaceful intolerance of their religion? No. They’re keeping records of "Islamophobia" and reinforcing the down trodden victim mentality and then they’ll wonder why they’re set to lose a generation of young people.

And note that it will be someone else’s fault that their self fulfilling prophecy comes to pass.

"If British Muslims turn into Islamic State murderers, it must be the British government’s fault and anyone who says otherwise must be an Islamophobe."

I’d like a pound for every comment I’ve read on these pages from posters endorsing this sort of nonsense.

Why do people on the left defend mainstream Islam?

If I came on this board and said that a man was worth 2 women (Sharia law), premarital sex was a crime (haddith and Sharia), husbands could strike wives to discipline them (read your Haddith and Koran) and that homosexuality was wrong (punishable by death according to Muhammad in the Haddith), I would be ripped to shreds.

But yet, the left defends mainstream Islam.

Why?

Please to see someone within the Guardian/Observer fold standing up for Maryam Namazie after the appalling opinion piece in the week.

Still a shame it was written in the first place.

I stopped reading after I was instructed to believe in Islamophobia. I don’t believe in such a thing. I do believe in fear of religion out of control and have solid reasons for doing so.

Thank you Mr Cohen for another excellent piece. There is still hope.

Read more
http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/oct/04/how-brave-muslims-are-being-silenced

October 1, 2015
There's nothing misguided about the left's concern for Muslims

On Saturday reports emerged that Warwick University student union had blocked an event organised by its Atheists, Secularists and Humanists Society. The guest of honour was Maryam Namazie, who campaigns against religious ideology, with a particular focus on Islam. A student union official wrote to the society, saying, "There are a number of articles written both by the speaker and by others about the speaker that indicate that she is highly inflammatory, and could incite hatred on campus."

.... However, the fact remains: at this historical moment, in this country, Muslims are subject to greater demonisation than almost anyone else. Absolutists may not like it, but this power imbalance must enter into the calculation.

We are lucky to live in a pluralist democracy, with freedom of choice in politics and religion. These are things we should cherish, but they are not in any serious danger. Were they really threatened – by the emergence of a theocracy, by the drafting of racist or misogynist laws – the left would oppose that with every sinew. I hope that more citizens in Muslim-majority countries can one day enjoy the level of political and social freedom that we do, and I support the men and women who try to bring that about.

But it’s time to skewer the idea that, in looking out for British Muslims, the left is abandoning its traditional values. In fact it’s doing what it’s always tried to do – extending a hand to the most beleaguered among us, identifying those society says it’s OK to injure and insult, and saying: this isn’t fair. [David Shariatmadari, 991 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 390 votes] What an appalling article. There is no obligation on universities to defend any kind of superstition. Quite the opposite.

[2ND 325] The article fails to mention Warwick SU had no problem inviting pro-Hamas supporter, and anti-Semitic 9/11 conspiracy theorist (he states "the Jews did it") to their campus.

But Maryam is a woman, and an apostate, of course, she’s DANGEROUS!!!

[3RD 320] Can David actually cite what he finds so "offensive" about Maryam.

I’ve heard ALL the Islamists arguments against this woman, and none of them stack up.

Maryam attacks the far-right, religious privilege, and David’s sobbing about her "targeting" Islam is simply a result of the fact that she was formerly a Muslim who was forced to leave the theocratic Iranian regime in the 1980s with her family. "Blowback"!

The fact is, some find Maryam "offensive" ONLY because Maryam is an ex-Muslim (an apostate), a woman, a woman with opinions.

[4TH 280] Part of what is so dangerous about people like Maryam and Aayan Hirsi Ali is that they disarm the Left of all its usual defenses when it comes to opposing criticism of Islam.

They are ex-Muslim women, and thus cannot be dismissed out of hand as "uninformed bigots," unlike non-Muslim white males who dare to comment.

[5TH 239] "But does the withdrawal of an invitation really fit any common understanding of what we mean by censorship?"
Yes, quite patently yes.

[6TH 224] "But the underlying sentiment is reasonable: we don’t want to have any part in the further stigmatisation of Islam."

Therefore denying a platform to people who want to put forward legitimate criticism of it. How on earth can you say this and at the same time argue that it is not an attack on free speech?

[7TH 210] "... lefties were once again siding with religious conservatives because of a misguided belief that Muslims, as a minority group, should be protected at any cost."

That's left-wing thinking in a nutshell.

When they think of "Islam" all that comes to mind is "brown people." The simply refuse to see Islam for what it largely is: a right-wing ideological construct full of homophobia, misogyny and contempt for free speech and free thought.

Just look at their pathetic hands-off approach to Islamic racialism on campus. If such vile sentiments were coming from white males they'd be waging total war on it. Instead the "vulnerable" ethnic minority gets a pass. [Guardian Cif] Read more
http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/oct/01/university-of-warwick-maryam-namazie-activist

September 28, 2015

**How the hijab – and H&M – are reshaping mainstream British culture**

Muslim women in hijabs are becoming increasingly visible in the public domain, whether appearing in EastEnders, Android ads, or The Great British Bake Off. Twenty years ago, when I began wearing my headscarf, "hijabis" were a rare sight, but now this contentious yet innocuous piece of cloth is shaping the face of mainstream pop culture.

The latest move comes from within the world of fashion, with global clothing giant H&M featuring its first ever Muslim model in a hijab. Mariah Idrissi, a 23-year-old who lives in London, stars in the 30-second video, alongside a boxer with a prosthetic leg, a man in drag, and a guy wearing socks with sandals – all united under the avowal: "There are no rules in fashion."

H&M has been largely applauded on social media, with one non-Muslim woman tweeting that she was "so happy that the gorgeous hijab-wearing fashionistas are being represented by a global brand". [2075 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 609 votes] I’m a liberal but I just can’t force myself to celebrate that a particular brand of organised religion is becoming increasingly relevant in our day to day lives. I just can’t. I’m sorry.

[2ND 592] "striving to be part of – brace yourselves – a diverse, multi-faceted, thriving society."

There’s nothing diverse or multi-faceted about the hijab.

[3RD 519] ... Any society that sees the hijab as normalized and part of its culture is not a society I want to raise my children in. Medievalism in the form of mass delusion is not a cause for celebration.
Odd that you’re so excited by the sight of women in shrouds, as many feel the exact opposite when they see them.

Personally, I cannot stand the sight of them, and think the increase of women wearing these should be met with despair. Like other religious symbolism, as soon as I see a hijab I think ‘this person actually believes there’s a man in the sky, who demands that this African Great Ape wrap it’s head in a shroud, for fear of turning on male apes, and is proud to wear this delusion in public’.

Medievalism is not a cause for celebration

Vive la France!

Each to their own and all that but only 15 years or so the hijab was hardly worn by Muslim women and girls yet now it seems uniform. [Guardian Cif] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/sep/28/hijab-h-and-m-mainstream-culture-great-british-bake-off-diversity

September 27, 2015
The readers’ editor on... Islam and the media

.... Some of that mocking, misreporting and unhelpful shorthand is starkly evident in our media every day, and confirmed by Professor Tony McEnery and Professor Paul Baker of Lancaster University. They have analysed some 220m words of coverage on Muslim matters published in the British press from 1998. Their latest research, commissioned by Muslim Engagement and Development and due to be published next month, spans the period 2010 to 2014, and while it reports some improvement in press discourse it indicates that many obvious faults remain.

.... "We were a nascent community, only just getting our voice heard," he said, identifying the burning of the Satanic Verses in the streets of Bradford as a pivotal media moment. "That act alone provided the iconic photograph that would join a gallery of negative imagery of Muslims, providing the optics to demonise the community that carry on until this day."

[TOP RATED COMMENT] A COMMENT SAID: "Most of the folks who discuss Islam negatively (by most I mean 98%) learn all they know from anti-Islamic web sites."

How do you know this? Anything which says something negative is hate speech? That sounds like sharia’s concept of slander.

Besides. Who cares about their theology? I only care how they behave.

[2ND] Is there a similar project on the coverage of Sikhs and Hindus in this country? If not, why not?

The answers are, of course, NO and NOT NECESSARY, as the personal piety and religious life of the many Hindus and Sikhs in this country does cause any alarm or worries to the population as a whole (nor interfere with them being highly effective compatriots).

Is it logically impossible that some things that SOME Muslims do explicitly citing Muslim sacred texts as authority could be a matter of deep concern to fellow citizens?

If you are of the Guardianista persuasion, the answer is YES. It clashes with Guardianista ideology and thus any further discussion of the issue is pathological and those who wish to persist in discussing it vicious bigots.
That act alone provided the iconic photograph that would join a gallery of negative imagery of Muslims, providing the optics to demonise the community that carry on until this day.

Yes, it is astonishing that when a community acts in a negative manner factually reporting it casts a negative light on them.

Trust me, I would dearly love not to be reading about Muslims every time I open a newspaper. [The Guardian] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/27/reader-editor-on-islam-media

September 27, 2015

The cost of diversity and community cohesion

Labour’s Jon Cruddas wants to re-engage with voters who feel disenfranchised by multiculturalism – but how?

.... Writing in the Times last week, the Tory peer Daniel Finklestein also touched on this area. "I think most of us agree that people shouldn't have to believe the same things, worship the same god or dress like each other," he said. "Isn't the great British principle that if someone wants to keep themselves to themselves, they are welcome to do so?"

But there are limits, he said. "I think we do want everyone to be willing to accept the same basic laws, a common attachment to western democracy and a shared responsibility for the nation's security."

I won’t take issue with any of that. But the devil is in the detail. Yes, it is about laws, democracy and mutual security. But just as crucial is what happens day to day: do we have common experiences? Do we work in the same places? Do we learn in the same places? Do we watch the same television, giving us shared things to talk about? Do we speak the same language in the public sphere? [Hugh Muir, 311 comments]

TOP RATED COMMENT 126 votes] Lets face it when we talk about multiculturalism we are not taking about curry we are talking about religion. Fundamentalist religious practice across the spectrum is incompatible with Liberal society, multiculturalism is a failed experiment we need to focus on all taking liberal secular values as the norm. That will solve all the issues we have with different communities failing to integrate, no amount of money will solve that, because they don't want to.

A lot of people don’t like change. A few immigrants In the 1950s and 60s were curiosities. More caused consternation and conflict. A trickle turned into a stream – of refugees from different cultures, migrants from ex-colonies, Eastern Europeans, people massing in particular cities, erecting mosques, dressing differently, having larger families.

Plus illegal immigrants and people cheating their way in, and now virtually forcing their way in. The cultural Marxists slyly shamed those who expressed reservations. To object was to be called racist, fascist, not too far from a sympathiser with Hitler.

This is changing. Older immigrants are wary of newcomers. Some liberals acknowledge that things have gone too far. Open borders don’t work. Cohesion has indeed crumbled. Something has to change. How do pro-multiculturalist back down without losing face? How can Corbyn get anywhere without addressing the problem?

It’s typical that you missed out the important bit that Finkelstein mentioned in his Times article, delicately, tactfully, but you seem to have lacked the balls to do so. Islam...
Wonderful to see a thoughtful article respectful of people’s concerns. The only thing I take issue with is the idea that it’s socially conservative people are concerned about multicultural practises and the impact continued acceptance of large numbers of refugees/migrants. Many who support socially liberal policies are extremely concerned about the acceptance of extremely regressive practises in certain communities all in the name of multiculturalism.

Wow. Could this be the start of a sensible conversation on this topic without the usual suspects crying ‘racism’?

The fact that Hugh Muir, of all people, has written this without hyperbole and hasn’t taken the stance I expected him to is potentially promising.

"I think most of us agree that people shouldn’t have to believe the same things, worship the same god or dress like each other,"

20% of one group in this country disagree with that.

Have I really read this in the Guardian. It is a pity that the guardian did not realise that people who were worried about multiculturalism 10 years ago, did not do so because they were raving hate filled racists...

No they were people who cared about society. But alas the Guardian was so arrogant that it believed that anyone who did not follow the multicultural agenda was somehow a moral basket case who should be ridiculed and humiliated at every turn. It’s not too late to apologise now though.

The balkanisation of the education system doesn’t help with social cohesion.

Cohesion is a fantasy in my hometown. It’s a mess and getting worse.

My kids school and wider community is segregated on religious lines as the Guardian well knows as you reported on such issues over ten years ago, so stop the claptrap.

You just moved the goalposts. Multiculturalism was supposed to be about us all mixing together, but when for too many that obviously didn’t work then it became about some sort of voluntary apartheid.

Then it became about glossing over the obvious that many didn’t really want to be British in any real sense, but just wanted to live as they did in an enclave with their culture and traditions from the old country, no matter how much they clashed with British culture.

Pick your start point, and I will choose Ray Honeyford from the mid 1980’s when the rot set in. Nobody has had the balls to tell a certain section of our society where to get off, and they have been taking the piss ever since.

Multiculturalism in many respects has been a failure both in economic and societal spheres. All that is left is for the likes of Muir to keep trying to push the failure as a success in some sort of damage limitation exercise. [The Guardian] Read more


September 24, 2015

The Guardian view on Muslims in the west: marginalised by mistrust
David Cameron has talked about ditching "the passive tolerance of recent years", and moving towards a "much more active, muscular liberalism", which makes for good headlines, but could also trigger the systematic suspicion that’s so unhelpful.

The mooted definition of extremism is opposition to "fundamental British values", which only patriotically fundamentalist historians would pretend this country has always measured up to. "Mutual respect and tolerance", for example, is listed as one such value, and reactionary attitudes towards homosexuality are increasingly held to be a warning sign in schools.

…. The need is for a different language that talks to diverse society – a language that can condemn the vicious nihilism of Isis without lapsing into the sort of nationalism that could sound like chauvinism in disaffected Muslim communities; a language that allows the state to balance the objective of a happily integrated society with its duty to defend itself. That language exists: it is the language of international human rights. It is high time the government began speaking it, instead of seeking to undermine it. [770 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 355 votes] So nationalism is bad, but Muslims all showing pride and togetherness in their religious grouping is fine and dandy?

[2ND 350] I wonder how this mistrust came about?

[3RD 309] And gangs of men in Oxford, Bradford and other UK cities setting up sex rings for the purpose of abusing young, white girls only we’re not supposed to notice their race or religion.

[4TH 299] Simplistic analysis that completely fails to concede how fundamentally many Muslim communities have sought to distance themselves from British values. I’m talking about tolerance of other faiths, female equality, homophobia etc things I hold sacred as secular lines in the sand in a free liberal democracy.

The Guardian has fallen into the same lame liberal narrative that frees Muslims of any responsibility for their own position in society. The police are blamed by the families of silly little teenage Isis bride wannabes for failing to stop them. Schools are blamed for being too intrusive or too unobservant. It’s time to stop blaming anybody else but......

[5TH 290] So how does the language of International Human Rights relate to Islam, somehow you forgot to explain.

Jihadi threat has been around for 1500 years so hardly reasonable to expect it to suddenly go away.

Multicultural society and Islam is a very odd concept, care to mention just one Muslim country that practices it? Just one.

[6TH 286] “That language exists: it is the language of international human rights."

Human rights? Oh bloody nora. Only in Islam, in the Koran and the hadith, do you see detailed, written rules cementing women’s position of inferiority. Acts of misogynistic violence are codified and ritualized by these texts; from the number of wives a man may have (four), to the number of male witnesses required for a woman to bear witness against a man (four), to the specification of the exact number of public lashes to be given to a prostitute (100), to the punishment for adultery (death), to the explicit permission given to men for domestic violence. Honour killings, for instance, are simply a vigilante expression of violence that would, in an orthodox Islamic context, be carried out by legitimized state and social means.
Islam is the prescription for the complete ordering of civil society according to the social mores of an ancient desert culture, but presented as the eternal and unchanging Word of God. So do tell us, because we’re all very interested, precisely what it is about Islam that merits such special protection by The Guardian?

[7TH 275] It really is simple. Apply the law equally to all.

That means no cruelty during animal slaughter; no special courts; no special rights to have one’s face concealed in airports, banks etc.

Everyone equal under one set of laws. Surely even the Guardian has enough principles left to agree with that?

[8TH 266] Lets not pretend that the failure of certain communities to integrate with the wider society is anything to do with government anti terrorism laws . The failure of some communities to integrate predates all this by decades.

[9TH 261] Sorry, I don’t trust them. Show me one place in the world they make good neighbours. No? Thought not.

[10TH 245] Muslims do not wish for a multicultural society and they don’t believe in many values that the Western cultures take as fundamental (sorry about the pun).

That statement may or may not be true: but it is widely believed.

More articles about Muslim lives and attitudes would be more welcome than endless opinion pieces with lots of advice and very little data. [Guardian Cif] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/sep/24/the-guardian-view-on-muslims-in-the-west-marginalised-by-mistrust

September 23, 2015

**Militant group publishes global hitlist of bloggers, activists and writers**

An Islamic militant group in Bangladesh has issued a hitlist of secular bloggers, writers and activists around the world, saying they will be killed if its demands are not met.

The list will raise fears that Islamic militant violence within the unstable south Asian country could take on an international dimension.

The targets in the list include nine bloggers based in the UK, seven in Germany, two in the US, one in Canada and one in Sweden. Some are Bangladeshi citizens living overseas. Others are dual nationals or citizens of the western nations. [1605 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 376 votes] Another great article about the benefits of religion and the way it enriches peoples lives.

[2ND 219] A COMMENT SAID "Don’t tar all Muslims with the same brush. For every Islamic extremist there are thousands of decent Muslims. Should we blame all of Christiandom for the crimes of the IRA and UDF?"

It’s NOT the people it’s the ideology that worries people. Even the moderates’ views on matters such as homosexuality, apostasy, criticism of “prophets”, women’s rights etc are not compatible with western democracy.
What is really baffling is that despite ample evidence that religion is causing unimaginable heartache and misery to millions of people, supposedly enlightened papers like this one continue to offer them its unconditional support. Utterly mystifying! [The Guardian] Read more

September 23, 2015

It’s time the media treated Muslims fairly

... The real-world consequences of the spread of one of the last acceptable forms of bigotry affects the very cohesiveness of our society. According to the largest survey of its kind in the UK, over a quarter of children aged between 10 and 16 believe Islam encourages terrorism, and almost a third believe Muslims are taking over the country. In addition, 37% of British people who were surveyed admitted they would support policies to reduce the number of Muslims in the country. Is it any wonder that more and more Muslims feel alienated?

... The final piece in the jigsaw is regulation. Clause 12 of the Editors’ Code of Practice says: "Details of an individual's race, colour, religion ... must be avoided unless genuinely relevant to the story." The problem is that this protection only extends to individuals and not to groups, which is why Katie Hopkins was able to get away with her infamous comments comparing refugees to "cockroaches".

The arguments about censorship and free speech are complex – but Jonathan Heawood of the Impress Project, an independent monitor of the press, believes the Editors’ Code should incorporate Lord Leveson’s suggestion that this clause is broadened to include groups. This would allow representative groups to hold the media to account for using "Islam" or "Muslims" where it was not "genuinely relevant" to the story.

We are equal members of society and demand fairness, not favours. Avoiding daily smears, group libel and the violent consequences is not too much to ask of the nation's editors. [2294 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 426 votes] Maybe a little integration might help the Muslim population, just a thought.

[2ND 420] The day Muslims recognise women as having the same rights as men – equal before the law is the day I will treat them as anything other than very observant participants of mass delusion and fantasy

[3RD 371] The followers of Islam are writing their own headlines! Forty years ago Muslims use to rub along with the people of other faiths. They lived side by side as neighbors, now they cant seem to live in harmony with anyone out of their own tribe or family. Stop blaming the messenger for writing the headlines you created!

[4TH 338] Muslims and Islam do not demand fairness; they insist on submission. The aim of promoters of Islamic values is the subjugation of Christian and other mores. The establishment of a caliphate and of Sharia law here in the UK and in other European countries is a clearly stated long term aim of its activists.

Religiosity has long been looked on with a fishy eye in the West; its track record of causing division and misery based on trivialism is well documented and the democracies have long largely compelled those that would advance the cause of religion to do so on their own time and to their own adherents.
French and US school system secularism are good examples of this. Here in the UK you can have faith schools just so long as they don't exclude or select on the basis of faith and teach the national curriculum.

It is important that the press and other opinion conduits be allowed to "tell it like it is"; Islam represents a clear danger to our Western way of life, to the values that we have fought so very hard to share.

We should not listen to the weasel words of the apologists; there is nothing in Islamic teaching of even the remotest value or relevance to life today in the 21st century and we should oppose its spread with as much energy and determination as we can muster.

We must not permit the promotion of Islam because it is just another set of crackpot beliefs. It isn't. It's an all or nothing social and political system that cannot co-exist with any other.

If we allow our awful politicians to add opposition to Islam to the increasingly long list of thoughts that are "crimes" we will live to regret it.

[5TH 304] According to the largest survey of its kind in the UK, over a quarter of children aged between 10 and 16 believe Islam encourages terrorism,

Which means that about 75% don't believe it.

Which isn't bad considering during a very recent high profile act of terrorism – Charlie Hebdo attack – the attackers/terrorists loudly proclaimed it was because of Islam supposedly being insulted. Plus, many other terrorists attacks like 9/11 and 7/7 are due to terrorists who loudly proclaim themselves to be Muslim.

Perhaps instead of lecturing news editors you should be lecturing terrorists to not assign their acts to Islam?

[6TH 303] It would also help their cause if they came out strongly against the terrorists. With the horror in the Middle east we barely hear a wimper from Australian Muslims.

[7TH 268] 1. Why did The Guardian, the BBC, and other mainstream publications for years fail to report on the amazingly widespread phenomenon of predominantly Asian men grooming white girls? Because of an anti-Muslim bias?

2. When the most horrific regime in modern history-the Islamic State-is not only butchering people with mind-boggling depravity, but has recruited more British Muslims than are enrolled in the British army, how is it possible that even our Islamo-fearing media could fail to use the word 'Islamic' in a negative context.

3. I notice that your study doesn't say anything about whether the stories are true.

4. Why on earth would the media go out of their way to write stories that use 'Islam' in a positive sense? Should they be writing 'Islamic distance runner Mo Farah wins again,' or 'Muslim man rescues cat from a tree.'

I haven't seen many articles that say, comparably, 'Christian men rescue stranger from drowning.' We have already seen this year an amazing rash of BBC stories and programs that beat us about the face with Islamic themes and try to get us excited about Islamic holidays, while doing nothing comparable for, say, Lent or any Hindu holidays.
5. The Guardian’s own Steve Bell is on record saying that Islam is about the only subject he doesn’t feel comfortable lampooning. That is the exceptional treatment you should be worried about.

6. I don’t know anybody who doesn’t know that ‘jihad’ is used to mean ‘personal struggle’ as well as ‘war on the infidel.’ Muslims tell us this ad nauseam, while simultaneously trying to eliminate ‘crusade’ (meaning good cause) from the vocabulary because of its associations.

I could go on..

[8TH 252] “... the regular association of Islam and Muslims with crime and terror in the media and on the internet is vital to the spread of Islamophobic rhetoric.”

Is the association truly without basis?

[9TH 233] I agree with your comment, Islam is not just a religion, its a social, religious political belief that most in do not understand, and the West ignore it at our own peril, because this incompatible faith is hell bent on colonizing Europe!

[10TH 228] This is essentially the same article that has been appearing on this site for years. It pushes the narrative of victimhood. It does not address the suffering caused worldwide by zealots in the name of Islam – including the suffering of their fellow-Muslims.

Some Muslims are wreaking havoc worldwide. Should the press ignore this? Look the other way? [Guardian Cif] Read more
http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/sep/23/media-muslims-study

September 21, 2015
We took Huguenots, Jews, Vietnamese. So why not Syrians?

.... Are we no longer capable of such responses? Not one of those situations was fun or easy, and Britain’s response was by no means perfect; not every landing was happy; and there was always plenty of rancour. But Britain did, in its muddling-through way, help despairing people improve their lot. It could again.

The second lesson is simpler. Why spend taxpayers’ money on keeping a few thousand people out, when (apart from any moral consideration) they would only add dynamism to British life? And it would be a mistake to see them cynically as a new army of cheap labour. It is plain that this stream of refugees is full of digital-savvy, resourceful people. And if we asked some of them to visit our schools in order to point out, from bitter first-hand experience, that Isis has rather less glamour in real life than it does on the videos – well, how bad would that be? [1537 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 317 votes] We shouldn’t accept economic migrants for a number of reasons:

1. There are too many. Potentially millions could come and that’s no exaggeration as I think most people realise by now.

2. Sorry, but they are mostly Muslim. From experience in the UK and elsewhere, we know the majority do not integrate or appreciate British (European) values. 2-3rd generation British-Muslims still wearing headscarves and Islamic garb? Come on!
3. We have our own poor, homeless, unemployed and sick who need caring for and are infrastructure is already creaking.

4. Genuine refugees should be placed in neighbouring countries so they can return as soon as the conflict is over. EU can definitely fund these camps and help more.

5. It’s just not fair on the native population no matter how sad some of the ‘refugee’ stories might be. These are our (European) homelands and the only ones we have.


Jews, Hungarians, Vietnamese have [mostly] integrated and assumed the British way of life.

Some traditions/cultures do not want to adapt to the host society, but believe that their culture/tradition is superior and that the host society should adapt to their way of life – or at least accommodate it – even when it is in utterly contrary to our established values and way of life.

[3RD 231] We took Huguenots, Jews, Vietnamese. So why not Syrians?

What religion were the Huguenots? What religion are Jews and the Vietnamese? Have there been any Jewish, Huguenot or Vietnamese terrorist attacks? Are there any cities in Europe that are circa 20-30% Huguenot, Jewish or Vietnamese (a la Marseilles and Birmingham)? Was there widespread concern that Europe might one day become majority Huguenot, Jewish or Vietnamese at the time?

[4TH 224] Our island is over populated.

[5TH 223] Were the Vietnamese, Jewish & Huguenots throwing rocks & poles chanting "God Is Great" with their fists in the air? No didn’t think so.

[6TH 214] A COMMENT SAID: "Speaking as a Hugenot, I can only agree"

Your ancestors came as 50,000 people over the course of two centuries Vs a current rate of 500,000+ over the course of two years. It's hardly the same situation.

[7TH 187] "We took Huguenots, Jews, Vietnamese. So why not Syrians?"

Because they’re likely to import their sectarian violence. As has been seen previously with immigrant Muslim communities, they frequently fail to integrate into the host country and its culture, and tensions between them and other ethnic groups seems to inevitably follow.

Of course, the disastrous Iraq war was a major reason for the current conflicts in Syria and Iraq, so the UK (and other countries involved) are morally obliged to take in a certain number of carefully screened, genuine refugees.

But to open the gates to all and sundry – many of whom seem to be economic migrants rather then refugees – could have long-lasting detrimental effects to the UK and other European countries.

[8TH 186] Numbers, my dear man, numbers. And why do editors insist upon showing us pictures accompanying such articles of women and children when the vast majority of these illegal immigrants are young males? [Guardian Clf] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/sep/18/britain-helped-refugees-history-syrians
The refugee crisis is waking old fears in central Europe

Undoubtedly, the expansion of the European Union has increased its internal heterogeneity, but when the German chancellor, Angela Merkel, mentioned that Muslims are already part of the culture of many EU countries, these were words that were not given the same welcome in all countries.

Expansion of the EU eastwards meant an incorporation of countries whose values might not be entirely in line with the European "norm". What we are seeing now is in part an expression of that tension, a need to balance the EU’s security interests on the one hand and the interests of the development of democracy and protection of human rights on the other.

"According to the Gatestone institute, most who manage to come to the EU are young men aged 16-20 years. They make up 80% of all arrivals to Germany."

This, in two sentences, is the crux of the problem. This group is where, invariably, all future problems with the "refugees" will have their origin.

Just say "no" to the lot.

Seems that some countries read and learn from history, most of the people I know who vigorously defend Islam, do not even know what Halal means and seemingly get their knowledge of the Crusades from watchin Robin Hood prince of Thieves. This enforced and misguided opinion that all cultures are equal or that we can all live happily together is damn right ridiculous. I challenge anyone who thinks it isn't, to sell up and move to Bradford.

Muslims have been here for generations and still have not integrated successfully.

As in all of Houellebecq’s novels, Submission has an atmosphere of anguished ambiguity. "One very important condition of writing a novel is not to try to understand everything," he says. "It's best to observe the facts without necessarily having a theory."

With the characters in Submission all giving their competing views, encased in what has been called Houellebecq’s famous overarching clinical neutrality, some critics have said it’s hard to know what he really thinks. "It's deliberate," he concludes. "No doubt because actually I think nothing at all." [1,086 comments]

If the Nazi’s had coined the term ‘naziphobic’, and had the PC industry on hand, they’d still be in power today, with nobody allowed to say boo to them.

I wonder what would happen were France or another Western country to vote in place an Islamist government in the future? Should we not be a bit worried that writing a book should lead to need for police protection?

"Houellebecq’s main target in Submission is what he believes is France’s limp and cowardly intellectual and political class."
I don’t know how he could possibly have got that idea. After all, the response of the French prime minister to the murder of French citizens by the fascistic adherents of a foreign religious fundamentalist movement that has been imported into France was this...

"The next day, the Socialist prime minister, Manuel Valls, seeking to unite the nation against what he deemed the hateful fingerpointing at ordinary Muslims, said: "France is not Michel Houellebecq ... it is not intolerance, hatred and fear."

To the prime minister, the problem facing French society is not imported religious fascism, it is French citizens like Houellebecq exercising their liberté and bringing religious violence down on France’s head. As if the response of the religious fascists to the exercising of free speech was understandable. As if imported religious fascism has any place in France at all.

[4TH 117] Provocateurs anger and outrage people. It’s what they do. We could do with a few in Britain, where every intellectual reads The goddam Guardian and wants to be liked by its readers. Conformity and self-censorship are worse for the literary imagination than repression. [The Guardian] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/sep/06/michel-houellebecq-submission-am-i-islamophobic-probably-yes

August 25, 2015

**Tolerant and multicultural, Palmyra stood for everything Isis hates**

In May 2015, Islamic State captured the modern city of Palmyra. The adjoining Unesco world heritage site is a breathtaking archaeological complex like no other. In the 2nd century AD this oasis city in the Syrian desert was one of the grandest and wealthiest places in the world, with a total population about the size of modern Cardiff.

Much of the ancient civic and sacred architecture still survives. Perhaps most evocative is the colonnaded street more than 1km in length: in antiquity, caravan traders from all over the Middle East would have processed along this road with their spices and silks towards the city’s religious heart, the magnificent temple of Bel, eyed from above by hundreds of statues of Palmyrene benefactors.

[TOP RATED COMMENT]  "Isis’s fascistic monoculturalism"

Which from a historical perspective is not without precedence. The Islamic prophet Mohammed conducted a similar act in Mecca, which was previously also, like Palmyra, a ‘multicultural’ city of pilgrimage and trade (for Christians, Jews and even Hindus). This was all destroyed.

[2ND] Exactly. There isn’t a single crime ISIS has committed (including executions, rape and slavery) that Mohammed himself didn’t do.

When ISIS claim they are following in the prophet’s footsteps, they’re 100% right.

[3RD]  "And yet nobody seems to be doing anything about it..."

Well no-one wants to be called an imperialist by the Noam Chompsky set, let it burn. [Guardian Cif] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/aug/25/palmyra-tolerant-multicultural-isis-ancient-city-migrants-savagery

August 7, 2015
Bangladesh blogger killed by machete gang had asked for police protection

A well-known secular blogger in Bangladesh who was murdered at his home on Friday had told police of threats against him and requested protection weeks before he died.

Niloy Chakrabarti, who used the pen name Niloy Neel, was hacked to death with machetes after a gang broke into his apartment in the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka. He is the fourth blogger to have been killed in Bangladesh since February.

In an interview with the Guardian in May, Chakrabarti said he was scared that he would be killed and that he had tried to file reports with local police about continued harassment. He claimed his complaints were not taken seriously.

[TOP RATED COMMENT 98 votes] I don’t know how it’s possible to exist in an Islamic state, people must be continually walking on eggshells, at all times. It seems that offending religious sensibilities gives carte blanche to anybody wishing to do you harm, and also removes your right to protection by the police and other security services.

It’s like that scene in The Life of Brian where the man is being stoned for uttering the name ‘Jehovah’, only this is real life and not a work of comedy.

[2ND 80] What sort of insecure, fucked-up god would want his followers to kill people who question his existence?

[3RD 72] Incredibly tragic and so sad for Bangladesh.

It’s like a nasty virus infecting parts of the world.

We’ll look back in times to come and wonder at how a religious creed was able to wreak such havoc in a relatively modern era. [The Guardian] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/aug/07/machete-gang-kills-secular-bangladeshi-blogger-niloy-chakrabarti

August 2, 2015

Maajid Nawaz: how a former Islamist became David Cameron’s anti-extremism adviser

.... For his part, Nawaz sees the blowback as a predictable response to confronting Muslims with uncomfortable facts. When I ask him about Quilliam’s credibility gap, he turns the question around. "What’s my audience? British society. Am I received relatively well? Yes. Is there within that ... if you break it down, challenges with Muslim communities? Of course there are. But that’s like saying men weren’t upset when the suffragettes emerged. Of course they were."

That last flourish is typical of someone whose speech is peppered with references to meetings at Chequers and dialogue with senior ministers. But comparing yourself to one of the great political movements of the 20th century may be a step too far, even for his supporters. "I wouldn’t blow my own trumpet," he tells me. "But obviously I’m sitting here with you, everything I’ve discovered about the prime minister’s speech is the advice I gave him really. I don’t know if that’s influence. Judge for yourself." [David Shariatmadari, 1085 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 150 votes] ANOTHER COMMENT SAID: "He has absolutely no credibility within Muslim communities in the uk, .... he’s interested only in what the white liberal elite want to hear.... The man is a joke."
"White liberal elite" do you mean the sane people that want everyone to stop bombing and killing each other?

Yeah, I hate those right on pacifist hippies.

This guy has been neck deep in radical ideology and has come out the other side. Give us an alternative to him if you are so vocal? Because from where I sit up in my secular ivory tower I don’t see an army of ex radical willing to stand up and say their piece. I see thousands of Muslims marching for anything anti Israel, but very few marching for anti Isis

[2ND 141] First the Guardian publish a fawning interview of the leader of Hizb ut-Tahrir then they do this hatchet job on a leading secular Muslim. It typifies the extent to which the left has got into bed with extreme Islam.

[3RD 120] Maajid Nawaz is one of the few Muslims in public life who is honest about the issue of apostasy and the issues that Exmuslims face, in the West and around the world.

For this he has been called an apostate and a ‘murtad’ himself, meaning he is fit to be killed.

That’s not the actions of man devoid of goodness. In the absence of other Muslims in public life admitting the problem with apostasy in Islam, its a rare thing indeed.

He was also declared to be ‘wajib-ul-qatl’ (fit to be slaughtered) after he tweeted how a satirical cartoon called ‘Jesus and Mo’ did not offend him. I’d mention who was responsible for doing that, but when he wrote an article here recently and it was pointed out, the comment was deleted.

[4TH 91] A very snidy article criticising someone who is spending his life trying to promote liberal values to very conservative Muslims communities.

Combined with the mouthpiece you gave that hate-preacher from Hizb ut-Tahrir last week & i find the Guardians position here to be very troubling.

Also i frequently hear the accusation that "he has no credibility in the muslim community" well he wouldn’t would he being a secular liberal who criticises Hamas as well as Israel.

[5TH 82] Here’s the issue. Muslim and western cultures clash over many fundamental things. The most obvious examples are the way women dress, or the attitude to homosexuality. We both think we are right. There seems to have been some idea that muslims coming to the UK would integrate, but does that mean change fundamental beliefs?.

Some have integrated to a degree but many haven’t, they have brought with them their attitudes, to the extent that about 40% want to see sharia law in Britain. Why should we be surprised, it is what they believe in. The two initial posts here indicate that this man has no credibility in the muslim community, because he is seen as abandoning his culture.

In England muslims make up 5% of the population, but they are not evenly spread. They have a higher birthrate than non-muslims and the current migrant crisis involves many muslims. We have muslim MPs and councilors. Muslim school governors attempted to
make their schools more Islamic why wouldn’t they, that is what they believe is best for children.

As the Muslim population grows, as its representation grows are we prepared to have Britain become more Islamic? This isn’t a question we can ignore is it? If all British citizens are equal, and if the proportion of Muslim citizens is increasing why wouldn’t they expect their views to be represented by people they relate to, not by people like this?

We really need to stop pretending there is no problem and ask ourselves how we will deal with a world, and countries, so divided in their cultures and views. Accepting that we have a major issue and trying to work it out is the only way we will have any sort of peace.

[6TH 76] Hmm. I still don’t understand why he is held in such contempt by so many British Muslims – it certainly sounds like he is trying hard to build bridges and do some good. Surely in the same way that those who have been in jail can have a powerful impact on troubled youth, Maajid Nawaz could speak with conviction to youth at risk of radicalization?

I hope this piece generates comments from Muslim posters and @ExMuslimsForum. I just don’t understand why he doesn’t get more support – and I’ve seen barbs aimed at him by Guardian journalists too, come to think of it. It all seems very bizarre and counterproductive.

[7TH 73] Those who wish to stop radicalization must surely go the whole distance. They must accept that religion is the problem, but they don’t. They explain that certain people do not understand the ‘true’ faith. Mehdi Hassan is an intelligent man but he still believes in a flying horse. Such people, no matter how eloquent they are, are not the answer.

[8TH 67] David Shariatmadari notes that Nawaz’s work “is premised on the notion that it’s important to tackle conservative opinion among Muslims.” The word ‘notion’ implies an idea that is incorrect or fanciful.

Does he think that it doesn’t matter that some Muslims think apostasy and homosexuality should be punishable by death in an ‘ideal state’? Does he really think there is no link between non-violent extremism and jihadism? Being right-wing, clearly, is damning though. [Guardian Cif] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/aug/02/maajid-nawaz-how-a-former-islamist-became-david-camerons-anti-extremism-adviser

July 31, 2015

**Why I disagree with having a women-run mosque in Bradford**

On Sunday 2 August, the Muslim Women’s Council in Bradford will be holding an event to discuss its proposals for the UK’s first women-managed mosque. Some women have experienced exclusion from male-run mosques, and so on the surface this seems a reasonable way forward. Many Muslims in Bradford would agree that we need to work towards greater involvement and inclusion of women in the life of the Muslim community.

.... All of this is why I support Bradford having a mosque that is led by both men and women, that is used by both men and women, which remains true to the Muslim tradition and religious moral law. Such a mosque would be the first to be inclusive of both male and female leadership and also male and female use, so would be a good
example of how other mosques could develop, potentially stimulating change and development across all British mosques.

[TOP RATED COMMENT] "There are some very good examples of female scholarship emerging in the Muslim community within Bradford and beyond."

That would be scholarship about, say, the development of empiricist philosophy within the Scottish Enlightenment, the Barbary incursions, the Norse influence on the vowels of eastern England? Or is "scholarship" here being used in a special sense about just one book not subject to the principle of a priori examination that would be normal in other fields? [Guardian Cif] Read more
http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jul/31/women-mosque-islam-bradford

July 27, 2015

Why must Britain’s young Muslims live with this unjust suspicion?

At Eid prayers in a rainswept Aberdeen this month, the imam gave thanks to Allah Almighty for the blessings of life in Britain. We had successfully completed a month of fasting while Muslims in China were banned from observing Ramadan and in other parts of the world, many fasted through distressing circumstances of poverty and war. In the sports hall that was booked for the prayers, we listened to the imam in our rain-splattered best clothes before heading for our first morning coffee in a month and the candy floss on sale for the children.

Older, first-generation immigrants understood the logic of Britain being better and freer than "our own home countries". But the young who were born and grew up in Britain would say that it is hard work being a British Muslim. [1723 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 633 votes] Because young Muslims keep blowing stuff up and shooting people?

[2ND 525] I do not live in the UK but I did live and work in Bradford during 9/11. My sister worked in New York at that time. To watch the asian youths returning from Friday prayers celebrating the event impacted on my attitude towards the asian community and the youths.

[3RD 420] You can write all the articles you want, and so can everyone you know. It won’t make a tiny bit of difference. A better use of your time would be to report any information you might know about suspected jihadists to the authorities. Now if you and everyone you know all did that – THAT would make a huge difference. So don’t worry about suspicions. That’s just a by-product. Focus on the source.

[4TH 392] Another week, another "Someone else’s fault" article in the Guardian

[5TH 314] For large numbers of Muslims to demonstrate with the same fervour against acts of terror as against the publications of irreverent cartoons?

