

***What People  
Think of  
Islam***

**Readers' Comments  
LEFT, RIGHT & CENTRE**

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Islam Surveyed

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# 1.0 Summary

This is a survey of readers' comments on articles about Islam and Muslims published by leading quality and popular British newspapers over the 12 months to November 2016. It updates a similar survey covering 2015 and earlier [See Note 1]

It concentrates on **social, cultural, religious and political** topics and mostly ignores terrorism and armed conflict in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. The Islamic State is sometimes covered because it has such a strong Islamic dimension.

## 1.1 The Main Findings

Across the political spectrum, from the *Guardian* to the *Daily Mail*, an overwhelmingly large number of readers are critical of Islam, severely so in many cases.

The criticism covers a wide range of subjects including freedom of speech, sharia, family law, how to handle extremism, extremist beliefs, treatment of women, integration, multiculturalism, and segregated communities.

At least 90 percent of the comments and the votes on the comments are negative about Islam.

The only difference between the *Guardian* on the left and the *Daily Mail* on the right is *Guardian* readers write far longer comments!! [2]

**Section 2.0, a selection of TYPICAL COMMENTS, gives a quick overview of what readers have to say. Outstanding comments are highlighted.**

## 1.2 What's Covered

The survey is divided into sections, covering the Left, Right and Centre of British politics.

	<b>Articles Surveyed</b>
<i>The Guardian</i>	59
<i>The Independent &amp; similar</i>	9
<i>Daily Mail, The Telegraph, &amp; similar</i>	19
<i>The Times, Regional and International Press, &amp; Other</i>	13

For each article you are given:

- (1) Title and date.
- (2) A short extract from the article to illustrate its content.
- (3) The most popular readers' comments - those with the highest number of votes, or recommendations, or likes, from other readers.

### **This is a huge sample**

The 59 Guardian articles in this survey have an average 1018 comments per article and top rated comments typically get 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 This is Why**

Another survey, ***This is Why – 2016***, just published by *Islam Surveyed* casts more light on why there is such widespread criticism of Islam. A copy can be downloaded from: <https://islamsurveyed.com/view-download-summary-reports/>

## **NOTES**

[1] *Readers' Comments – What People Think of Islam*, February 2015, 124pp.  
<http://readerscommentsonislam.com/view-download-reports/>

[2] On the subject of Islam the *Guardian* is totally out of step with its readers. Most of its articles take the line there is nothing wrong with Islam or the way it's practiced; if there are problems it's everyone else's fault. Racism lies behind any criticism of Islam.

It provides a platform for Muslims to complain about how they are treated or viewed - e.g. Muslims are victims, not all Muslims are the same - but it is happy to publish Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) party pieces, to rubbish modernising Muslims, and to ignore its readers' concerns.

The irony is the *Guardian* could do more to help Muslims by being sensibly critical some of the time and by supporting Muslim reformers, instead of being so-wilfully one sided.

For further information about "*Islam Surveyed*" see: <http://islamsurveyed.com/>

## 2.0 Typical Comments

### The Guardian

#### **Louis Smith's ban is just a distraction from Britain's real race issues**

**[TOP COMMENT 346 votes]** *"Yes, the gymnast's drunken antics were Islamophobic."*

Nonsense. In fact, the ban itself is Islamophobic, in the literal sense: fear of Islam. He wouldn't have been banned for mocking Christian prayers.

**[2ND 283]** Let's stop for a second here. A person, in the UK and in 2016, has been suspended for mocking a religion. It is horrible and incredibly dire.

**[4TH 235]** No its not. It's what's wrong with our Politically correct culture and bowing down to uncomfortable truths. The only question you need to ask .... if he ridiculed say Christianity, would he have been punished in the same way if at all?

**[5TH 233]** You need to stop conflating race and religion. Race no one can help. Religion is a set of ideas, some making pseudo scientific claims and some making moral and ethical directions. They are up for challenge and mockery accordingly.

#### **Prevent is failing. Any effective strategy must include Muslim communities**

**[TOP COMMENT 236 votes]** *"Rather than mosques and madrasas being targeted as potential hotbeds of terrorism, a claim that has no basis in fact" ??????????*

Channel 4 filmed preachers and obtained DVDs and books inside mosques which were filled with hate-filled invective against Christians and Jews. They condemned democracy and called for jihad. They presented women as intellectually congenitally deficient and in need of beating when they transgressed Islamic dress codes. They said that children over the age of 10 should be hit if they did not pray.

**[ANOTHER 108]** So what are the alternatives? Apparently, woolly inclusive flammery which ignores political extremism entirely, even though violent terrorism is always the result of political extremism, and the problem is the community which condones the political attitudes that can be used to justify violent action.

#### **Nicolas Sarkozy's bigotry cannot define our worth as children of immigrants**

**[TOP COMMENT 397 votes]** *"If you want to become French, you speak French, you live like the French. We will no longer settle for integration that does not work, we will require assimilation."*

What exactly is wrong with this sentiment?