[6TH 281] Part 1000 in a never-ending series called ‘why muslims are always victims and their religion has nothing to do with anything bad that happens’.

[7TH 247] Reading this I can appreciate how difficult it is to be a young muslim but I still wonder about the never ending stream of articles appearing in the Guardian which further the ‘poor me’ narrative. Are they truly representative of the muslim community?
Are there not muslims out there who can tell us how they are mobilising within their communities to make them less insular, to connect with the people around them? Is there no one that can appreciate why islam frightens the hell out of people and reflect on that?

Personally I suspect that there is something in the religion that creates an inability to self-analyse, to empathise with others, a sort of ‘group-victim’ mentality which is cultural, and explains an awful lot about the roots of radicalisation. [Guardian Cif] Read more
http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jul/27/britain-young-muslims-suspicion

July 24, 2015

I’m a Muslim woman, Mr Cameron: here’s what your radicalisation speech means to me

What did your speech on radicalisation this week actually mean to someone like me?

Despite being born in Manchester, growing up here and being a proud Mancunian (let’s overlook my support for Liverpool FC), for the first time in 37 years I feel as though I don’t belong. And yes, I am Muslim. Just a British Muslim.

I used to hear the term "Muslim community" and think of a peaceful hard-working community who settled in the UK to create a better future for generations to come. Now I hear that and it paints a picture of a misunderstood, frightened community under attack and feeling the need to continually apologise and defend its religious beliefs.

There have been many responses to your speech, and some well-researched analyses. But I need you to listen to someone like me. I need to have confidence that the person shaping my children’s future has an understanding of the impact of legislation imposed by you and your government. [2495 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 935 votes] If you are appearing Westernised, you should have no problems. It is the "men only" mosques, women compelled to hide their faces, children not allowed to mix with non-Muslims, and the impression some Muslims give of despising Western culture, while freely enjoying its benefits. There is also the issue of forced marriages, and the fact that places in the Koran talk about killing infidels. These are some of the factors which lead us to fear Islam.

We do not claim the west is blameless, but we do not see a large part of the Muslim world trying to be members of our society. In fact many of them seem to want to create the sort of culture their families came here to escape.

[2ND 816] So you can speak out against a speech which denounces the violent tendencies within some in your religion, but did you (or even do you) speak out against those very same violent tendencies when outrages are carried out in the Prophet’s name?

[3RD 712] Ok so 38 non-Muslim British Tourists were killed the other week for the crime of being British and non-Muslim. But according to your shameful article you are the victim ? Utterly disgusting.

[4TH 697] The Guardian prints lots of these articles – British people of the Islamic faith moaning.
I am more than happy to supply an article listing my issues with Islam. I wouldn’t charge the Guardian a penny. If they are obliged to make a payment, it could go to Help for Heroes.

They have my email address. I eagerly await their request

[5TH 649] Are you from Palestine or Iraq? Why should their fate concern you any more than any other British person? I don’t care more about white people or atheists in foreign countries than any other particular human being, why do you care about Muslims more than others?

Britain doesn’t have 12 different foreign policies for each section of its population it has one foreign policy. You have the right to disagree with it but it should not be a marker of your British identity. What an earth is needed to be explained to your two boys that isn’t needed to be explain to any two boys in the country.

[6TH 586] Actually the more I read that particular passage the angrier I get. Should a British Prime Minister come round and explain to every white Christian child in the land why our government bombed Christian Serbs because they are white and Christian? What would you like him to explain to your boys? That actually it has bugger all to do with your religion and that their Mum is acting the victim for some reason, that their Mum cares more about strangers in a land she has never visited than the fate of the UK’s soldiers?

I think the Iraq war was a colossal mistake and that Blair and Bush are criminals but that has nothing to do with my religion or lack of it.

[7TH 537] “Actions of a few.”

How long will you keep willfully deluding yourself and pumping out this propaganda? It is not just a few, 1/3rd of young Muslims in this country believe those that switch religion from Islam should be executed and close to half had sympathy for the London bombers.

It is not just the few. Radicalisation and danger is rife within the Muslim community. The only time we hear from self proclaimed moderates like yourself is when someone criticises Islam, as opposed to when Islam attacks someone else.

Sick of it. Islam and the modern world are incompatible.

[8TH 459] That bit struck me the most too.

It suggests that even in the most moderate households, the fate of fellow Muslims around the World is a reason for discontent and bitterness towards Governments who weren’t even in power at the time. So, really she means the West!

The writer doesn’t want to let her children watch the news in case they are exposed to some islamophobia in the reporting of the Islamist atrocities, not that their fellow countrymen might be the targets of the terrorism. But the fates of fellow Muslims from many years ago is a concern she has about explaining it to her children at some future date! [Guardian Cif] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jul/24/david-cameron-radicalisation-speech-muslim-woman

July 23, 2015

Salman Rushdie on Islam: ‘We have learned the wrong lessons’
Salman Rushdie believes that if The Satanic Verses had been published today, the members of the literary elite who rounded on Charlie Hebdo in the wake of the French satirical magazine winning a PEN prize for courage would not have defended him.

In an interview with the French magazine L'Express, the novelist said that "it seems we have learned the wrong lessons" from the experience of The Satanic Verses, which saw a fatwa issued against him by Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini in 1989, sending him into hiding. "Instead of realising that we need to oppose these attacks on freedom of expression, we thought that we need to placate them with compromise and renunciation," he said.

"Why can't we debate Islam?" he said. "It is possible to respect individuals, to protect them from intolerance, while being sceptical about their ideas, even criticising them ferociously." [518 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 117 votes] It's true. In the current intellectual climate Rushdie would have been taken to task for insulting Islam.

He should be praised for his honesty.

[2ND 87] Islam in the West hides behind it's minority status when criticised, while quite bizarrely, also taking the very opposite tack by accusing its critics of being against one and a half billion Muslims worldwide, aided and abetted, of course, by useful idiots in the Western liberal establishment.

[3RD 80] .... The impression I've got is that Hebdo happily attacked EVERYBODY – including the Pope and the French Elite. That certain Muslims regarded their particular ideology as above such treatment shows the degree to which they were rejecting, violently, the culture of those among whom they lived. Such behaviour is unacceptable – as acceptance implies a surrender of your own culture.

[4TH 69] Yes we have chosen appeasement. I knew this a few years back when Jack Straw publically condemned the original Mohammed cartoons. Our mistake is to believe that religion by default occupies some ethereal plane separate from politics, perhaps understandable given our cultural memory and experience of Protestantism which has dominated the British Isles, and which is on the face of it is highly private and individualising, ostensibly apolitical (but probably not immanently). By appeasing we expect the radicals to go back in a box and Islam to default to its supposed apolitical essence.

[5TH 56] .... most muslims are afflicted by a belligerent sense of victimhood than actual victimhood. What is islamophobia? It is a word that exists only to cut down criticism of a particular religion. It is telling that no similar word exists to protect other religions despite much harsher denunciation of these religions. There is condemnation of some very nasty ideas in conservative islam – ideas that cause real harm and suffering – what the hell is wrong with that?

[6TH 52] Good piece. The moral cowardice displayed by many commentators and politicians when Rushdie was under attack has fed into the current situation. How many of the kids who've run off to Syria have parents who were burning copies of The Satanic Verses?
Blasphemy laws are a tacit admission by the religious and the liberals they use as human shields from debate, that there is precious little of value held within. Otherwise there would be no fear of it not being able to withstand scrutiny.

When thousands and thousands marched through streets of cities in Britain calling for Salman to be murdered, we had a problem. The same ideology, the same extremism, manifests today in men and boys who go to join ISIS. We were silent then, we held our tongues, and we are where we are now because of it.

Salman, as always, is spot on.

He argued that the taboo surrounding "supposed 'Islamophobia'" must be brought to an end. "Why can't we debate Islam?" he said. "It is possible to respect individuals, to protect them from intolerance, while being sceptical about their ideas, even criticising them ferociously."

Now, more than ever, this is needed. The proxy blasphemy codes, the fear, the self-censoring, the blame shifting, these are the fruits of relativism and special religious pleading. In the UK, America and Europe, when we defend dissidents and critics of Islam, we defend them in Islamic countries too. If we can be silenced in liberal secular democracies because of hustled blasphemy taboos and codes, then liberal secularism is dead. The new inquisition will have prevailed.

That is why we will never be silenced, never be quietened.

There are some seriously mixed up views in Western European polite society when it comes to Islam. On the one hand many are terrified of appearing to be racist or of unfairly making scapegoats of a minority (perhaps fearful of holocaust type echoes) while at the same time they profess to stand for everything the fundamentalists despise.

If a sizable portion of a certain religion's followers have not managed to integrate with secular society and culturally evolve to the point that they can allow their religion to be mocked then they clearly don't believe in the ideas on which Western secular societies are based on. That is the fault of the religious followers NOT of authors or satirists that mock and/or challenge the religion. [The Guardian] Read more

Boosting citizenship among Muslims will help tackle extremism

Yet we must not confuse the extremist violence of a tiny minority with the teachings of a great faith and the values of a peaceful majority. We must not allow these events to cause the division and fear that can further feed the dangerous narrative of religious conflict. Democratic participation and a vibrant public life, in which all can participate, are our strongest defences against this very real danger.

It is this desire to see civil society remain a strong and united force within the UK that has encouraged me to chair Citizens UK Commission on Islam, Participation and Public Life. [Dominic Grieve]

This article, like so many before it, seems to completely miss the key points.

The people who are committing (or planning to commit) the terror atrocities that blight the lives of people in the UK (and around the world) are not purporting to be Muslims, they are Muslims.
Just like many before it, the article goes on to say that the actions of these terrorists are condemned by the wider Muslim community but I don’t see or hear this happening.

Where are the mass protests by the Muslim community condemning what are is being done in their name? We see and hear the protests and anger when Muslims believe someone has insulted their religion or their Prophet but on this issue of terror attacks, nothing.

The article refers to "that many of the overwhelming majority of British Muslims, who condemn the actions of groups such as Islamic State, fear speaking out and taking public action because they believe that whatever they do or say will always be misrepresented".

Given the Muslim community’s readiness to protest vociferously on many other issues, I find this difficult to accept.

The article asks why there is a void of participation in public life from the Muslim community and goes on to refer to the commission making recommendations and a timetable of implementation, it also indicates that some of the recommendations may require direct action by the Government.

I cannot be the only person who is tired of the rest of the community having to constantly fit itself around one small part that somehow sees itself as deserving of special treatment and which shows no inclination to proactively engage.

The inevitable conclusion will be that British public life should be more Islamic to make Muslims feel at home. How about changing the weather and asking Muslims to be less Islamic in order to feel at home? Why should the rest of us change? There should be a caveat emptor for people who move here.

Islam divides the world into one that is populated by believers and the other by non-believers. Folks, usually left-liberals, who are disgusted by "othering" should take note.

Believers must submit to the notion that Mohammed is the perfect man and the Koran is the word of God (and thus infallible). Accordingly, the harshest penalty is reserved for apostasy and blasphemy.

Refer to polls on favoring death penalty for apostasy – Indonesia (18%), Bangladesh (44%), Malaysia (66%) – and these are the “moderate” countries. In Britain, 40% muslims have declared support for Sharia.

Better yet, ask the opinion of an ex-Muslim in the UK. Typical experience: shamed and shunned by the community and living in fear of their lives. How is this permissible in 21st century UK?

Thousands of muslims marched to restore the honor of the Prophet (damaged by a few cartoons) but no marches so far in support of Charlie Hebdo (or for that matter Salman Rushdie 30 years back). Why is tolerating intolerance acceptable?

The lack of Muslim participation is easily explained. (And the lack of those wanting Muslims to participate).

There is simply no other religion on earth that draws such sharp distinction between its own members and others, or whose holiest text devotes as much time toward condemning and dehumanizing those who merely choose not to follow its dogma.
The problem will continue until Muslims themselves put this right.

**[5TH 42]** It’s time to get much more selective and cautious about who is allowed to be a citizen, regardless of who is offended/hurt by these actions. There will always be those who want to exploit the benefits of living in a developed western country whilst simultaneously hating what it stands for and the freedoms it provides.

I am the son of a Syrian man (non religious) and I know how hard he worked to fit in when he moved to the UK, even taking up British passtimes and changing his first name so as not to stand out. He simply had no interest in fighting the native culture or standing out, and wanted to progress in his career without an Arabic name holding him back.

Whenever I visit the UK I’m shocked at how it has changed in the last 20 years. I see more women in the Niqab in Brum than in central Istanbul where I live. That is not an exaggeration.

**[6TH 40]** Sorry but the extremists are just adhering to the holy text that is central to their religion. If you accept, like muslims do, that the Qur’an is the literal word of god, there is little scope for boosting citizenship or tackling extremism.

**[7TH 38]** "Yet we must not confuse the extremist violence of a tiny minority with the teachings of a great faith and the values of a peaceful majority."

There is no confusion. The jihadis that commit acts of extreme violence on a daily basis are following a perfectly plausible reading of their doctrine and example of the Prophet. They clearly justify their actions with reference to their faith. It’s counter productive to pretend this is not the case and it is only by facing the truth that we can start to address the problem.

**[8TH 35]** Grieve writes: "Yet we must not confuse the extremist violence of a tiny minority with the teachings of a great faith and the values of a peaceful majority."

Douglas Murray has some interesting thoughts. He notes that

"In France, Britain, Germany, America and nearly every other country in the world it remains government policy to say that any and all attacks carried out in the name of Mohammed have ‘nothing to do with Islam’. It was said by George W. Bush after 9/11, Tony Blair after 7/7 and Tony Abbott after the Sydney attack. It is what David Cameron said after two British extremists cut off the head of Drummer Lee Rigby in London..."

Now here’s the really interesting bit. Murray continues

"All these leaders are wrong. In private, they and their senior advisers often concede that they are telling a lie."

Why do they lie?

"The most sympathetic explanation is that they are telling a ‘noble lie’, provoked by a fear that we — the general public — are a lynch mob in waiting. ‘Noble’ or not, this lie is a mistake."

Murray’s musings make me wonder whether Grieve actually believes what he writes.

**[9TH 34]** "We need to understand why there is a void of participation in public life from the Muslim community"
This is obvious – Islam is not adaptable or flexible enough to fit in with the direction a modern Britain will travel

"...and why it is a growing issue"

This is also obvious – the population of British people that believe in the Islamic faith is growing. So, see point above

"...and we need to understand the impact of this on wider civil society."

The not so modern Britain will also continuously ask, ‘why’ should they worry about understanding what an incompatible religious belief should be given any consideration.

[10TH 34] "Yet we must not confuse the extremist violence of a tiny minority with the teachings of a great faith and the values of a peaceful majority."

And yet an Al Jazeera Arabic poll put support for Islamic State at 81%. [Guardian Cif]

Read more

http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jul/19/citizens-uk-muslim-initiative-extremism

July 13, 2015

**Younger generation of British Muslims showing shift in attitude to gender roles**

Thinktank report shows majority of 16 to 24-year-old UK Muslims disagree that 'a husband’s job is to earn money, a wife’s is to look after the home and family'.

The difference of views between younger and older British Muslims regarding the role of men and women in society is stark, according to new findings shared with the Guardian from the thinktank Demos, with more than half of 16- to 24-year-olds disagreeing with the statement: "A husband’s job is to earn money, a wife’s job is to look after the home and family." Fewer than 24% agreed. In contrast, 50% of those respondents aged 55 or older agreed with the statement, while less than 17% disagreed.

The findings, taken from a sample size of 38,952 respondents from randomly selected households, builds on recent census analysis that shows there is a young and increasingly well-educated Muslim population in Britain. In the last census, there were nearly 330,000 Muslim full-time students in the UK, of which 43% were women. But analysis of the 2011 census shows that within the 16 to 74 age band, 18% of Muslim women are "looking after home and family", compared with 6% in the overall population. [130 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 59 votes] "Recent analysis of the labour force survey found that Muslim women were 71% more likely than white Christian women to be unemployed, even when they had the same educational level and language skills, with discrimination being a key factor according to Dr Nabil Khattab, lecturer of sociology at the University of Bristol."

How does he reach that conclusion that the key factor is discrimination? There is no evidence presented. In Fact...

If you read his research then you find that "Survey data showed that the unemployment rate among Muslim women was 18 per cent, compared with 9 per cent for Hindu women" So why do Muslim women have twice the unemployment level as a comparable visible minority? Could it be something to do with the culture of the group?
Without evidence looks like someone playing out the victim card…but once again.

[2ND 51] ANOTHER COMMENT SAID "This is hardly surprising and is what I have been predicting for many years now: As time goes on Muslims in this country will become more liberal in line with the rest of Western society.

Conservatives who have warned of Islamification of the West are simply wrong because subsequent generations of immigrants are likely to discard the traditions of their forbears.

Even the Muslim extremists can be seen as part of this trend as they are simply rebelling against their own kind’s westernisation." [9 votes]

I think this is very optimistic. Many young Muslim women and girls are adopting the Saudi face veil, for example, when their mothers (mainly of Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin in this country) never wore it. The spread of Wahhabism is creating a generation who are far more radical than their parents and grandparents.

[3RD 31] "Is that photo really the best one to reflect the content of the article?"

–Why not, if it shows a high-heeled Muslim woman walking in front of her husband who is carrying her handbag?

Seriously though, it is this para that gets me:

"Dr Sundas Ali, lecturer in politics and political sociology at the University of Oxford, said that while the new findings helped understand some of the "soft" factors – such as as attitude – behind the low economic participation of British Muslim women, they do not take into account factors such as provision for childcare services and perceived discrimination in the workplace."

–Of course, it had to be discrimination in the workplace!! Wouldn't be a worthy Guardian article without it.

[4TH 30] Finding a job is the merest scratch in the surface towards integration with society. Living in mixed communities and intermarrying with the local population is what our society needs for full integration.

[5TH 22] It is clear from this and other studies that the rate of integration of Muslims is much slower than any other group. It is notable that Hindus which are essentially the same race integrate quickly so it is about culture.

We should limit immigration to the most adaptable to British culture and ban all Muslim immigration and encourage conversion away from Islam. Facing up to the clear falsehoods in Islam and incompatibility with British culture is urgently required.

[6TH 21] Good…it needs British Muslim women to challenge:-

restrictive clothing,
non participation in competitive sports,
Opting out if competitive swimming
Sharia family courts run by men for men,
Sharia compliant Wills…

If you’re British, you’re free and have equality of opportunity…grab it with both hands, reject the medieval hegemony. [The Guardian] Read more
Life for British Muslims since 7/7 – abuse, suspicion and constant apologies

.... I’m sick and tired of this relentless hostility towards Muslims; the negative headlines; the climate of fear and suspicion; the constant collective blaming. As one of only a handful of commentators who happen to be Muslim, I have spent the past decade appearing on TV and radio panels and phone-ins to try and challenge anti-Muslim bigotry on the one hand, and violent extremism on the other.

How emotionally exhausting, how dispiriting and demoralising it is to have to publicly affirm your "Britishness" and your "moderation" again and again.

.... The self-styled jihadists offer confused and angry young Britons a sense of identity and belonging. How do "we" – Britons, Muslims, officials, members of the public – offer something better? More inclusive?

In 2007 a fresh-faced MP spent two days at the home of a Muslim family in Birmingham and then wrote boldly of how it wasn’t possible to "bully people into feeling British: we have to inspire them"; "you can’t even start to talk about a truly integrated society while people are suffering racist … abuse … on a daily basis".

He continued: "By using the word ‘Islamist’ to describe the threat, we actually help do the terrorist ideologues’ work for them." If only the David Cameron of 2015 would heed the advice of the David Cameron of 2007. [Mehdi Hasan, 1382 comments]

I am sorry Britain has not been "inspiring enough" for the author of this article to support it! But does he have no awareness whatsoever that the British people who have hosted him and millions of his co-religionists are sick of being physically threatened with death, abused, hated and taken for a general ride by him?

He blames the rest of us! But the sheer level of acceptance of violence against us hosts by his community is breathtaking! He does nothing whatsoever to address that here. There is little hope that a peaceful resolution to this massive problem of terrorist attacks on British soil can be found if an attitude of both victimhood and blame by him persist like this.

Just grow up and confront the violent message that is constantly preached up and down the country. And stop blaming "non-believers" (kafirs I think you call them), otherwise the future looks grim indeed, and terrorism will continue unabated against a Britain that this author seems to both blame and hate.

Well if you think that’s bad try being an atheist or a Christian or an apostate in many Muslim countries.

The fact is that you have chosen to follow a belief system that manifests itself across much of the world through totalitarianism, persecution of minorities, violence against non-believers and suppression of free speech.

You can do all the radio interviews you like and write all the columns you can about how moderate most Muslims are, but you can’t change the fact that across huge swathes of the planet the most terrible evils are carried out in the name of the religion you follow. I do feel sorry for moderate Muslims having to confront this fact every day of their lives, but I suggest perhaps your anger is pointed in the wrong direction.
“The London bombings, in fact, opened the floodgates to what has become a familiar litany of condemnation and demonisation: honour killings, sharia law, halal slaughter, FGM, gender segregation, the face veil, child sex grooming.”

Can you blame people for being concerned about this? Also ask yourself this question honestly – how many mosques throughout Europe and the ME have their congregations chanting "death to [insert whatever group]"? This I think is one of the root causes people view islam with such suspicion.

Mehdi points out that Muslims are often suspected of being hostile to the British way of life.

Unfortunately survey after survey has shown that many British Muslims are indeed hostile. Surveys show that a significant minority support terrorism, believe apostates should be executed, want the introduction of full Sharia into Britain and so on.

That is where the problem lies

The vast, vast majority of Muslims follow elements of the Koran that promote brotherhood and understanding. Islam is a part of their lives that is completely compatible to being a decent human being.

A significant minority though have developed a world view that is bigoted, racist, violent and medieval – this world view is taken from a literal reading of the same book. You cannot ignore the fact that Islamists are called islamists because the Koran is their guidebook to not only a private religious life, but how society should be run. This is a recipe for disaster as we have seen.

Also this passage here: "The London bombings, in fact, opened the floodgates to what has become a familiar litany of condemnation and demonisation ... wherever you turn, it seems, those dastardly Muslims pose a threat to you, your families and your way of life."

Sorry but why the snarky tone? I don’t think the things you mention pose a threat to me – but some DO pose a threat to poor kids growing up in families where a literal translation of the Koran is used to raise a family. What you describe is child abuse, and this is carried out under the guise of religion.

Now I’m sorry you feel picked on (you’re first thought on 7/7 was "We’re screwed? How compassionate) but Islam as an idea cannot be given a pass just because people like you try to tie religion to race ("perhaps second or third generation Muslim"? Don’t the kids get a choice? Ah yes, the price of apostasy is death).

Treating someone differently or objectifying someone because of the colour of their skin is racism. But face up to flaws of slavishly following a medieval book as a guide to living in the 21st century please

Business as usual then Mehdi, Muslims must remain the victims at all times and jihad is nothing to do with Islam.

When are you going to wake up and smell the coffee?

I don’t support the demonisation and persecution of Muslims in Britain. But I’d much rather be a Muslim in Britain than I would be a Christian in Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Egypt or really any Muslim country in the world. Strangely, Muslim governments don’t tend to be generous and sympathetic towards the rights of religious
minorities in their own countries. [Guardian Cif] Read more
http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jul/05/british-muslims-7-july-london-bombings

July 2, 2015

**A Muslim mayor of London would ‘send message to the haters’, says Sadiq Khan**

A Muslim mayor of London would send a message to all "the haters in Iraq and in Syria" that the city is a beacon of tolerance and respect, Sadiq Khan, one of Labour candidates for the job, has said.

Khan, the first Muslim MP to be elected in London, set out his case for why it would be helpful for the capital to have a Muslim mayor just days after the terrorist attack on British tourists in Tunisia and ahead of the 10th anniversary of the 7/7 bombings next week.

The former cabinet minister is the only Muslim running to be the Labour candidate. Syed Kamall, an MEP and potential Conservative candidate, is also a Muslim.

Khan, the son of a bus driver from Pakistan, said the extremist bombers who killed 52 people on 7/7 were against British values and the British way of life, so electing a Muslim mayor would send a "phenomenal message and would say something about our confidence as a city".

[1890 comments]

**[TOP RATED COMMENT 381]** Tower Hamlets would suggest electing a mayor based upon religious ideas is not a good idea.

How about electing as mayor the best candidate, regardless of religion?

There’s a message there somewhere.

**[2ND 305]** The Dutch city of Rotterdam has a Muslim mayor (Ahmed Aboutaleb) but for some reason ISIS and their lot still seem to hate our country.

**[5TH 212]** He has been an extremely brave vocal critic of ISIS etc and got death threats etc.

Which is the barrier. Any Muslim mayor of London would have to demonstrate libertarian views, which by its nature, would alternate a significant proportion of their electoral base.

Can you imagine a Muslim mayor at London Pride? Or talking to the London Jewish community? It would be admirable and worthy but they would bebe a target for extremists within their own community.

**[3RD 260]** Labour have got no chance of winning the general election ever again.

**[4TH 237]** I think I'll vote based on the policies they have any previous track record rather than any simple trait they happen to have, thanks.

**[6TH 199]** Is "sending a message to the haters" really all the job is about? [The Guardian] Read more
http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/jul/02/a-muslim-mayor-of-london-would-send-message-to-the-haters-says-sadiq-khan

June 30, 2015
As atrocities are committed in the name of Islam, our ‘leaders’ are failing us

The atrocity in Tunisia, at a hotel I once stayed in, is terrifying and deeply depressing. Muslim communities in the UK feel the pain of those who have lost loved ones. This is Ramadan, the holiest month of the Islamic calendar, and the fact that people have committed murder supposedly in Islam’s name has shocked us to the core.

For it is Muslims who are the biggest victims of Isis. They fight the jihadists in Syria, Iraq and Libya, and it is they who hourly die brutal deaths at the hands of Isis. The soul-searching of Muslims in the UK and beyond is now at fever pitch – the question they ask constantly is: what more can they do?

.... Larger representative groups such as the Muslim Council of Britain have little credibility either with the state or the communities. In London Muslims make up 10% of the population, and represent more than 50 nationalities – compared with just a few in the north of England.

There are also many different strands of the faith: the biggest mosque where I used to live was Ahmadi, a branch of Islam whose adherents aren’t even allowed to go to Mecca. The faith splinters: it has developed tribes who have different homelands and cannot even agree on the dates of religious festivals. [Nazir Afzal, 693 comments]


June 27, 2015

It’s not the religion that creates terrorists, it’s the politics

.... this is about as convincing as arguing that the murderous bits of the Bible were responsible for the brutality of the IRA. For many of the young people who have been persuaded to go off and fight in Syria and Iraq have hardly got past the first chapter of Islam for Dummies.

They often know next to nothing about the Qur’an and are about as motivated by reading the few passages they have as the average republican terrorist was motivated by Saul’s genocidal destruction of the Amalekites in the first book of Samuel. Yes, the language of violent jihad may borrow its vocabulary from Islamic theology – it’s a useful marker of shared identity – but root motivation is as it always is: politics. The IRA weren’t Bible-believing Catholics, they were mostly staunch atheists. Catholicism was simply a marker of who counted as "one of us". And the same is true of Islamic terrorism. [Giles Fraser, 2378 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 562 votes] And here it comes again: “nothing to see here folks. These Islamic terrorist attacks carried out by Islamic fundamentalists have nothing to do with Islam.”

Like clockwork.

[2ND 297] So why is it that the Tunisian government’s first reaction after yesterday’s murders is to close down "certain Mosques"?

[3RD 193] “Islam is for the most part, a religion of peace”
Of course, founded by an imperialist feudal warlord who waged holy war and commanded his followers to do the same, how could it possibly not be a religion of peace.

[4TH 186] “The reason this is important has nothing to do with exonerating religion. I don’t care about apologetics here. So let me acknowledge that both the Qur’an and the Bible have passages that are deeply immoral.”

Give me a comparison of numbers of people following the word of the bible literally, then the qur’an. I’m not sure you’d like the outcome. This false equivalency has to stop, because it’s at best disingenuous and at worst dangerous. You cannot separate the politics from the religion in the case of *t Islam.

[5TH 184] And here it comes again: “these Islamic terrorist attacks carried out by Islamic fundamentalists have nothing to do with Islam”.


June 26, 2015

**After Tunisia, Kuwait and France we should not be afraid to call evil by its name**

.... Holidaymakers will abandon Sousse, at least for a while. But while these crimes sown fear, they also prompt revulsion. And that revulsion is shared. I spoke yesterday with Usama Hasan, an Islamic scholar and one-time jihadist. He spoke of his "disgust" at the evils committed this week, noting how alien they were to Islamic scripture which forbids, for example, the desecration of a corpse.

He said that a battle was under way for civilisation, one that should unite the great societies and religions of the world – Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and more – against the vicious death cult that is violent jihadism. It would be a nonsense to speak of such a struggle as a war against evil. A war like that could never be won. Evil is within us and it is, apparently, perennial. But we must not be afraid to name it for what it truly is. [Jonathan Freedland, 978 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 663 votes] "But we must not be afraid to name it for what it truly is."

Er, Islam?

[2ND 480] Normal Guardian service has been resumed I see [266 votes] Indeed so. Try and claim that it is a problem for all the world’s religions "Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and more". Revolting.

[3RD 457] This is another sign that the Bush/Blair Crusade is not going well. Mission clearly not accomplished! [104 votes] Yeah nothing at all to do with an inherently violent religious ideology. Bush and Blair were so evil for attacking Tunisia and Kuwait.

[4TH 430] "After Tunisia, Kuwait and France we should not be afraid to call evil by its name"

So we are allowed to call the qur'an evil now in the guardian?, because that is where the teachings and ideology of Islamic state come from. Or is that not what you liberals meant?. 
Did you miss the words Islam in Islamic state?. Just look at how many polls show adherents to Islam with disgustingly vile views about their fellow humans, there is clearly a large minority that hate and a majority that doesn’t want to fit in with the rest of societies norms. [Guardian Cif] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jun/26/islamic-state-tunisia-kuwait-lyon-evil-sadism

June 24, 2015

By scapegoating Muslims, Cameron fuels radicalisation

The anti-Muslim drumbeat has become deafening across the western world. As images of atrocities by the jihadi terror group Isis multiply online, and a steady trickle of young Europeans and North Americans head to Syria and Iraq to join them, Muslim communities are under siege. Last week David Cameron accused British Muslims of "quietly condoning" the ideology that drives Isis sectarian brutality, normalising hatred of "British values", and blaming the authorities for the "radicalisation" of those who go to fight for it.

…. That could of course change, not least as the government criminalises dissent, brands conservative religiosity "extremist" and, in the formulation of ministers, "quietly condones" Islamophobia. The British government has long fed terrorism with its warmaking abroad. Now it’s also fuelling it with its scapegoating of Muslims at home. [Seumas Milne, 1,585 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 381 votes] "... and those behind every violent attack or terror plot have cited western intervention in the Muslim world as their motivation."

There have been at least a couple of plots on night clubs where the desire was to kill "sluts" and "slags".

I am against this Government’s illiberal attacks on free speech and agree with Milne that the tactics of Cameron are likely to do more harm than good, but Seamus cannot bring himself to even acknowledge that there is a problem with radical Islam in this country that is not attributable to British foreign policy alone.

[2ND 380] This is utter nonsense. The ousting of the Muslim elected mayor in Tower Hamlets was because of gross corruption but you don’t mention that do you?

Somewhere that falls into the category of Islamophobia?

[3RD 364] "By scapegoating Muslims, Cameron fuels radicalisation"

Is this not battered wives’ syndrome? Don’t upset them or they’ll hurt us.

[4TH 320] Islam, the heroin of the left.

[5TH 244] Surely, as the Guardian is so keen to promote equality within this country, this article should be a discussion about how Islam in the UK needs to undergo a radical reformation which allows for equality for all members of its faith within society which makes it compatible with Western Liberal values. That includes gender, sexual orientation and non-Muslims.

Why is it that everyone feels compelled to tell Christians how they should be willing to adapt and tolerate others in society, but addressing anything to do with Islam is looked upon as scapegoating and Islamaphobic? The only people who can end this is the British Muslim community themselves, and that requires them to look at what their beliefs actually represent.
At the moment there is a genuine Fascist revolution going on in the Middle East in the name of Islam. British Muslims may hate ISIS as well, but until they address the issues within Islam as mentioned previously, there is always going to be questions asked.

[6TH 230] Were his comments inflammatory and unnecessary and did little help to the situation? – Yes.

Do his comments have more than an element of truth in them? – the answer appears to be affirmative as well.

[7TH 224] What utter rubbish..."Cameron scapegoting Muslims"....it is the other way around....it is Muslims who are scapegoating the British authorities....it is the police not doing their job, the airlines not checking properly...etc....do these Muslim families ever talk to each other..?

How can fathers not have an inkling as to what their wives who are going to take their children away for aestensibly, what ever reason, on a trip abroad.....then say ...It had nothing to do with me guv....it is everybody else’s fault?

[8TH 221] Check some polls. Check some of the less salubrious neighbourhoods in town. Go and visit some open air markets.

Ride the bus or the tram or the train in any big city in NL. Or go for a stroll on foot. As a woman on a summer day in a summer dress.

The integration of muslim immigrants has failed. The pandering to a religion and culture whose adherents have no interest in absorbing western values by the political left, like equality between men and women and secular government and education is self defeating and self destructive. Values that inspired and galvanizied the political left until pandering to islam became the new priority.

.... A tough approach is all that is left. Make it as unpleasant as it can be for hardline religious fools, including papists and hardcore black stocking protestants. Close all faith schools of all denominations. Draw all the cartoons about mohammed and the pope and priests fondling children and stealing from poor natives in far away lands. Crack all the George Carlin jokes and make up some new ones. Stop tax deductions for all religious organisations. Get some balls like the French who will not allow their secular culture and country to be stolen from them.

Hard won secular values and principles cannot and must not be abandoned at the alter of PC correctness.

[9TH 192] "In reality, it shouldn’t be so hard to understand why a small section of young alienated Muslims are attracted to fight in Syria and Iraq with Isis and other such groups"

It’s pretty hard to understand when most of their activity involves killing other Muslims and raping girls. How is that striking back at Western foreign policy, exactly? [The Guardian] Read more
http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jun/24/scapegoating-muslims-cameron-radicalisation-terror-wars-liberties-british-values

June 19, 2015

David Cameron, inadvertent PR man for Islamic extremists

.... we need to challenge and confront perverse ideologies. That means working in partnership with Muslim organisations and communities, not employing a rhetoric of collective blame that does nothing but play into the hands of extremism. And yes, there
are a number of factors driving radicalisation, but we should examine all of them, including factors within our control, such as (but not exclusively) western foreign policy and support for dictatorships complicit in the rise of jihadi terrorism. I fear, though, that currently, we are doing exactly what our opponents will us to do. [Owen Jones, 941 comments]


People are responsible for their own actions, and if you choose to follow a murderous religious path then that is your choice, not because a nasty white politician made you do it.

[2ND 202] "...there are a number of factors driving radicalisation, but we should examine all of them"

Says Owen Jones, having just accused the Prime Minister of helping ISIS by making the perfectly sensible observation that "Too often we hear the argument that radicalisation is the fault of someone else". Presumably then we are allowed to examine all causes except the role of British Muslims.

Cameron is right, ignoring the role of the individuals who make the choice to join ISIS and the role of others who may have influenced them right here is burying your head in the sand.


[4TH 146] Owen, this has deeper roots. These young people who have gone to join Isis – what are the chances their parents were burning copies of The Satanic Verses in West Yorkshire towns 25 years ago?

[5TH 142] The one that made my jaw drop in utter disbelief was a brief snippet on the news last night where the estranged husband in Pakistan denounced his ex-wife for her actions. Not for taking his poor innocent children into a war zone but for not asking his permission first?!

[6TH 138] So we are supposed to sit there Owen and watch as communities give tacit support to Isis extremists? I have lived in Yorkshire and Bradford and let me tell you they are scary places to live in. Islamic extremism is alive and kicking in parts of this country

[7TH 125] "On which other community is it possible to inflict such dangerous, sweeping generalisations? The assertion being made here – explicitly, not even implicitly as is the norm – is that British Muslims as a whole are helping mass-murdering zealots inflicting carnage across Iraq, Syria and Libya."

So tiresome. Look at the bits I’ve bolded.

A 'generalization', by definition, does not refer to anything 'as a whole'. Aside from that, clearly the DM did not intend to say that Muslims, as a whole, are helping jihadists, and anyone who interprets it that way may have literacy issues. Or, perhaps more likely, they’re looking for an excuse to take umbrage. If I said "the Japanese are making some excellent whiskeys these days", clearly I would not be referring to the Japanese "as a whole", yet this is a perfectly valid, unambiguous sentence.

[8TH 112] "I fear, though, that currently, we are doing exactly what our opponents will us to do."
Well you certainly are, Owen. If someone buggers off to Syria having seen what IS does to women, minorities, aid workers, gays, Shias, Christians etc – that person is a scumbag. And the sooner that’s acknowledged the better.

I agreed with a bit of one of your posts earlier this week. Not this one.

[9TH 99] A straw man argument, an over-reaction to a Daily Mail headline of a Cameron speech. Nobody has said all Muslims are helping Jihadis, just that there are some Muslims with sympathies to ISIS. We all need to confront this, not dance around it.

[10TH 98] Lady Warsi believes that the reason young Muslims go and join ISIS is because they are ignored and not "properly engaged" with by the wider community. I know I laughed to, no irony of course. [The Guardian] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jun/19/david-cameron-islamic-extremists-british-muslims

June 19, 2015

Remember, prime minister: British Muslims hate Isis too

…. what concerns me about the prime minister’s speech in Slovakia is his emphasis on one aspect of the challenge, while overlooking all the other aspects of the problem. He has apparently decided to focus on the idea that “some” in our Muslim communities condone the activities of Isis and "perhaps" encourage young people to take the ruinous path of joining the terrorists. Although he rightly said there are "many reasons" why young people become radicalised and then take the next step towards acting on those warped beliefs, his speech focused only on the notion of Muslim community complicity. Friday’s newspapers were also heavily briefed to that effect ahead of the speech.

…. Cameron is right that there are "some" – a minority within a minority within a minority – who condone the Isis view of the world, but there are so many more of this minority who are fighting a very real and sustained battle, the same battle he is fighting. They know they have to do more, they are willing to do more, but they will do it a lot better knowing we are on the same side.

Government needs to champion them, support them. Only then will it have the credibility to demand that communities themselves do more. [Sayeeda Warsi, 782 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 353 votes] Why is it that people like Warsi are always quick to point fingers at someone else?

David Cameron only said what many people have been saying i.e

STOP PLAYING THE VICTIM ALL THE TIME AND RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE ISSUES, SYMPATHIZERS WITHIN THE MUSLIMS IN BRITAIN WHICH HELP TO FESTER AND CONVINCE THEIR PEOPLE TO JOIN ISIS

For once David Cameron said something truthfully without worrying about the PC Brigade

[2ND 319] Poll finds 27% of British Muslims have sympathy for Charlie Hebdo attacks, and 11% have sympathy for those who travel to join ISIS.

Al Jazeera Arabic poll finds 81% of Muslims in the middle east support ISIS. Obviously only a minority of Muslims become extremists, but the data suggests we seriously
underestimate the sympathies and ideological support of extremism both home and abroad, sadly.

[3RD 264] Those UK numbers only show the amount willing to openly admit they have such taboo views. Shy tories swung the election and I don't doubt there are a fair few shy ISIS supporters around too.

[4TH 243] ... Now the line peddled by Warsi and others is that the government is to blame for extremism, by not allying with groups who promote and apologise for extremism, whilst at the same time claiming that these groups, like the Muslim Council of Britain, cannot be expected to oppose extremism. The whole thing is disingenuous and grubby. And really, its just the tip of the iceberg of this ethical calamity.

[5TH 237] Oh gawd, Cameron finally stating what everyone has been thinking for years, has demoralised some within the Muslim community.

What on earth can be done about this problem? Why don't you give us a definitive list of what you would like us to say and do to stop Muslims feeling demoralised, disengaged, radicalised, victimised, demonised, marginalised, misunderstood and sad?


[7TH 217] "My concern is that this call to Muslims to do more, without an understanding of what they already do now, will demoralise the very people who will continue to lead this fight. As one prominent female Muslim activist told me: "This speech has undermined what I've been doing."

Whatever she’s doing....hasn’t worked!

The cheek of Warsi, made a baroness, parachuted into government (never elected) because of quota’s and proved to be a political liability for all not just her chosen community. Collect £300 a day in expenses & do not pass go.

[8TH 210] Is the Muslim community fighting radicalism?? I thought they just sit on the sidelines & claim to have nothing to do with the whole thing usually, I’d love to hear more about all this activism, it really is news to me! [The Guardian] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jun/19/prime-minister-british-muslims-isis

June 18, 2015

Want to understand the appeal of Isis? Think like a young Muslim outsider

Defections by British citizens to Islamic State typically inspire an entire cycle of reactions. Security-minded commentators demand tougher measures to restrict travel and suppress online propaganda. Others argue that clampdowns are counterproductive, and urge mosques and families to take the lead. The families themselves, while expressing bafflement and grief, turn the spotlight back on to the authorities, attributing their loved ones’ estrangement to either state surveillance or (confusingly) to inadequate attention by the state.

.... it promises a godly cause – the defence of victimised co-religionists – that draws similarly passionate people from all over the world. Troubled young men thereby imagine a land where they can start anew, commanding respect as upholders of God’s law. Unhappy women dream of attaining happiness for the first time – or the second or third, if husbands they take are lucky enough to achieve martyrdom. The fantasies ignore a
very vicious reality, of course – but as long as thwarted personalities imagine that Isis can make them true, people will kill and die in their pursuit. [887 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 332] There’s a difference between being a lonely disaffected teenager and wanting to join a murderous death cult that brutally beheads people, commits genocide and regularly commits atrocities.

There’s no excuse for anyone wanting to join a medieval organisation like ISIS.

[2ND 278] Want to understand the appeal of ISIS? Read the Koran. Followed by the Life of Mohammad. Then, before dropping off for the night, read up on the wars of conquest fought to spread Islam from 632 AD. That should sort it.

[3RD 209] … There is a narrative being put forward that the those joining ISIS have attitudes totally different from that of the previous generation and there is bewilderment as to how such intolerance could have arisen.

Actually the warnings about the problems with a SIGNIFICANT minority of UK Muslims over Enlightenment, liberal values were there in neon signs a mile high at the time of Rushdie.

Thousands in the streets inciting his murder and I seem to remember about 30% in a poll of UK Muslims agreeing that the Fatwa should be enacted.

And for what – a few lines of alternative take on 1,500 year old superstitions in a novel!!!

Oh and I recall placards saying Rushdie should be beheaded. Does that ring a bell?

The fact that a minority have moved to the even more grotesque intolerance and barbarism of ISIS is not totally surprising as it represents just a move further to the extremes of this mind-set.

[4TH 126] Blimey. A Guardian article which doesn’t blame the West. Wonders never cease.

[5TH 196] It did a bit: the reference to the "low-level racism" they supposedly experience in the UK; this apparently providing justification for high-level racism against people in another part of the world, such as the Yazhidis.

[6TH 145] Hmm, when reading this I got to here:

"All lived in deeply traditional Muslim communities, and though such places nurture some insular forms of behaviour"

And I thought, wow someone might actually spot the elephant in the room. But alas the rest of the piece turned into apologists nonsense.

let me ask you, if it is indeed down to abusive fathers, isolated communities, the thrill of adventure and finding a cause (the reasons you have stated), why are all the recruits (sunni) muslim? Are theses solely things that affect muslim youth?

Ok fine, if let’s say ISIS/Boko Haram/Al Shabob this is the muslim version of gang culture, why aren’t the youth of other religious groups committing racist acts of genocide (bar Kony)? And why aren’t our youth flocking to them?

We can’t say the real reason can we Sadakat??
I will for you, It’s called Islam.

[7TH 137] ISIS is performing a service for us by encouraging undesirable elements to remove themselves from the UK. It’s not a loss to us if they die while they’re over there. [The Guardian] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jun/18/appeal-isis-muslim-outsider-recruits

June 17, 2015

The roots of radicalisation? It’s identity, stupid

.... The experience of those who join the Islamist insurgencies rampaging across Yemen, Somalia, Libya, and Syria demonstrates that there are no easy answers to the issue of radicalisation.

Yet, strip away all the grievances and myriad individual triggers that might drive an individual to join an extremist group and you find underlying issues of identity and belonging. None of this is new. When Mohammad Sidique Khan led the 7/7 London terrorist attacks almost a decade ago, he said his actions were in retaliation for "the bombing, gassing, imprisonment and torture of my people".

Isn’t it the case that Khan was killing his own people, the ordinary citizen-stranger commuting to work, when he detonated his bomb on the London underground? Instead he identified with the citizens of Iraq – a country he had not even travelled to and whose language he could not speak? [844 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 195 votes] "What links a white Englishman from Buckinghamshire with a second generation British-Pakistani man born in Dewsbury and a missing family of 12 from Bradford?"

I know..I know....Islam.

[2ND 147] Islam teaches Muslims to always put another Muslim first. An errant, even evil-doing, Muslim is still superior to any other person. Until this is addressed, the issue of identity will remain. This is why a Home Counties man from a humdrum town thinks he has more in common with Muslims in Kenya than people in his home town, despite never having been south of Portsmouth...

[3RD 142] I know many tolerent and lovely Muslims, many are my neighbours and the extremists are a minority, but one that cannot be ignored.

The inescapable problem for Muslims growing up in the UK is that British culture and society is not compatible with Islamic culture.

We need to find a way for Islam to exist comfortably in the mainstream but it has to be said the leg work needs to be done by Muslims themselves to adapt and not for British society to adapt to it.

The current situation where two societies exist uneasily alongside each other within one country is neither acceptable or desirable.

[4TH 140] Britain’s not a paradise, but its ok as it is. Most muslims see happy enough to live here.

And for those who aren’t – well, off you fuck. We really don’t need to be persuading such people to stay.
Islam explicitly states that a Muslim’s brothers and sisters are fellow Muslims, not their countrymen. That the Ummah is the only thing that matters. This is why Islamists and British Muslims who become radicalised are willing to kill their countrymen. This is why if you convert to Islam you will be accepted by the same people.

Of course the idiocy of such prescriptive ideas of who one should care about is that soon you start divided the same brotherhood further – this one is a Shia, this one is not observant enough, this one dared to listen to music etc….

But then the concept off brotherhood beyond shared humanity is frickin stupid in itself.

The west already has a shared value system based on tolerance, the rights of minorities and fairness. It’s far from perfect, but it’s better than pretty much anything we’ve had before.

That’s why it can’t be a two-way thing. Most people already embrace someone’s right to follow whatever religion they see fit and that’s as far as it should go. I’m really not trying to be nasty, and hopefully I’ve worded this right, but if you have intolerant views, you are entitled to have them but they should be condemned.

As for those going out to Syria, I’m tired of looking for excuses: they were isolated, brainwashed etc. They have left to commit atrocities for a regime which can be compared to the most brutal fascist dictatorships in history. They are scum.

We already have a shared value system. If you come here, you join it. If you don’t like it, don’t come here but go where you find a shared value system that is compatible with your values. So simple.

People fall prey to radicalization because they lack the ability of critical thinking. Blind faith is an endemic problem in muslim society. Minds imprisoned in the cage of islam. All religion is simply a man made belief system and does not have solutions to the problems of a complex, modern world. It only offers escapism. [The Guardian] Read more

Lady Warsi: ministers fuelling Muslim radicalisation

Lady Warsi, the first Muslim to serve in cabinet, has warned that radicalisation of British Muslims represents a "generational challenge" that the government is failing to tackle amid fears for three sisters and their nine children who are believed to have travelled from West Yorkshire to Syria.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4’s Today programme, the former Conservative minister for faith and communities said her ex-colleagues were fuelling the problem by "disengaging" with Muslim communities.

Warsi, who is from the West Yorkshire town of Dewsbury and knew the family of 17-year-old Talha Asmal, who killed himself in a suicide attack in northern Iraq, according to the extremist group Islamic State.

.... She added: "Let’s first of all be very clear about finding the evidence base of what are the drivers to radicalisation. It may make for uncomfortable reading but it is only when we start to have that honest conversation that we unpick what is now becoming a generational challenge." [506 comments]
[TOP RATED COMMENT 270 votes] No you deluded little troll, it is the imans and the leadership of mosques plus their families that are allowing it to occur.

[2ND 255] Here we go again with Lady Warsi. Always playing the victim.

It is always someone else fault that young Muslim travel to join ISIS never the fault of the family or the community who are sympathetic to some of their views.

If the Government dare to say anything to Imams and Mosques, they are accused of picking on them.

[3RD 190] Correct. In the case of those 3 girls who went to Syria, ‘the authorities failed them’. With Jihadi John ‘If the authorities had just left him alone he’d have been fine’.

A look in the mirror is what’s required.

[4TH 154] ".... we should be very active in highlighting the benefits of our society for all of its members."

What – exactly – are the benefits to British society of having a minority group of people believing in religious tenets that negate our liberal-democratic values, minority and women’s rights and everything else that makes this county good.

[5TH 152] "Let’s first of all be very clear about finding the evidence base of what are the drivers to radicalisation."

Oh, that’s easy. Islam.

[6TH 138] Forgive me, Ms. Warsi, but I’d laboured under the apparently misguided delusion that the slick social media campaigns put forward on behalf of radical Islamic movements around the world, which encourage kids to become terrorists and fight in the name of ‘Allah’ against ‘infidels’ like me, with the promise of copious sex in heaven as laid out in the official Islamic holy book, were what was causing Muslims to become radicalised.

[7TH 115] As yesterday’s BBC news highlighted, the UK government has been trying to engage with the Muslim community for 10 years but the problem is getting worse. Maybe the problem is down to the Muslim community to sort out, sharpish.

[8TH 113] Somehow I knew it would be our fault.

[9TH 101] I cant get my head around this, I am a migrant, fully engaged in UK society, dont need the government to engage with me, I chose to come here and am happy to live in this community, my views are not superior to this country, and if I dont like things, and cant accept the UK then I should leave, this is not news, stop blaming the average person on the street and blame the parents for this rubbish.

[10TH 92] A large part of the problem is Islamic.

The divide between being a "good child" in a very socially conservative home, and an extremist is wafer thin.

The Islamic sub-culture in this country needs to understand that they do live in the liberal West, not the tribal societies they came from.

The rules are different.
We spend a lot of time, money and effort trying to understand Muslims. Its about time, Baroness Varsi, that Muslims spent a bit of time understanding the country in which they live.

And if they really can’t get their heads round it, they should look for somewhere more to their liking. [The Guardian] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/jun/16/lady-warsi-ministers-fuelling-muslim-radicalisation

June 6, 2015

**Those drawn to Isis are hardly deluded**

... Yet to the admirers of militant Islamism surrounded by western culture – currently tying itself in anxious knots over delicate questions of class, race and gender – Isis promotes a satisfyingly fanatical revolutionary ideology in which (to borrow its own terminology) the lions and lionesses of the caliphate rear bloodthirsty cubs full of roaring certainties. Those drawn to Isis are not deluded as to its intolerant and brutal nature: that is precisely what they find appealing, along with the promise of power, adventure and a glittering afterlife.

It may be disturbing that in so many apparently ordinary British citizens the superficial bank of inculcated liberal, rational values can crumble and scatter as easily as the Iraqi army in Mosul, but we had better recognise that it does. Otherwise, we are choosing only to dupe ourselves. [849 comments]

**[TOP RATED COMMENT 263 votes]** "Those drawn to Isis are not deluded as to its intolerant and brutal nature"

Well said. Impressive CiF debut from Jenny McCartney.

"... that is precisely what they find appealing, along with the promise of power, adventure and a glittering afterlife."

I can’t help thinking that part of the appeal is that the brutality is persuasively packaged as the enacting of true Islam. In other words, not only can one be brutal and bloodthirsty but, at the same time, one can take great pride in being so – because in being so one is faithfully carrying out one’s religious duty.

**[2ND 266]** A comment that got 30 votes said: "Did you miss that bit where we invaded Iraq?"

Does that explain it all for you then? The ‘West’ invades Iraq so Yazidi women have to get raped?

**[3RD 256]** "Along with the promise of power, adventure and a glittering afterlife".

That is where anyone with sense would laugh in their faces and tell them to do one.

Here, blow yourself up and we’ll set you up with a glamorous afterlife. Any mug falls for that does not deserve sympathy or excuses. [The Guardian] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jun/16/isis-recruits-not-dupes-but-fanatics

May 31, 2015

**Australian Muslims in trauma over politics of ‘war on terror’, forum hears**
Australian Muslims are living in trauma because they had been singled out for political purposes, a leading Islamic leader said on Sunday.

The president of the Islamic Council of Victoria, Ghaith Krayem, told an anti-racism forum in Melbourne that the federal government’s plans to allow the immigration minister to revoke the citizenship of dual nationals found to join or support terrorist groups “would make criminals of people based on suspicion and suspicion alone”.

.... "What we are seeing is a sophisticated and coordinated pattern and attack on the Islamic community ... to ensure there is no dissent, no examination of our role in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria."

Many speakers and members of the audience spoke of the everyday difficulty of living as a Muslim, particularly for women who wore the hijab. Others were wary of leftwing groups using the issue to discuss a broader social justice agenda. [668 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT] Of course the laws are aimed at Muslims since 99.9% of people who go to join IS are Muslim.

[ANOTHER] "Australian Muslims in trauma over politics of ‘war on terror’, forum hears"

Poor dears. I’m still in trauma after unwisely clicking in a link that showed me a little girl in neat grey stockings, little black shoes with straps like my daughter wears and a pretty dress, who was lying in a gutter without her head after being decapitated.

If Muslims are not 100% behind efforts to stop those of their co-religionists who would love to do the same to us, then this left wing progressive can tell them to head on back to those wonderful Islamic paradises overseas PDQ. Muslims – whimpering about their rights when a minority, murdering, censoring, supressing and destroying when a majority.

[ANOTHER] The Islamic community in Australia has been very slow denounces the slaughtering of Christians and cold blooded murder of a cartoonist. In fact the leadership is no more than a vacuum.

May I remind these Islamic leaders who are now playing the victim card of the placards at protests in Sydney threatening beheading. There was silence. I did not hear their voice criticizing the cartoons demeaning Christ.

The Australians have had enough. Cease playing the victim and lead your followers to integrate into the Australian community. By the way advocating Sharia law is not a path to integration. Leadership not victimization. [The Guardian] Read more
http://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2015/may/31/australian-muslims-in-trauma-over-politics-of-war-on-terror-forum-hears

May 24, 2015

**Religious teaching that drives Isis to threaten the ancient ruins of Palmyra**

.... because Isis might have other motives to destroy the city. The group often seizes any opportunity to expose the hypocrisy and double standards of its opponents.

For many Syrians, the biggest event in Palmyra was last week’s capture of Tadmur prison, one of the Assad regime’s most notorious jails. The disproportionate attention ancient ruins have received, compared with human tragedies, has disturbed many. If Isis blows up the site, it would be largely because of this deemed hypocrisy. [429 comments]
[TOP RATED COMMENT 121 votes] I am afraid this reads like an apology for one of the most grotesque movements in modern times. There is no subtle morality at play here, no discussion of various hadiths or dictates necessary or illuminative. These ‘people’ are simply grotesque excuses for humanity that would have stuck out as psychopathic outliers at any time in the past few thousand years.

[2ND 117] "The group often seizes any opportunity to expose the hypocrisy and double standards of its opponents."

Please explain the hypocrisy and double standards of those who are appalled by mass executions of people of all faiths – Muslims included. As well as the mindless, ignorant wrecking of our common heritage.

While you’re about it, also explain the double standards of Daesh itself, which cynically sells off the gold it loots from these infidel sites.

[3RD 86] Sounds like you’re already trying to blame someone other than Isis in the event of them destroying this site.

[4TH 81] "The disproportionate attention ancient ruins have received, compared with human tragedies, has disturbed many. If Isis blows up the site, it would be largely because of this deemed hypocrisy."

"You bad people, you see what you made me, I have to do terrible things because you are such hypocrites."

Snortle! [The Guardian] Read more
http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/24/palmyra-syria-isis-destruction-of-treasures-feared

May 22, 2015

**Dutch cabinet approves partial ban on Islamic veil in public areas**

The Dutch cabinet has approved a proposal for a partial ban on face-covering Islamic veils on public transport and in public areas such as schools and hospitals.

After the cabinet backed a bill by the interior minister, Ronald Plasterk, the government said in a statement on Friday: "Face-covering clothing will in future not be accepted in education and healthcare institutions, government buildings and on public transport."

The ban would not apply to wearing the burqa or the niqab on the street, only for security reasons or "in specific situations where it is essential for people to be seen", the Dutch prime minister, Mark Rutte, told journalists after a cabinet meeting. [1,494 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 429 votes] Seems fair. There is a need to allow facial recognition whilst permitting personal freedoms of dress. This hits the right spot.

[2ND 401] "The niqab is an insult to common sense."

And an insult to very hard-won European, liberal, post-enlightenment values including equality of the sexes.


[4TH 288] "persecution of muslims continues unchecked....."
Lol 'persecution’. Live in any Islamic country in the world and then you might understand persecution.

[5TH 263] "the Dutch prime minister, Mark Rutte, told journalists after a cabinet meeting."

He said: "The bill does not have any religious background."

Rutte is perfectly right. Wearing the burqa is not a religious act, but a political one. [The Guardian] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/22/netherlands-islamic-veil-niqab-ban-proposal-dutch-cabinet

May 17, 2015

Losing their religion: the hidden crisis of faith among Britain's young Muslims

Sulaiman Vali is a softly spoken 33-year-old software engineer. A natural introvert not drawn to controversy or given to making bold statements, he's the kind of person who is happiest in the background. He lives alone in a modest house on a quiet street in a small town in East Northamptonshire. He doesn’t want to be any more specific than that about the location. "If someone found out where I lived," he explains, "they could burn my house down."

Why should such an understated figure, someone who describes himself as a "nobody", speak as if he’s in a witness protection programme? The answer is that six years ago he decided to declare that he no longer accepted the fundamental tenets of Islam. He stopped being a believing Muslim and became instead an apostate. It sounds quaintly anachronistic, but it’s not a term to be lightly adopted. [984 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 232 votes] We live in 2015 and yet brave people like these are being hounded for wanting to abandon their religious identity? If they want to leave then let them; this isn’t Scientology!

[2ND 173] I am a woman who was raised as a Muslim but now completely rejects Islam. Like the people in this article, I can never tell my parents this - the only people I can confide in are my siblings who are similarly agnostic or atheist.

What has turned me away from Islam is the poisonous misogyny that seems to be at the very foundation of the religion. Women are sexualised objects of shame and are seen to blame for the majority of things.

Do you know what my mother said when her friend was murdered by her husband? ‘She talked to much’. I was 14. My mother was also beaten by my father and she simply says ‘This is my fate.’ My siblings and I are also suffering mental illness’ as a result.

It teaches you fatalism and absolute obedience to patriarchal authority. People are not seen as individuals, therefore in my opinion degrades them to less than human beings.

There is no freedom of speech or expression within the community. Any form of self expression is despised - whether through clothing, art or music. With absolute obedience comes absolute conformity.

As you can tell, I could write a thesis on this topic and I think one day I will. I am no longer a Muslim but I have to pretend to be. I don’t unquestioningly embrace Western
values either, but I do value freedom of expression, individuality and gender equality—which above all things, the western world values.

[3RD 117] A friend of mine describes himself as an ‘atheist Muslim’, in that he doesn’t believe in God, is quite anti-Islam, but still has to pretend to his family that he is a devout Muslim. He knows his family would disown him if he told the truth, and prefers keeping it a secret so he can still seem them. It’s a desperate situation. I hope that in the future more families will be able to accept their children for whatever they believe in... [The Guardian] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/global/2015/may/17/losing-their-religion-british-ex-muslims-non-believers-hidden-crisis-faith

May 17, 2015

Why Islam doesn’t need a reformation

In recent months, cliched calls for reform of Islam, a 1,400-year-old faith, have intensified. "We need a Muslim reformation," announced Newsweek. "Islam needs reformation from within," said the Huffington Post. Following January’s massacre in Paris, the Financial Times nodded to those in the west who believe the secular Egyptian president, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, "could emerge as the Martin Luther of the Muslim world". (That might be difficult, given Sisi, in the words of Human Rights Watch, approved "premeditated lethal attacks" on largely unarmed protesters which could amount to "crimes against humanity").

... With apologies to Luther, if anyone wants to do the same to the religion of Islam today, it is Isis leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who claims to rape and pillage in the name of a "purer form" of Islam – and who isn’t, incidentally, a fan of the Jews either. Those who cry so simplistically, and not a little inanely, for an Islamic reformation, should be careful what they wish for. [Mehdi Hasan, 1821 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 826 votes] This is a defective argument. And deflective by seeking to compare a reformation hundreds of years earlier. It is a dishonest attempt to deflect the discussion.

Islam as it stands has too many ethical standpoints which are contrary to fundamental beliefs of equality which are held dear to people living in the west who do not want their daughters to have to wear bags.

It has no place – as indeed does any conservative religious zealotry – in the West of 2015.

If you as an Islam follower see it as a pure experience which has no prospect to become more tolerant. To reform. Then perhaps you might like to return to the grimy primitive dustbowl from which such beliefs seem still to flourish. They have no place here.

[2ND 686] "A dust bowl from which your ideal utopia the ‘west’ has invaded, meddled with and bombed for decades. Places like the Middle East and Africa wouldn’t be dustbowl’s if the the west stopped effectively stealing resources and pouring debt on such countries via institutions like the world bank and IMF.

Maybe the west needs to have a conscience look at itself, a place in which institutional racism is still rife. Reparations for colonisation would be a start....."

Ah yes, it’s all the West’s fault. Thank you for stepping up to the plate and offering this increasingly hollow-sounding argument – someone had to do it.

[3RD 413] No mention in the article that Hirsi Ali has been forced to live under 24/7 protection after being threatened by members of the religion of peace.
I like Islam the way it is, with its childish belief in Adam and Eve, Noah and the Flood, the prophet's little flying horse and all those angels that refuse to enter a house "wherin there lieth a dog (Hadith 2987)."

The Muslim belief in every single written word reminds me a lot of the Jehovahs Witnesses, though the latter are more palatable because they are pacifists.

Peace to us all.

[4TH 288] OK, so Islam doesn't need a reformation. Jolly good, well done.

It clearly needs an Enlightenment though.

[5TH 220] What a silly article. When people say that Islam needs a reformation they mean that it needs to accommodate scientific rationalism and logic. That process was not accomplished by Luther and Luther is not a model in terms of his doctrinal beliefs.

Over 500 years, Christianity has reconciled itself to changes in society and successfully disassociated itself from most, if not all, medieval attitudes and prejudices. It has made peace with secular states and non believers or unbelievers.

Islam has done none of these things: its religious leaders by and large refuse to engage in any constructive dialogue with other religions or with democratic societies. [Guardian Cif] Read more

http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/may/17/islam-reformation-extremism-muslim-martin-luther-europe

May 12, 2015

Warnings of Trojan horse complacency risk

Birmingham headteacher Sarah Hewitt-Clarkson makes a perhaps surprising admission about her first reaction to finding a copy of the now fabled Trojan horse letter on her desk in February last year. "I read it and said to my deputy, 'yes, we know that goes on' and I put it to one side, and almost disregarded it," she says. "I'd witnessed all this behaviour. Everything in that document was familiar to me: ways of trying to discredit headteachers and senior leaders – it wasn't shocking to me at all."

.... Next week Hewitt-Clarkson will speak at the NAHT's Birmingham conference on defining the "British values" – including democracy, the rule of law and tolerance of different faiths – that teachers must now promote. The policy has attracted plenty of criticism, but Hewitt-Clarkson is a fan, using it to explain to parents who object to teaching on homophobia, for instance, that she has to teach pupils according to the Equality Act.

"I like anything that connects me with a school in Cornwall, or Kingston upon Thames, or Newcastle," she says. "When you start breaking down what schools do and don't have to do, then you get weaknesses, and something I learned through Trojan horse is that a few people will do whatever they can to exploit weakness in a system."

[TOP RATED COMMENT] The B.B.C. and The Guardian have spent much of the time this scandal has been public knowledge advancing the idea that it is a hoax and lending credibility to the opponents of the open and plural society. A conversion, even a death bed one, is welcome.

[ANOTHER] I'm not racist or anti-islamist, but find it distasteful that people who come to this island seem encouraged to remain aloof from the rest of us. When in Rome,
should be the first requirement of anyone migrating here, and the UK law overrides all cultural customs with no exceptions.

Shouldn’t the teaching of religions be part of a cultural thing rather than the driving force behind the education system. Shouldn’t we be encouraging inclusiveness and integration rather than showing differences based upon faith rather than fact. Should we do away with faith based schools altogether?

[ANOTHER] It’s good that The Guardian is now reporting on both sides of the issue but it does highlight the dreadful record it had in investigating this in the past. [The Guardian] Read more
http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/may/12/trojan-horse-reports-birmingham-schools

April 29, 2015

It’s still right to honour Charlie Hebdo

If you thought that the debate following the Charlie Hebdo killings had exhausted the media and literary world’s reserves of feverish self-examination, brace yourself for another round.

Since the American wing of PEN, the international writers’ association, decided to honour Charlie Hebdo with a Freedom of Expression Courage award, six high-profile writers – including Peter Carey, Michael Ondaatje and Francine Prose – have decided not to attend next month’s PEN gala in New York in protest. The organisation, they said, had "stepped outside of its traditional role" in honouring a magazine they believe is guilty of "cultural intolerance". [618 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 132 votes] So these courageous SORRY "allegedly" courageous satirists "might be worthy of recognition".

Do you even realise how weasely and sneering your words sound?

Of course Charlie Hebdo deserves this award and Islam should grow a pair and not get all murderous when it is quite rightfully lampooned.

[2ND 90] "... but 12 people died when it was attacked on 7 January for depicting the prophet." – The Prophet? Not to me he isn’t, and the majority of the Guardian’s readership I imagine. So please call him/her/it Muhammed.

[3RD 85] .... time for some wise words from Salman Rushdie;

"At Cambridge University I was taught a laudable method of argument: you never personalise, but you have absolutely no respect for people’s opinions. You are never rude to the person, but you can be savagely rude about what the person thinks.

That seems to me a crucial distinction: people must be protected from discrimination by virtue of their race, but you cannot ring-fence their ideas. The moment you say that any idea system is sacred, whether it’s a religious belief system or a secular ideology, the moment you declare a set of ideas to be immune from criticism, satire, derision, or contempt, freedom of thought becomes impossible."

[4TH 81] "Yes, Charlie Hebdo has published offensive cartoons"

Increasingly I find these types of articles offensive. You’re saying the cartoons were abhorrent, really? How about atrocity after atrocity after atrocity being committed by Islamists. That is truly abhorrent.
Why is it so hard for anyone in the Guardian to write an article about Charlie Hebdo without including a big, fat, "but..."?

"Alleged courage" eh? When you next publish satire with death threats from known, armed radicals over your head, come back and talk. Charlie Hebdo were/ are equal opportunity satirists. They targeted all religions. They also targeted right-wing economics. Only one group responded with violence. And of course people continue to confuse derision directed at religion (such derision being an entirely legitimate aspect of democratic society) with racism. [Guardian Cif] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/apr/29/charlie-hebdo-cartoons-courage-pen-award

April 26, 2015

The Guardian view on Lutfur Rahman: ethics must trump ethnicity

The wholly devastating verdict against Lutfur Rahman, the former mayor of Tower Hamlets, found guilty of corrupt practices, vote-rigging, and deliberately smearing his Labour rival as a racist, destroys more than the career of an energetic and illegally unscrupulous politician. It is also a damning criticism of the inadequate ways in which British democracy defends itself against fraud, demagoguery and corruption.

Justice has been done here, but it has been done slowly and at huge personal risks to the four citizens who brought the action and who would have been bankrupted had it failed. There must be a review mechanism that is independent of the democratic process and can correct some of its failures. Who else but the courts can provide it? There is no special virtue in elected officials if the electoral process is itself corrupt. [256 comments]

Should this article not include a couple of sentences to the effect that: ‘Several of this newspapers columnists were so taken in by this man and his cronies that they closed their ears over many years to evidence based warnings of what was going on in Tower Hamlets.

They were as vocal as Rahman himself in screaming ‘racist’ and ‘Islamophobe’ at those who warned of what was going on and their stance regrettably contributed in no small measure to its continuance and the poisonous community relations that will now persist in Tower Hamlets for many years’.

I have been reading about Lutfur & his delightful gang for years in Private Eye, Tower Hamlets is but a a tip of the iceberg.

Why do the mainstream press with all the resources at their fingertips take about 5 years to scream "quelle horror" when it eventually reaches them? it’s already in the public domain.

"The defence of politics as it was practised by Mr Rahman is that it is an effective and probably inevitable response to discrimination and stereotyping from the outside world."

And how was politics practised by Mr Rahman? Well, according to this article, he was

".... guilty of corrupt practices, vote-rigging, and deliberately smearing his Labour rival as a racist"

and
"emerges as a liar, evasive and manipulative, a man who corrupts the electoral process so that he can corrupt its political results, buying votes and media coverage so that once elected he can direct streams of money and patronage at his supporters."

But it’s not ultimately Rahman’s fault because his behaviour was simply an "inevitable response to discrimination and stereotyping". So ultimately, it’s all whitey’s fault. No surprise there, then!

[4TH 134] Just a shame that journalists from this paper waded in to defend him less than a year ago. Dreadful journalism.

[5TH 99] Nobody perpetuates identity politics in the UK more than the Guardian. Also, have they eaten humble pie for previously calling the complaints against Rahman a smear campaign? [Guardian Cif] Read more

April 25, 2015

**Tower Hamlets: how a dictatorship flourished in the East End**

In London's East End, where so many battles against real fascism were fought in the 20th century, "anti-racism" has become little more than a swindle. Far from being just or noble, it was a pretext to bribe journalists, pay off accomplices and frighten poor immigrants into supporting a crooked demagogue, who despised his "own" people so much he would not even grant them the right to participate in an honest election.

The formal reasons judge Richard Mawrey gave for disqualifying Lutfur Rahman from office last week are bad enough.

The now ex-mayor of Tower Hamlets used fake "ghost" voters to win elections and public funds to buy votes. He offered grants to groups "that hadn't even applied for them". He took money that was meant to be going to the Alzheimer's Society and poor wards that needed all the help they could get. He ran a "ruthless and dishonest" campaign to convince the electorate that John Biggs, his Labour rival for mayor, was a racist. [853 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 410 votes] Well said.

And The Guardian was in the vanguard of his supporters, echoing the shrieks of 'racist' at anyone who dared to voice concern about this ghastly man and his acolytes.

Shame on them all.

[2ND 366] Surely identity politics over class issues could never come back to bite us? Oh wait it's a fucking trainwreck of an ideology, based on post-modern garbage, and sold to us by people in this very paper.

Thanks for one person at least not being afraid to tackle an issue without getting tarred with the 'whitesplaining' or other silencing tactics.

[3RD 297] In The Guardian of 30th May 2014 there was an article saying he was completely innocent.

[4TH 288] Spot on as always Nick.
Its odd isn’t it that despite the Guardian’s wall to wall coverage of Nigel Farage over the last year the same paper has been almost silent about this story. Wonder why that is?

[5TH 272] I’m not talking about ‘corruption’, I’m talking about being allowed to talk about it, or wages, and not be told to shut up because of skin colour or gender, or some twaddle about the Patriarchy, a complete fairy story made by second rate Academics, peddled by fools in this paper, and about as much use to the people as a baseball bat to fix a broken watch.

[6TH 258] And his campaign was run by the Islamist Islamic forum For Europe, led by Azad Ali who’s also a Vice Chairman of Unite Against Fascism, which opposes ‘islamophobes’.

The media has largely downplayed the entryist Islamism central to Rahman’s rise to power. [Guardian Cif] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/apr/25/tower-hamlets-dictatorship-east-end-lutfur-rahman

April 23, 2015

Lutfur Rahman is toast. But picking up the pieces in Tower Hamlets will be hard

And so, after five years of allegations, investigations and complaints, Lutfur Rahman, the East End politician who defied the might of the Labour party that forsook him, the interventions of a Conservative secretary of state and the findings of a nine-month BBC Panorama probe to twice be elected Tower Hamlets mayor, has finally been prised out of the borough’s town hall.

An election petition – a legal challenge to election outcomes – brought by four residents of the historic London borough has persuaded Richard Mawrey QC to declare the second of Rahman’s triumphs void and bar him from office. There may be a criminal inquiry. [710 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 187 votes] The sort of politics that corral voters on the basis primarily of shared ethnicity and/or confessional allegiance is corrupt and morally corrupting.

Tower Hamlets is not entirely an outlier so far as this goes. Wherever minority groups form local majorities the choice exists between encouraging them to share in the broader life of the community or permitting them to retreat within their own fortress.

The latter course, under the banner of multiculturalism, does create the perfect breeding ground for the sort of thing we see in Tower Hamlets. Perhaps it’s time to consider whether or not this really is the approach which is the best way to make our irreversibly multi-racial country work well.

[2ND 155] "There may be a criminal inquiry."

Surely there has to be a criminal inquiry!!


[3RD 151 ] "... a shameless player of the "race card" to silence opponents. He adds: "This attitude has been adopted by his close associates, for whom a cry of ‘racist’ is usually the first reaction to any criticism of Mr Rahman."

You don't have to go very far for evidence of that, the venerable Richard Seymour having played that particular card in this very organ:

"The thrust of all this is quite plain. It is to depict a democratically elected politician as a sort of Asiatic despot whose supporters, far from being an energised democratic populace, are stigmatised as intimidating by sheer dint of their number and enthusiasm. There is a deep substrate of racism informing this."

[4TH 148] Labour's multiculturalism come back to bite it on the arse, eh? Don't say you weren't warned.

[5TH 139] Unfortunately any discussion on this and related topics has been shut down by the incessant shouts of racist. As a result the divisions in society along ethnic, national and religious lines will become even more entrenched and ultimately irreversible.

[7TH 130] Its tragic, the whole thing. Every manner in which the left has failed in the last 20 years is wrapped up in this tale. [Guardian Cif] Read more

April 13, 2015

Why is Isis a wake-up call to Muslim women?

.... the 62-year-old African-American professor, the daughter of a Methodist minister, is one of Islam’s leading feminists. Ten years ago, she faced down a bomb threat in New York when she led Friday prayers to a mixed congregation of men and women – something many religious scholars argued was forbidden in Islam. Three years later, she defied protests from local groups to do the same in London. Not content with taking on the mosques, now she has her sights set on revolutionising sharia councils and the laws that underpin them. [364 Comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 102 votes] Religion; Holding back humanity since the day man invented it.

[2ND 93] I have never been able to understand why women, the sex that bears our children, that often ensure there is food on the table and that the children are washed and dressed each day, are treated as though they are in some way inferior to the male. Are men so insecure, so frightened that they will be shown up that they can justify denying women an equal place?

Who is this Mohamed that he can make the likes of Jehadi John a good man for killing people who do not agree with Islam. Who can justify the female genital mutilation, to take away from women something God bestowed upon them? Islam and its Sharia law have no place in today's world. All religions should be stripped of their charitable status and all organizations that discriminate against women should be outlawed.

[3RD 76] This newspaper’s bizarre love affair with a religion that, as practised, is utterly antithetical to everything it once stood for goes on.

[4TH 75] I dont understand why when men say women should cover themselves in case they inflame the desires of men ...that they don't realise what they are saying is... men cannot control themselves, cannot control their own basic instincts and desires.

If men cannot control such basic instincts surly they should never be given control of anything important? Put your penises away, stop willy wagging and do something useful.
"Good. I am glad someone is taking a stand against this wahabist nonsense. Isis makes me hate Islam. I am sure Isis couldn’t give a monkeys that people are beginning to loathe Islam, but it should care."

It probably wants us to hate Islam. Then all Muslims are faced with a choice, the kuffar who hate them, or ISIS.

Alas this is an extreme minority view in Islam: Ayan Hirsi Ali’s books are far better guides to the reality of the sacred text and its infallible truths. Wishful thinking by an ex Methodist in an Arab culture of the 7th Century. Why does she adopt this Arab dress code, if she is such a radical? [The Guardian] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2015/apr/13/why-is-isis-a-wake-up-call-to-muslim-women

April 5, 2015

Senior Muslim lawyer says British teenagers see Isis as ‘pop idols’

.... Afzal claims the current strategy relies almost entirely on police and the security services. "It is stale and repetitive and goes only to the usual suspects and the usual charities in our communities."

"I know from experience that the police are often reduced to holding endless meetings with so-called community leaders who represent no one but themselves. This is a new dawn in terrorism and so we need a new dawn in the ways we tackle it."

He wants the next government to mobilise an army of young British Muslims that he believes will be best equipped to turn would-be Isis fighters back from the brink. [826 Comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 140 votes] ".... so-called community leaders who represent no one but themselves."

At last someone with experience finally reveals the truth about these state funded gobshites.

Diversity and immigration are not the problem. Political courage is ....

Once class identity comes to be seen as a cultural attribute, then those regarded as culturally different have come to be viewed as threats. Hence the growing hostility to immigration. The forces of globalisation or the internal wranglings of the Labour party are difficult to conceptualise.

By contrast, the Polish builder or your Bangladeshi neighbour are easy to see. So immigration has become the means through which many sections of the electorate perceive their sense of loss of social status. It has become both a catch-all explanation for unacceptable social change and a symbol of the failure of the liberal elite to understand the views of voters.
Most politicians today defend multiculturalism and sneer at Ukip policies, while assiduously fostering fears about immigration. What we actually need to do is the opposite – defend diversity and immigration while challenging multicultural policies. And we need to engage with the concerns of Ukip voters while also challenging prejudices about Muslims and immigration. Will any politician have the courage and vision to do this? I’m not holding my breath. [403 Comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 82 votes] "Over the past three decades, a host of economic and social changes – the decline of manufacturing industry, the crumbling of the welfare state, the coming of austerity, the growth of inequality, ..."

The thing omitted from the list is numbers, specifically the growth of the Muslim population, from 553,000 in 1981 to 2,706,000 in 2011. It became 4.89 times larger in thirty years.

At this rate Britain would be a Muslim country in 60 years. This is politically significant. Farage did not mention a "white working class". I don't think he ever does. The implication that UKIP is about "whiteness" is one made by UKIP’s enemies. However, Farage has said, "My country is a Judeo Christian country, so we have got to stand up for our values". What I deduce from this is that Farage is against Islamisation, the only politician who is.

[2ND 77] What on earth is the concept of ‘community of communities’? I’m afraid that multiculturalism is an experiment carried out mainly on the working class of this country. It seems to have failed. No matter which way you hang it the muslim community does not do integration.

[3RD 71] The problem is that the mainstream media blatantly and continually refuse to discuss or even acknowledge the enormous, unasked for changes wrought on our society by mass immigration, lack of integration, and multiculturalism, and how we deal with them going forward.

Meanwhile, anyone with a pair of eyes can see for themselves that the Balkanisation of this country continues apace, just go to Dewsbury, or Luton, and a myriad other towns, and see the lack of integration, and parallel societies.

It’s the Emperors clothes writ large for all to see, but still we dont have a proper discussion about immigration and its effects, just a lot of chivvying round the edges, lest the Gods of PC and Multiculturalism are offended.

Nobody could blame anyone for wanting a better life and coming to Britain, but the infrastructures of Health and Education cannot cope, and as the handwringing continues, so does the immigration.

[4TH 64] This has little to do with immigration and everything to do with British born Muslim’s increasingly dangerous fascination with an ancient text.

[5TH 60] There is some truth in what the author states, but also half-truths and a lot of distortion to fit in with his rose-tinted beliefs. He speaks as though the white working class are suffering from a mass illusion of being dispossessed of their culture, and that he of course, as an academic, knows better than they do.

With a little more openness and humility he might acknowledge that they have indeed suffered a massive breakdown of community and cohesion, and that their dispossesson is no illusion. It’s not a case of those regarded as culturally different simply ‘coming to be viewed’ as a threat; in large numbers they actually are a threat to the indigenous culture.
Although it is true that economic and political changes have played their part, these formerly strong communities going back many generations can see the injustice in losing out in housing and work opportunities to people who have no connection with their own area.

They can see the disintegration of their own culture when large numbers of people who live among them, in many areas now forming a majority, cannot identify with the host society in terms of language and dialect, humour, attitudes, history, and all the indefinable ties which make up a sense of shared culture.

In very many cases it is the new arrivals who shut themselves off for their own cultural and religious reasons, and the clear outward signifiers of separation can be seen in the mosques, Urdu shop signs, and distinctive Asian dress that are now a part of many urban areas.