**[5TH 166]** Someone from an ethnic background came past with a big family in tow. The head of the family took an interest in a motorcycle I had. We talked at length. I shook his hand in the standard British greeting, then wishing to be friendly, extended the same greeting to his wife (what else could I do?).

She put her hands behind her back and said that her culture forbid her to make such a greeting. I stood there, hand extended, more than miffed as you can imagine, indeed shocked.

If this is your "multiculturalism" .... I want nothing to do with it.

## **After the New York bomb, Muslim Americans are braced for a backlash**

**[2ND 191]** "... remember our common humanity"

Kind of hard to do that when followers of a certain religion are taught by their holy book that non-believers are less than human and are to be converted or killed.

## **European Muslims are not new. Nor are they all the same**

**[TOP COMMENT 615 votes]** "How European societies embrace growing diversity will in many ways determine the fate of our democracies."

Keep pushing, keep raising the temperature with your elitist tone-deafness and you're going to see the reaction of all reactions. Europeans do not want this 'diversity' yet you continue to tell us that we do.

**[3RD 468]** Just look at the Pew poll data. The vast majority of Muslims surveyed across the world hold what would be considered conservative beliefs regarding marriage, homosexuality, equality of the sexes, freedom of speech and law amongst others.

If the question was levelled at me "do you want a group primarily comprised of people like that coming into your country in significant numbers?" My answer would be, emphatically, "no".

## **The politics of fear: how Britain's anti-extremism strategy has failed**

**[TOP COMMENT 331 votes]** "At present, those organisations – the "good Muslims"– which the government collaborates with or finances, frequently enjoy no street credibility: how could they, if they never criticise the domestic or foreign policies of their government sponsor?"

The whole problem is the politicising of Islam – and you suggest we pander to it? Religion is just about ok if it consists of private prayer, observance of rituals, festivals and so on. The moment it's used as a prism to view political events, it's already too 'radical'.

Expressing political views is a right – so is holding religious views. But combining the two things results in a third column of people born in Bradford or Marseilles who think that the war in Palestine is an attack on them personally – they're part of the problem, not part of the solution.

## **Angela Merkel and Marine Le Pen: one of them will shape Europe's future**

**[TOP COMMENT 569 votes]** .... the Left has helped drive the debate to extreme positions by its seeming inability to differentiate between white supremacist nutjob racists and the "Mrs Duffy's" of this world and treating them as if they equalled the same thing?

**[4TH 443]** One of them has helped destroy Europe's social fabric and caused divisions that will never be healed. The other one is Marine Le Pen

## **I was escorted off a flight due to racist profiling. Britain must banish this bigotry**

**[TOP COMMENT 883 votes]** "The only way for society to progress is for the public to be aware that Muslims are exactly the same as everyone else."

.... What would you have the security services do by the way? Just ignore concerns? Yes, whilst Islamic terrorism is a huge threat all over the world, you will suffer some inconvenience.

### **The Guardian view on Islamist extremism in prisons: above all, don't make things worse**

**[TOP COMMENT 116 votes]** *"It is essential to stem the growth of Islamist extremism both by hard and soft policy."*

We have had 20+ years of the "soft" policy, isn't it about time we tried the hard policy?

### **Britain is full of inspirational Muslim women. They're more crucial than ever**

**[TOP COMMENT 508 votes]** .... By wearing the headscarf, Muslim women legitimise and embody the fetishisation of female 'modesty' that's responsible for untold repression and suffering in Muslim societies across the globe.

.... Women in the west who wear headscarves are perpetuating this 'modest/immodest' dichotomy, by being ostentatiously 'modest'.

In a time when Western societies are moving rapidly in the direction of social liberalism, .... how do we integrate the baked-in social conservatism of Islam? To what extent should we tolerate – or embrace – intolerance? Headscarves are just a visible emblem, a shorthand, for this much deeper incompatibility.

**[8TH 93]** The most inspirational Muslim woman I know is no other than my own wife. Who against provocation and abuse from some members of her own faith, decided to marry the man that she loved, a white Christian man and not what her own society and upbringing dictated who she should marry – someone of her own faith and culture!

Even now she is called names that are totally unrepeatable by some followers of her own doctrine – nearly always male, just for having the good sense to follow her heart.

**[11TH 168]** *"This climate of heightened prejudice and Islamophobia has at times made me fear for my safety."*

.... I think you need to exercise a little perspective when running down the UK, accusing those who live here of intolerance.

How many Muslims have been brutally murdered in the UK in recent times, on the grounds of their faith? I can think of one – an Ahmadi man named Asad Shah, murdered, of course, by another Muslim, who used Islam as justification for his actions.

### **Abuse of Muslims is now mainstream. I never thought my children would see this**

**[TOP COMMENT 1128 votes]** Criticism of Islam, along with all religions, is perfectly justified. Shouting slurs at a person in the street is not.