In small doses, these differences can be absorbed and add an interesting dimension to a society, but when, by sheer weight of numbers, the incomers break up and largely replace the indigenous population, we can say goodbye to any sense of shared culture and nationhood.

I can't think of any western society that has changed as rapidly as Britain in the last twenty years. Defending diversity and immigration, as the author suggests we do, is to simply exacerbate the problem. What is needed is a total end to unskilled immigration and a huge effort to integrate the cultures we have already taken in.

[6TH 58] Diversity and immigration is the problem. Political courage is severely lacking in even talking about it.

[7TH 56] British Muslims certainly tend to be highly conservative in their social attitudes, being far less liberal on issues such as homosexuality and abortion than the general public.

You left out the male supremacy and the anti-semitism, but let that pass. Any other group that exhibited such "conservative" attitudes would be vilified as fascist by the left. Just recall how opponents of same-sex marriage were attacked last year.

But despite the burquas, the homophobic hate-preaching, the stream of ISIS recruits, and the blaming of everyone and everything in sight except Islam the Muslim community is deemed to be the victim of a wicked non-Muslim world.

It’s time for a reality check against Enlightenment values and an end to excuses.

[8TH 56] "The growing numbers of young Britons drawn to jihadism". Meanwhile, rising support for Ukip has drawn both fear and contempt"

To any reasonable person, the former deserves infinitely more fear and contempt than the latter.

There is NO equivalence between the two.

[9TH 56] An interesting article.

"The result has been the creation of what many commentators now call the "left behind" working class, who feel politically abandoned and voiceless. The "left behind" have been left behind largely because of economic and political changes."
This is not the only possible interpretation of this. It would be nearer the truth to say that the white working class was abandoned by the left in the 1980s when the white working class refused to take on the role of the "revolutionary class" assigned to it by the middle class left.

The great turning point came in the election of 1983 when the marxist-infiltrated Labour Party was routed by Margaret Thatcher. The left’s response was to decide to replace the non-compliant white working class with one which would be compliant.

Hence the left’s devotion to mass immigration regardless of the social consequences. (The world is faced with an ecological catastrophe of the gravest kind but the British left advocates unlimited population growth for Britain.) And as for "multi-culturalism" – we’re way beyond the acceptable limits of that now.

"And we need to engage with the concerns of Ukip voters while also challenging prejudices about Muslims and immigration."

It’s not prejudiced to be revolted by islamofascism (or to be shocked by the appeaser-left’s failure to take issue with it genuinely and seriously), because the essential need now is to bring mass immigration into Britain to an end. Of course this will mean that the British left loses the chance of destroying the Britain it hates. But this is a small price to pay. [Guardian Cif] Read more
http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/apr/05/multicultural-policies-people-boxes-climate-hatred-fear

March 29, 2015

**British Muslim girls and extremism: what I learned on my journey across the UK**

.... The experience of the roadshow has reaffirmed that the factors that lead to extremism are numerous, complex and multilayered. Focusing on the academic achievements of A-grade schoolgirls who join Isis fails to look at the wider picture. Religious illiteracy, exposure to extremist influences and the lack of strong credible religious leadership all play a part.

But so does a limited life experience and a search for a sense of belonging. Weak familial relationships, where the emotional, language and cultural gap between parent and child presents a vulnerability, are often exploited by extremists.

Our campaign, I hope, will inspire women to take the lead. "I will be #makingastand because I want to make this world a safer place for my children to grow up," one woman promised. Empower women to counter extremism and it is they who will take on this battle. But this is not a "community" challenge. We need to help as a country; we need to support these women.

[TOP RATED COMMENT 151 votes] There was an article in the Mail showing one of the girls father at an extreme Islamist rally.

After they left he was on tv saying how they didn’t raise their daughter like that.

It is the parents fault.

[2ND 135] Wouldn’t these girls be better off wearing make up, texting boys, drinking the odd pint then going overseas to be treated like dirt and as sex slaves by some illiterate yobs? I think muslim parents who worry too much about their daughters becoming ‘westernised’ aren’t realising that there are worse dangers out there.
When children ask searching questions about extremism and religion, parents often close down the debate because they can’t answer theological questions. The lack of religious knowledge among families was recognised as a weakness.

So people bring their kids up to be Islamic but then fail to answer questions about it? This is the problem that no one dares to mention and it’s a massive elephant in the room. Bringing up kids to be religious is wrong.

It’s wrong because they don’t have the means of judging these ancient myths as being what they are. It’s wrong because your first metaphysical underpinning is like your first language – it becomes the minds default mode and in the case of religion they refer back to it constantly, if it doesn’t measure up to early adopted memes about Islam (or whatever) it gets rejected.

So these girls getting "radicalised" is the parents fault in more ways than one. Or rather not their fault because they were brought up like this too. But here we have a potentially dangerous creed that the parents don’t care so much about and so they leave a bunch of mullahs at the mosque to finish the job.

People should have British values and it’s clear from the census that we are a secular nation therefore we shouldn’t have religious schools and parents should bring up their children to be free of dogma that was laid down 1400 years ago and doesn’t really say much these days.

How we get there from here is anyone’s guess but having highly religious children of all creeds and denominations makes me queasy. Poor little things – condemned to believe one thing until the decide to risk apostasy. We can do better than this!

I remember when The Guardian was a paper that promoted secularism and rational thought. It turns out now it’s the media arm of a seventh century religion that is wholly incompatible with its previous core ethos of liberal, secular democracy.

But it is a ‘community’ challenge. Perhaps the practice of employing imams from abroad should be stopped? [Guardian Cif] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/mar/29/british-muslim-communities-women-face-challenge-extremism

March 20, 2015

As a Muslim woman, I see the veil as a rejection of progressive values

It could be a millenarian crisis or a delayed reaction to decades of bad history, but millions of Muslims seem to have turned inwards, hankering for an imagined golden age. They are contemptuous of modernity’s bendable, ductile values. Some are drawn to reactionary dogma, and preachers while a good number have thrown themselves into political Islam to resist and combat western hegemonies – or so the story goes.

As a practising (though flawed) Shia Muslim, I watch the new puritans with apprehension. So too other Muslims worldwide, the silent many, watch and tremble.

From the eighth to the early 20th century, Muslims strove for a broad education (as commanded in the Qur’an), questioned doctrines, and were passionate about scientific advancements, political and social ideals and art. Not even humiliating colonial rule deterred them from the march forward. Now the marchers are walking backwards. The hijab, jilbab, burqa and niqab are visible signs of this retreat from progressive values.
"Liberalism is being tested by the new Islamic ardency. A French-style ban would be unwise and unjust. But institutions can apply dress codes. A bank worker cannot dress like a stripper; a child cannot wear a boob tube to school."

Couldn’t agree more. I dislike ‘covering up’ because I live in a world where the face is a vital part of interaction. That parents could deny their daughters a vast array of careers in this country by virtue of some imposed dogma seems to me idiotic & illiberal.

As a British taxpayer I am thrilled to contribute to the education of girls, I am less thrilled to see that education wasted because of their parents.

It is sad that something so obvious needs to be stated. But thanks to decades of simpering cultural relativism by confused progressives, the misogyny inherent in forcing women and girls to cover up needs to be confronted and openly criticised.

She gets a lot of grief from both “sides” but I’ve always quietly admired Yasmin and her courageous, candid writing. This is no exception.

"From the eighth to the early 20th century, Muslims strove for a broad education (as commanded in the Qur’an), questioned doctrines, and were passionate about scientific advancements, political and social ideals and art."

Well that’s just wishful thinking. The truth is simple; religious domination holds back any society, and Islam is the most effective religion at doing so. If you want progress in Muslim countries, it requires the populace to reject religion and its bullshit mumbo-jumbo, as the rest of us have done.

"A French-style ban would be unwise and unjust"

Why? I lived in France during the time the ban was brought in. There was more protest in the U.K. than in France, where there is the idea that ‘this is France, if you want to live here, these are the basic rules’.

They don’t believe in multiculturalism. Full Stop.

I find the large number of (youngish) women who walk around my local Cardiff Asda supermarket in full black burkha, with little or no English spoken, somewhat depressing. [Guardian Cif] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/mar/20/muslim-woman-veil-hijab

March 16, 2015

Three-quarters of Muslim Australians feel they are unfairly targeted by terror laws, study reveals

Muslim Australians believe overwhelmingly that they are unfairly targeted by counter-terrorism laws but say terrorist groups distort the true meaning of Islam, a survey of community attitudes has revealed.

Around one in five of the 800 Muslims polled believed that terrorist groups sometimes have legitimate grievances, the survey found, hinting at the delicate task Australian community leaders face in countering the propaganda war waged by groups such as Islamic State.
The researchers, including University of Queensland criminologist Adrian Cherney, said the findings showed that police, especially those in Sydney, needed to do more to build trust and a willingness to cooperate among Muslim communities. [421 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT] ... WELL, of all the immigrants in Australia, it isn’t maoris, Tongans, Chinese, Japanese, Italians, Dutch, Swedes, French, Germans, Jews, English, Americans Spanish, Irish etc etc etc who are behind the terrorist acts that have brought about the changes to our laws.

To deny there is a link between terrorism in and against the West and muslims beggars belief. Who would think that the terrorist laws drawn up in almost every Western country are not reasonably targeted at muslims? Nobody else did the 9/11 Twin Towers...nobody else did the Paris shootings and nobody else did the Lindt Cafe killings......and most importantly, only muslims to any degree express sympathy for the perpetrators.

Are muslims completely stupid to the extent that they can’t work out why they’re the target of anti terrorism laws? I know they’re reputed to have lower than average IQs but this is ridiculous.

I think muslims don’t like infidels because we’re not religious enough, yet, they choose to live amongst us infidels, and then complain about us carrying on our lives in the way that we always have.

[ANOTHER] "One of the most damaging and enduringly damaging things this regime has done is to continually highlight and isolate Australian Muslims through its actions and words and the use of conflict as a tactic when its poll rating flag."

Wrong – Muslims have isolated themselves.

[ANOTHER] It is such a difficult situation. I know a number of Muslims personally and also professionally. There is not one unpleasant statement I can make about any of them. they are all polite, intelligent, hard working and caring, yet at the same time I cannot dispute the fact that more than 90% of terrorist acts that I read about are undertaken by muslims, on behalf of muslim organisations, in the name of Allah and are simply barbaric

wiser minds than mine need to work out a way to maintain the safety of the public and not offend what are no doubt the majority of peace loving muslims

[ANOTHER] Holding rallies calling for the deaths of those who insult the prophet might have something to do with it.

Ceasing the anti-Israel rhetoric might also help.

Clamping down on the halal certification scam (named as such by muslims themselves) would be a good idea, too.

I’d start with attitudes like that.

[ANOTHER] one in five believe terrorist groups have legitimate grievances? seriously and this backwards culture wonders why it is targeted. 400 000 Muslims in Australia , statistically thats 80 000 muslims that admit to holding these views in this country.

[ANOTHER] A few years ago I worked in an M.P.s office for a while in Western Sydney and one day received a call from a journalist from a Muslim newspaper.
The caller complained that "the level of hostility is rising" and wanted his M.P. "to do something about".

I passed on the message but what I should have said to him was that if he wanted more acceptance then the best thing to do would be to denounce individuals like Taj El-Din Hilaly, the former Imam at Lakemba mosque who made statements comparing women to uncovered meat as a justification for rape.

Other Muslims that I have spoken to believe that the September 11 attacks and the Taj Mahal hotel attacks in Mumbai were the work of the CIA as a means to "discredit Muslims".

Until these sorts of ideas – which are evidently prevalent in the Muslim community – are themselves discredited, little progress will be made in improving the acceptance of Muslims in the wider population.

The Dutch politician Geert Wilders described the attitude of many Muslims as that of "settlers" in a new land that they intend to occupy and one that they will eventually dominate with the introduction of Sharia Law and Islamic culture.

No other group believes that they have the right to force their beliefs on to the rest of the population so why should the Muslim community be surprised if hostility and rejection are the consequence of that insistence?

[ANOTHER] Islam belongs in the dark ages from where it came, and that is why in EVERY western civilised country they find themselves at odds with the citizens they have begged to live with and aspire to be like....the thing is, you can't have the Western goodies without playing the Western game and behaving like you're living in Moses’ time is not a great start...

[ANOTHER] Tough luck. Islamic extremism is pretty real and people are scared of it. The govt may be overplaying it for politics, but there is legitimate fear too.

I’m pretty well over muslims telling us that ISIS and those like them are not true muslims. I don't buy that.

.... The reality is that the Islamic State is Islamic. Very Islamic. Yes, it has attracted psychopaths and adventure seekers, drawn largely from the disaffected populations of the Middle East and Europe. But the religion preached by its most ardent followers derives from coherent and even learned interpretations of Islam.

[ANOTHER] Muslims are in a hard place, Australian Law contradicts Islamic Law and hence why they feel targeted

Death for being Raped, Apostasy, Homosexuality, the fact that women are equal, children are not allow to marry, polygamy etc contradicts Islamic Law and why they see Australian society as unfair. [The Guardian] Read more

March 12, 2015
Farage’s Muslim ‘fifth column’ remarks must not go unchallenged

.... While Farage’s comments on race are rightly being challenged by our political leaders, there seems to be less of an outcry over remarks that Muslims represent a “fifth column”
Yet most Muslims in this country are second and third generation, like me, and proudly identify themselves as British. Contrary to the Islamophobia picture painted by Ukip and its members, British Muslims have come out in droves condemning the violence misguided carried out in our name, and are working hard to build bridges with fellow Britons.

[TOP RATED COMMENT 245 votes] 27% of British Muslims sympathise with the motives of the Charlie Hebdo killers, and 40% of British Muslims support the barbaric and thoroughly inhumane Sharia law.

Nigel Farage is absolutely correct to call out a "fifth column" of people living within the UK who desire the destruction of democracy, the subjugation of infidels and the forceful imposition of Sharia law. This is only a statement of fact.

[2ND 186] "Ukip do not represent British values".

Neither does Islam – or any organised religion.

This is simply part of a wider push by self-interest groups (like the Muslim Council) to elevate a belief system – a set of ideas that you choose to follow – to the same level as race/gender/disability/sexuality – which are set.

Islam (or any other religion) as a political/social force has nothing to offer this country – religious people should be free to practice how/where they want in the private sphere – in the public sphere their bleating for special privileges should be ignored as any other.

And the Race and Religious Hatred Act should never have included religion – but messiah Blair and his cronies needed the bloc vote offered by the sheeple.

[3RD 164] Like him or not he has a point. As one of the other posters has mentioned there have been surveys of Muslims in this country and a sizeable percentage have espoused some form of support for the Islamist nutters. It’s this that should really be discussed and challenged.

[4TH 155] Sorry Guardian, but outside Guardian HQ, lots of people do see a ‘fifth column’ of a very small minority of Muslims who do want to kill us.

Last year in Cardiff, I witnessed people openly waving the black and white IS flag, in full view of protestors (protesting about Palestine perfectly legitimately) and policemen.

It is a tiny minority, but it is an issue nonetheless, and the ‘liberal’ (and I use the term loosely, as many are not liberal at all) wish to bury ones head in the sand isn’t working.

[Guardian Cif] [Read more]
http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/mar/12/nigel-farage-muslim-fifth-column-ukip

March 9, 2015

Radicalisation in Australia: Muslim leaders work to dissipate ‘fixation’ with Isis among youths

It begins with a sense of injustice. The sensitive kids feel it most.
"The community and especially these youngsters, they see a double standard," Sheikh Wesam Charkawi says. "They see persecution of Muslims everywhere in the world. In Palestine, in Africa, Burma and so on.

"They feel Muslims have been abandoned and believe it is their sense of duty to help."

Charkawi worked with a group of five schoolboys some time ago. They were expressing what he calls "superficial" approval of the work of Islamist groups fighting the regime of Bashar al-Assad in Syria, and flirting openly with the idea of joining them.

For months social workers had tried to get through to the young men. Eventually the sheikh, who is based at the Auburn mosque in western Sydney, was asked to assist.

[286 Comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 54 votes] If Muslims have a problem with the Americans, Australians, French, British, Danes, Indians, Filipinos, Thais, Myanmarese, Chinese, Nigerians, Israelis (to name a few) and themselves in almost all countries where they are in a majority then, maybe, just maybe the problem lies with Muslims themselves? So I would like to ask the Sheik if introspection is a foreign concept in Islam?

[2ND 47] "Muslim leaders work to dissipate 'fixation' with Isis among youths"

Easily done. Just tell them Islam was made up by a man and it’s not true. Allah doesn’t care about them or the rest of the Ummah or anything else and they’re not going to paradise if they’re stupid enough to get themselves killed in Iraq. They’ll just be dead virgins who have wasted their chances of having fun and having lives. There, job done.

[3RD 45] Moderates should stop trying to explain away the bloodthirsty quranic passages and should instead either rewrite the quran or throw it away and make a new book to blindly follow without question that hopefully would have a little less genocide and slavery in it.

[4TH 40] Far from being the source of the problem, Charkawi says the Qur’an and Islamic religious tradition provide the pathway out of violence.

This simply isn't true. Yes, there is a small number turning to extremism but they do so because of their or others interpretation of their religion. If Islamic religious tradition provided a pathway out of violence we would see evidence of this en mass. We do not. Islam is predominantly represented in violent acts around the world.

This points to there being huge a problem within Islam and this is what needs addressing. There is a problem when the government has to spend time and money on programs to tackle extremism in one specific religion.

[5TH 39] As Paul miller notes above the real issue here is that theses would be Jihadis are actually following the teachings in the Qua-ran. Further to that the so called "injustices" the author here blathers on about are on the whole self serving nonsense and the stuff upon which the "Muslim as victim" narrative is built even when they are utterly false (which they mostly are).

Islam is a religion in desperate need of a total reformation, it is, as it ever was, almost totally at odds with modern society and until Islam is either suitably reformed or ceases to be we will continue to have issues with the followers of this faith in countries like Australia

[6TH 38] Mohammed himself fought battles against his enemies in Arabia and his immediate successors spread Islam across the Middle East and North Africa and southern
Europe by violent invasions. Almost from the start the history of Islam has a link to violence. It’s just a fact.

Christianity also had violent periods, but they came centuries after its founding and do not have the same intimate connection with the history of the religion.

[7TH 36] I sometimes wonder, and I mean really wonder why 1.6 billion people think the creator of the heavens and the earth, knower of all things, originator of creation, designer of quantum physics and the expanding universe talks like this:

Quran (5:33) – "The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His messenger and strive to make mischief in the land is only this, that they should be murdered or crucified or their hands and their feet should be cut off on opposite sides or they should be imprisoned; this shall be as a disgrace for them in this world, and in the hereafter they shall have a grievous chastisement"

There is no context that could explain a perfect being exhorting mankind to solve issues in such an inhumane way. Wake up guys!!!! [The Guardian] Read more

March 6, 2015

**Isis destroys Iraqis’ heritage, but it can’t erase their identity**

…. When Isis swept into the area last spring, its first assault on history was to try and eradicate these groups. It succeeded in driving most away. Now it is assaulting the physical remains of the area’s history. Bulldozers are at work in Nimrud. According to Gailani, much is still standing, including a few of the giant winged bulls that are a symbol of the long-vanished hegemony of the Assyrian empire.

Nimrud is a big site, so it will take a while to totally destroy it. That is a small mercy and so is this thought: Isis is a morbid symptom. It is neither Islamic, nor is it a state. The destruction of a nation’s history is a tactic to pacify its people. But too many Iraqis are like Ahmad and Ghailani. They know their history, they breathe it, they embody it. Their knowledge, their identity will not be erased by these murderers.

[TOP RATED COMMENT] "Isis is a morbid symptom. It is neither Islamic, nor is it a state."

Oh for fuck’s sake. Isis IS Islamic. It is clearly a morbid symptom of the kind of aggressively monocultural Islam propagated in Saudi Arabia and now being spread across the Muslim world. Why say it isn’t? What’s the point?

Until a person can carry out non-Muslim religious ceremonies publicly in Mecca or just stand up there and say ‘Islam isn’t the truth’ without being killed or imprisoned, violent Islamism of the type used by ISIS will remain a problem. We all know that. Everybody knows it, but our politicians and business leaders and journalists, with rare honourable exceptions, won’t say it, because the Saudis have too much money. [Guardian Cif] Read more
http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/mar/06/isis-destroy-iraqi-artefacts

March 3, 2015

**Is Isis the ultimate evil? They would love you to think so**

…. Some will call the west’s dizzying shifts in foreign policy – Gaddafi from foe to friend to foe, Iran from arch-nemesis to de facto ally, and so on – realpolitik, the sort of
pragmatism necessary in a complex world. Easy for the likes of me to carp. Perhaps, but 14 years of the "war on terror" has culminated in fundamentalist groups who are more extreme and powerful than ever.

A rational conversation about causes and possible solutions is all but impossible. We must simply say that Isis is evil in its rawest form, apparently more evil than anything that has gone before, and leave it at that. Bombs and prisons: that’s the only legitimate response, and anyone who says otherwise is an apologist, a traitor or both. And so the symbiotic relationship between western power and jihadism persists. [952 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 218 votes] Not really sure what the author is trying to say here. Assad is bad, but the west was wrong to help the rebels. Gaddafi was bad but the west was wrong to help the rebels. Pol Pot and the Congo Civil War were bad (was the west supposed to intervene there or didn’t it help enough?) ISIS have to be defeated and are very evil but not uniquely evil, but somehow the west is responsible for them. The Saudis are bad (is the West supposed to intervene there?). It’s important to ask what caused ISIS but apparently anyone claims to know is a fool or a liar.

Nope. No idea what the article wants.

[ANOTHER 144] Carping is what Master Owen does. Actually designing and implementing a solution would be beyond he and most of the other Graun columnists – don’t think I’d ever want them running a bath for me.

[ANOTHER 126] Number 1346 in the Guardian series of articles trying to blame the evil of ISIS on the West. [Guardian Cif Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/mar/03/isis-evil-jihadis-west)

March 1, 2015

**A search for identity draws jihadis to the horrors of Isis**

.... The stories of the three schoolgirls and of Emwazi are very different. But the same questions are being asked of them. How did they get radicalised? And how can we stop it from happening again? These are questions being increasingly asked across Europe. A recent report by the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation suggests that there are now 4,000 European fighters with Isis, a figure that has doubled over the past year.

.... Jihadis are responsible for the choices they make. However much we may deplore western policies, at home or abroad, they provide no reason for the grotesque acts of Isis.

And yet there is an uncomfortable question to be asked of society, too. Why is it that so many intelligent and resourceful young people find an ideology that espouses mass beheadings, slave labour and the denial of rights to women more appealing than anything else that is on offer? [848 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 135 votes] "How did they get radicalised?"

I blame Muhammed. He was a fairly radical guy, said and did some fairly radical things and pretended God was behind it all.

[3RD 119] Quite right. You only have to read a biography of Muhammad to see the death and destruction metered out at his hands. He was not often a man of mercy, and Muslims really are taught that he is the most perfect human, infallible and wonderful. Many Muslims will tell you they love Muhammad more than their own family.
One doesn’t have to look far in Islam to see the horror in Muhammad’s life, such as the beheading of some 500 Qurayyah Jews on Muhammad’s orders, because they were "traitors". Unfortunately, these are the same stories that IS supporters turn to to justify their own actions...

[2ND 120] The elephant in the room is that they find their identity, or are encouraged to find their identity by emulating Mohammed and the pious predecessors who were, by today’s standards Islamists. It’s crystal clear to anyone who is well read in traditional Islamic sources. Add to this, that Mohammed is perfect and cannot be criticised and you have an enormous problem.

[4TH 90] He has an identity, Kenan: He’s British.

Honestly, if belonging to a country like ours which has given more to global culture, social progress than just about anywhere else and has excelled in innovation across the whole sphere of human intellectual endeavour for centuries doesn’t give you a sense of pride and belonging, then I’m afraid nothing will.

Pleas stop trying to excuse the inexcusable; it really doesn’t help, and will only encourage those bullies who mistakenly think us weak.

[6TH 85] In many ways this is a well-balanced article and most Muslims will be shocked by the activities of those who have joined ISIS.

But these are not just a bunch of psychopaths who popped out of nowhere.

Yes I know it is not ALL about Islam but let us look a few decades back to the Rushdie case. Thousands in the streets inciting his murder and I seem to remember about 30% in a poll of UK Muslims agreeing that the Fatwa should be enacted.

And for what – a few lines of alternative take on 1,500 year old superstitions in a novel!!! There were even some placards calling for Rushdie to be beheaded. Does that sound familiar?

The fact that a minority have moved to the even more grotesque intolerance and barbarism of ISIS is not totally surprising as it represents just a move further to the extremes of this mind-set.

Also look at the results of recent polls of UK muslim attitudes to female equality, homosexual rights, apostasy, the freedom to seriously question or satirize religious belief systems for further evidence of unwillingness, on the part of a significant minority, to accept liberal values.

So perhaps we should not be totally surprised that a small minority have gone to these barbaric extremes.

[7TH 78] Now it’s "a search for identity" is it?

One thing will give me pause. If I read about a million strong weekend march in central London by UK Muslim organizations and supporters from the radical extreme self loathing morally inverted west-hating far left condemning ISIS clearly, with no ‘buts’, then I will be more at ease.

Until then, these ‘thoughtful’ CIF posts one after the other, ‘explaining’ ISIS and its attraction for Muslim youth, are like a toilet flush. [Guardian CIF] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/mar/01/what-draws-jihadis-to-isis-identity-alienation
February 24, 2015

**Without more support, Muslim girls may well be tempted by Isis’s HR department**

.... They grew up in a Britain that is filled with Islamophobia, where people seem to constantly speak ill about their faith. Sometimes, the non-stop criticism and offence can make people hang on to their religion more and more stringently, and get so into religion that they fail to differentiate between right and wrong. Instead, they become paranoid and defensive and start listening to Isis’s propaganda department.

.... Could they have gone somewhere else for support? Yes, there are organisations offering support to young people, but would they really understand the situations of these increasingly marginalised women? [769 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 255 votes] "They grew up in a Britain that is filled with Islamophobia"

Yeah, and they’ve done a fine job of disproving those "Islamophobes" silly delusions. Well done girls.

[2ND 243] "Many wonder why any teenager, who should be focused on education, hanging out with friends and starting relationships, would travel to join Islamic State (Isis)"

Surely that is not the main thing most of us are wondering. What I am wondering is how 3 girls, who will have seen and heard a lowly British Christian taxi driver, went to Syria to help children, ended up being beheaded and yet still they decided to join ISIS. Surely this is the elephant in the room? All the Guardian articles seem to be trying to rationalize it.

[3RD 219] You have chosen to blame British society for the girls’ alienation and blame ISIS for their indoctrination. But neither of these explanations are satisfactory.

As to the first, many of these girls seem to come from comfortable middle class homes. They are not all surrounded by poverty. Plus plenty of girls grow up facing sexism, racism, and yes, even actual poverty, without turning to violence. So your explanation is not enough.

You leave out the agency of the girls themselves – 15, 16, 17 is old enough to have an opinion and responsibility for it – and the immediate influences on them that mean they think joining a brutal regime like ISIS is a valid – indeed the best, most morally correct – choice. [Guardian Cif] Read more
http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/feb/24/muslim-girls-isis-teenage-east-london

February 23, 2015

**If Britons want to join Isis, let them go**

One of the more acute contributions to the soul-searching about the disappearance of three London schoolgirls came from the former foreign secretary, William Hague. Asked on a weekend television talk show why the girls had not been monitored and prevented from leaving, he remarked that questions about state surveillance usually came with the implication that there was far too much; in this case, the implication was that there had been too little.
Yet how far should the state restrict individuals’ travel because the authorities disapprove of the traveller’s purpose? One definition of a free country is the right to leave it. Is possessing an air ticket to Turkey to become a suspect activity in itself? If so, you can be sure that other, more convoluted, routes will rapidly be found. To those Britons wanting to join Isis, I would say: let them go. This is more a family matter than a cause for national breast-beating, and I see no reason why police officers have to be sent, at great expense, in an effort to rescue these girls from themselves. [2,753 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 572 votes] Let them [leave] and then revoke their citizenship. Do not let them back in.

[2ND 514] They won’t be stateless, they will be citizens of the Islamic State.

[3RD 454] .... we should make no efforts or expense whatsoever to ‘save’, ‘rescue’, ‘retrieve’ or ‘hall’ these wannabe murderers and terrorists (and this includes their wannabe ‘brides’).

In the unfortunate event that they do manage to return alive to this country, they should promptly be returned to the country(ies) from when they returned to face local justice.

[4TH 378 ] At last! Some actual common sense on this matter. I thought I was going quite mad.

These young women had passports and money and were free to leave the country as they see fit – it is a Western democracy after all.

They are not children. Their actions may be unwise and they will probably regret them but that is not a matter to concern the Prime Minister the Press or the Police.

[5TH 358] Absolutely right. If they want to be part of it, let them go. Who cares?

It was interesting that the parents of one of the girls criticised the intelligence services for NOT monitoring her social media activity close enough. You really can’t win can you

[6TH 346] Hell yes! They’ve made their choice, let them go. Oh, and please don’t let them back. [Guardian Cif] Read more
http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/feb/23/if-britons-want-to-join-isis-let-them-go-london-schoolgirls

February 16, 2015

The right to free speech means nothing without the right to offend

.... Violence is how the mob silences the minority, the terrorist its target. As the historian Timothy Garton Ash pointed out in our discussions last Friday, the so-called "heckler’s veto" – the threat of disorder being used to silence speech – has in the case of Charlie Hebdo, and now Copenhagen, been replaced by an attempted "assassin’s veto" – using the threat of murder to silence any of those with whom we disagree. And we cannot let that happen.

Because if the reaction to the latest attack is that there are no more debates about free expression, no more speech that one or other person finds offensive, then the result will not be less offensive speech, it will be no speech at all.

[TOP RATED COMMENT 154 votes] It shows how bad things have got that we apparently need groveling apologistic articles in defence of free speech, FFS. I thought
this thing was settled a couple of hundred years ago. Maybe the enlightenment was a passing fad like Myspace. [Guardian Cif] Read more
http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/feb/16/free-speech-means-nothing-without-right-to-offend-paris-copenhagen

February 16, 2015

We must stamp out hatred wherever we see it – Media reactions to the killings in Copenhagen and Chapel Hill have shown some worrying inconsistencies

.... it is with great sadness that we see how mindless violence has filled the last week. It began with the murder of three young Americans in Chapel Hill in North Carolina, apparently because of their Muslim faith, and ended on Saturday night with shootings at a cafe and synagogue in Copenhagen.

.... To combat the evolving threat we face from such increased hatred, I believe we need both a top-down and bottom-up approach.

At the national level, the government and senior politicians must be consistent in raising the profile and tackling all hate crimes equally, through a strategy fully co-ordinated with all those communities impacted. .... The media’s portrayal of Muslims is hugely negative and inconsistent – but only through self-reflection from journalists is this likely to change.

.... At the grassroots level, we must work hard to change the discourse of hate, and drive it away from the dinner table – it should no longer be seen as socially acceptable to speak about all adherents to a particular faith in such a derogatory manner.

.... In the end, it is only through a consistent and unified approach across all levels of society that we have a chance of combating the scourge of Islamophobia.... [Shuja Shafi of the Muslim Council of Britain, 379 Comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 185 votes] When Muslims kill people in the name of Islam, the response in the Guardian is always “don’t blame Islam, this has nothing to do with Islam”. When an atheist shoots three Muslims over a parking dispute, it has everything to do with Islam. Apparently.

[2ND 145] Why is the Guardian intent on painting the Chapel Hill killings as a consequence of Islamophobia, [rather] than what it truly was – a dispute over parking, which in trigger happy gun loving America can have lethal ramifications?

The killings of the Egyptian Coptic Christians and the ones in Denmark are a result of radical Islam which brooks no dissent and no scepticism and has a truly frightening aim of using violence and force to subjugate those who don’t subscribe to these views.

We don’t need the .... media in the West to portray Islam in bad light – the adherents of Islam do a good job of it themselves. ....

[3RD 134] If ‘Islamophobia’ is the hatred and abuse of Muslim people then it is a foul and unacceptable.

If, ‘Islamophobia’ is the hatred and fear of the ideology that motivates thousands of devout believers around the world to commit acts of barbaric savagery in the name of their religion and god, then it is a fully understandable and rationale response.
It began with the murder of three young Americans in Chapel Hill in North Carolina, apparently because of their Muslim faith.

No, it was apparently over a parking space.

“Our response to these insults was instead to mobilise imams (Muslim theological leaders) across the UK to express our deep sadness at the caricature of the Prophet Muhammad in newspapers in the UK for the first time, while exemplifying his ideals by rejecting any violent response.”

You don’t get a reward for not being violent. You don’t have the option of a ‘violent response’, if you take it you are breaking the law.

The Guardian is clinging with bleeding fingertips to this bogus conflation!

Am I supposed to applaud you for not wanting to kill people ....?

.... those who [would] kill for blasphemy are not a few .... but a large majority of Muslims. If it was not so, most of Muslim countries [would] not have blasphemy laws which prescribe [the] death penalty. I would say only about 30% of Muslims do not think death penalty is justified.

It is not bigoted to begin to question the nature of a religion which would rather question free speech over this issue than that religion’s own intolerance of free speech. .... Even the most liberal are beginning to open their eyes to that fact, as these threads demonstrate. The old ‘bigotry’ ship has long since sailed I’m afraid.

The fact is the majority of news stories are accurate and report events fairly. Even sympathetic news media such as The Guardian tell the same story.

.... The simple truth is many Muslims in this country and abroad inspired by Islam as they see it do and say a great number of things from the trivial to the very important that annoy, puzzle and repulse non-Muslims and they are reported by the media.

It is all there: # Gender inequality # Segregation # Subversion of English law by sharia tribunals # Special treatment (veils, halal slaughter) # Under-age marriage # A Muslim woman can marry only Muslim man # Polygamy # Homophobia # Supremacism # Suppression of free speech (often by threat of violence) # Violent punishment including death for apostasy, and # Persecution of religious minorities ....

The problem has very little to do with the media and a lot to do with Islam.

The Muslim Council of Britain always seems bewildered that it doesn’t receive the highest of praise for condemning violence. .... Do you accept that a non-Muslim should be able to think and say what they like about Islam? Even if you find it "offensive" (whatever that is)? .... I think I know the answer.

Islamophobia is a misnomer. The very term is an insult to the intelligence, and an attempt by cowards to stifle debate and criticism of an ideology.

.... The concern I have that it’s this heartfelt feeling of grievance from the majority [of Muslims] that gives rise to the violence of the minority.
... it's the law abiding citizen getting angry about insults against their religion that sows the seeds of violence. It's the majority that frame how the religion reacts to slights, the violent minority are symptom of that anger.

[14TH 76] Islam teaches things which encourage many to kill. And Mullahs who teach extremist views to students, brainwashing them.

[15TH 74] ... Our faith, like all faiths, is clear that no amount of dislike for a person's belief ever justifies the taking of a life.

No, the Islamic texts condone violence and even killing.

[16TH 70] "It began with the murder of three young Americans in Chapel Hill in North Carolina, apparently because of their Muslim faith"

If there was solid evidence that the three Muslim students were killed because of their faith the story would have received at least as much attention as the Copenhagen murders. As it was, it received much, much more attention than the random gun killings that happen every day in America. There is no evidence that this is anything more than another awful gun crime.

"In particular, the Department for Education must act to counter anti-Muslim prejudice in schools"

I agree. But then you must also agree to either close all Islamic schools or stop teaching directly from the Koran, a book that drips with hatred for non-Muslims, particularly atheists.

[17TH 61] So a Muslim publishes an article in the Guardian making it clear that although they were offended by the cartoons, violence is never the answer.

People might begin to approach the state of being persuaded if they say mass demonstrations against the murders instead of simply mass demonstrations against cartoons. It isn't enough to clog the streets moaning about blasphemy and offence over a cartoon but then make a couple of equivocal newspaper columns about the murders.

[18TH 61] I don't want them to denounce violence. I want them to start dismantling the underlying religious intolerance which feeds such violent actions, instead of reinforcing that intolerance.

[19TH 59] He killed three people. That is tragic and a crime. They just happened to be Muslim.

[20TH 59] ... people .... should be free to believe any old horse manure they fancy.

But when it is suggested that criticism of a particular ideology is unacceptable, no sorry, that just won't wash. .... attempts to demonise those who dare criticise what is essentially superstitious belief is beyond the pale.

[21ST 57] "We must stamp out hatred wherever we see it"

Great! And not before time. So, then, Shuja Shafi, how about you lead the charge?

But if you're not 'seeing it', here are a few to get you going: hatred of women; Jews; Christians; all other religions except Muslim; cartoonists who depict Mohammed; homosexuals; transsexuals; bisexuals; apostates; inter-faith marriage; the West; books;
enlightenment; satire; humour; music; art; dance; free speech... and there’s more, there always is – the never-ending Muslim offences list.

So there you go, Shuja, plenty there to get cracking on! Please do keep us up to date, now, won’t you?

[22ND 50] At the grassroots level, we must work hard to change the discourse of hate, and drive it away from the dinner table – it should no longer be seen as socially acceptable to speak about all adherents to a particular faith in such a derogatory manner.

I admire the sentiment and agree that it is desirable that all adherents of a particular faith should not be criticised for the acts of a few, but I cannot accept that peoples’ faith is beyond criticism.

[23RD 49] The west isn’t at war with islam. Islam is at war with everything else, modernity, women, kids toys, hair, cartoons, snowmen, humour — The list is very long.

[24TH 47] Mohammed had someone killed for mocking him. The people gunning for cartoonists are following his example. He was perfect after all.

Of course, the bible has its violent parts. And if extremist Christians were killing people all over the world and citing those same passages I expect Christianity would be under scrutiny as well.

How long are we expected to ignore the obvious here?

[25TH 44] "... it should no longer be seen as socially acceptable to speak about all adherents to a particular faith in such a derogatory manner."

Meanwhile, you believe, and teach your children, that disbelievers will be burned in hell, and when your god has burned all their flesh from their bones, he’ll put it back so he can burn it off again.

[26TH 44] "It began with the murder of three young Americans in Chapel Hill in North Carolina, apparently because of their Muslim faith"

No, it wasn’t "apparently because of their Muslim faith". It was because of a parking dispute. America is awash with guns. A man with anger issues and in possession of a gun easily obtained loses it and kills three of those he was having the parking dispute with... who happened to be Muslim.

Using this crime to make your disingenuous point that, somehow, we are all as bad as each other, is just so wrong in so many ways.

.... you’re not doing yourself, or your cause, any good with this false equivalence. It makes it seem that you are so desperate to find anything – anything – that shows, ‘We can’t be that bad, ‘cause look, the other lot are doing bad stuff too!’, that you are willing to lie to ‘prove’ it. Quite despicable.

[27TH 44] “The media’s portrayal of Muslims is hugely negative...”

Please explain exactly how the media could report on beheadings, bombings and shootings (carried out by Muslims) in a "positive" light.

[28TH 43] “The media’s portrayal of Muslims is hugely negative and inconsistent”
You can’t blame the media, it’s only reporting what’s going on.

"We must stamp out hatred wherever we see it"

Does this include within your chosen ideology as well?

[29TH 42] I think that your philosophy of human existence is bollocks. I disagree with it radically and fundamentally. I find the repression and violence inherent in it’s ideas expounded by this philosophy repugnant.

I find the expectation that these ideas are to be treated with respect laughable.

[30TH 40] … the old "Islam means peace" nonsense does not work any more nor does the old excuse about how so many people sadly misunderstand the peaceful verses of the Koran. …. It is time to tell the truth about Islam ….

[31ST 39] We’re to take advice on tolerance from the Muslim Council of Britain now? …. well done to "world’s leading liberal voice" for giving this …. crank column space. What’s next – a series of lectures on community cohesion from Nick Griffin?

[32ND 37] I find this article is both patronising and insulting. The anecdotes of minor and isolated attacks on Islamic buildings does not sit equally with barbaric beheadings, slavery and rape.

Islam, like other religions should not be protected from direct criticism or promoted in schools. The use of the word Islamophobia implies irrational fear of Islam. It isn’t irrational fear that motivates many but contempt.

[33RD 36] "The actions of a few do not speak for the beliefs of the many."

I’m sorry, but you’re making the same mistake committed by the author of the piece and various religious apologists since the Hebdo attacks. I am not interested in the "look at the many not the few" type of argument[s]; I am focusing on the religion, the ideology.

That being the case the fact that it is intolerant, bigoted, reactionary and violent highlights how incompatible it currently is with western values. The MCB may denounce the acts of violence, but do they condemn the text from which the violence is inspired?

Of course not.

[34TH 33] Things will only get worse if people continue to deny that these attacks have anything to do with Islam. Look we know that people like the Copenhagen killer are not representative of most Muslims, and we know that most Muslims are peaceful, ordinary people, but to say that these attacks by extremist Muslims have nothing to do with their religion is intellectually ludicrous. [Guardian Cif] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/feb/16/stamp-out-hatred-killings-copenhagen-chapel-hill

February 15, 2015

Our response to the Copenhagen attacks will define us

…. But there are also other obligations to be laid upon those who wish to live in peaceful, reasonably harmonious societies. Even after Paris, even after Denmark, we must guard against the understandable temptation to be provocative in the publication of these cartoons if the sole objective is to establish that we can do so. With rights to free speech come responsibilities.
That seems to me the moral approach, but there is a practical issue here too. There is no negotiating with men with guns. If progress is to come, it will be via dialogue with the millions of faithful Muslims who would never think to murder but also abhor publication of these cartoons.

We cannot have that conversation in a time and spirit of provocation. And to have it would not be an act of weakness. The strong approach is not necessarily to do what is possible, but to do what is right. [Hugh Muir, 2,321 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 510 votes] Already we have useful idiots questioning whether it is ‘helpful’ or ‘necessary’ to depict images of Mohammed.

It starts with self-censorship regarding so-called ‘blasphemy’. Then we stop feeding school children pork in case it causes offence under the pretext that it is too costly to make separate provisions for those who find pork ‘offensive’.

Soon we’ll be telling people not to consume alcohol in public, or dress ‘appropriately’ – so as to not cause offence, natch....

Thus we slowly appease and accept the Islamists agenda.

We need to make a stand for our hard and long-earn freedoms and liberties and state that those who do not accept our society are free to go elsewhere.

[ANOTHER 470] Hughie, hughie what another masterclass in sophistry. Even though you are mixed race and born in Britain, your hatred for the west is so much you can write over 500 words of hand wringing.

To do the right thing, is to say out loud that: Islam is the problem. They need to reform asap and people like you need to stop screaming racism/Islamophobia.

[ANOTHER 356] .... We do need a dialogue with mainstream Muslims but we also need to be brutally honest about the reason for these atrocities. Until we can say "Islam" and "has a problem" in the same sentence without being criticised as racists or bigots, then our heads will be well and firmly in the sand.

[ANOTHER 348] I am so sick of those who pretend to be liberals saying they are pro free speech, but......

If this idiocy hadn’t been encouraged in 1989 by allowing islamofacists to riot and incite the murder of an author, we wouldn’t be trying to put the genie back in the bottle now.

[ANOTHER 311] Hugh and his like are Cultural Marxists, Islam will forever be seen as the victim and as such free of blame and responsibility. This attitude is naïve and dangerous. [Guardian Cif] Read more
http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/feb/15/copenhagen-attacks-free-speech

February 6, 2015

**British politics has laid the ground for Pegida**

A British chapter of the German far-right movement Pegida, which held a 25,000-strong rally against the "Islamisation of Europe" in Dresden last month, is planning to demonstrate in Newcastle on 28 February, with similar events potentially to follow in Birmingham and London. It is another sign of the frightening degeneration of political debate in Britain on the subjects of immigration and Islam, blame for which extends right across Westminster and Fleet Street. [873 comments]
"Given the fact that most EDL/Pegida activists "way of life" involves football hooliganism, drunken brawling in town centres every weekend, urinating in public and generally creating an aggressively hostile atmosphere of macho bullshit, I think I would much rather muslims didn’t adapt to their way of life."

You seem to know a lot about PEGIDA. Been on any of their marches? Whenever I see interviews from Germany they seem to be overwhelmingly middle class.

So you prefer homophobia, misogyny, severe punishments for apostasy and adultery, to urinating in public? Be careful what you wish for.

"Are not Pegida and the EDL not mirror images of the radical "Islamists"?"

Until supporters of either start beheading people in broad daylight, blowing up tube trains or massacring cartoonists I’ll carry on suspecting that this newspaper’s fascination with them is simply a means of avoiding the issue of radical Islam.

"It is another sign of the frightening degeneration of political debate in Britain on the subjects of immigration and Islam, blame for which extends right across Westminster and Fleet Street."

The author seems to think that Westminster and Fleet Street are leading the public. But if you look at polls on the British public’s attitude to Islam and immigration, it seems more likely it’s the other way round. ....

"Farage warned that there are people living in Britain from other cultures who "hate us" and represent a "fifth column", an irresponsible piece of demagoguery"

Irresponsible demagogy, or simple observation of facts on the ground?

Any rise in organisations like Pegida is as a direct result of the attempts by the liberal Left to suppress any criticism of multiculturalism and their attempts to deny a platform to anyone questions them.

... There never was a serious measured political debate about immigration and Islam .... Multikulti orthodoxy and toxic accusations of racism saw to that, partly as Labour sought to "rub our noses in it" but the Tories weren’t much better. Legitimate concerns were allowed to fester and sure enough some unsavoury things started to crawl out from under the stones to fill the vacuum; and for this the blame does indeed extend right across Westminster and Fleet Street. [Guardian Cif] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/feb/06/pegida-newcastle-rally-british-politics-far-right
2.1 The Guardian Regarding the Paris Attacks

December 1, 2015

**As a Muslim woman I was never fearful in Britain. But today I’m afraid**

.... I have never in my life been as aware of my Muslimness as I am now. I have never been fearful. I have lived in Britain all my life and it is my home and I love it, but now I am frightened of things that only a short time ago would have caused me no discomfort at all.

I roam around London, my home city, in a constant state of high alert; hyper-aware of a look or a person walking behind me. I have been wearing the hijab for 20 years and it has never hindered me. But in the past few days I have, for the first time, had fleeting thoughts about taking it off. I have no intention of doing it, but that's what things have come to. My visibility puts me at risk, and a small part of me thinks that the only way to survive is to deny that I'm Muslim.

.... You cannot fully understand unless it is your reality too. You cannot understand the helplessness and the rage I feel when I hear my bright, sensitive, gentle 11-year-old nephew has had to deflect racist and Islamophobic comments from his ignorant schoolmates.

I am terrified for the world my sister’s children are going to have to live in; for all those at the mercy of people who spread hate and promote aggression. I wish that Isis were the only enemy in that regard. Sadly, Isis is simply the tip of the iceberg, which is showing no sign of shrinking. [1511 comments]

**[TOP RATED COMMENT 903 votes]** We are all still waiting for this "terrible backlash" against Muslims, that we are all told that is inevitable due to our inherent Islamophobia. Been waiting for years.

Basically, most people are too intelligent to blame the majority for the actions of the minority, despite the apparent hope that we aren't.

Globally, Muslims have more to fear from other Muslims than from non-Muslims. In the UK, they are probably as safe as they are anywhere in the world.

**[2ND 718]** "I am terrified or the world my sister’s children are going to have to live in".

Well you could certainly refer this sentence to Saudi Arabia who at present are beheading and torturing women; you could, of course, transfer this to the caliphate, who rape children, behead innocent yazidis, shia, homosexuals, destroy ancient worlds and massacre people lying on a beach or watching a concert or having a meal, or writing a magazine article – Britain, certainly where I live, has bent over backwards regarding challenging racism at all levls and creating a multi cultural and vibrantly inclusive society – obviously including the traditions of this paper and your ability to critique the society you live in so freely – sometimes, it takes two people to form a dialogue – try it, you can, it’s a free country.

**[3RD 687]** ANOTHER COMMENT SAID: "There has been a 300% increase in reported Islamophobic attacks."

Mostly involving nasty name calling online. Hardly Krystallnacht.
"Actually, I’m a liberal, secular Shia, I wear the hijab"

Your meaning of secular differs from mine!

I’m sorry, but I’m not having this at all.

The ‘backlash’ against Muslims has been virtually non-existent, I read somewhere that nationwide there were 115 reported incidents of ‘islamophobia’ in the week after the Paris attacks (that 115 includes things like shouting) – less than one reported incident of ‘islamophobia’ for each person murdered in Paris.

The UK is astoundingly tolerant and you’re phenomenally lucky to live in such a society – how dare you paint it in such a negative light.

The UK is genuinely one of the most open places in the world.

It’s not perfect, nowhere is. But it’s a far cry from "hell".

Doesn’t sound like much of a "terrible backlash" to me.

I don’t understand. Over a period of 16 years, you’ve had two people insult you and despite working with people who have mental health issues, nobody has ever given you any trouble at work. In what way are you going through hell every day because you are a Muslim?

"Then I detest myself for hoping that, but I know if they do claim to be Muslim, the backlash will be terrible. It frightens me...."

"But I have never, aside from one incident where a man called me "fucking scum" and then left me alone, had any trouble. I mean, I think a boy on the bus called me "clothhead" circa 1999, but we can hardly count that."

I am pleased that your fear has no rational foundation, and hope that it stays that way.

ANOTHER COMMENT SAID: "Basically, most people are too intelligent to blame the majority for the actions of the minority, despite the apparent hope that we aren’t."

Indeed, as Douglas Murray observed, when it comes to bigotry, a lot of left-liberal types have a terrible demand and supply problem. They desperately NEED violent, ignorant xenophobes to heroically oppose and define themselves against, but the greater mass of tolerant, commonsensical middle and working class people stubbornly refuse to play the role. [Guardian Cif] Read more

http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/dec/01/muslim-woman-britain-paris-attacks

November 25, 2015

Islamophobia plays right into the hands of Isis

.... We do know that 115 anti-Muslim attacks were reported in the seven days after the Paris atrocity – a threefold increase. As with the optician, the victims tended to be women, singled out because they were wearing hijabs.

In Fife, a man and a woman were violently assaulted by more than a dozen people outside their takeaway shop, their assailants berating them over the Paris atrocities. In a more heartening incident, passengers turned on a bigot yelling abuse at a 23-year-old Muslim woman on a train in Newcastle.
These are not just terrible examples of bigotry, of hatred directed at people having the audacity to get on with their lives. Those responsible are not just bigots, but recruiting sergeants for Islamic State. When Isis executes its attacks, it has a script. It knows that Muslims will be blamed en masse in the aftermath. One of its key aims, after all, is to separate western societies and their Muslim communities: if Muslims are left feeling rejected, besieged and hated, Isis believes, then the recruitment potential will only multiply. [Owen Jones, 1232 comments]

**TOP RATED COMMENT 505 votes** Islam is a set of ideas. Ideas are not protected from criticism in this society.

**2ND 342** Shia Iran has just sentenced two poets to 11 years imprisonment and 99 lashes for ‘shaking hands with the opposite sex’.

Sunni Arabia has just sentenced a poet to death for writing ‘atheistic poems’.

This is Islam in 2015

**3RD 340** exactly

"Islamophobia" is a lazy term and is hurting the argument

Always be free to criticise ideas

**4TH 317** Ignorant hand wringing liberals like Owen who blame everything on the west and ignore all the hatred, bigotry and backwardness of islam play into the hands of isis.

**5TH 315** ANOTHER COMMENT SAID: ".... then criticise the ideas of islam by all means, but don't throw abuse at muslims."

That’s not going to work when they all take criticism of Islam as a personal attack on their collective. The offended turn criticism of Islam into abuse.

**6TH 290** The answer is for a group of muslims Christians Jews and Yazidis lead by Owen to make a visit to Mecca and preach multifaith peace and love to all in the Middle East.

**7TH 283** Daesh atrocities play right into the hands of daft fuckers looking to blame Western values.

**8TH 282** Islamophobia is a ridiculous word.

If you mean anti-muslim then use that term. Islamophobia is an attempt to conflate criticism of Islam with racist bigotry.

**9TH 278** "What needs emphasising is the distance that exists between Isis and the quarter of the world’s population that is Muslim"

What also needs emphasising is the distance that exists between Muslims and liberal, secular democracy respecting the rights of women, other faiths and atheists, LGBT etc. [Guardian Cif] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/nov/25/islamophobia-isis-muslim-islamic-state-paris

November 24, 2015

**Why it’s wrong to demand that Muslims condemn Isis**
There is an insistent call for Muslims to condemn Isis. (I’ll come back to that groupist
description in a moment).

The Sun’s leading article a week ago (17 November) began: "Here is a simple way for
Muslims to denounce the monsters of IS: march through London in massive numbers
with placards saying ‘not in our name.’"

It argued that Muslims had "done too little in public to express solidarity with the victims
in Paris and the civilised, tolerant democracies in which they live and which IS want to
destroy."

A day later, the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) took out an advert in the national press,
backed by 300 affiliate organisations, which "unreservedly" condemned the Paris
attacks. [1358 comments]

**TOP RATED COMMENT 186 votes** Remarkably daft. The Guardian sometimes gives
space to some utterly stupid ideas.

Absolutely EVERYBODY should condemn ISIS. Why on earth leave Muslims out if it!

**2ND 161** Not too long ago I read an article on this site in which a number of British
Muslims were interviewed. One, Jack Khan, said something which stuck in my mind.

"Until the west apologises for making a mess of the Middle East, don’t expect Muslims to
apologise for jihadists".

I found that worrying.

**3RD 108** Typical lefty apologia. All members of our community will want to condemn
the Paris attacks, muslims are not exempt form this given that they are part of our
community. In addition the attackers claim their muslim faith as the source of legitimacy
for their attacks. These folk can and do hide in muslim predominant communities across
Europe. Therefore, this faith group has a particular responsibility to speak out.

**4TH 99** The Guardian has no problem printing articles that insist that white people
condemn white people, and people in the West condemning the West.

Usually under the disguise of "call out" but the message that those who don’t join in the
call outs are on the wrong side is quite clear.

**5TH 81** You can’t force Muslims to condemn ISIL, but it would help to see Muslims
explain why the violence in the Koran used by these extremists to justify their actions is
wrong, and that these violent verses are simply a reflection of the 7th century and have
no relevance today.

But then Muslims cannot reinterpret the Koran as many believe it is the pure word of
God.... and therein lies the problem.... [The Guardian] [Read more]
http://www.theguardian.com/media/greenslade/2015/nov/24/why-its-wrong-to-demand-that-muslims-condemn-isis

November 24, 2015

**Are Islamist terrorists pious conservatives or drug-taking hedonists?**

Which is the true face of suicidal jihadist terrorists? Are they ultra-conservative, pious
devout Muslims who pray five times a day, eschew music and all contact with the
opposite sex, reject alcohol, cigarettes and drugs of all kind, while trying to be charitable
and forgiving? Or are they hedonistic partygoers who take drugs, frequent strip clubs and are given to sexual promiscuity, both heterosexual and homosexual?

Based on 30 years’ experience as an imam within British Muslim communities, and as a former Islamist who knew and met several people who went on to become convicted terrorists, the simple answer in my view is: both of the above pictures are true, except that all terrorists forget the core Islamic teachings of compassion, forgiveness and humanity that would preclude any act of terrorism.

…. Other young Muslims are so guilt-ridden by hedonistic lifestyles that they will do anything to redeem themselves, thus becoming vulnerable to terrorist recruitment: rather than killing and being killed in a final act of explosive, selfish rage, what is needed is the traditional religious approach of a lifetime of selfless service to others. Stopping the anger and rage of would-be suicidal terrorists, then channelling and transforming it into charitable virtue, is one of the most difficult tasks we face. [Usama Hasan, 727 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 251 votes] "all terrorists forget the core Islamic teachings of compassion, forgiveness and humanity that would preclude any act of terrorism."

But they pay close attention to the other core Islamic teachings of subjugating infidels, waging violent Jihad and treating women as second class citizens. As an Imam, you'll be fully aware that these things are fully justified in Islamic teaching – so why condescend us all?

[2ND 161] They are people who can’t reconcile the supremacist message at the heart of islam with the world they see.

It’s therefore everyone else’s fault that their view of the world doesn’t prevail.

[3RD 124] "Other young Muslims are so guilt-ridden by hedonistic lifestyles that they will do anything to redeem themselves, thus becoming vulnerable to terrorist recruitment: rather than killing and being killed in a final act of explosive, selfish rage, what is needed is the traditional religious approach of a lifetime of selfless service to others"

No, what is needed is to let young people be young people. They're guilt ridden because they've been brainwashed into thinking that a) there’s a God watching you and b) he cares about your sexual habits. The remedy for that is not to become a monk – it’s to live and let live.

[4TH 117] "...except that all terrorists forget the core Islamic teachings of compassion, forgiveness and humanity that would preclude any act of terrorism."

Strange how this forgetfulness only happens to Muslims. You’d think there’d be a proportional number of Christian, Hindu or Buddhist terrorists misunderstanding their religious texts too.

Pity you don’t share with readers how the Islamic teachings of compassion, forgiveness and humanity are meant for Muslims only. So much so that it is widely accepted among Islamic scholars that a Muslim should never wish 'peace' upon greeting a non-Muslim. Mohammed said: "Do not initiate the greeting of salaam to a Jew or a Christian..."
(Narrated by Muslim, 2167).

We non-Muslims are second class people in the world of Islam and always have been.

[Guardian Cif] Read more
http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/nov/24/islamist-terrorists-drug-taking-jihadist
November 23, 2015

**Why the Sun’s ‘jihadi’ poll is dubious – and its headline dangerous**

"1 in 5 Brit Muslims’ sympathy for jihadis" was the irresponsible, dangerous and grossly misleading front-page headline of Monday's edition of the Sun – a tabloid whose circulation is the highest among the national press in the UK. This front page was published on the day we heard that hate crime against Muslims has soared by 300% since the horrific attacks in Paris, according to figures from a report to the government’s working group on anti-Muslim hatred.

Many Muslims across the country are not only sick and tired of scaremongering from our newspapers, but are also worried that such outrageous reporting will further inflame tensions across the country. Either the Sun is being dangerously irresponsible in order to sell papers, or it is intentionally playing dumb. Because any expert will warn of the fallacy of making such misleading inferences from this type of poll.

... We do need a free press, able to report stories without fear, but can such a wilfully negligent and irresponsible front page, in the face of a record rise in hate crime against Muslims, really be acceptable in our society? The answer may not be regulation, but my hope is that it is improved religious literacy and basic decency. [Miqdaad Versi, Muslim Council of Britain, 762 comments]

**[TOP RATED COMMENT 281 votes]** Im sure this is going to be heavily moderated so I will say this.


That is all.

**[2ND 239]** Something about a third supporting the fatwa and the open incitement to murder him in the streets.

**[8TH 175]** In other words a third of young British Muslims feel that religious sponsored murder is OK

And of course they didn’t all independently reach that view. It’s spelled out in the religious texts that every Muslim, to some degree, is required to accept as the ultimate truth.

**[3RD 237]** I hope most people would understand that being Muslim doesn’t automatically equate to being a terrorist. And The Sun are grossly offensive to everyone, not just Muslims.

All that said, there plainly is a connection between the beliefs that all Muslims hold (for one, that the Hadith is a template for how to live) and the beliefs that ISIS have taken to their murderous (but logically consistent) conclusion.

There’s also many polls that suggest a huge number of Muslims are (quietly) offended by a picture of the Prophet. It’s not hard to see the connection between that sentiment, and the actions of the Hebdo killers.

**[4TH 207]** "Regulation may not be the answer, but my hope is that improved religious literacy and basic decency is."
What the flying fuck is "improved religious literacy?" I would prefer if the parables of ancient desert peoples were finally put in the bin quite frankly.

[5TH 206] "thus I consider it unislamic."

So perhaps you should get together with the peaceful majority and start a campaign to change the verses and the Hadith to remove the problem passages?

That's if not your not murdered for 'blasphemy' of course.

[6TH= 190] This poll is far less dubious that the Guardian wants the herd to think. It is however an important that we ask these question and find the truth, even if it hurts some very delicate sensibilities i.e. the Guardian.

However lets be honest the reason anyone is decrying this poll is because the want to stifle debate.

[6TH= 190] You can’t help but wonder if The Sun wrote the headline first then looked round for some evidence. However there are some worrying issues. A report Living Apart Together by Munira Mirza, Abi Senthilkumaran and Zein Ja'far found that 36% of 16 to 24-year-old British Muslims believe if a Muslim converts to another religion they should be punished by death, compared with 19% of over-55s. In other words a third of young British Muslims feel that religious sponsored murder is OK. I find that shocking and totally unacceptable.

[9TH 164] Only the other day in the Guardian was a statistic in an article pointing out that 28% of muslims want sharia law in this country. That alone sort of supports this poll. While sympathy isn’t active physical support, it does provide more support.

[10TH 135] Quran (8:12) – "I will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve. Therefore strike off their heads and strike off every fingertip of them"

What does this instruction mean?

The fact that anyone allows themselves to be dictated to by this nonsense is worrying in itself.

Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities

[11TH 125] The polls are not technically incorrect though are they.

If 20% have 'sympathy' for the terrorists motives and feelings, then they should be fucking ashamed of that.

[12TH 115] Interestingly the more I read of the Koran (I assume this is what is meant by improved religious literacy) the more worrying I find it. Religious education, if carried out properly and not just used as a tool for indoctrination more often than not leads to condemnation of religion.

I’m not sure what profound revelations the author is hoping we’ll find in this endeavor.

[13TH 104] Guardian readers shell shocked, reeling and in total disarray after Paris…. multicultural model failing before their eyes … none of the old, trusted liberal paradigms make sense. What to do?

…..Obvious, really! Attack the Sun! [Guardian Cif] Read more
November 17, 2015

The Guardian view on defeating Isis: winning hearts and minds

Like all jihadi terror movements, Isis seeks to foment division, to sort the world into supporters and the rest. This is a violent campaign of disruption intended to destroy multiculturalism wherever it exists. With fear and terror Isis intends to sow mistrust and hatred between communities.

.... To call Islam "a religion of peace" can appear to be a crude attempt to manipulate both audiences at once. Similarly, the attempt to preach "British values": schools should of course teach tolerance and open-mindedness, but this is done by example and by culture, not with slogans. And the people to show that Islam can enrich British values are Muslims themselves, in their ordinary lives.

They won't do so because they are hectored to but because they identify the peace and charity that they actually practise both with Britain and with Islam. Without compromising core values of human rights and equality, there needs to be a better-recognised space for faith communities in secular society. This year, a handful of primary schools in east London banned fasting during Ramadan, inappropriate and unnecessary since young children are not expected to fast.

Finally, most problematic is the need to recognise that some foreign policy decisions – whether of omission or commission – shape Muslim opinion. That does not necessarily mean making different decisions, but it does mean greater awareness. It means recognising that the best weapon against the jihadis, the one they fear the most, is solidarity. [299 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 192 votes] More of the usual about Muslim feelings of alienation and lack of inclusion.

Why don't the Sikh, Hindu or Chinese communities in the West complain about underachievement at schools, lack of jobs, or not having a voice in government?

Why do we not have to deal with such extremism in those communities?

Pigheaded western policies in the Muslim world make the problem much worse than it would otherwise be, but that doesn't distract from the fact that there is currently an extreme rot eating away at the heart of Islam itself.

Perhaps part of the solution would be to recognize the cancer emanating from Saudi Arabia, and start treating that vile nation as the horror that it is?

[2ND 161] "fomenting division"

And the biggest part of that is religion. Yet faith schools are not only allowed, but positively welcomed.

Weirdly enough, I remember when there was some effort to get all kids in Northern Ireland to at least go to the same schools as one another, regardless of sect.

So, how about rule 1: NO religious education in ANY school? ALL kids, regardless of religion of their parents, to go to a state, secular school?
"But it also means recognising that Muslim communities are both the poorest and the least participant in public life."

But I thought Jaywick near Clacton was the most deprived area in the UK; and there are certainly ex-mining towns in the Welsh valleys that I know of that are poor and deprived with very little participation in public life.

'Too often to be a Muslim means underachievement at school, difficulty in finding a job, a struggle for promotion…’

And I thought it was white boys that were lagging behind in school these days.

Think again, Guardian.

We are so bad in the west towards Muslim youth that we force them to go to Syria where they glorify in the killing of their fellow Muslims and raping Yazidi children. Where they seek to destroy cultures and ethnic groups that have been in existence for thousands of years.

Total liberal lefty crap.

Would the Guardian write a similar editorial about the Waffen SS? On second thoughts they probably would.

Wow – just when you thought the Guardian’s obsession with identity politics couldn’t make it get things more wrong regarding radical Islam, along comes this article.

To highlight one of its many, many failings: calling for a greater emphasis on faith communities?? Just incredible...

No surprise that the guardians solution to terrorism is more multi culturalism and more refugees.

I love different cultures and races but even the bloody Germans admit that multi-culturalism has been a massive failure that has caused massive problems (not least the ones in Paris).

This spits in the face of Guardian orthodoxy but the most disadvantaged people in this country are poor, white and male. (you will never hear anything from the Guardian about concern for them).

If this is about disaffected youth why are the poor white people not opening up on night clubs with automatic weapons?

If this is about cultural differences why are there no Polish / Sikh / Hindu terrorists in the UK?

The problem is medieval religions and the f**ked up beliefs and people that it attracts.

We can start by eliminating state supported faith schools.

You are talking to the wrong audience, Guardian.

You ought to have been shouting about solidarity in mosques, in madrassas, in Muslim community centres from decades ago.
Instead you chose to promote multiculturalism. All that has done has given (some) Muslims the perfect excuse to back away from wider society, to self-segregate.

And look what the result has been. Mini versions of the cultures they left behind.

Could things have gone any more wrong?

[A well meaning article. Unfortunately misguided and contradictory.]

Premise of the author – Muslims feel disenfranchised because they underachieve school and subsequently the job market.

Apart from contradicting this papers view that we should welcome Islamic immigration (why would you want underachievers even if their culture didn’t promote mysogyny, homophobia and the values of a 7th century warlord) it actually reinforces the view that Islamic culture is not compatible with learning and economic advancement ( unlike that of other "alien" cultures like Chinese, Hindus, Sikhs or even Africans.

If it were just underachievement at school and in the workplace Muslims would be like Roma.

At worst an inconvenience, and at best a worthy cause to transform into functioning Europeans.

[Typical guardian tripe. Stating primary schools banning fasting was unnecessary as children aren't expected to fast. Its exactly because muslims were forcing their children to fast that schools banned it. Probably the same 25% of families who sympatheise with the charlie hebo attacks. [Guardian Cif] Read more
http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/nov/17/the-guardian-view-on-defeating-isis-winning-hearts-and-minds

November 15, 2015

Mindless terrorists? The truth about Isis is much worse

It’s "the first of the storm", says Islamic State. And little wonder. For the chaotic scenes on the streets of Paris and the fearful reaction those attacks provoked are precisely what Isis planned and prayed for. The greater the reaction against Muslims in Europe and the deeper the west becomes involved in military action in the Middle East, the happier Isis leaders will be. Because this is about the organisation’s key strategy: finding, creating and managing chaos.

…. It conscientiously exploits the disheartening dynamic between the rise of radical Islamism and the revival of the xenophobic ethno-nationalist movements that are beginning to seriously undermine the middle class – the mainstay of stability and democracy – in Europe in ways reminiscent of the hatchet job that the communists and fascists did on European democracy in the 1920s and 30s. [2648 comments]

[It’s absurd to carry on insisting that all this has nothing to do with the ‘religion of peace’. And it’s condescending in the extreme to behave as if any acknowledgment of this will unleash some sort of Fourth Reich in Europe – it won’t.]
It’s possible to distinguish between people (who deserve respect) and their ideas (which don’t). No one, of any religion or none, should be afraid to walk the streets of Europe. But it’s not ‘far-right fear-mongering’ to point out that Islam is diametrically opposed to every value that defines us, even when it’s not being used to actively harm us.

This weekend the Guardian ran a piece called “Terrorism has come about in assimilationist France and also in multicultural Britain. Why is that?” – this sort of wilfully inane questioning has gone on far too long. We all know why, and it’s not about our policies.

[2ND 415] The problem is that silent majorities are irrelevant when there is a motivated violent minority. Hitler’s Germany, Stalinist Russia, Maoist China, Cambodia under Pol Pot. What do they have in common? The violent minorities prospered, and the silent majority (who just want to be left alone) suffer and are slaughtered.

If just 10% of Muslims believe in what Isis are doing, then in the UK alone that is 200,000 people. An army.

And there is a severe problem with Islam, and it is not being debated (nor is it allowed on the news). Today I saw on the BBC the idea brought up the fact that the main problem is that these jihadists are not heretics. They are not some weird offshoot of Islam. They are the simple logical extreme of what is already an extreme religion.

They are not some freakish minority. And he was shut down and talked over straight away and the conversation moved on without it being revisited. We must be honest and face facts that Isis and jihadists are not uncommon with Islam as a harder reading of the Quran, allied with politics, logically ends in these extreme beliefs. And you will not see that debated anywhere.

[3RD 197] We in the west need to abolish all faith schools. Children need to be taught together and taught all religions along with, and most importantly, not believing in anything and being secular. Children are indoctrinated by parents and by these schools but if they had their eyes opened, some would realise there is a choice in how you live and think.

As long as we continue to segregate children according to their religion there will never be any attempt at integration and harmony amongst those that live in the west.

[Guardian Cif] Read more
http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/nov/15/terrorists-isis

November 15, 2015

Paris attacks: This is a war of ideas

….. Some will also call for a combined operation in the Middle East – a debatable option in itself, but a fantasy in any case today, since none of our allies and friends in the region would be ready to follow at this point.

Others, on the contrary, will call for soul-searching and revisiting our policies in the Middle East. The choices made by France in the past decade were clear: build on traditional ties with Saudi Arabia, support state-building in Lebanon, break with the Assad regime, continue to beware of Iran.

It is a legitimate policy. It is not about choosing the Sunni versus the Shia world: the old secular country that Voltaire embodies does not care about such religion-based affinities. It’s about recognising that the old order in the Middle East is gone for good, that the Syrian and Iranian governments have been more trouble-makers than stability-builders,
and that Damascus as well as Baghdad – and Tehran – had a role in the rise of Isis over the past two years.

But the military component of the fight is only part of the picture. The war will be won at home. It is a war of ideas, which will get uglier in the coming weeks and months: this time Marine Le Pen may be better placed to capitalise on the current events than she was after the January attacks. The French government cannot ask every foreigner, every member of a minority, to be a Voltaire. But there is still a chance to save our model of integration and to be faithful to his ideals of tolerance and freedom. [1210 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 355 votes] "The French government cannot ask every foreigner, every member of a minority, to be a Voltaire"

Yes it can, and it damn’ well should. Everyone should be told that if they want their voices to be heard so they must let others speak, even if they don’t like the message, and that violence is not acceptable, will be met with state violence and WILL be stopped. And if they don’t like it, they can go and live in a country more in tune with their 7th century ideals – nobody is stopping them.

[3ND 290] Spot on. We live in a country where women are treated as equals, we have freedom of speech, we have gay marriage and we can worship/or not as we please and this is something to be proud of. Personally I’d get rid of single faith schools so that muslim kids have to mix with kids of other faiths/beliefs.

[4TH 253] "Personally I’d get rid of single faith schools so that muslim kids have to mix with kids of other faiths/beliefs."

We live in a secular country – Britain is one of the least religious nations in the world, and I’d like to keep it that way.

I have no problem with religious education, but I do think religious instruction including acts of worship of whatever creed should be strictly prohibited in schools. I also think religious organisations should be prohibited from owning, running, funding or in any way and to any extent, however small, managing schools. Religion should have precisely zero influence over education.

[6TH 239] "Paris attacks: This is a war of ideas"

Agreed, I’d also insert values into the above. What we have here is a bunch of religious bigots who feel that that they are right and everybody else is wrong and are willing to show everybody the error of their ways by the bullet and the bomb rather than the ballot box.

[5TH 248] And no shortage of gullible westerners ready to make excuses for them.

November 14, 2015

Parisians had got used to the ‘new normal’, but this is an attack on a terrifying scale

.... Many people will ask questions about failures in intelligence gathering and sharing, about prevention of such acts and they will be right. However, when the danger is so diffuse, no democracy that values freedom of speech and movement is completely safe.
For 35 years now, French governments, one after the other, have weakened the foundation of the République by allowing the rise of communitarianism. The extreme right is increasing its electoral hold, and so is antisemitism among young French Muslims.

I am not optimistic. At best, it will probably take a generation, perhaps two, to weave back together the fabric of society that has been shred to pieces on Friday night. What France needs is lucidity and courage. At worst? I don’t want to think about it.  

[Top Rated Comment 571 votes] Maybe the Guardian wasn’t aware of the depth of the threat but the majority of Europe was.

Time for Europe to remember its core values. Time to take a stand for secularism. No more symbolic gestures or sharing of hashtags. Actual measures to get these bastards. And to root out the sympathisers in their communities. Europe needs to think strategically about what sort of society it wants in 50 years. The way it is going these fucking bastards will win.

And no more apologist articles Guardian. No more "fears of a backlash" bullshit. Remember the value set upon which this newspaper was founded. The communities who spawned these motherfuckers are the enemy of those values.

[2nd 473] Vive la France! The world stands with you.

[3rd 463] "the nature of a terror we have come to live with: radical Islam"

...yes. And of course, any criticism of this religion is dismissed as Islamaphobic.

The developed world is almost at that point...let’s not be dragged back to feudal times because of idiotic beliefs...and let’s stop being tolerant of idiotic beliefs...why should we respect and indulge them ? If you want to follow them, fine, but if they are the most important thing in your life, go and live in a theocracy – there are many of them; don’t try and turn a developed country into one, please.

[5th 460] 183 This is awful. My feelings are towards France.

I sincerely hope millions of muslims take to the streets of Europe in agreement with your post.

But I won’t hold my breath.

[6th 389] If this doesn't make masses of muslims marching in the street with not in our name signs then I dont know what will.

[108] Religious belief doesn't work that way and to march concedes an association.

Average Muslims see no connection to these fanatics.

[259] Not quite, normally when asked the response "well yes it’s bad but ...

[7th 371] Unlikely, Muslims have their own silent majority, their silence is their way of agreeing with these actions.

Wonder if any of these can be tracked back through these porous European borders and to Mutti Merkel stupid actions. Schengen surely is dead now.
"Such hatred toward innocent people is impossible to understand."

Not if you read the scriptures inspiring this.

It's the failure of the multiculturalism experiment.

The simple problem is that "normal" islam supports "radical" islam.

There are few who break faith with those amongst them who plan these attacks. Few who value their country and the lives of their fellow man over the violent jihadis in their midst.

While this curtain of secrecy, of protection of the evildoers exists, all muslims are suspect.

Terrorism is the art of fear, using the ability to hide amongst the innocent, to be a warrior against the defenceless, and a wolf in sheep’s clothing when faced with any threat.

It cannot be defeated without also targetting those who give it camouflage, aid and assistance.

It relies on us not having the guts to make the hard decisions to peel back that aid.

Can we, through our western ways, fight it on the scale which it needs be fought? [The Guardian] Read more

http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/14/parisians-had-got-used-to-the-new-normal-but-this-is-an-attack-on-a-terrifying-scale
3.0 The Independent, The Huffington Post

UK

November 17, 2015

Paris attacks: The integration of immigrants through education is paramount

.... In these dark days following Friday’s attack it is hard to start examining how such brutal atrocities could take place at the hands of French citizens. There can surely be no simple answer. Yet for those with knowledge of the banlieues, the OECD’s data will add fuel to the notion that communities in some French cities are horribly fractured, tempting hopeless men to a life of religious extremism.

Efforts here to encourage integration might offer lessons to the French government in the years ahead. But it is vital, too, that political leaders in the UK remain committed to policies that promote cohesion. This week we may all be French, but next week we will all be British again. It is vital that everyone living in this country feels like they belong.

[TOP RATED COMMENT] Written as someone who has never taken a bus up the Edgware road and looked out of the window.

Muslims don’t integrate. It wouldn’t matter if we threw a street party for them every bloody weekend – they still wouldn’t come.

What a tasteless article coming so soon after the slaughter of so many innocents in Paris. It’s always the fault of the countries who welcomed these people, gave them opportunities they did not have in their own countries and which other immigrants have grabbed with open arms and made better lives for themselves.

It’s never the fault of the insular, supremacist religio-tribal ideology that frowns on mixing with the infidels and taking up their ways that throws up a maladjusted generation who are then convinced that their short-comings are because of discrimination by the larger society and indulge in the kind of slaughter and mayhem that is unfathomable to everyone else. Give it a break.

[ANOTHER] Good luck with that one – these people (Islamists) don’t do integration – it against their religion – the Indy’s editorial staff need to read the Qur’an! It’s insufficient to accept Imams and Clerics quoting certain verses of their Book to paint Islamists in a favourable light – when there are 109 verses calling for the destruction of the very people you propose they integrate with?

[ANOTHER] ‘The integration of immigrants through education is paramount’. Trouble is that many UK universities are a hot bed for radicalisation. The ‘academic left’ has an awful lot to answer for.

[ANOTHER] You mean like the thoroughly integrated and educated Bilal Abdullah, British born, qualified doctor and still he attempted to kill and maim when he rammed Glasgow airport.

Sorry but the one thing that links these attacks is not the attackers education, wealth or social position.

It is their faith which glorifies violence.
The other is Anjem Choudary – a fully qualified lawyer minted from the English legal institution and anow a radical Islamic preacher of dissent.

No, how successful has integration of the last 30 years been?

It's foolish to ignore cultural faultlines and be taken by politicians that speak for votes. You need to have tough enforceable laws to deal with deviants in society which would include removal and deportation.

Ban all Deobandi and Salafist Madrassas and mosques. Islamic fundamentalism has no place in our society. [The Independent] Read more http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/paris-attacks-the-integration-of-immigrants-through-education-is-paramount-a6738591.html

November 1, 2015

**The Prophet Mohammed had British values – so the only way to combat extremism is to teach more Islam in schools**

Only then can young people be led to understand that groups like Isis use their religion as an excuse – rather than a guide – to justify their barbaric actions.

If the last Prophet of Islam, Mohammed was to return to this earth today, what would he make of those who have misconstrued his teachings? This is the question that could begin deconstructing extremism and winning people back who have been tempted into violent interpretations of their faith. Simply put, the way to combat Islamic extremism is to invest in teaching Islamic theology in British schools: teaching that proves the Prophet Mohammed would never have condoned their actions.

Many reading this will find it difficult to stomach, but the Prophet Mohammed had what we also call "British values".

Either the author is lying to himself, or he’s lying to us. Whichever one it is, it’s a lie!

Muslims can certainly teach us how to treat migrants. Remind us how many Syrian migrants have been accepted by Saudi Arabia, please, compared to doomed Germany.

Honestly, is this a joke? Our schools have been steadily phasing out the indoctrination of our children from the ridiculous fear inducing fairy tales of our ancestors and now you want our schools to teach the divisional, rotten, violent fables of your ancestors?

Why don’t you just stop contributing to the corruption of our children’s brains? Moron.

The author is deluded. How can there be an objectively "true" or "false" interpretation of a revealed religion whose acceptance depends on an act of faith? The "Islamic scholars" who she would set to work – no doubt generously subsidised by the taxpayer – would no more enjoy a privileged position to interpret the teachings of Islam than the jihadis and their sympathisers.

And while practising Islam isn’t incompatible with living peacefully in modern Britain, let’s not confuse it with British values – which are inextricably rooted in our national language, culture and customs – and with which it has as little to do as with meaningless
abstractions like "diversity" or "equality", or empty cliches about "fair play" or "common sense".

The subtext of the article is, of course, to get Muslims off the hook when it comes to taking responsibility for the crimes committed by their community. There is a deep-rooted hypocrisy in the responses of many Muslims to criticisms of their attitudes towards Islamist terrorism.

How often have we heard the plea not to "shift responsibility from the individual to the minority", only for the speaker, in the same breath, to embark on all the usual special pleading for more grants, jobs, "respect", positive discrimination, special treatment, etc, for – you guessed it – the "Muslim community"? They seem to be saying: "When you’re talking the language of entitlement, it’s fine to talk about minorities – just leave us out when it comes to the whole responsibility thing". You can’t have it both ways.

Condemning a crime committed by someone else does not entail "taking responsibility" for the criminal act itself, but it does signify one’s shared solidarity with the victims and with the value system embodied by the law; a pointed refusal to condemn a crime, on the other hand, signifies the absence of such solidarity and offers the closet extremist the chance to hide behind evasions (and perhaps the chance to pocket more taxpayer handouts).

The author cautions us against "marginalising Muslims", warning us that: "History teaches us what happens if we further marginalise those who are tempted towards extremism by their own isolation." Some will always be "tempted towards extremism". That’s a fact of life. But most can be (and have already been) persuaded to conform to their host society’s values, even if they don’t completely share them.

This persuasion can either take the form of inducements, such as access to the wealth and opportunities offered by our society; or it can take the form of sanctions, such as restriction of those opportunities to non-conformers, prohibiting or penalising certain forms of Islamic dress, banning extreme Islamic teaching in state or private schools, or taking the children of those with radical Islamist views into care with the likelihood that they will be adopted and raised as non-Muslims. Both methods can be effective. But the failure of multiculturalism in Britain has shown that indiscriminately offering full membership of our society to conforming and non-conforming minority members alike hasn’t worked, and that it’s time for a new approach.

Faced with the alternative of poverty and marginalization, and very real difficulties in living their lives and raising their families according to extreme Islamist values, many will eventually be induced to conform, whereas others will choose to live elsewhere. A few, of course, will remain defiant or "go underground", but their numbers will gradually decline as others are persuaded to make more fortunate choices.

[ANOTHER] "Those values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs that schools are now required to promote are inherently Islamic."

What utter balderdash.

Those are the very values which are categorically opposed by every school of Islamic thought I have heard put forward.

Poll after poll shows that support for sharia round the world among Muslims is around 60% does the writer actually believe it is acceptable to British values?

Of course converting everyone in Western society to Islam is just what they aspire to.
Rational discussion is impossible with people who regard the apocryphal musings of a 6th century desert nomad as inviolable law, and a rigid template for modern life.

Perhaps they'll also start teaching Christianity in Muslim lands: Jesus has far more importance to Muslims (being one of their prophets) than Muhammad has to Western society.

Mohammed? He's the guy that married the 6 year old, right?? You’re insane. Islam has nothing in common with British values and has no place in its schools.

".... the biography of Prophet Muhammad,"

Which is one of the most horrific things you could read! Will there be trauma counselling for kids when they read of the sick perversions and butchery of the Prophet?

ISIS is the way it is because it wants to ‘do Islam’ just like its founder. What better way could there be?

A glance around the world demonstrates that Islamic influence on a nation leads to at best slovenly-run corrupt societies, at worst Sharia hell on earth.

No one gives a toss about Islam and why should they?

This article is illustrated with a picture of a Moslem family, where the woman only is fully veiled with every hair and her face covered. This is an obscenity to a non-Muslim woman—how can this woman function, imprisoned in cloth, unable to feel the sun on her skin or hair, her movements and vision impaired.

This has no place in Britain or any other European country. Nor do I think it is acceptable to put full headcoverings on 5-year old girls. I never read all of the article—it is of course rubbish. I know most Moslems are not this extreme, but they all follow the same culture, and democracy and individual liberty is just what Islam is not about.

Sajda Khan: If you don’t want your kids to be extremist then stop teaching them that other religions are inferior, it’s ok to cheat an unbeliever and stop sending them to Saudi Arabia for ‘religious’ lessons in madrassas. If you were really living in a Muslim country, then your daughter could be sold into virtual slavery on reaching the age of nine and you could do nothing about it.

In an earlier time, the European powers fully understood in taking over the new world. The best way of supplanting the local population was to first replace their own local deities with the one true God. The politically correct social justice warriors in this country don’t yet seem to have gotten the memo. I for one don’t wish to live in a replica of sixth century Baghdad.

Indoctrinating children in any religion is child abuse. The number of people murdered in the name of religion is unforgivable. Less not more and certainly not in schools. [The Independent] Read more http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/the-prophet-mohammad-had-british-values-so-the-only-way-to-combat-extremism-is-to-teach-more-islam-a6717066.html

October 20, 2015

Tommy Robinson tells German anti-Islam protesters refugees are ‘invading Europe’ as Pegida marks anniversary
Tens of thousands of anti-immigration protesters have gathered at a rally in Germany to mark the one-year anniversary of a group dubbed "Nazis in pinstripes".

Tommy Robinson, the founder of far-right group the English Defence League (EDL), addressed the crowds in Dresden.

He was there to support the Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the West (Pegida) – a movement that he called the "salvation of Europe".

Claiming Europe was at a "crossroads" and likening the refugee crisis to the Crusades, Mr Robinson continued: "Angela Merkel seems to be handing out the birth right of German citizens like she is handing out candy to children...this current immigration is an invasion.

"Our borders are being overrun. There is little or no control. A country that cannot control its borders will soon not be a country.

[TOP RATED COMMENT] Please explain why anti-immigration supporters are labelled ‘far-right’ while those who support mass, uncontrolled immigration are not labelled ‘far-left’?

The vast majority are neither ‘far left’ nor ‘far right’ – they are ordinary citizens who may feel sorry for genuine refugees but, given the vast numbers involved, fear the disappearance of their own culture. Polls show they do not support more immigration. I repeat, they do NOT support more immigration.

Do you not know that, increasingly, they are refusing to be demonised and the usual tired old names no longer hurt them?

The terms Nazi, racist and xenophobic are losing their value.

These words are no longer working as a means of closing down debate and making folk feel ashamed. People are speaking out – just see the comments here – or do you not bother to listen to what your readers think? Obviously not.

As is usual, the MSM are way behind public opinion and report the news to suit their own agenda.

That’s OK – but do not make the mistake of thinking that we do not know what you are doing.

We know full well... and it only makes us more determined.

[2ND] And this is happening despite the most outrageous propaganda campaign in favour of the invasion, typified by Indie, Guardian, BBC and its European-wide equivalents. This invasion is being facilitated by arch-Islamist Erdogan, but instead of throwing Turkey out of NATO and designating it a rogue state, mad Mutti Merkel is trying to do a deal, which would make matters even worse.

[3RD] PEGIDA is the acronym for ‘Patriotische Europäer gegen die Islamisierung Abendlandes’; which translated means, ‘Patriotic Europeans against the Islamisation of the West’.

So, this is not just a marginal pressure group, it’s an organisation that represents a view currently spreading throughout Europe. And patriots cannot be simply dismissed as right wing.
Therefore, anyone who supports keeping Europe free of Islam is a member of PEGIDA.

[4TH] How long before they remove the comments section from this article because the majority do not agree with The Indy's political stance?. When is there a rally in G.B?. I will be attending Apathy does nobody any favors

[5TH] I really don’t understand why western governments are welcoming immigrants of vastly alien cultures in large numbers, surely they know that if change is sudden, integration is slower, and the result will be civil unrest.

[6TH] As a country that seems to like referenda to make the decision our progressive politicians are unable to make, how about one on immigrants.

Why not let the country decide?

Do we want hundreds of thousands more Muslim nutters in our midst or not? Simple question. Now let the country decide. You can’t be more democratic than that can you?

[7TH] Tommy Robinson is, and has always been, anti Islamofascist. He has never been "extreme right wing". He left the EDL after it was labelled by the media as being a far right party, which resulted in it becoming one, as it was then overrun by the BNP.

The EU media's position attacking protests against the present tsunami of largely Islamic immigration into Europe is strongly reminiscent of the current Western/Saudi support for "moderate islamist" groups fighting Assad.

If it were not for genuine resistance in Syria from Russia, Iran and the Kurds, this support for militant Islam from the West would very soon result the Islamofascist takeover of the entire middle east, most likely including Saudi Arabia and Turkey. Hardly a recipe for peace.

Also, as you well know "concentration camps" were introduced by the British as a means of temporarily containing suspected enemy sympathisers during wartime. Your use of the term in this article is clearly intended to equate "concentration camp" with "death camp", which is disingenuous and suggests that you are attempting to deceive people into accepting what is effectively a pro fascist agenda.

[8TH] The German politicians condemnation of Pegida will come back to haunt them, keeping public opinion down by calling them nazis and racist, will backfire when those people start voting for right wing parties, when they say, might as well be hung for a wolf as a sheep.

[9TH] Everyone seems to be using the 'R' word these days. Are we really all 'Racists'..? I don’t see why we should be labelled that simply because we disagree with the loony left's policy of uncontrolled immigration from the Third World. We are constantly told to 'keep our mouths shut' by the political establishment, that any word of protest is in fact 'hate speech' and that we have no right to even express an opinion.

Hang on, I thought we used to live in a Democracy?! But when did Angela Merkel consult her own people, when she rammed through this ridiculous policy. If there is a backlash, what on earth does she expect? The public have been treated appallingly, and no doubt will be asked to pay for all this with their hard earned taxes.

So called 'liberals' who want the refugees to come...well why don’t you put your hand in your own pocket, and stop expecting everyone else to pay for something they don’t want! Germany will have an idle, bored generation of angry young men on its hands and
Merkel has messed up monumentally. One day I imagine she will be put on trial, for what she has achieved. [The Independent] Read more

September 9, 2015

Female cartoonist could have 12 year prison term extended for shaking her lawyer's hand

An Iranian artist currently serving more than 12 years in prison for criticising the government now faces further charges of “indecency” for allegedly shaking her male lawyer’s hand.

Amnesty International reports that Atena Farghadani, 29, who was jailed after she depicted Iranian government officials as monkeys and goats in a satirical cartoon, may face a longer sentence amid claims over the handshake.

Charges of an “illegitimate sexual relationship short of adultery” have been brought against Farghadani and her lawyer Mohammad Moghimi amid allegations he visited her in jail and shook her hand – which is illegal in Iran.

[TOP RATED COMMENT] There will never be a civilised society in the Middle East until religious nutters are removed from positions of power. Learn from European history. Religion and power should never go together. It’s so frustrating that hundreds of years after the Enlightenment religious pricks are still in charge in so much of the world.

[2ND] Islam is like something from science fiction.

[3RD] That woman is a heroine, and doing precisely what the world should be doing to combat war and terrorism in the middle east. Western governments and media need to back her up by publishing and spreading the same type of satire and more amongst the middle east. Eventually, there’ll be a sea change, but won’t be easy. It’s the only hope, though, I fear. Invasion is never the answer, if history has taught us anything.

[4TH] And isn’t interesting that apparently no member of our oh-so moderate Muslim community, who, we are assured, share our own democratic values, feels moved or angry enough to register his/her own disgust at this awful miscarriage of justice?

Why not I wonder?

[5TH] Disgusting country run by a bunch of Islamofascist misogynistic bigots.

Why have we resumed diplomatic relations with these bearded animals?

Their human rights record is appalling – they stone so-called adulterers, hang gays and suppress any form of legitimate dissent with torture, rape and murder. They are no better than those equally repulsive regimes of Saudi Arabia or Bahrain.

We should finally take a stand against such despotic Islamic theocracies – Sunni or Shia, and severe all ties. [The Independent] Read more
http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/art/news/female-cartoonist-could-have-12-year-prison-term-extended-for-shaking-her-lawyers-hand-10492837.html

August 19, 2015

London majority-Muslim school scraps sex segregation – despite angry parents’ complaints
The principal of a majority-Muslim school in northeast London has said he will not allow a "militant minority" of parents to derail his plans to abolish gender segregation.

The Crest Academies school was formed by the merger of adjacent two single-sex schools last year, and prior to the arrival of new principal Mohsen Ojja had a "wall of segregation" down the middle of the campus to ensure that boys and girls couldn't interact, even outside the classroom.

The only non-faith, segregated school in Brent, northwest London, it was put under special measures after failing an Ofsted inspection in February 2015 – and Mr Ojja said it was an "easy decision" to work towards better integration of the sexes.

He has announced that, starting this September, classes and common areas will be mixed, the school’s name will be changed to a singular Crest Academy, and each child will get a new school blazer for free which reflects the "rebrand".

But there is a vocal group of parents who are not happy. Hundreds of people have signed a petition urging the school to keep the segregation in place, and said that was more important to them than improving standards.

"The challenge has been to persuade parents that just because we have a Muslim majority now of over 90 per cent, we don't have to be a Muslim school," Mr Ojja told The Independent.

**[EQUAL TOP RATED COMMENT]** Why the holy heck can’t these parents and their progeny live in an Islamic country? If you come to England – live like the English do – drive cars, ride bikes and eat "curry" and blame the weather for everything.

If you want to live like your great grandfather lived in Pakistan / Indian sub continent – pick your bags and go there.

All these are here because of the free NHS and benefits – they also fill all the prisons now.

Do Hindoos do better – OF COURSE !!! Hindoos just bloody blend into society – and my wife drinks and I don’t !!!

**[EQUAL TOP RATED COMMENT]** The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Muslim countries are great to live in...


Why these Muslim parents want to live in our country beats me.

**[3RD]** Just say No! to Islamic apartheid.

**[4TH]** "just because we have a Muslim majority now of over 90 per cent, we don’t have to be a Muslim school"

Interesting comment. So as soon as there is a Muslim-majority, Muslims think that an institution has to become ‘Muslim’?

Presumably this means jettisoning ideas of education and equality, and begin teaching the ‘virtues’ of Arabic supremacy?
[EQUAL 5TH] We all know the religion was founded by a man who consummated a marriage with a 9 year old, , and told his followers to kill any of their number who left their religion – it’s in your haddiths. We also know you hold him up as an example of someone who has lived the perfect life.

With regards to that, can we have some Gary Glitter fan club schools – just so as not to show prejudice against white people who commit similar acts?

[EQUAL 5TH] They clearly have not adjusted to the British way of life and British values. Time to go home. [The Independent] Read more

August 11, 2015

**We need the help of non-violent Muslim extremists against Isis**

... Perhaps fight is the wrong word. What Luton saw was an ambush by a group of Salafists on the local leader of Al-Muhajiroun. Salafists, who make up about 5 per cent of British Muslims, follow a searingly puritan version of Islam.

They seek to return to the way of life at the time of Prophet Mohamed. They hold views – on slavery, for example – that liberal society finds abhorrent. And yet, crucially, they do not support armed struggle, or forcing their religion on others. First comes self-purification. Politics are a distraction.

[TOP RATED COMMENT] At the end of the day Islam is NOT a peaceful religion.... See here

[2ND] *But liberal countries can handle the extremism of a few, without too much bother.*

Oh really? Given that some 29% of Britain’s 4 million Muslims approve of the activities of ISIS and the Hebdo massacre, that is a pretty sizeable "few" – all of whom have the potential to become violent.

And do you really think you can reason with the sort of disgusting psychopaths who "approve" of disembowelling, dismembering or burning people alive, or raping and torturing young Yazidi girls?

I’d suggest they are beyond any sort of redemption and warrant only contempt and Alienation.

[3RD] Islam is not a western religion and you wonder why we cannot get on with Muslims they think they are superior. Shame they are deluded. [The Independent] Read more
http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/we-need-the-help-of-nonviolent-muslim-extremists-against-isis-10450646.html

August 7, 2015

**As a former extremist who knew Anjem Choudary, I fear for the mentality of British Muslims**

Like 33 per cent of British Muslims do, I once supported the idea of a caliphate based upon sharia law. But the debate has now become polarised and poisonous.
Anjem Choudary, Britain’s loudest Islamist extremist, has finally been remanded in custody, charged under section 12 of the Terrorism Act 2000. The charge is related to him sending messages to his 32,000 followers on Facebook, allegedly encouraging people to join Isis. His guilt or innocence is a matter for the courts. What concerns me here is his trajectory.

.... This is how far the Islamic ball has strayed from the democratic court. And when wider society adopts this trope of liberal Muslims being the ‘other extreme’, it shows how low expectations of Muslims have become in the mainstream. How far we all have come since the 90s, and how far we all have to travel – yet – to reach a reasonable centre in this poisonous debate.

**[TOP RATED COMMENT]** I struggled with the uglier aspects of Islam through my youth. As a kid, Islam fascinated me. I read books that most Muslims gloss over or ignore. Bits of it troubled me. Things that Muhammad did, things in the Quran. Islam isn’t for me.

And while I applaud people like Maajid, in the end the fanatics always win because scripture and Muhammad’s biography supports the fanatics’ understanding of Islam. I left Islam, and I never looked back. There’s no fixing this religion. We need to have the courage to say that Islam just cannot fit with modern understandings of morality, rights and decency.

**[2ND]** Polarised and poisonous? Seems pretty simple to me, you either support the notion of a Caliphate or you don’t. If you do support it whilst enjoying the many benefits of a Liberal Democracy you are a hypocrite. It really is that simple.

**[3RD]** Extremism may use bigotry as an excuse but where are the extremist Sikhs, Hindus, Africans who suffered the same?

Where is the bigotry in the middle east where extremism thrives so well and they’re happy to blow up their fellow muslims of the same race, colour and nationality?

Where was the bigotry that incited the Mughals to march into India and murder millions of people who refused to convert to Islam?

Islamic extremism long predates any bigotry towards immigrants in the UK. [*The Independent*](http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/as-a-former-extremist-who-knew-anjem-choudary-i-fear-for-the-mentality-of-british-muslims-10445976.html)  

June 8, 2015

**The five pillars of Islamophobia**

Though violent crimes against Muslims are understandably a key issue for Muslims and the anti-racist movement, it would be a mistake to think that Islamophobia is just a problem of racism by a small minority on the streets, or those on the fringes of politics. In fact it is deeply embedded in our politics and society, and a more serious problem than many writers have recognised. Moreover, while most accounts of Islamophobia suggest that anti-Muslim racism is simply a matter of prejudice, which may have social consequences, it needs to be understood as more than a problem of racist ideas.

Obviously these are a key part of Islamophobia but to be effective such ideas need to be practically developed—to be actively produced, spread and institutionalised in new policies and practices. Anti-Muslim racism is sustained by what we call the ‘five pillars’ of Islamophobia.
Apparently, no one can talk realistically about Islam without being slurred as an Islamophobe. The reality is that Islam is a religion that endorses slavery, child marriage, arranged marriage, incestuous marital unions, divorce laws that are deeply destructive to women's rights, oppressive treatment of other religions and Arab supremacism.

Articles like this are not neutral. By protecting Islam from legitimate criticism, these authors are abetting a religious culture that violates human rights and actively subjugates unique cultures to an aggressive program of Arabization. [openDemocracy]

Read more

May 14, 2015

**Baroness Warsi warns how British Muslims fear Government ‘Cold War’ against their faith**

British Muslims fear the Government is fighting a "Cold War" against their faith which could result in an increase in extremist radicalisation, a former Conservative minister has warned.

Sayeeda Warsi, who was Britain’s most senior Muslim minister until she resigned last year, told The Independent that plans to crack down on so-called non-violent extremism announced earlier this week could be counter-productive and alienate mainstream Muslims from British society.

She warned that the new policy must be "applied consistently across all communities" and include "all forms of extremism" without criminalising thought.

**[TOP RATED COMMENT]** An Islamic ‘Cold War’ has existed for hundreds of years – Sunni Muslims hate Shia Muslims with a deadly passion. Referring to people as British (or Western) Muslims will do nothing to hide this fact – Islam is not a just and fair religion, blaming others for its failings is not going to correct this.

**[2ND]** Warsi has got where she is by making use of Western democracy. If you want to see how Muslim women fare when they stick to Muslim rules, go for a walk around Whitechapel and see the cowed women, covered in ridiculous tribal dress, running around obediently after their male masters. Judging by your name, I suppose you approve of that.

**[3RD]** Excuse me? Which other religions are threatening other than Islam? Happy clappy kind forgiving Christians? Industrious hard working family focused Jews? Peaceful gentle Sikhs? I could go on. Look inwards Ma’am, your religion is based on envy, repression, fear and is exceptionally selfish and self serving. Convert, give up or leave our country.

**[4TH]** Islam is a kind of mental illness, we can see clearly what it results in from the current state of play in the Middle East. Those who like it should sod off there and enjoy.

**[5TH]** .... As Islam is a militant faith, Muslims will have to get used to being dealt with accordingly if they live in our country (too many unfortunately). Muslim Extremists should be deported without hesitation, regardless of what pseudo EU human rights may apply in their case.

Other communities present in the UK represent no threat whatsoever as compared to the Muslim community: the latter need to start contemplating some serious reforms of their totally outdated, almost abnormal way of thinking before the very concept of
mutual respect has a chance of being applied. Maybe in 300 years or so? [The Independent] Read more

May 10, 2015
**Islamists jailed for chopping of teacher's hand 'because exam paper insulted Prophet Mohamed'**

A group of Islamists who cut off a teacher's hand in revenge for "blasphemy" against the Prophet Mohamed have been jailed in India.

The 13 men, all members of radical group the Popular Front of India, were handed sentences of between three and eight years at a National Investigative Agency court, NDTV reported.

They had been found guilty of involvement in the attack on TJ Joseph, a professor at Newman College in the town of Thodupuzha, Kerala.

He was on his way home from a Catholic church service in July 2010 with his mother and sister when their car was stopped.

**[TOP RATED COMMENT]** Islam – the brainwashing which produces the finest fruitcakes.

**[ANOTHER]** People should be free to criticise Mohammed. After all he was a disgusting paedophile who married a 7 year old child named Ayesha!

**[ANOTHER]** The religion of peace strikes again.

**[ANOTHER]** A war mongering sex offender / paedophile, that’s Mohammed. [The Independent] Read more

April 23, 2015
**Lutfur Rahman played the Islamophobia card to silence his critics. And too many on the left fell for it**

Lutfur Rahman was "more Labour than many in Labour". He was a "democratic success story" whose opponents were engaged in an "Islamophobic campaign of lies".

I challenge you to come up with a selection of sillier statements about the soon-to-be-former-Mayor of Tower Hamlets.

An election court today found that Rahman had "driven a coach and horses" through local authority law and "engaged in corrupt and illegal practices" to win elections. According to the Court, which ruled on a case brought against the Mayor for ballot-rigging, intimidation and racism in the electoral campaign of 2014, rather than being a "democratic success story", Rahman trashed the electoral process in a "ruthless and dishonest manner". To make matters worse the Mayor silenced critics using spurious accusations of Islamophobia and racism.

Those of us who have lived in Lutfur Rahman’s Tower Hamlets in recent years had a fair idea that something wasn’t right. An atmosphere of menace and intimidation prevailed at council meetings and a cult of personality was thrown up around Rahman himself, with posters carrying the Mayor’s face (and little else) increasingly ubiquitous in the borough.
Extremist preachers were invited to speak in council chambers and council grants were directed away from secular organisations in favour of groups which mainly served the Bangladeshi and Muslim communities.

[TOP RATED COMMENT 29 votes] The left supposedly support equality of the sexes, support gay rights, support peaceful dialogue and resolution of disputes, tolerance of different religions and despise the concentration of power in the hands of nepotistic, corrupt, kelptocratic elite.

However across the globe if you carry a Koran they will put all this to one side and champion your cause.

Its insane

[2ND 26] The lie of ‘Islamophobia’ is being used to ‘groom’ the British people so that they can be exploited. It’s the political version of the Rochdale grooming system. Once it gets a grip, resisting Islam’s supremacist agenda becomes increasingly more difficult.

Lutfur Rahman used this lie to leverage power and influence.

[3RD 22] What I find most distressing about this whole affair is it had to come from a civil action taken out by 4 voters (Who should all receive honours for services to their country).

What are the Police and Crown Prosecution Service for exactly?

Postal votes from fake addresses constitutes electoral fraud. Electoral fraud is a criminal act!

When a UKIP candidate hands out sausage rolls to children at an event in Southampton, the Police have no hesitation in dragging him down to the yard but rigging an election is fine?!? [The Independent] Read more http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/lutfur-rahman-played-the-islamophobia-card-to-silence-his-critics-and-too-many-on-the-left-fell-for-it-10199238.html

March 24, 2015

ISIS Is the Mirror That Reflects Our Dark Side

... ISIS is a savage group who should be eliminated. But it is also just another embodiment of how ugly the world has always been. It is a modern representation of the many genocides and atrocities mankind has committed throughout history. It’s just that previously, there was no YouTube or Facebook to document it.

ISIS is the mirror that reflects our dark side.

So yes, let’s purge these savages. And then let’s go about our lives thinking that we did enough. Only thing is — down the line, another group of lunatics will emerge and dominate our 24-hour news cycle.

Because we never got down to the source of evil. We just broke the mirror.

[TOP RATED COMMENT] More denial about the connection of the Islamic State to Islam. More facile comparisons of ISIS with others who are tiny in numbers and not supported by a worldwide network.

The inconvenient truth for Muslims today is that the Islamic State is creating more discussion and discovery by billions of non-Mulsims of the full extent of Islamic doctrine
and its history. These involuntary students are reaching their own conclusions – and it is not generally favourable.

It is reasonable and natural for innocent secular and non-Muslim religious people around the world to seek clarification of the intentions of people reading from the same book that is fomenting such a wide range of violent behaviour.

The enmity for 1,400 years and killing between the two principal sects within Islam even amongst themselves, let alone others, reveals that there is no "over-reaction" in the rest of the world – it is a delayed reaction. Two very different things. This new urgent discussion and concern is overdue. [The Huffington Post] Read more http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bassem-youssef/isis-mirror-reflects_b_6903542.html

March 16, 2015

**Can we drop the term ‘moderate Muslim’? It’s meaningless**

.... if by being moderate we mean believing in freedom of expression and an acceptance of equality in gender and sexuality, it is by no means certain that the majority of Muslims are moderate, as the word is commonly used. One young student in Leicester told me that unlike many of his fellow Muslims he would shake a woman’s hand. He still believed in gender segregation at public events but his stance on handshaking meant he defined himself as a moderate.

While everyone I talked to would begin by firmly stating how all Muslims they knew were tolerant and how Islam was about moderation, when I asked how others in their communities in Luton, Bradford and Leicester would react if a loved one told them, for example, that they were gay, or where they stood on the idea of free mixing between the sexes, it quickly became apparent that they held views that many would not consider moderate at all.

[TOP RATED COMMENT 244 votes] Jihadi John being a Muslim isn’t just an inconvenient "label" which you can airily dismiss. He works for IS, FFS, in which the "I" stands for Islamic. How can you hope to understand what’s going on in the world when you intentionally turn a blind eye to that?

[2ND 207] They believe themselves to be Muslims. Why don’t you enter into a theological debate with them about how your interpretation of Islam is superior to theirs?

[3RD 186] "They disputed the suggestion that their Islam had anything in common with the ideology of the jihadists"

It is the same religion, interpreted differently. The claims that IS are not following the Islamic faith are ridiculous.

[4TH 155] They are fighting for – wait for it – an ISLAMIC CALIPHATE.

"There’s nothing Islamic about them"

I’m surprised you can still type with your head buried so deep in the sand.

[5TH 147] The fact that they proclaim themselves to be Muslims is front and centre, and that’s where it should remain.

Like it or not, these murderous craven cowards are killing and torturing in the name of your religion. [Guardian Cif] Read more http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/mar/16/moderate-muslim-devout-liberal-religion
March 12, 2015

Islam ‘invites people to violence’ Queen’s chaplain
Reverend Gavin Ashenden claims

The Koran has "over 100 verses inviting people to violence" which Christianity "doesn’t have," one of the Queen’s chaplains has claimed.

Reverend Canon Gavin Ashenden, one of the Queen’s 35 chaplains, made his comments on Iain Dale’s LBC radio show.

He claimed that the passages in the Koran "tell you to kill your enemies" and to "strike of the heads" of "those who disbelieve," the Daily Mail reports.

Reverend Ashenden was speaking in response to the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby’s comments made on Wednesday concerning religious extremism.

The Archbishop claimed that young people are turning to Jihad because mainstream religions and the alternative to extremism is not "exciting" enough, and that religious communities must do more to provide "purpose" in life for them.

[TOP RATED COMMENT] The man is speaking the truth. That doesn’t cut the mustard in the UK, but it is the truth. If everyone would dump the mask of PC idiocy and face it, the West might just get a reprieve from the destruction of its culture.

[ANOTHER] Thank you, Canon Ashenden.

Would it be too much to expect senior Muslim religious leaders to confirm or deny this?

[ANOTHER] At last, the truth is being aired.

[ANOTHER] I see he is one of those few people who has actually READ the Quran. Good man. [The Independent] Read more http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/islam-invites-people-to-violence-queens-chaplain-reverend-gavin-ashenden-claims-10104445.html

March 11, 2015

Charlie Hebdo given ‘Islamophobe of the Year’ award

Charlie Hebdo has been given an international award for ‘Islamophobia’, two months after 12 members of staff were shot dead in a terror attack.

The awards, which were devised by The Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC), took place at a ceremony on Saturday and saw the gong go to the French satirical magazine for ‘the world’s most Islamophobic person or publication’ in 2015.

It beat Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, US president Barack Obama and American television host Bill Maher to the title.

[TOP RATED COMMENT] The oxymoronic Islamic Human Rights Commission enjoys various privileges as a UK registered charity, including (if only via Gift Aid) taxpayer subsidies.

Islam is a stranger to human rights, and most Islamic states have repudiated the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in favour of the Iran-sponsored Cairo Declaration of 1990, which basically says shariah law trumps everything.
Now that they are giving "awards" to victims of mass murderers the Charity Commission should urgently review their status.

And someone should have a word with Rowan Williams about why on earth he was attending this event, lending it spurious and undeserved credibility. [The Independent]

Read more

March 10, 2015

**Mehdi Hasan: How Islamic is Islamic State?**

The rise of Isis in Iraq and Syria has been a disaster for the public image of Islam – and a boon for the Islamophobia industry. Here, after all, is a group that calls itself Islamic State; that claims the support of Islamic texts to justify its medieval punishments, from the stoning of adulterers to the amputation of the hands of thieves; and that has a leader with a PhD in Islamic studies who declares himself to be a "caliph", or ruler over all Muslims, and has even renamed himself in honour of the first Muslim caliph, Abu Bakr.

.... To claim that Isis is Islamic is egregiously inaccurate and empirically unsustainable, not to mention insulting to the 1.6 billion non-violent adherents of Islam across the planet. Above all else, it is dangerous and self-defeating, as it provides Baghdadi and his minions with the propaganda prize and recruiting tool that they most crave.

*[TOP RATED COMMENT 66 votes]* It is a very long article just to say "In my opinion this has nothing to do with Islam"

Unfortunately it is factually very light in evidencing that contention.

You may not believe it has anything to do with your interpretation of Islam but you are not the one with the guns and bombs.

No doubt your interpretation is that of the vast majority, but that doesn't mean the interpretation by these murderous scum is any less valid to them.

Of course it is true that many western "jihadis" start off as no more than bored young men and women looking for bit of real life GTA adventure " wiv real guns, innit."

But it seems the ISIS propaganda machine quickly gets its hooks into them and causes them to commit the most barbaric acts in the name of Muhammad and Allah.

So like it or not, whether Islam is being used as a propaganda tool or whether there is any genuine religious nature to ISIS, either way it has to do with Islam.

*[2ND 57]* Sorry mate, but what ur saying is complete rubbish, this current self-proclaimed islamist state is doing exactly what ur previous 4 caliphates were doing and that is terroizing, raping and enslaving minorities into islam and killing of those muslims who dis-agree on their version of islam........

*[3RD 54]* If you are like many non-Muslims wondering if the like of Mehdi Hasan are honestly representing Islam or simply doing PR for their faith and community, consider this:

1. Is it really feasible that a religion founded by a 7th century warrior who according to Islamic scriptures committed numerous war crimes (perhaps justifiable in a historical context), in his late 50s consummated marriage to 9 year old, etc etc.. came up with a
happy clappy belief system which can be practiced in the 21st century in its original form? ....

[4TH 40] .... what I do have a problem is with the distortion of history......

The earlier Islamic caliphates terrorized the native people of the sub-continent, Bosnia, Albania, Maghreb, Iran and enslaved and raped them into Islam and this is a fact. [New Statesman] Read more
http://www.newstatesman.com/world-affairs/2015/03/mehdi-hasen-how-islamic-islamic-state

March 6, 2015

Queen Rania: Let’s Drop The First ‘I’ In ISIS. There’s Nothing Islamic About Them

Queen Rania of Jordan said Thursday evening that there is nothing Islamic about the self-proclaimed Islamic State, or ISIS.

She was speaking with Huffington Post Editor-In-Chief Arianna Huffington as a part of The WorldPost Future of Work Conference. "I would love to drop the first 'I' in ISIS because there's nothing Islamic about them," Queen Rania said, prompting applause from the audience.

"They have nothing to do with faith and everything to do with fanaticism," she said. "I think as an international community, we would do well to not focus on the religious character of that group because when we do, we give them undeserved legitimacy."

[TOP RATED COMMENT] It doesn't matter what she or we think ISIS is or isn't. It matters what they think they are. ISIS thinks they speak for the Prophet. What's troubling about the Arab world saying "they aren't Islamic", is that they then proceed to absolve themselves of any responsibility of dealing with ISIS. Only the Muslim world can stop ISIS. It's called self-policing. [The Huffington Post] Read more
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/03/06/queen-rania-isis-islamic_n_6781160.html

March 2, 2015

Saudi Arabia Awards ‘Services To Islam’ Prize To Indian Cleric Zakir Naik Who Blamed George Bush For 9/11

A controversial Indian preacher who described the 9/11 attacks as "an inside job" has been awarded one of Saudi Arabia’s top prizes for his "services to Islam".

Mumbai-based Dr Zakir Naik was among five recipients of the King Faisal international prize, presented by Saudi Arabia’s King Salman at a ceremony on Sunday, AFP reports.

During a video shown at the ceremony Naik said: "Islam is the only religion that can bring peace to the whole of humanity."

[TOP RATED COMMENT] "Islam is the only religion that can bring peace to the whole of humanity." Ha ha ha ha ha, breathe, ha ha ha ha. [Huffington Post UK] Read more
http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2015/03/02/saudi-arabia-awards-service-to-islam-prize-indian-cleric-zakir-naik-blamed-george-bush-911_n_6782832.html

February 25, 2015

Why the survey of British Muslim attitudes is so profoundly disconcerting
How do you react to the news – the result of a major BBC survey – that 11 per cent of British Muslims sympathise with fighting against the West? That 20 per cent of them believe Western liberal society can never be compatible with Islam? That 11 per cent feel that organisations which publish images of the Prophet Mohammed deserve to be attacked?

I find these numbers profoundly disconcerting. But they are far from surprising.

.... Supporting British values might seem like an overt focus on nationality, but really it fosters inclusivity and will help us tackle extremism, building a stronger Britain.

Beyond this, we must break this trend by pushing back against underlying narratives. This will require not just the voice of Muslims, but the whole of civil society standing in solidarity with those Muslims who are brave enough to challenge extremists in their midst.

Islam is an idea: like other ideas, it must be open to scrutiny. But supporting secularism and challenging Islamism is not fighting "Islam". It is moving from extremism to liberal pluralism. By neglecting to challenge extremist views, we will only increase anti-Muslim bigotry.

This is what happens when you ignore Islamist ideology. It’s time for a wakeup call.

[TOP RATED COMMENT] So one in four Muslims in Britain approve of the merciless slaughter of 12 innocent people armed with pencils because they felt "offended", and it is Whiteh’s fault.

Would it be Islamophobic to suggest that the blame lies with the archaic and backward religion from which these murderous savages and their army of nutjob wanna-be Jihadistas draw their inspiration?

We are sitting on a powder keg, yet our politicians and the liberal commentariat are simply too effete, cowardly and dishonest to face up to the real enemy within our midst.

[2ND] "Half of British Muslims interviewed stated that prejudice against Islam makes it very difficult to be a Muslim in this country."

It is an awful lot easier to be a Muslim in this country than it is in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Morocco, Sudan, Lebanon, Yemen, Uzbekistan. You are much more likely to be murdered for your beliefs in any of these countries, especially if you are the wrong kind of Muslim. Or if you are gay, or if you are an apostate, or if you commit adultery, or if you are a woman, or if you smoke, or if you drink alcohol, or if you say the wrong thing, or if you are simply in the wrong place at the wrong time, e.g. if a suicide bomber is in the vicinity.

Tens of thousands of Muslims are killed or injured every year as a result of violence perpetrated by their co-religionists.

"Prejudice against Islam makes it very difficult to be a Muslim in this country"?

What absolute nonsense.

[3RD] Some people come from Pakistan, settle in Little Pakistan in East London or West Yorkshire, don't learn a world of English. Their kids learn pigeon playground English but have no hope of integrating or competing in the wider world. The p.c. crowd think this is diversity. It is not, it is division and a recipe for utter disaster.
The problem is that Muslims in general will not allow any criticism of their ideology or their founder. They tend to react violently. Buddhism, Mormonism, Hinduism, Christianity, Confucianism etc. are all willing to discuss their ideas without becoming violent and blowing up themselves and other people. Neither do these religions have a concept of a FATWA which allows them to try to kill people e.g. Salman Rushdie.

Additionally most Muslims believe that the penalty for leaving the religion is death. Becoming a Muslim or being born one tends therefore to be a one way trap door. When extremist Muslims encounter those who are more moderate, they accuse the moderates of not being proper Muslims and call them apostates – for which the penalty is death. The moderates then either turn a blind eye or join the extremists.

Muslims ought to try to be Christians in Muslim countries, that will give them a wake up call.

No one has to stay in this country, it’s not a prison. People are free to leave.

I fear for the future of my country and my grandchildren.

"A nation can survive its fools, and even the ambitious. But it cannot survive treason from within. An enemy at the gates is less formidable, for he is known and carries his banner openly. But the traitor moves amongst those within the gate freely, his sly whispers rustling through all the alleys, heard in the very halls of government itself.

For the traitor appears not a traitor; he speaks in accents familiar to his victims, and he wears their face and their arguments, he appeals to the baseness that lies deep in the hearts of all men. He rots the soul of a nation, he works secretly and unknown in the night to undermine the pillars of the city, he infects the body politic so that it can no longer resist. A murderer is less to fear. The traitor is the plague." Marcus Tullius Cicero, 58 BC.

This is not about western society. Islamic society doesn’t mix south, east or North. It is incompatible with other societies unless it dominates. This is all documented in the Koran. This plays out everywhere in the world. North Africa, Europe, Russia, Thailand, Burma, India. Every border. It plays out all through History too.

This is not about needing these people to move away from extremism. We need them to move away from Islam.

.... I can understand as a moderate Muslim you don’t want to see the faith as the problem but it is. You are a moderate not because you have a better interpretation of the Koran but because you reject most of it. [The Independent] Read more http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/why-the-survey-of-british-muslim-attitudes-is-so-profoundly-disconcerting-10070338.html

February 9, 2015

**Muslim Democrats of the World, Unite!**

Since the end of the nineteenth century, the movement for a critical reflection on the foundations and interpretations of Islam has lost momentum, impeded by the predominance of a sclerotic, arabo-centric Islam based on an obsolete worldview and often dismissive of non Arab muslims.

Today, we solemnly call on muslim leaders committed to democracy, whether political and religious authorities or intellectuals/theologians, to convene in France in early 2016 to define the contours of a progressive interpretation of Islam firmly grounded in the 21st century.
…. We must take ISIS’s and Boko Haram’s claims to be practicing a rigorous Islam seriously: suggesting simply that terrorist acts committed in the name of Islam have nothing to do with Islam is not serious.

The accusations brought against the ‘silent majority’ of Muslims as a result of the actions of these terrorist groups may be unjust, but they must be addressed. Once and for all, we must let the barbarous murderers who justify their crimes in the name of Islam know: when they attack anyone, they are attacking us Muslims, our faith and values, first and foremost.

…. The time has come to turn the tables on the hijackers and set a new course for Islam in the 21st century. Our future, as peace-loving Muslim democrats, is at stake.

[TOP RATED COMMENT] How interesting this would have been had you allowed, or brought in, even ONE FEMALE VOICE. You do not even mention women in your essay. It’s hard to take you seriously when you leave out one of the biggest issues with Islam, with Arabic culture and countries, and open your eyes wide and say these things. There is simply nothing in your little screed for anyone but men like you. Congrats you definitely are Democrats.

[2ND] The above blog seems to be prioritizing what’s good for Islam ahead of what’s good for the world. When you are willing to give up the part of your being that is Islamic, you will be be able to view the world with clearer eyes.

[3RD] You had me here: "The accusations brought against the ‘silent majority’ of Muslims as a result of the actions of these terrorist groups may be unjust, but they must be addressed."

and then lost me here: "When they attack anyone, they are attacking us Muslims, our faith and values, first and foremost."

I disagree that Muslim terrorists are "first and foremost" attacking Islam, they are attacking lives, and civilization, not Muslims.

Perhaps it is that "islam before all" including everyone else’s life and liberty approach that is holding things back? [The Huffington Post] Read more http://www.huffingtonpost.com/felix-marquardt/muslim-democrats-unite_b_6648898.html

February 3, 2015

Halal slaughter: Outcry after undercover film exposes brutality of industry

Ministers are under pressure to respond to growing public discontent about religious slaughter after an undercover investigation exposed the horrific mistreatment of animals at a halal abattoir.

Secretly filmed footage which appears to show abattoir workers repeatedly hacking at sheep’s throats, hurling them into solid structures and kicking them in the face has intensified demands for a complete ban on the religious slaughter of animals without stunning them first.

[TOP RATED COMMENT] Denmark has just banned these practices, encouragingly the Jewish community in Denmark were not greatly opposed, warning their co-religionists that the ban was supported by a majority of the Danish people.
The Danish government obviously has higher moral and ethical standards than their English counterparts. It would be a real slap in the face for Cameron if the SNP came out in favour of a ban.

**[ANOTHER]** Why does any country put up with this nonsense? Halal and Kosher killing rituals have no more place in a modern society than circumcision and FGM. Justification of any on cultural or religious grounds is unacceptable and endorses abuse.

**[ANOTHER]** Creeping Islamification. Nothing will be done out of a toxic mixture of political correctness, fear of being called racist names, and fear of violence from a group that our political leaders tell us are as peace-loving as Jain monks.

**[ANOTHER]** You’re dealing with a religion that tolerates no other point of view, that thinks it OK to beat children and women, that thinks that a woman’s word is worth half that of a man and you’re surprised they mistreat animals!? Islam is not a religion of peace. [The Independent](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/outcry-after-undercover-film-exposes-brutality-of-halal-industry-10019467.html) Read more
4.0 The Telegraph, Daily Mail, The Spectator

November 23, 2015

Muslim scholar who posted YouTube speech condemning Paris atrocities reveals he has received death threats from British-born children who support ISIS

The Muslim scholar who made an impassioned speech condemning the Paris attacks on YouTube has received death threats from ISIS’ online supporters.

In the three minute video, which has been seen by tens of thousands of people, Mufassil Islam, 49, said: ‘If you don’t like this country, why the f*** did you come?’

He has now told MailOnline that he is being threatened by British youngsters.

Mr Islam said: ‘I am getting death threats from British kids… British Bangladeshi kids, or Asian kids, they are born and bred here. They support ISIS.’

The lawyer turned academic, who has lived in Britain on and off for more than 22 years, spoke out after the terrorist attacks in Paris left 130 people dead, and says he will continue to do so despite threats on his life.

The father of two from Belfast, who is a devout Muslim, was praised after speaking out against extremism and the radicalisation he believes is creeping into mosques and communities across Britain.

He told MailOnline that unless something is done soon, it may be too late to save young Muslims from the path to extremism. [645 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 8498 votes] It was inevitable he would be targeted after speaking out, the fact they are British born is no surprise either. Suggest buying them air tickets so that they can leave.


[3RD 5544] I’m with you sir. This evil has no religion and no heart.

[4TH 5283] I think we all saw that coming!

[5TH 4388] Death threats, that is all they are good for. I found your broadcast absolutely brilliant and you have spoken for millions in this country by saying the words we all would like to have said, your a breath of fresh air. [Daily Mail] Read more

November 19, 2015

We Muslims can’t wait for the next bomb before we speak out

…. There is no point in talking of human rights when it’s just your own human rights which concern you; there is no depth in talking of piety when your only concern is wearing the hijab; there is no traction in saying Islam is a religion of peace when the evidence for it is shrinking daily.
This dilemma cannot be resolved by politicians and policies; they have tried and failed. If anything the fact that we hear multiple terrorist plots have been foiled is not a sign of success but rather shows that the problem of violence is growing. Many will turn to their imams for guidance and many will cry out: "This is not my problem." But it is. And to deny that is to be dishonest both to your country and to your faith. We cannot wait for the next bomb before we speak out. [628 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 70 votes] I’m fed up with having to be PC about Muslims. their inability to integrate. I hate the way they wear hijabs or completely cover up showing just their eyes. I hate the way their women are treated. I hate the fact they do not take part and look inwards not outwards! I’m offended by Muslims and Islam! There I said it!

[2ND 43] I’m sick and tired of moderate Moslems. At least with the jihadis you know where they stand. The moderates however wriggle all over show, never telling us which bits of Islam they deplore. Thus they shake their head and tut tut this or that attack, but they never say how they’re different? Gays, bikinis, Jews, Israel, Mohammad, etc etc, how do they stand when it comes to such? I don’t trust them. [The Telegraph] Read more


November 17, 2015
‘If you don’t like this country, why the f*** did you come here?’ Muslim man’s impassioned speech decrying ISIS for trying to impose Sharia law on the West takes social media by storm

Video has emerged of an impassioned speech by a Muslim decrying ISIS terrorists for trying to impose Sharia law on the West.

The man launches in to a three-minute tirade and lashes out at violent extremists saying: ‘If you don’t like this country, why the f*** did you come?’.

The video has been widely shared online after gunmen murdered 129 people in Paris in a wave of terror attacks in Paris.

The unnamed man, believed to live in the UK, tells the camera: ‘The question is, do you have the right to kill? F*** you, you don’t.

‘If you don’t like this country, why the f*** do you come? If you do not have respect for this country, why the f*** do you come?

‘You came, you know why, because you believed the judiciary here gives you protection, because the laws here give you protection, because the economy here makes you flourish. Why the f*** did you come otherwise? [1384 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 19605 votes] Brilliant. But we need more Muslims to openly condemn these atrocities .

[2ND 12740] Bravo that man!

[3RD 10122] Good to see and hear, some common sense.

[4TH 9401] Respect to him. He has hit the nail right on the head.
We need much much more of this, it’s called the truth. Although PC idiots don’t let us say it. [Daily Mail] Read more

November 16, 2015

Paris attacks and the civil war between Islam’s medievalists and modernisers

The latest terrorist attacks in Paris serve as a grim reminder that the threat of global terrorism is unlikely to end until the resolution of the civil war of ideas between Muslim modernisers and those adhering to an outmoded theology of Islamic dominance.

Just as the post-9/11 war against al-Qaeda degraded Osama bin Laden’s group but gave rise to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Isil), extremist Islamist ideology will likely give birth to "Terrorism 3.0" once the world has fought, contained and eliminated Isil. Security will return only after the widespread embrace of pluralism by Muslims and the defeat and marginalisation of the idea that Muslims cannot move in an orbit set by another.

The Muslim world, ascendant for several centuries, has found it difficult to deal with its decline as a global power during modern times. Inspired by the notion that Muslims were chosen by God to lead the world, medieval Muslim law made freedom of religion conditional to Muslim rule. [Husain Haqqani, former Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, 2148 comments]

[REMAINING TOP RATED COMMENT* 37 votes] I make no apology for repeating this over and over again.....

Every Muslim will put their religion before anything and anyone else. There is no such thing as a moderate Muslim, there are only those who follow the Quran by the letter and those who will be forced to eventually.

*The top rated comments were removed by The Telegraph

[ANOTHER 36] Husain Haqqani, you know, I know, we all know when its "Inshallah" (gods will or couldn't have happened) you really are up against it.

The Koran teaches & preaches if it’s "Inshallah" let no man oppose it. If they do then they are the "infidel Kafir!". The restoration of ancient "caliphate is a duty of every muslim" etc ....

Medievalist (love that description) or modernist "neither side is EVER going to deny or oppose "Inshallah" or the word of the Koran .... & that’s where the problem really lies.

Very quietly all Islamics are in silent celebration of "Inshallah" over the Paris attacks .... otherwise there would be a mile long queue of Imams lining up to condemn the attacks .... but that would mean condemning their Koran & Allah’s will ... & they will never do that.

[ANOTHER 22] What chance do we have, when we are led by muliciturists, and apologists for Islam

Boris last night spoke of our " wonderful ` Muslim community

Theresa May this morning spoke of our peaceful Muslims, all of whom are horrified by these atrocities
Virtually all atrocities, all bombings, are caused by Muslims

Muslims will never change

Why should we have to change our lives, to please Muslims

[ANOTHER 22] I couldn’t care less about the battles within Islam, whether it be modern v medieval or Sunnis v Shia; I just don’t want them infecting the West with their childish beliefs and primitive culture.

As far as the Middle East is concerned, just leave them to it. Shut the door on them and let them kill each other to their hearts content. Stop all immigration of Muslim countries and begin with implementing policies encouraging voluntary repatriation.

[ANOTHER 16] I see the author is from Pakistan, where in 2011 Governor Salmann Taseer was shot 27 times by his own Muslim bodyguard for daring to suggest that a Christian woman should not be executed for blasphemy. The reaction? Large demonstrations in support of the murderer, in whose honour a mosque was built. There is no hope for Islam. It cannot reform.

[ANOTHER 16] Mr Haqqani, your attempt to legitimise the discussion in terms of struggle within the Muslim faith does you and your religion no favours. There is no such thing as modern Islam, it is entirely incompatible with Western culture and civilisation. You cannot re-write the Quoran and that damned book must be adhered to come what may.

While you have communities or ghettos throughout Europe not just unintegrated but now seemingly bent on the destruction of western society you will always have conflict.

What the West needs now is a strength not possessed by any of its current leaders and therefore its only hope, by definition, is significant regime changes. Sadly this will open the door for the extreme right to exploit and the very real potential for civil war.

We have tried integration and it failed, we have tried appeasement and that failed too, the only course left to us is to fight this medieval death cult and remove it from our society where it has no place.

[ANOTHER 16] There is no civil war between medievalists and modernists in the Islamic community. Only between medievalist sunnis and medievalist shia, both of whom can agree that the rest of the world should be forced to accept Islam. The only disagreement is over which version.

[ANOTHER 15] .... Terrorism is not an aberration within Islam. Terrorism is the underlying current of Islam that, when it comes to fruition, requires people to convert or die. Just look at ANY Islamic nation.

None of them would allow a mass migration of Christians into their nation, none of them allow foreigners to come and build Christian churches, and in every single one of them, the penalty of simply choosing a religion other than Islam is death. And by allowing this mass migration, we are inviting and ushering in our own destruction and downfall. [The Telegraph] Read more

November 16, 2015
How Homeland’s hunky hit-man Peter Quinn told us what our leaders just don’t dare say about ISIS and Islam

Don’t tell me. I don’t want to hear it.

I don’t want to hear the attacks in Paris have nothing to do with Islam.

Because here’s the rub. Any man shouting Allahu Akbar as he blows himself to paradise is an adherent of the same religion and scriptures children are forced to learn, repeat and regurgitate by Muslims clerics the world over.

Or, as Peter Quinn, the CIA hitman from Homeland, put it in a remarkably prescient episode from the current series broadcast six weeks ago: ‘(ISIS) has a clear strategy. A strategy which includes beheadings, crucifixions, and the revival of slavery, and it all derives from their f*cking book, the only book they ever read.’

[691 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 6010 votes] Well said Katie, saw that episode and felt myself nodding in agreement with that statement at the time. We will be the first culture in the history of the world to eliminate ourselves thru our own stupidity and being led by politically correct morons drawing all behind them like the pied piper of Hamelin leading us to our own destruction back to a country of religious dogma, women back to slavery, gays to their death with the whole of society in constant war, death and destruction helped along by religious persecution.

[2ND 4255] "Any man shouting Allahu Akbar as he blows himself to paradise is an adherent of the same religion and scriptures children are forced to learn, repeat and regurgitate by Muslims clerics the world over." Any candidate stating this, boldly and confidently, during their next televised debate would immediately be elected President the following November. End Of!

[3RD 4033] Wowww round of applause to this woman.

November 16, 2015

Theresa May: the Paris attacks "have nothing to do with Islam"

On a day when Jeremy Corbyn has been making clear his concerns about both the government’s use of drones and any shoot-to-kill policy for terrorists on British streets, Theresa May’s statement on the Paris attacks was striking for the level of cross-party agreement.

Andy Burnham paid generous tribute to the Home Secretary and pledged Labour’s support for her anti-terror crackdown. The only discordant note came on the question of police funding. Burnham aligned himself with Bernard Hogan-Howe’s warning that cuts of more than 10 percent to police funding would make it harder to keep the streets safe.

[236 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 130 votes] An unbelievably stupid thing to say. I really hoped we had got beyond this kind of idiotic statement.

[2ND 75] Did she really say that? Did the British Home Secretary really say these attacks were nothing to do with Islam?
It makes you want to weep. How are we ever going to solve this problem if our own Home Secretary comes out with such twaddle? This woman is responsible for keeping us safe!

God help us.

[3RD 48] These attacks have everything to do with Islam. A distorted and corrupted Islam, but nevertheless Islam. Unless we acknowledge this we will never overcome the likes of ISIS, Al Shabaab and Boko Haram. Yes, they are everywhere. [The Spectator] Read more http://blogs.new.spectator.co.uk/2015/11/theresa-may-the-paris-attacks-have-nothing-to-do-with-islam/

November 16, 2015

Australian Grand Mufti says ‘current strategies to deal with the threat of terrorism are not working’ – and the problem is caused by ‘racism and Islamophobia’

.... Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohammed said in a statement late on Sunday that causative factors such as racism and Islamophobia needed to be addressed.

"These recent incidents highlight the fact that current strategies to deal with the threat of terrorism are not working," Dr Mohammed said in a statement.

"It is therefore imperative that all causative factors such as racism, Islamophobia, curtailing freedoms through securitisation, duplicitous foreign policies and military intervention must be comprehensively addressed."

"In addition, any discourse which attempts to apportion blame or sensationalises violence to stigmatise a certain segment of society only serves to undermine community harmony and safety."

He condemned the Paris attacks, which killed at least 129 people and injured more than 350, and expressed condolences to the victims’ friends and families.

[TOP RATED COMMENT] I have worked with and had Muslim neighbours. I have found all these people thoroughly decent. I say this to make it clear, I am not 'anti Islamic' – I just treat people as they treat me. However, I can’t understand and totally disagree with the Mufti’s comments where he said – ‘Any discourse which attempts to apportion blame or sensationalises violence to stigmatise a certain segment of society only serves to undermine community harmony and safety’.

Apportion blame???? Seriously? ISIS have boasted on video what they have done and boasted how there is more to come – how is it apportioning blame – when THEY have admitted to it? Please! You cannot keep blaming the bigots, but must address your own people to fight against this cancer that is attacking our society!!

[2ND] This man needs to go as their representative. He is a public relations disaster and isn’t helping let alone understanding it is NOT our fault. [Daily Mail] Read more http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3319904/Australian-Grand-Mufti-says-current-strategies-deal-threat-terrorism-not-working-problem-caused-racism-Islamophobia.html

November 3, 2015

I've had death threats, says Citizen Khan star: Actor reveals he has been bombarded with abuse from those who think it makes fun of Islam and stereotypes Asians
The creator of BBC sitcom Citizen Khan has revealed that he has received death threats and been bombarded by abuse from those who think it makes fun of Islam and stereotypes Asians.

Adil Ray, 41, also plays the lead character of self-appointed 'community leader’ Mr Khan in the popular comedy charting the life of a Muslim family from Birmingham.

As the show returns for its fourth series, Ray – himself a Muslim born in Birmingham to a Pakistani father – wrote in the Radio Times that when it started he thought any negative comments would be outweighed by pride that a Muslim Pakistani family was at the forefront of a BBC sitcom.

But he added: ‘I was wrong. That first series resulted in more than 700 complaints; we were accused of making fun of Islam and stereotyping Asians. [585 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 3773 votes] Oh, good grief people get a life. This is a good funny sitcom. I loved Father Ted, and was not upset by it even though I am a Roman Catholic.

[2ND 2433] I really enjoy watching Citizen Khan, it’s comedy show that is actually funny.


October 30, 2015

Swedish Foreign Minister claims the country is ‘facing collapse’ because of the mass influx of refugees

The Swedish Foreign Minister has claimed her country is facing collapse due to the mass influx of refugees as the migrant crisis deepens.

Margot Wallstrom has said that Sweden cannot cope with taking in refugees at its current level, without it affecting services.

She says that Stockholm will now have to pressure the European Union in a bid to force other member states to share the burden of those coming from the Middle East, mainly Syria.

It is expected that Sweden will take in around 190,000 migrants by the end of 2015. In the first nine months of the year, more than 73,000 people applied for asylum in Sweden.

And Mrs Wallstrom said in an interview: ‘I think most people feel that we cannot maintain a system where perhaps 190,000 people will arrive every year – in the long run, our system will collapse. [676 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 5399] The answer is 'No'. Traditional Europeans have repeatedly warned liberal leftists of the damage they have caused. Now Sweden must deal with a problem it has willingly invited. One day the liberal left in Britain will face the anger of British people who feel their traditions and way of life has been betrayed.

[2ND 4442] The Swedish Foreign Minister calls on other EU countries to share the burden, presumably so as they can collapse as well!
Europe needs to get together to return these people as it is being deliberately destroyed by 3rd world people who act just as they do in the 3rd world in our 1st world countries. [Daily Mail] Read more
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3297317/Swedish-Foreign-Minister-claims-country-facing-collapse-mass-influx-refugees.html

October 28, 2015

Greer ban at university ‘is to seem fair to Muslims’: Vince Cable warns feminists and right-wingers will be censored to prove institutions are not ‘anti-Islamic’

Universities will ban feminists, Right-wing politicians and other controversial speakers to appear fair on Muslims, Vince Cable has warned.

The ex-business secretary said the Prevent strategy would make institutions feel compelled to censor all ‘extreme’ views to prove that they are not ‘anti-Islamic’.

Under the Government’s counter-terror drive, universities have a duty to monitor students for signs of ‘non-violent extremism’ and block hate preachers.

But yesterday Sir Vince said institutions would feel obliged to ‘demonstrate impartiality’ and ban ‘non-Muslim speakers whose reputation is also controversial for different reasons’.

He said some speakers were already being given hostile receptions on campuses, including Ukip leader Nigel Farage who cancelled an appearance at Cambridge after protests. [224 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 713 votes] Yet more appeasing for the people who make next to no effort to integrate into OUR society!

[2ND 533] I think Cable has missed the wider threat of censorship at universities. It’s true that they are overly sensitive to anything that might be critical of Islam (although not so sensitive in the other direction) but the banning of Greer and other speakers reflects a general intolerance of anyone who does not follow an extreme ‘politically correct’ line. This is not only outrageous but also sad in that students are being denied the chance to hear more than one point of view on any issue.

[3RD 415] It is wholly unacceptable, in this secular country, that a person should be banned from speaking at one of our Universities because of their gender, or to appease a sectarian group. If any group of people seeks to suppress or marginalise the rights and freedoms of either gender, then they are committing an illegal act, and should be prosecuted to the fullest extent that law allows.

There is quite obviously an insideous movement in this country to undermine women’s freedoms in order to cowtow to followers of a certain religion. The fact this movement goes unchallenged and has such a toe-hold in British Universities is an absolute disgrace. [Daily Mail] Read more

October 27, 2015

Germany’s secret service warns the country ‘is importing Islamic extremism, anti-Semitism, other people’s ethnic conflicts and a different understanding of society’
A security document has warned of the damaging consequences of Berlin’s open-door policy which is expected to see around one million refugees enter the country this year alone.

It read: ‘We are importing Islamic extremism, Arab anti-Semitism, national and ethnic conflicts of other peoples as well as a different societal and legal understanding.’

Security sources also fear the integration of migrants ‘is no longer possible’ because so many already live in isolated communities.

The document, seen by German newspaper Welt am Sonntag, added: ‘German security agencies… will not be in the position to solve these imported security problems and thereby the arising reactions from Germany’s population.’ [535 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 2940 votes] My 2 year old son could have figured that out. Fools

[2ND 2636] That idiot Merkel certainly has a lot to be proud of. She is single handedly destroying European culture by having this open invitation to all and sundry.

[3RD 2100] The majority don’t want migration? Telling the truth like that, he’ll get his wrist slapped!

[4TH 2013] "Mainstream civil society is radicalising because the majority don’t want migration and they are being forced by the political elite". Welcome to the club, now you know what we have had to put up with in the UK for decades!!

[5TH 1868] Boy they catch on quick over there!!!! [Daily Mail] Read more

October 20, 2015
‘Do not let Germany be dragged back to chaos and destruction’: EDL founder Tommy Robinson speaks to 40,000 strong crowd at the Pegida anti-immigrant rally in Germany

The founder of the EDL has addressed a 40,000-strong crowd in Dresden tonight, as Germany’s far-right celebrates the first anniversary of the anti-refugee group Pegida.

Tommy Robinson, who set up and led the English Defence League, looked out over the crowd of tens of thousands of Germans as police braced themselves for violence.

Despite quitting the far-right group two years ago, after a realisation that his group was ‘part of the problem’, this is Robinson’s second appearance at a Pegida rally this week after appearing at a Pegida anti-Islam rally in Holland last weekend.

The 32-year-old told the assembled crowd: ‘Do not let Germany be dragged back to chaos and destruction. All of your progress is now threatened.

‘Your current chancellor, Angela Merkel, seems to be handing out the birth right of German citizens like she is handing out candy to children.’ [468 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 4124 votes] If only our media would tell us the TRUE numbers of marches, riots and unrest in Germany and other EU countries, but are
forbidden to by the EU and UK lefties. Russia Today News program gives us better coverage of things.

[2ND 3671] Other European leaders should take note, this is what happens when you ignore your people. They turn to more extreme organisations.

[3RD 3142] What did Merkel expect? An Iron cross first class? Her idiocy will inevitably lead to a massive upsurge of support for the right wing.

[4TH 3058] I am not at all surprised by this, Merkel has had this coming for some time with her ultra Liberal declarations. Welcoming the whole world into Germany and then on to the rest of Europe once they are made EU citizens – I think not! This affects all of us, including the UK as long as we are part of this EU mess, so someone has to stop this mad woman.

[5TH 2563] Why isn’t this story taking a greater profile? [Daily Mail] Read more

October 4, 2015

Don’t microwave sausage rolls – it’ll upset other faiths!
New guidelines on communal kitchen etiquette for the workplace are suggested

It may seem an innocent enough act to warm up your sausage roll in the microwave during lunch hour.

But think again, because doing so could seriously upset colleagues of certain faiths, new guidelines on the etiquette of using communal kitchens at work suggest.

Similarly, it would also be advisable to avoid keeping bacon rolls in a fridge shared with people whose religious beliefs prohibit them from eating pork.

Adam Dinham, professor of faith and public policy at Goldsmiths, University of London, has drawn up a religious literacy programme due to be presented to employers this week.

He said: ‘The microwaves example is a good one. We also say, ‘Don’t put kosher or halal and other . . . special foods next to another [food] or, God forbid, on the same plate.’

Halal and kosher food served at corporate events should be certified, and consideration should be given to whether to serve alcohol, the guidelines further suggest. [1200 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 10356 votes] If I’m offended by halal & kosher meat, will that be banned by the PC brigade too.

[2ND 8373] I’ll bet no person of ‘other faiths’ has complained about this in any workplace anywhere in the UK! It’s the PC brigade who cause all the trouble, purporting to speak for these people when they patently do not! Sick of it!

[3RD 7112] If you have dietary restrictions you should be responsible for it yourself. What if there is a vegetarian in your workplace, would ham sandwiches be banned? Unless your employer is a religious employer that sets the rules from the top, this cannot be legal to enforce!
[4TH 6851] If I want a sausage roll for dinner I will have one and I don’t give a stuff who it offends...its bloody food ffs. Why should it be us Brits that have to change all the time to fit in with others.....It is f**king England you know. [Daily Mail] Read more

October 3, 2015

**Muslim family are driven from their home... after they converted to Christianity: Neighbours vandalise car and call them ‘blasphemers’**

An Asian family who converted to Christianity claim they are being driven out of their home for the second time by Muslim persecutors.

Nissar Hussain, his wife Kubra and their six children said they have suffered an appalling ordeal at the hands of neighbours who regard them as blasphemers.

They claim they are effectively prisoners in their own home after being attacked in the street, having their car windscreens repeatedly smashed and eggs thrown at their windows.

Mr Hussain, 49, has even given up his career as a nurse due to the effect on his health.

Police have been called numerous times to deal with the trouble but are said to be reluctant to treat the problem as a religious hate crime. [1400 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 13607 votes] If this were an Islamic family being persecuted by Christians there would be protests which would probably lead to the burning of churches from Pakistan to Egypt but no when it’s on the other foot just don’t mention it as its best not to ruffle feathers in modern Europe.

[2ND 11887] Welcome to tolerant multi culture Britain. How on earth is this not a hate crime?

[3RD 7806] Don’t expect any help from the police when exponents of that religion are involved. They’re scared witless as we’ve seen from all the abuse cases that were ignored for year after year.

[4TH 6724] Well, thank you Hussain family for trying to integrate into the British way of life. I am sorry that some people are making things very difficult for you.

[5TH 5971] And yet, the lefties who want more mass immigration, deny this sort of thing happens.

[6TH 4504] The police should be held accountable for not doing a proper investigation. I wonder if the religions were the other way around if the police would have then done their job – a Christian family attacking .... a Muslim family? I bet in another 1,000 or so years people look back on us and shake their heads, when they’ve become more enlightened and scraped all religion, as they realise it just causes divisions, problems and wars. [Daily Mail] Read more

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3258159/Asian-family-converted-Christianity-driven-home-Muslim-persecutors.html

September 12, 2015

**Nothing has changed in 25 years to ease my concerns about Islam**
Significant numbers of Muslims see a faith-run, faith-defined state as the ultimate goal in this life.

Viktor Orbán is the prime minister of Hungary. It is through his country that very large numbers of migrants from the Middle East and the Balkans now pass. At the beginning of this month, Mr Orbán said: "I think we have a right to decide that we don't want to have a large number of Muslim people in our country."

Mr Orbán was fiercely attacked for the motives behind his remark. I do not know enough about Hungarian politics to say whether such attacks are justified. But, regardless of the precise facts about Mr Orbán, I would guess most people in western – let alone eastern – Europe would quietly agree with his general proposition. One of the biggest anxieties about the current immigration is its high Muslim element. Is it wrong to have such an anxiety, let alone to express it publicly, let alone to want to have a system of immigration based on it? [2238 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 107 votes] "Finally, there was an unsettling attitude about politics, law and power. It seemed to me that most Muslim leaders saw their role not in integrating Muslims in Britain, but in asserting difference and increasing their muscle."

That’s it in a nutshell, it’s all about politics, law and power, and our attitude of tolerance has conceded ground, literally, socially and politically to Muslims.

That’s why we see veiled women in the streets, why halal food has been covertly introduced into our schools / hospitals / food outlets and we have sharia courts. All this make me feel uneasy and that’s before you introduce the crazy jihadi element into the equation.

I think the most important thing is to strip Islam of its protected status, we MUST be able to discuss it, its practices, verses in the Koran which motivate Muslims to commit barbaric atrocities in the name of their god, but of course we can’t because there’s the trump card played by extremists and apologists for extremists alike; when you link Islamic terrorism to Islam you’re an "islamophobe" = end of conversation.

[2ND 96] I don’t know how long this comments section will stay open but while it is, I want to pay tribute to Viktor Orbán. It is a rare thing these days to see a leader of a western country who has the interests of his own people at heart. For most, the rest of the world comes first, their own country last.

I heard the BBC Radio 5 correspondent in Hungary doing just about everything she could to avoid admitting that the vast majority of Hungarians support his approach, but in the end she was forced to blurt it out.

I'm not particularly religious, but please God, send us a Viktor Orbán of our own.

[3RD 60] The biggest single problem with immigration into the UK has been how easily the government has granted the right of residency, citizenship and the vote to people who do not have any historical connection to the UK, who do not like us or our way of life, and who owe no allegiance to the country or its people.

What is wrong with a secure border to let no one in who should not be here, and 100% deportation of all illegal immigrants?

[4TH 45] It was during the Rushdie affair many years ago that I was first shocked to find Muslims trying to dictate to me what I could and could not read in my own country. My suspicions about Islam have greatly increased since then, I think Charles Moore is quite right to be wary.
The greatest existential threat to Britain is the growth of Islam and EU open borders, now manifested together through a German dominated EU with Merkel and Juncker an extreme danger to our country through their joint policy of inviting millions of Muslims from North Africa and the Middle East to flood the EU.

The Merkel / Juncker dictat will cause Islamic fundamentalism to soar in Europe and Britain.


August 31, 2015

**The ‘Birmingham Koran’ fragment that could shake Islam after carbon-dating suggests it is OLDER than the Prophet Muhammad**

Fragments of the world’s oldest Koran, found in Birmingham last month, may predate the Prophet Muhammad and could even rewrite the early history of Islam, according to scholars.

The pages, thought to be between 1,448 and 1,371 years old, were discovered bound within the pages of another Koran from the late seventh century at the library of the University of Birmingham.

Written in ink in an early form of Arabic script on parchment made from animal skin, the pages contain parts of the Suras, or chapters, 18 to 20, which may have been written by someone who actually knew the Prophet Muhammad – founder of the Islamic faith.

Comments [1854 comments]

[1ST] How can it predate Mohammed, as he founded Islam? That would mean Mohammed was not the prophet sent by Allah surely?

[2ND] Who cares? Religion is the root of all the troubles in the world. People should concentrate on being good, reasonable, caring, empathetic creatures rather than looking for get out clauses on bit of paper to do the exact opposite!

[3RD] Please don’t refer to him as "The Prophet Muhammed" as if this is an established title accepted by everyone, unless the editorial policy of the DM is also to refer to "The Messiah Jesus Christ" or "The Prophet Joseph Smith." "Muhammed, the Islamic prophet" will do ok.

[4TH] Not my prophet

[5TH] I need coffee. I read the headline as ‘Korean found in Birmingham...’

[6TH] Do me a favour – they’re all brainwashed beyond redemption. They are never going to believe anything that challenges their beliefs

[7TH] These prophets almost came along likes busses, in olden times. Since we have become a modern civilisation, not a single one for over 1500 years, strange that.


August 18, 2015
Muhammad really is the single most popular boys’ name in England and Wales

Why doesn’t the Office of National Statistics want us to know that Mohammed is the most popular boys’ name in England and Wales? Yesterday, it put out its annual survey of the top 10 baby’s names. In 2014, it reported, the most popular boys’ names were Oliver, Jack and Harry. This contrasts somewhat with a similar survey by the website BabyCentre last December which claimed that the most popular boys’ name was now Mohammed.

When that survey was reported in the Daily Mail it was jumped upon by various left-wing ‘fact-checker’ websites who denounced the survey as an abuse of statistics. Not only were the figures based only on respondents to a single website – which is true – but they had been arrived at by the ‘dubious’ means of adding together various spellings of Mohammed, while ignoring different spellings of other names. Though the Mail reported the survey purely as a matter of interest – as did the Guardian, in fact – the accusation was clear: the tabloids were yet again trying to stir up fears of Britain being over-run by muslims.

[TOP RATED COMMENT] Of course we all hate this. Of course this has gone way too far. There really isn’t any debate any more, the only question now is when are we going to do something about it?

It’s either a diminishing standard of living and surrender to Islam or we deal with it now and it will be very bloody. Freedom or slavery. It’s that simple.

[2ND] As I have previously mentioned the current demograph is 5% and historically this has doubled every decade. Simple arithmetic arrives at 40% by 2045 and this does not take into account continued immigration from islamic countries and White flight.

Yesterday we were discussing the very real possibility of Sadiq Khan being elected as London’s Mayor – the transformation of secular, freedom loving, civilised UK to an islamic state will be achieved perfectly legally by democratic means.

But let’s all worry about the really important things, eh? Eastenders, X factor, football.........

[3RD] Muhammed (and its variant spellings) will be the most popular boys name in England in perpetuity since Muslims make up nearly a third of the youth population and will have above replacement birth rates for decades to come increasing the size of Muslim population until they are the eventual majority. There shouldn’t be much shock. England has done this to itself. [The Spectator] Read more  
http://blogs.spectator.co.uk/coffeeshouse/2015/08/mohammed-really-is-the-single-most-popular-boys-name-in-england-and-wales/

July 21, 2015

At last, the Prime Minister is listening to me on Muslim integration

I liked the Prime Minister’s speech on tackling the extremist threat and the failure of Muslim integration very much. So much, I could have written it myself.

In fact, I have written it myself. Week after week, month upon month, year on year in this very column. Those of us who are furious that a policy of cultural appeasement has been adopted towards people who wish to import attitudes and practices that are hostile to our country’s values have had a pretty lonely time of it, to be honest.
"Please don’t write about it any more," my mum pleads. "I know you’re right, but it makes me nervous."

Still, I keep going, because I know from your letters and emails how strongly Telegraph readers feel about a subject which, at root, is nothing less than a battle for the soul of the United Kingdom. For our right to be us. [929 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 77 votes] My argument isn’t with you Alison, (why would it be) but with Cameron:

"He will play you, I, and the crowd for fools":

He’s an "appeaser", when it’s leadership the country cries out for. And the recognition that Islam is not a religion, but an ideology, that seeks to impose its will on those countries short-sighted enough to act as a host for its covert agenda of infiltration and subjugation!

Islam is not, nor ever has been, some benign and honourable religion as perhaps Hindu, Sikh, Buddhism or Christianity are. History has more than once demonstrated that Islam is the "Pariah of all religions" and never to be trusted a single inch.

Cameron’s CV: Short-sighted .. Appeaser .. and Weak ...... and "Muslims know it" and play on Cameron’s weakness!

[2ND 74] I have been saying this for a very long time. "Islam is incompatible with European and British values."

About time that politicians agreed.

[3RD 69] Alison, a very disappointing article. Have you gone soft?

I have absolutely no faith that neither Cameron or any other Tory is willing to confront the corrosive effects of Islam in these islands. There is a total incompatibility of Islam with the United Kingdom and I say this as someone who is quite socially liberal in many respects.

Cameron has "previous" in making speeches on subjects he has no intention of addressing. This is no different.

Islam has no capacity to reform, therefore realising this should inform any strategy we devise to deal with it.

There’s no getting away from it, it’s going to be messy. [The Telegraph] Read more
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11753615/At-last-the-Prime-Minister-is-listening-to-me-on-Muslim-integration.html

July 14, 2015

Britain could start calling ISIS ‘Daesh’, says Fallon amid warnings that Muslims ‘recoil’ at the suggestion it is an ‘Islamic State’

Britain should start to refer to jihadi terrorists in Syria and Iraq as ‘Daesh’ instead of ISIS or ISIL, Michael Fallon suggested today.
The Defence Secretary backed the idea of avoiding any term which contains the word 'state' which implies 'legitimacy' on the barbarous group plotting terror atrocities in Iraq and Syria.

He is the most senior government minister to back changing the terminology, after David Cameron called on the BBC and other media to stop using 'Islamic State' because Muslims would 'recoil' at the phrase being used to justify the 'perversion of a great religion'. [512 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 673 votes] Why are we wasting our time and energy on [this] PC nonsense?!!!!

[2ND 539] They call themselves ISIS. End of. Stop the PC BS

[3RD 410] That's like saying I want you to stop saying the KKK because they're not reflective of all Christians. Their group is dedicated to the setting up of the Islamic Caliphate in Iraq and Syria, therefor they ARE ISIS – any other name is just denial of that fact! [Daily Mail] Read more

July 3, 2015
Islamists only want one thing. We cannot appease them

.... the distinction between violent and non-violent extremism is merely operational. Islamists feel morally free to achieve their aims peacefully or violently, publicly or secretly, whichever suits.

They follow a revolutionary doctrine, so there are no moderates. Islamism is declaredly determined to overthrow our way of life. Recent years prove its determination is matched by actions almost every day, almost everywhere. Like the Bolsheviks between 1905 and 1917, Islamists have moved fast from ranting to ruling, and they preach their creed globally. The phrase "existential threat" fits. [Charles Moore, 3640 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT] We cannot possibly fight muslim extremism abroad when, through idiotic and misguided political correctness, we have completely surrendered to it at home.

[ANOTHER] I noticed that a "Muslim Book Store" had opened in my town and popped in. I was wandering around taking a look when the shop assistant stopped me and asked if he could help. So I asked for a copy of the Australian Immigration Policy book regarding Muslims.

The assistant said, "F*ck off, get out, and stay out!" I said, "Yes, that's the one"

[ANOTHER] The political buffoonery of recent years has taken us to the point where decent citizens are now harbouring much more extreme thoughts. Charles Moore puts the case in a very sensible way.

Our hospitality has been sorely abused, and we still haven't woken up to the fact – at least our politicians haven't. We have to tackle the 'muslim' problem boldly, and make it clear that this is Britain, and those who don't embrace the British way of life should get out. I'm certainly not going to dilute my way of life to accommodate them, and those politicians who think that I should, are in for a big surprise. [The Telegraph] Read more
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/islamic-state/11717180/Islamists-only-want-one-thing.-We-cannot-appease-them.html

June 25, 2015
Since when was the hijab a feminist statement?
‘My hijab has nothing to do with oppression. It’s a feminist statement’. Against a backdrop of lingerie models, bikini babes, and sad western women weighing themselves (still in lingerie), hijab-wearer Hanna Yusuf adopts her primary school teacher voice and asks us, very, very slowly ‘in a world when a woman’s value is often reduced to her sexual allure, what could be more empowering than rejecting that notion?’ Western women, we discover, are dopes to consumerism, brainwashed into buying more diets, thongs and trashy magazines.

The hijabi wearer, in covering her lust-inducing hair, is truly free. There are even background ‘gasp’ to represent the shocked non-Muslim viewer discovering this concept for the first time! HUH?!

[TOP RATED COMMENT] My Hindu ancestors used to have a custom called sati in which widows were sometimes burned alive on the funeral pyres of their dead husbands. It was stamped out in India during the British Raj. There is a story, probably apocryphal, that when Hindus protested this ban saying that it was our custom, the British replied that in that case, they should go ahead with sati in keeping with Hindu custom, after which the British would hang all the perpetrators in keeping with British custom.

The credit for stamping out this horrid custom goes both to Indian reformers like Raja Rammohan Roy as well as to the British, but it is a sign of how times have changed for the worse that Brits no longer feel morally capable of prohibiting primitive third-world practices, like putting women in black bags, even in Great Britain, let alone in other countries.

Mark Steyn calls this the loss of "civilizational self-confidence" in the West, and he is exactly right – 50 years of venom vomited out by the Chomskys, Zinns and Susan Sontags on the West have taken an enormous toll.

[ANOTHER] I think everyone is missing the real reason for this religious headgear. It is pure and simply to wind everyone up. The more radical the area, the more is covered up and the more non Muslims get made to feel uneasy. In the free West, it’s a statement of sticking the middle Islamic finger up at the rest of us. If someone wants to go around like the grim reaper, minus the scythe, then let them. Enjoy the summer ladies. No one in their right mind would want to wear a bag. Sky god or not.

[ANOTHER] The truth is that wearing a hijab is essentially a statement of separation and refusal to integrate with wider British society. And too often these ‘beloved people’ are so quick to accuse everyone of racism. Talk about psychological transference. Freud would have a field day studying this type of people. [The Spectator] Read more http://blogs.spectator.co.uk/coffeehouse/2015/06/since-when-was-a-hijab-a-feminist-statement/

June 19, 2015

UK Muslims helping jihadis, says Cameron: Communities must stop ‘quietly condoning’ barbaric ISIS, PM warns in blunt speech

Too many British Muslims ‘quietly condone’ extremism, David Cameron will say today.

In a blunt speech, he will urge families to speak out against the ‘poisonous ideology’ driving hundreds of young people to wage jihad for Islamic State.

The Prime Minister will also call for parents to stop blaming police and the security services for failing to prevent British teenagers heading to Syria.
Parts of the Muslim community are guilty of normalising hatred of democracy and western values, he warns – making it easier for violent extremism to take hold.

At the weekend, 17-year-old Talha Asmal became Britain’s youngest suicide bomber when he detonated a car loaded with explosives in the northern Iraqi town of Baiji. [263 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 6077 votes] Do I think he is right? Yes. Do I think he will do anything about it? No. Very much no.

[2ND 5253] If people condone ISIS then kick them over there. And freeze their bank accounts and benefits. I don't want traitors in our midst thank you!

[4TH 4774] Ordinary people in the street could have told you this a while ago.

[5TH 4380] Well it’s taken him long enough to realise what we’ve all known for years. He talks the talk but, unfortunately, Wimpy Dave won’t actually do anything about it.


June 17, 2015

We Muslims MUST stop blaming others for the way our young are radicalised, writes chairman of the Muslim Forum

.... for misguided mothers like the Dawood sisters, the ISIS drive for a caliphate seems to hold out the prospect of raising their children in a pure Muslim society, untainted by any western influences.

This is the kind of nonsense that other Muslims have to confront. It is no use always blaming the police or the Government or foreign policies.

Of course, we ultimately need a political solution to the conflicts in Iraq and Syria, one that involves dialogue and compromise rather than continual bloodshed.

But the existence of these warzones cannot explain the growing incidence of extremism within British Islam, prompting at least 700 Muslims from here to go out and fight in Syria and Iraq.

This week, the organisation Islamic Relief complained, in the typical mode of victimhood, that British Muslims were ‘being demonised again’ by the connection with jihadism.

"Just 0.02 per cent of the British Muslim population go to join Middle Eastern conflicts," proclaimed Islamic Relief.

But that is just sophistry. This is a Muslim problem — and British Muslims have to address it rather than abdicating their responsibilities.

[TOP RATED COMMENT 2027 votes] Thank you from the bottom of my heart for writing this article! Everything you wrote just clicked with me! It’s true they play the victim card all the time and people are SICK AND TIRED of it!
At last, a Muslim who is forthright, who has Integrity, who speaks the truth and who isn’t swayed by the apologists who blame all and sundry for what is essentially their own weakness when it comes to spelling out the facts in relation to radicalisation to their offspring. Manzoor Moghal should be given a public platform to give his peers a dose of reality.

Absolutely 100% correct, very well balanced and very well written article.

June 16, 2015

The breeding ground for jihadis where even the ice cream lady wears a burka: How Dewsbury, the once great textile town of the North, has undergone a terrifying transformation

’The change happened so quickly,’ says Jean today. ’One day it seemed it was all whites, and then it was all Asians.’

Jean remembers when the first Asian family moved into Savile Town, on a road named South Street where she was brought up. Her father worked for the Yorkshire Electricity Board, her mother was a housewife and she was in her teens.

’We peered at them and they peered back,’ she says now, as she serves a cup of tea in her sitting room. ’We had never seen anything like them and they probably felt just the same about us. There was no prejudice, just curiosity.’

Yet feelings between the two communities have changed dramatically for the worse in the years since. Across the world Dewsbury was always famous for manufacturing wool products – it was said the town provided the coats for British soldiers’ backs and the blankets under which they slept too.

Today, it has gained another kind of terrifying notoriety. First, the leader of the gang of four bombers who attacked London on July 7, 2005, came from here.

The problem is we have bent over backward to integrate their customs, to make allowances for them, instead of the other way around, this is the result. Left wing doo gooders.

This is meant to be the UK! A Christian based country with a high level of tolerance for other religions. Why are others allowed to practice female mutilation, arranged marriages and fully covered faces (motorbike riders cannot do this!). We should follow the lead of other countries, one can practice your religion or beliefs provided within the UK legal system.

The Burka and the ice-cream van looks like something straight out of a Monty Python sketch. R.I.P Britain.

You let this happen, Britain.

When did the british people become so gullible?

When you sit back and think of all those brave soldiers in WW 1 and WW 2 they would be rolling over in their graves if they could see what the country they died for has become.
Its time to get tough with these people, we must start turning the screw now for our childrens sakes or they will have no place to call home. [Daily Mail] Read more

April 24, 2015

Lutfur Rahman: the election scandal made worse by the authorities

.... Judge Richard Mawrey found Mr Rahman and his supporters had committed a litany of abuses. They were guilty of vote-rigging, seeking to influence the result through imams, wrongly branding rivals as "racist" and allocating local grants in order to buy votes. Mr Mawrey said that while this corruption was not "the consequence of the racial and religious mix of the population", it is true that Mr Rahman and his supporters played the "race and Islamophobia card".

The case against Mr Rahman was brought by four brave citizens who were praised by the judge. They had to go it alone because the Metropolitan Police Service had previously chosen not take legal action, citing an absence of evidence.

This was strange. After all, the Crown Prosecution Service felt that it had plenty of reason to chase down journalists for doing their job. And an average of one person a week is jailed because they fail to pay their television licence fee. Nevertheless, Mr Rahman and his supporters were able to operate for so long without the authorities seeing, hearing or speaking about actions that locals and the national press worked hard to expose. Why? Yet again, the system's priorities appear to be terribly mistaken.

[1158 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 102 votes] We import millions of people from cultures that are much more corrupt than ours and our country becomes more corrupt.

Who could possibly have predicted that?

[2ND 79] Andrew Gilligan, Peter Gold and the three other people who dared to stand firm are incredibly brave. I dread to think what they've been put through.

The state functionaries were quite happy to stand back and see four people risk their personal and financial safety, doing the job that these useless seat polishers were too chicken to carry out.

They absolutely disgust me.

[3RD 71] The reason the Met didn't investigate this man is the same reason that 1,200 girls were raped with impugnity in Rotherham.

Fear of being accused of racism.

It is about time that falsely accusing someone of racism became a crime.

[4TH 55] And of course the accusations of "racism" and "Islamophobia" rang out loud and clear on the BBC's "World at One" today when a member of Rahman's "cabinet" was interviewed about this High Court ruling.

This is just the biggest and latest political scandal over corrupt election and voting procedures all of which have involved a single immigrant community. It’s must be so
comforting to all those advocates of multiculturalism to know the UK has now been been enriched by the exotic – ie: corrupt – political practices of the Third World.

[5TH 47] I hate to say this, but with the possible exception of terror offences which threaten property and the ruling elite potentially, Muslims are beyond the law it seems to me. Rotherham, Tower Hamlets, Manchester, Rochdale

and so many more and the ones we have yet to hear about Now that Rahman and his gang have been exposed, will the police start prosecuting this corrupt mafia and its enablers? [The Telegraph] Read more

April 10, 2015

Poll: Majority Have No Sympathy With Extremists

An exclusive poll suggests most Muslims think families are most responsible for stopping young people joining groups like IS.

More than a third of British Muslims say the actions of the authorities are contributing to the radicalisation of young people, according to an exclusive Sky News poll.

Some 39% of Muslims who were asked said the authorities, including police and MI5, were a factor in radicalising the younger generation, compared to 29% of Muslims who said they were not.

The research found the issue of young people travelling to fight with extremist groups, including Islamic State, or becoming so-called ‘jihadi brides’, remains highly controversial.

.... We asked 1,000 Muslims and 1,000 non-Muslims to share their opinions and found that while 71% of Muslims in the UK said the values of British society were compatible with those of Islam, 16% believed they were not.

[TOP RATED COMMENT ] Color me shocked.

[ANOTHER] So actually 29% of British Muslims (i.e. nearly one million Muslims) DON’T believe UK life is compatible with Islam. Surely that should be the headline!

[ANOTHER] Not integrated or assimilated and most Muslims don’t want to be and thats the sad truth about people. The sad truth is that they have come to live in a free and open society but they form their own little ghettos until it becomes like the medieval hole they came from?

As their numbers grow they seem to get more and more emboldened demanding special treatment and even different laws to live under [Sharia] and people in this country are getting a little bit fed up of them now and i mean Christians,Hindus,Jews and other faiths who rub along together with no issues. My fear is as their numbers increase their will at some time in the future be a flash point and civil unrest will ensue?

[ANOTHER] What absolute garbage! Yet again everyone else is to blame for everything EXCEPT the poor Muslims.

[ANOTHER] Of course it’s the fault of the police..... Muslims never do anything wrong.

[ANOTHER] I would love to know exactly who (which NON mozlem population demographic) was targeted and where this survey was conducted. I would wager it was not conducted in Oxford, Rochdale, Rotherham or one of the cities or towns where the
pakistani and other mozlem paedophile gangs have mass raped NON moslem British children or areas where izlamist thugs parade up and down demanding sharia law and special treatment for this insular minority group.

Once again we see the race card appear, use of the blame game and denial of the facts by mozlems in the UK. By far, most terror attacks and plots, atrocities are carried out across the world by the followers of the cult of izlam.

Large numbers of young "educated" mozlems, often from prominent families in the UK glorify and admire these murders and acts of cultural annihilation of other belief systems and justify this because their quran tells them to do it.

Even more disturbing is the desire amongst these "young educated mozlems" from Britain to join terror groups like ISIS etc. I wholly disagree with this "surveys" results and suggest the problem of radicalisation of mozlems in the UK lies 100% in the adherence to the texts of their quran and the what they are taught in their homes and mosques.

[ANOTHER] If Muslims don't like it in Britain there are plenty of other countries they can go to.

[ANOTHER] 16% should leave the UK then. That would be a start.

[ANOTHER] Well obviously the 52% should not be here, they should be in an Islamic country that suits their needs. I’ll help them

[ANOTHER] Aren’t they precious. Is there anything else they’d like us to change to suit them?

[ANOTHER] Simple solution: You have a problem with how we do things in the UK, we will pay, out of the public purse, for a one way flight for you to go to any country you want, and we’ll keep your British passport here (if you have one).

I’d be happier for my tax money to go on that than almost any other public service I can think of.

[ANOTHER] Poor Sky, still distracted by the ‘moderates’ who mean absolutely nothing in the equation of civilisational differences.

It isn’t the 3/4 Muslims who we are worried about. It is the one quarter of their ever growing population who are riding on the back of the entire religions level of devout fundamentalism, to establish Islamic extremism, that we are worried about. It is the 89% of Muslims in Pakistan who say they want the death penalty put in place for leaving the religion [PEW poll 2013] who we are worried about.

It is the upwards of 70% of Muslims in Egypt who also want the death penalty put in place for leaving Islam who we are worried about. It is the Saudi funded mosques and the silencing of all debate that we are worried about. It is our governments and their fear of being called 'Islamophobic' that we are worried about.

Islam has to be reformed. How will it be reformed if we accept it as it is, don't demand reformation and instead pretend there is nothing bad coming from its current spread?

Islamism is displacing and murdering hundreds of thousands of Christians right now, and all’s the likes of Sky News can do is tell us there is no problem.
Why didn’t you challenge these non-fundamental Muslims to speak out and protest against the Imams who are preaching fundamentalism? Why is it left to the likes of the EDL to demand change within Islam?

[ANOTHER] The koran encourages muslims to lie about their religion to non-muslims. Islam is not religion of peace, it’s a religion of conquest. The only difference between an extremest and a "moderate" is a matter of patience. [Sky News] Read more http://news.sky.com/story/1462023/poll-majority-have-no-sympathy-with-extremists

March 21, 2015

**Anti-Muslim prejudice is real, and it’s scary**

Something dangerous is brewing beneath the surface in our country, and it worries me that warning lights are not flashing in the minds of many of those I respect most. After the discrediting of anti-Semitism, after the discrediting of discrimination against black people, after the discrediting of prejudice towards the Irish, I hadn’t expected to live to see a powerful generalised antipathy against any race or religion gather popular force here without stirring at least the more liberal of my fellow citizens into resistance. I expected a sense of alarm. There is none.

Last Saturday my Times colleague Janice Turner used her weekly column to sound a note of anxiety about what she called a new shrillness in attitudes towards British Muslims, and a ‘lumping together’ of all Muslims as though all were extremists. Indeed, she said, we are starting to do the extremists’ work for them. She concluded: ‘In our poisonous, polarising age, it is time to stop seeking difference and ask how we are the same.’

**[TOP RATED COMMENT]** Mr Parris, I don’t think you have the slightest clue about this subject. Perhaps you should look at what is happening to secularists/not-very-conformist Muslims in Muslim countries and in the UK.

You also don’t seem to grasp that since the 7th century Jihadis have used fictional or exaggerated grievances, resentment, and insults as excuses for attacking and eradicating their opponents—and that includes those in their own societies who want to liberate themselves of ‘Holy Law.’

You don’t seem to understand the meaning of the words you are using. Presumably when you say you are not ‘anti-Islamist’ you really mean you are not against anything Islamic as such. ‘Islamist’ means people who are trying to impose Islam as a total and exclusive political, social, cultural, and even economic system based on Sharia and the Hadiths. Is that what you’re not against, Matthew?

I agree that the ignorant phobic outbursts of many posts after articles like this are unhelpful and deplorable, not least since they could drive some Muslim readers towards extremism and because they ignore the existence of secularised Muslims whom we should be welcoming and encouraging. But you really should uphold some sort of standard of secular freedom and tolerance and regard it as universal.

Presumably you have seen the pictures of gays being thrown off rooftops in Syria and Iraq and then shot (or hanged from cranes in Iran)—or Douglas Murray’s pictures of churches being desecrated in Mosul. Or the bulldozing of Nineveh and Nimrod. You should be trying to explain to young Muslims in the UK why these things represent a catastrophic route, why humanity and humane values are the right ones.

As it is, by writing this opinionated, rambling, muddled, and poorly informed stuff, you are simply giving the fanatics useful ammunition to use against the world you live in and depend on. [The Spectator] Read more
March 10, 2015

We can debate the extremists, listen to them, scream and shout and insult them. But we must never ban them.

.... I’ll repeat: the fact that 27 per cent of British Muslims have some sympathy with the motives of the Charlie Hebdo attackers is not a cause for celebration but for shame. The principles of an inclusive and secular society cannot be sacrificed on the altar of religious freedom. The schism opening up between Britain’s Muslims and the rest of British society can no longer be ignored or tolerated.

But these issues have to be discussed face to face. Driving organisations like Cage onto the dark web will solve nothing. What next, ask Paul Loughran if he’ll agree to voice the words of Moazzam Begg, like he used to for Gerry Adams when the Sinn Fein broadcast ban was in place?

We have to listen and we have to talk and we have to shout and we have to hurl insults and obscenities at one another. But above all, we have to engage.

Maybe Moazzam Begg is a monster. But if he is, I want him out in the sunlight, where I can see him, and study him, and understand why and how he wants to devour me.

[TOP RATED COMMENT] Imagine if 27% of Chelsea fans said they had some sympathy with keeping black people off trains? Or 45% of white football fans thought racist chanting at matches wasn’t being out of touch with race relations? The newspapers and BBC would erupt. The data would be headlines for weeks. A poll that suggests almost 700,000 Muslims in the UK have sympathy with men who machine gun cartoonists brings barely a murmur.

Until we are ready to challenge evil, even if it is wrapped up in minority communities and religions, then our own way of life will be under threat.

Incidentally, it took less than 24 hours after Muslims murderers had "avenged the prophet" before the words Islamophobia were uttered on the BBC .. Stockholm syndrome writ large.

We are at war. Only one side seems to know it.

February 8, 2015

Muslims protesting AGAINST freedom of speech:
Thousands gather outside Downing Street over ‘uncivilised’ Charlie Hebdo cartoonists

Hardline Muslims protesting against the depiction of the Prophet Mohammed in cartoons swarmed around a statue of Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery yesterday.

The show of disrespect to one of Britain’s greatest heroes in the war against Nazi suppression of freedom came as more than 1,000 Muslims demonstrated in London against ‘offensive’ caricatures of the prophet.
A boy aged no more than ten was among those carrying placards saying Insult My Mum And I Will Punch You – quoting Pope Francis in the wake of the Paris attacks. [883 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 23756 votes] .... if you don’t like our country, you can leave at any time, we won’t mind, I promise.

[ANOTHER 22935] But no protest a beheading people on a whim, throwing gays off buildings and oh yes burning a man alive locked in a cage!!!!! Unbelievable and shameful !!!!!!!

[ANOTHER 21465] Shame they don’t feel the need to march against all the terrible things happening in the name of Allah.


[ANOTHER 16740] And there was me thinking they had turned out to protest against ISIS.... Funny old world eh!!!!! [Daily Mail] Read more

5.0 Other including Regional & International Press

November 25, 2015

Muslim school’s female governor forced out of sight

A female governor at a Muslim school was forced to sit in a separate room during meetings and had to talk through an open doorway, Ofsted revealed yesterday.

Another school's library contained literature with extremist and sexist views, including a book that said that women made unreliable witnesses, the regulator said.

It castigated a number of independent faith schools — some Christian — for failing to promote British values or to teach a broad curriculum.

All had previously been inspected by the Bridge Schools Inspectorate (BSI), an agency abolished two months ago, which had been responsible for monitoring some independent Christian and Muslim schools. It was accused of failing to identify "warning signs of extremism and radicalisation in school settings". [127 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 86 votes] "At a meeting with inspectors, the only female governor sat "out of sight of the male governors in an adjacent room [and] could only contribute through a doorway". The governors said that this was their usual arrangement."

What on earth is this? How is this happening in the UK? If this is the attitude amongst the Governors how segregated the kids must feel in the classroom?

[2ND 74] "The Cornerstone School, a Christian school in Surrey, did not teach pupils about different cultures and perspectives, the inspectors said."

How PC can it get. At least the Christian school was not teaching their pupils to disrespect other religions or treat women like chattels. So what if the students at this Christian school are not taught about other religions. It seems that this school has been picked purely to appease the Muslim cry babies.

[3RD 50] Tolerance has become a one way street. Some religions are more equal than others and it is a fact which sooner or later has to be recognised by all of us without charges of discrimination being bandied about.

[4TH 47] This "school" should be taken over and run as a secular, community school – today. It has forfeited any right to continue to be a faith school.

Whatever else "British values" may be about, they are about treating women with dignity and respect, as equals. If they can’t do that for their own governors, what are they teaching the children? [The Times (£)] Read more http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/education/article4622977.ece

November 19, 2015

The battle is on for Muslim hearts and minds
.. I had been invited to address a conference at the School of Oriental and African Studies on the question of Muslim integration. I was talking on the subject of free expression.

At one level it was a brave attempt by lay Muslims to get people of different beliefs to debate with Islamic scholars and academics. But, comparing notes with other guest speakers as well as my own experience, I soon realised that the secondary agenda, intended or not, was an attack on the whole idea of deradicalisation. It was apparently just another aspect of western prejudice against Muslims — the true cause of terrorism.

So Professor Christopher Bagley, a Muslim convert, said that calls for integration represented "a strong undercurrent of racism and xenophobia regarding religious minorities". Dr Rizwaan Sabir, a lecturer at Liverpool John Moores University, attacked the moderate Muslim Quilliam Foundation which was being "used as a strategic asset by the British state to undermine political Islam at home and abroad". [David Aaronovitch, 246 comments]

[TOP RATED COMMENT 129 votes] Most Muslims interviewed or expressing opinions seem to be in denial. In most cases they say of ISIS (or Al Qaeda, or Boko Harem, or ...) that they are not Muslims and therefore nothing to do with them. If they were to accept that these are bad Muslims then maybe they would start to take responsibility for fixing what is wrong within their religion.

Of course their response is exactly the same as Sunni Muslims say of Shia Muslims and vice versa. It is also the same as ISIS say about any Muslims who do not accept their interpretation of the Quran. In every case they justify their actions, or inaction, by claiming that other Muslims groups are "not Muslims" and of course identifying themselves as victims.

Until Muslims accept that Islam is a large part of the problem, they will never be part of the solution.

[2ND 101] Oh how I agree with this! Our wonderful liberal and intellectual approach to ideas and thinking is, with great subtlety, being abused. The Quilliam foundation has done an excellent job thus far in trying to deconstruct the process of Radicalisation.

It is trying to come up with constructive ideas, and is it repaid by the public voices in the Uk Muslim Community in a negative way. Maajid Mawaz has "sold out" is the common reaction you will hear in the Uk Muslim public forum. I once asked a friend of mine – a Muslim of Pakistani heritage who has bought up 4 kids here, and is a pretty regular kind of Uk Muslim Guy. A typical Dad trying to do a good job of raising his family. I asked him – why don’t you say something at the mosque?

Express your worries about what is happening – how the more Political and Militant voices are being allowed to take an increasing role in Uk Muslim Identity. His reply utterly surprised me as I have known him for years, and know his unease about all that is going on at the moment.

He looked at me as if I was completely mad – and said he would not expose his Family to the ‘hounding’ in the Community that would come to them if he dared to ‘put his head above the parapet’ and question the path that the teachings of Islam were going down (ie – a more Salafist orthodoxy).

After that I just knew that Government – or others such as the Quilliam foundation – would have to play a more decisive and leading role into what we allow to be debated or taught in the UK. Because if the moderate (for want of a better word) are too hesitate to step up to the plate in their Communities – there is no hope. Someone else has to do it.
So, for Muslim women, says Dr Brown, "their real problems were discrimination, poverty and Islamophobia" (presumably all from non-Muslims)... and these then are worse than the difficulties presented by: segregation from men; not being allowed to work or be fully educated or follow certain careers; forced or arranged marriages and not being allowed to marry for love; FGM, often instigated or encouraged by older Muslim women; unequal treatment when it comes to divorce, custody and property issues; not to mention their enforced dress code, often very inappropriate and/or unhealthy attire for this country – all of course originating from within Islam, not outside it.

"Their real problems"?

This stuff sends shivers down my spine. The right-thinking academics are a much worse problem than the Muslims. In the Cold War they were allies with the Soviet Union, now their allies are Islamist extremists: if the aim is not to bring down western, liberal society then I don't know what it is.

The SOAS conference that you describe highlights a serious problem. It seems that Islamism enjoys the services of a body of apologists which is much larger than Fascism could ever assemble and possibly even larger than that enjoyed by Communism in its heyday. In one way, then, Islamism may be a bigger problem than earlier totalitarian ideologies. [The Times (£)] Read more http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4617716.ece

November 13, 2015

Kids in ‘no choice’ row over halal meat at Bilborough school

Parents say they are "furious" after claiming a school has given their children no choice over whether they eat halal meat or not. A letter sent out by Portland Primary Academy in Bilborough advised parents of a change of school meals, which included a note that all meat was halal.

The school says only chicken meat will be halal – the term for a method of slaughtering animals in line with Islamic law.

But parents said the children should be allowed a choice over whether to eat they want to eat this type of meat or not and objected to the method.

Jenni Tyas, of Bilborough, sends two of her four children, aged eight and 11, to the school. "It's disgusting," she said. "There should be a choice and we should have been consulted over it in the first place. [21 comments]

The halal process is barbaric and has no place in England at all. Any religion that requires halal is nothing less than barbaric. Parent need to petition the school against this practise.

Just imagine the fuss if the situation was reversed


September 8, 2015

Migrant crisis adds to Europe's anxiety about Islam
Europe’s refugee and migrant crisis is striking not just for the reluctance of most EU governments to open doors on the scale of 1956. A motif of cultural self-defence, of Europe as a Christian fortress justifiably barred to Muslim hordes, runs through their rhetoric.

Syria’s savage civil war has generated 4m registered refugees in the Middle East and beyond. But a person following Europe’s debate might wonder if the clock has reverted to 1529 and the armies of Suleiman the Magnificent, the Ottoman sultan, are at the gates of Vienna.

These anxieties are found in southern, central and western Europe. Socratis Hasikos, Cyprus’s interior minister, said unashamedly on Monday that his government would accept 300 refugees but wanted them to be Orthodox Christians; that is, of the same faith as Greek Cypriots.

I am a brown man (non-Muslim) living in the West. And yet I am staunchly against the influx of Muslim people who might prove to be too great a strain on social cohesion, and who might have ISIS fighters lurking amongst them.

I might well offend the sensibilities of the more fragile types out there, but unlike some, I base my opinions on empirical and historical evidence.

Immigration only works if the immigrants are willing to adopt to the culture of their host nations.

I am trying very hard throughout all this to retain compassionate and generous thoughts towards the migrants currently making their way in this direction.

However I have this nagging suspicion (as it would seem many others do) that those of us being persuaded to be tolerant and open now, will one day find that our children have to face a future in their own country where a vocal and homogenous minority (or even majority) may make extreme demands and be intolerant of them and their way of life, despite once having been refugees welcomed in and helped to rebuild their lives.

I am not sure we have the right to foist this sort of future on our children through our own naivety, and so we may need now to take military action and provide more help in the region to allow people of a fundamentally different culture and polity to remain there for the sake of future peace and harmony across both regions.

OK, so this is the first FT piece on the subject that is actually slightly nuanced. So we are at least slowly moving in a more balanced direction.

Now, I’d like an opinion piece that straightforwardly makes the case for rejecting asylum for millions of Muslims. I would like it to be cogent, rational, and not driven by bigotry.

There is definitely a non-racist case to be made for why, based on empirical evidence and history, millions of more Muslims entering the EU would be damaging for European society. Not least because of Islamic hostility to Democracy (see: "Arab Spring"), laïcité (see: lack of secular Muslim-majority countries), and freedom of expression (see: Charlie Hebdo).

Come on FT, you can do it. All I ask is for *one* piece that takes this angle. And that is not asking for much, considering that you have written at least ten so far arguing the opposite case.
As a ‘cold war kid’ – who lived through a period where the world was steady and where nations had borders – I found the ostentatious welcome by some Germans of illegal immigrants into Munich alarming. Why?

Because after many decades of naive propaganda about multiculturalism it represented a total failure by many people to recognize, first, that a (cultural) invasion of sorts is occurring, and secondly, that such is likely to prove devastating to both enlightenment values and the cohesion of European societies.

Its not just theocracy we’re affronted by, it’s rather the sentiment of moral superiority that these people have.

What repels us – yes, despite the foregoing – their attitudes to the inferiority of women, to productive effort, to personal status, to collaboration, to taking themselves sooo seriously, to absolutely no sense of live and let live, to the most shocking degree of shameless hypocrisy verging too often on outright mendacity, their callousness with each other and especially those they deem inferior or "tainted", their sense of revenge, of blood money, of barbaric and cruel punishment, the ease with which they are gripped by uncontrollable rage, of their right to reserve authority to decide, and then neither act nor allow others to act, which we find offensive.

All of which you have to see with your own eyes in order to believe possible. So, if they change their mindset, maybe we can live together.

Whereas objections to immigrants who are Hindu, Sikh or Chinese ( taken as a group in relation to their various traditional Chinese religious affiliations) could only be racist, objection to Muslims as a group of immigrants does have a rational non-racist basis.

The basic issue is if their religious practice (personal piety and observance apart) is compatible with fundamental assumptions of life in the modern West (as are Hinduism, Sikhism, Chinese religions, etc).

There are major problems here – none of which justify treating Muslims as second class citizens in daily life or behaving unpleasantly towards them, but which should not be ignored out of some Guardianista Pollyanna view of the world. A non-exhaustive list:

a) The dress code imposed on/accepted by most Muslim women – even if residually present as just a headscarf – is a denial of a fundamental assumption that the sexes are equally free to express and present themselves in daily life. The Muslim code relates to differential obligations on women not to arouse sexual interest of the opposite sex, going far beyond a modesty code for both sexes, and seems to involve a proprietary interest in women by men.

b) Application of Sharia Law in civil matters, especially divorce etc, takes over from Western civil law.

c) Well-meaning attempts to facilitate Halal meat mean that in the UK, the UK law on slaughtering – reflecting our society’s view on treatment of animals- has no meaning any more

d) Most importantly – though most Muslims are not violent, a constant trickle interpret their sacred texts as enjoining the most violent and barbaric conduct – at the risk of major violence, consequent civil unrest and constant huge expense in security measures.

To be honest, if there were no Muslims, we would not invent them. There may be unpleasant racism in the Eastern European approach but there is also common sense.
Sweden has probably had the most experience of Muslim immigrants. The people's open attitude to immigration has largely evaporated in the past decade as a result of their evident unwillingness to integrate. There is now a great gap between the politicians and the public.

Amongst those most opposed to Muslim immigration are Christians from the Middle East, who now find themselves once again on the receiving end of what they have only recently fled from. The old-established Jewish communities in Sweden have also been hit hard by the influx.

The Jewish population of Malmö has mostly departed in the face of threats, violence and school bullying. The synagogues at Stockholm and Gothenburg have had to turn themselves in fortresses with tough security guards in attendance. With this influx, we have had to say goodbye to peaceful sleepy Sweden.

I have no patience for racists or religious bigots either. But dismissing European concerns about the massive refugee move as motivated by racial or religious prejudice is a dishonest argument. In fact, it is no argument at all.

The post-WW2 history of Muslim and Arab migration to Europe is problematic. To be sure, European states and societies shoulder a big part of the blame. In France and Germany, Muslim migrants were never fuller accepted and alienation took root. Meanwhile, many migrants and their descendants have refused to acculturate into the larger society. Their refusal to accept democratic and liberal norms and acceptance of intolerant religious extremism is poisonous.

And now, some like Barber, argue that Europe ought to allow the transfer of literally millions of middle easterners from a sharply different political and religious culture. It's an invitation to disaster. The solution is not to transfer Syria to Europe, but to resolve the crisis in Syria (and Iraq.) [Financial Times] Read more http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/177b87fa-561c-11e5-9846-de406c6c37f2.html

August 21, 2015

My madrassa classmate hated politics. Then he joined the Islamic State

.... It was a departure not just of place but also of mind. "The Islam that the Indian [scholars] taught us is totally, totally, away from Islam," he said, renouncing our joint theological education. The madrassas had not taught him the rules for slavery, jihad or dealing with prisoners of war, he complained.

"I have painfully realized that Indian Islam teaches you to become passive and submissive to infidel, secular laws, which is a kind of unbelief." And this realization led him to trade the democracy founded by Nelson Mandela for the caliphate of Raqqa in Syria. He surrendered the orthodox commitment about which he had exhorted me and adopted the very idea he had mocked: a toxic version of political Islam on steroids.

.... The Islamic State outlook does not threaten only groups like the Yazidis, Jews, Christians and Shiites. It poses an even greater threat to Islam. As long as mainstream Muslim authorities keep Islamic learning in formaldehyde, they make it easier for many more like Rashid to head for the violent apocalyptic theaters of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.
I don’t doubt Rashid’s sincere intention to live a pious life any more than I did when we studied together. But he was able to embrace the Islamic State as its lodestar only because Islamic orthodoxy has not offered a humane alternative.

[TOP RATED COMMENT] This only reinforces my contention after studying the Koran, and the life and teachings of Mohammed, that Islam is a wellspring of bad ideas, incompatible with the modern world, and certainly at odds with western values and culture. Almost without exception every Muslim majority country is backward with dysfunctional societies and governments.

[2ND] Anyone who thinks religion can be used to murder people, to rape people, to behead people, to make life hell for people, has a twisted and sick view about God.

[3RD] We keep hearing that Jihadis are only a tiny minority of the world’s Muslims.

The problem is that the alleged ‘majority’ have none of the passion of this allegedly ‘tiny’ minority. They’d rather just move to Indiana and worry about nonexistent ‘Islamophobia.’ [The Washington Post] Read more

[2ND EQUAL] There is no confusion. Muslims are urged to lie to non Muslims to further the cause. Research Taqiyya

[2ND EQUAL] Christianity has grown alongside our society, becoming a very English version of the faith. So many of our internal and external conflicts have involved various versions of Christianity and only now, after more than a millennium, are we in a situation where (as opposed to say, America) the church can play a part in someone’s life and have nothing to do with politics or social issues.
The relatively recent introduction of Islam en masse to our shores has resulted in growing civil unrest and it will continue to increase unless we draw a line. I’m all for freedom of religion but we can’t let the medieval mindset of ‘my religion should dictate everything I and everyone else does’ continue – it’s just completely at odds with modern society and a huge step backwards for civilisation.

[2ND EQUAL] He is spot on – it is good that he has the courage to say this, in a country where the establishment bend over backwards not to offend Muslims by surpressing the the truth. [The Times (£)] Read more http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4515583.ece

July 26, 2015

**UK Muslims feel identity under threat since 9/11**

POLITICIANS from Scotland’s Islamic community see the need for Cameron’s counter-extremism strategy, but they are wary of a failure to understand what turns young people to terrorism, says Euan McColm

It is a subject so complex that the usual rules of politics don’t apply. When Prime Minister David Cameron set out his five-year counter-extremism strategy last week, even those who might usually be expected to criticise for the sake of criticism were unable to do so.

.... Yousaf said that those concerned about radicalisation should be mindful of the pressure Muslims felt "post 9-11".

"My perception is that since then many Muslims feel that their identity is under threat in a way it never was."

"We see it in different ways, throwaway remarks. My mum wears a headscarf, for example, and she has had more comments directed against her in recent years. My aunt was in Homebase recently and asked another customer if he would hand her something down from a shelf. He said he would as long as she wouldn’t bomb him."

Not, perhaps, enough to radicalise a middle-aged woman of moderate views, but an example of the change in mood that may be adding to the frustration some misguided young Muslims undoubtedly feel.

[TOP RATED COMMENT] The Saudis, instead of spending their money improving the World, have been squandering their vast oil wealth trying to turn Muslims into Wahhabi, Kaffir hating, misogynistic violent jihadis for the past thirty years.

[2ND] In Muslim terms, if you are not a Muslim, then you are persona non grata. They do not accept any other religion other than Islam. Before the mortally offended start, I’m not anti Islam, but it’s time some people faced the truth, and are able to express their opinions on the matter of continued non integration by the Muslim community.

All too often, the media and especially politicians are walking on egg shells, terrified of upsetting the Muslim community every time we are faced with yet another atrocity against western life. We need to be able to criticise without being accused of being anti Islamic, and that’s the problem.

[3RD] UK muslims feel their identity is under threat since 9/11 ? So they should, it is time they chose between their past heritage and their present loyalties.

[4TH] News for Sarwar ~ Fact – Scottish people equal with their English friends ARE just as sick of immigrants and WE don’t see this integration from the Pakistani
community your trying to make out. In General we feel the same and WANT to SEE Massive changes to the immigration system.

[5TH] No one is forcing Muslims to live in the west. They are free to upsticks and return to the homeland of their religion anytime.

[6TH] the Muslim community say they feel under threat? the question is why? they have Sharia courts, schools, they are allowed to build Mosques, their is no restrictions on them and their religion they are with British government permission allowed to create their own Aparthied in the UK then Cameron claims not enough integration!

I would suggest Mr Cameron actually read the Koran integration is not permitted with non Muslims and one has to wonder if friendship is not permitted what´s the chance integration will work? a call for it in effect asking Muslims not follow the preaching’s of their Prophet.

Unfortunately the Muslim community worldwide have the same problem Nowhere exists Muslims are not under threat according to Muslims themselves, the teaching of the prophet said he has commanded his followers to make Islam the only dominate faith [The Scotsman] Read more http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/uk-muslims-feel-identity-under-threat-since-9-11-1-3841102

July 26, 2015

**Muslims take pride in contribution to Scots life**

AN INNOVATIVE social media campaign has been launched to highlight the contribution Muslims have made to life in Scotland.

It aims to collect and collate the history of Scotland’s 85,000 Muslims through personal recollections and stories on Facebook and Twitter.

The project, which will last for a year, is the first attempt of its kind to research and celebrate the history of Scots Muslims and is aimed at promoting their positive impact on society to both young Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

"Muslims have made a positive impact on Scottish society", says Habib Malik, the community interests director at Napiershall Formula, which is managing the campaign on behalf of the Scottish Muslim Heritage Trust.

[TOP RATED COMMENT] Muslims are, at present, a relatively small minority of the population and thus show a tolerant outlook to the rest of society. But, as had been shown in England, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and in many other European countries, this mask of tolerance soon slips when Muslims become a majority in any area. Scottish left wingers who are so pro-Muslim should just travel south of the border to places like Dewsbury, Rochdale and Tower Hamlets to see what happens when Muslims get the upper hand in any community.

[2ND] Sorry, but I’m sick of hearing about Islam. I played my favourite ‘How long does it take to hear a reference to Islam/Muslims on the BBC’ game today. Turned on R4 when I went to make breakfast and today’s result was a big fat 0 seconds. An article on why Muslims in East London don’t feel British.

Then open this website and whammy, here we are, how great Muslims are. We don’t have daily updates on Sikhs, Catholics, the Chinese community, Wee Frees, Fraserburgh fishermen, Buddhists and all the other myriad of people that make up our society. Yes, I know there are Muslims out there and that they have problems and cause us problems but just give us peace for one day.
Some people should open their eyes, google 'violent passages from the Koran'.

Or maybe they rather see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil.

The misogynistic death cult that masquerades as 'The Religion of Peace' is proving a complete disaster for its adherents and for the rest of humanity. No place for this backward and ignorant nonsense in the UK.

Scotland could manage quite well, without any contribution from Islam. [The Scotsman] Read more

July 20, 2015

**Cameron unveils strategy to tackle Islamist extremism**

David Cameron has set out the government's strategy to defeat the "poison" of Islamist extremism.

He pledged to tackle extremist ideology and "the failures of integration" which he said had led to hundreds of Britons joining Islamic State (IS) militants.

Among a number of proposals, the PM promised to allow parents to have their children’s passports cancelled if they feared they were at risk.

He also pledged to look at social housing to prevent further segregation.

The Muslim Council of Britain urged the prime minister to "put his words into action" and engage with "all sections of the community including mainstream Muslim organisations and those who have differing views". [2233 comments]

**TOP RATED COMMENT 570 votes** Sick of Muslims playing the victim card. Nobody is accusing all Muslims of supporting IS; that’s a clearly a ridiculous statement. What we are accusing you off is tacit agreement with many of the ideas & doing the square root of jack all to address it. This is your culture that propagates the belief that you’re a Muslims first and a UK citizen second, not ours. Do something about it!

**2ND 493** Yasmin Qureshi said Muslims were tired of constantly being called on to apologise for the actions of extremists.

Apologise no, but there should be a minimum expectation that Muslims should be proactive in identifying and rooting out those who promote or propogate hatred.

With increasing numbers of British Muslims being radicalised, one feels the Muslim community can do more.

**3RD 466** No wonder many young muslims feel alienated and confused.

Trapped between the devout world of their parents, but living in a Western value society.

So either the Western world gets more fundamental or else Muslim society becomes more Western.

That means no veils in public, no Sharia law, no cousin marriages and no radical preachers either.

But will anyone have the guts to enact it?
If you look around the world it’s quite clear that generally people from totally different cultures do not integrate readily. Why are we surprised that this has also turned out to be the case here. We are far too keen to give UK citizenship and passports to people who will never truly be "UK citizens" in the full sense of that term. Just storing up a problem.

There is a really obvious solution to the issue being addressed by our PM today. Sadly, that solution is the proverbial elephant in the room. Everybody knows the problem, but we’re never allowed to mention it.

If people want to travel to Syria and join IS, give them a packed lunch and a taxi to the airport – just take away their UK passports as they leave and inform them that their UK citizenship has been withdrawn.

Far better they are in Syria rather than the UK – persuading them to stay, or preventing their departure, merely keeps the problem here – IMHO, best they go.

If Warsi and Qureshi are protesting Cameron must be on the right lines. 

July 3, 2015

Young Muslims fuel huge rise in Sharia marriage

Britain is seeing a surge in Sharia marriages — many of them polygamous — as young Muslims shun legally binding unions.

As many as 100,000 couples are living in such marriages, which are not valid under UK law, and bypassing register offices, experts said. Ministers have raised fears that women can be left without the right to a fair share of assets if the relationship ends, while others are forced to return to abusive "husbands".

A leading Islamic family lawyer warned that the increase in Sharia ceremonies among the 2.7 million-strong Muslim population in Britain was also behind a growth in "secret polygamy".

"Probably a quarter of all couples I see involve polygamy issues," Aina Khan told The Times. "There has been a huge rise in recent years because people can have a secret nikah [Islamic marriage] and no one will know about it."

.... Amra Bone, Britain’s first woman Islamic judge on a Sharia council, a Muslim scholar and chaplain at Bristol University, denied that the councils discriminated against women. They were there to help women out of "failed marriages" and to move on with their lives, she said. "We apply Sharia principles... within the law of the land. We are a voluntary body and can’t make orders — we just advise. People don’t want us to be judgmental."

.... Mrs Bone said that most Muslims did not take more than one wife. Some women wanted "part-time husbands", she said. "Most men will tell you: ‘I can’t look after one wife, never mind more than one.’ But we cannot — and the government cannot — ask Muslims not to have more than one wife. People have a right to decide for themselves."

"We cannot – and the government cannot – ask Muslims not to have more than one wife"
As polygamy is illegal in this country, I would have thought that the government would not so much ask as insist that Muslims in Britain do not have more than one wife. Ms Khan is at pains to emphasise that "we apply Sharia principles….within the law of the land." Well, the law of this land allows you but the one spouse.

2ND 132 It’s very simple.

Ban the burqa and hijab.

Close down mosques that peddle and support extremism

Ban halal slaughter (and schetita, just to keep Mr Burgess happy))

Ban praying in the road

Withdraw UK citizenship of Anjem Choudary and deport him to Saudi

Ensure that no funding from halal certification goes to support extremism

3RD 119 Is the Child Support Agency on top of this or are we funding all the children of apparently single mothers under this system?

4TH 116 About 15 years ago, a very liberal friend of mine told me that Muslims aimed to instal Sharia in Britain. I thought it was a preposterous claim. How right he was. How wrong I was.

5TH 111 Good to see another example of integration into their chosen society.

6TH 106 Our country is walking, perhaps stumbling, in slow motion towards a point where in a decade, it will be unrecognisable as England.

Already, the most popular boy’s name is Mohammed.

Adieu, farewell beautiful England.

7TH 103 "...the government cannot — ask Muslims not to have more than one wife."

Yes.

Yes it can, because that’s the law in this country. [The Times (£)] Read more
http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4486748.ece