**[2ND 1016]** Have you ever wondered why? *"No matter how often we denounce the horrible atrocities carried out by some fanatics, we are still associated with them."*

In response to the savage killing of a well liked and locally cherished man, Asad Shah, perhaps not quite a Moslem according to some Islamic scholars, the leader of Bradford's Mosques said what this country (sic) needs is a blasphemy law so that people won't need to take the law (sic) into their own hands. That is, embrace the justification for murder

in order to stop the urge to murder for Allah's sake. Who needs this? You do, apparently. Still wondering?

**[10TH 607]** *"To blame a whole race, ethnic or religious group for the actions of a few is racism."*

Check out the Quranic opinion on the vile 'unbeliever' if you're looking for 'racism' and 'othering'.... ALL of us are to be viewed as subhuman, simply for our inability to swallow the nonsense required to be one of the 'faithful'. Your 'holy' scriptures are a textbook for division and hate.

**[12TH 593]** *"No matter how often we denounce the horrible atrocities carried out by some fanatics, we are still associated ...."*

I have a very close Muslim friend, we were at med school & we are both junior doctors. He tells me the level of condemnation/denunciation of extremism in certain mosques is, in his opinion *"lamentable, either totally missing or half hearted .. "*

### **Five reasons to wear a burkini – and not just to annoy the French**

**[TOP COMMENT 1592 votes]** Make Muslim men wear them. The hijab and niqab as well, to maintain the dignity of Muslim men....see how long that lasts.

**[ANOTHER 558]** [To] all the pro-burkini non-Muslim feminists: have you ever tried swimming with all your clothes on? do you know [how] it feels?? it's an extremely unpleasant sensation, both in the water and even more so, out of it, afterwards.

**[ANOTHER 500]** Hilarious. In Islamic countries, strict dress code is always enforced, and Westerners have to abide by these rules, which they do without complaint. And yet when you are asked to show the same respect to your host country, suddenly that's all oppressive and illiberal, is it?

Your complaints about intolerance and lack of respect for diversity would be far better directed at your own culture, which is far more oppressive than anything you will find in the country you appear to despise so much.

### **My charity has received horrific anti-Muslim abuse. But the Met police don't seem to care**

**[TOP COMMENT 552 votes]** In the wake of the appalling wave of Islamist violence across Europe, that the response has been limited to the odd incident of shouting on buses or abusive tweets speaks volumes.

**[4TH 423]** *"The response from the Met was jaw-dropping. .... their threat assessment regarding Tell MAMA and its staff was that we were considered "low risk"."*

The thing is, you are at "low risk". .... any racist abuse and the perpetrators should be punished; however, you are not in a position where (like Salman Rushdie for example) you are at risk of having gun-wielding or knife-wielding fanatics coming for you. The police have to prioritise and their first job should be to protect life and limb. Once we no longer have homicidal maniacs walking the streets trying to behead people then maybe we can focus on the threats and name-calling.

### **The attacks in France show that its colonial past endures**

**[TOP COMMENT 811 votes]** *"if it wants to build an inclusive, promising future for all its citizens."*

It cannot build an "inclusive, promising future", if some citizens do not accept the level playing field of secularism and do not accept (for example) the equality of women. It is not acceptable to permit men in some religious subcultures to silence and 'keep invisible' women who have the misfortune to be part of that subculture. Their rights as citizens should come first.

**[3RD 553]** Yeah, definitely a colonialist problem. That's why we have all those Hindu extremists committing massacres over here all the time. Blaming the west is really beginning to wear thin, you know.

**[4TH 432]** I sometimes think that, with articles such as these, The Guardian has some unfathomable agenda to make me turn my back on my liberal principles and turn me into an EDL supporter.

**[5TH 416]** *"The attack in Nice, in which 84 people were mown down by a French resident of Tunisian origin, has been a watershed in French politics. After the trauma of the killings, incidents of open, blatant, anti-Muslim hatred have sparked a new, worrying phase."*

What an utterly shameful opening paragraph.

### **Kelvin MacKenzie, we're sick of your toxic propaganda. Fatima Manji is admirable**

**[4TH 416]** 84 men, women and children were murdered by a Muslim maniac invoking ISIS and thus Islam as a justification. The first thing viewers see on C4's report is an obviously Muslim presenter. Isn't it just common sense that this would create a hurtful impression and thus be grossly insensitive?

**[6TH 317]** The headscarf is the symbol of Islamic culture. The same culture which is the source of violent terror, the same culture where a large percentage of its members are terror apologists or blame all its problems on the West.

**[7TH 284]** It's obvious that the headscarf in Britain is a symbol of self-imposed division and separation from British society and identity. That 2nd/3rd/4th generation Muslims are wearing such garbs is utterly depressing.

### **Muslims are not a 'different' class of Briton: we're as messy as the rest**

**[2ND 102]** .... the bottom line is that Mr Malik does in the end agree with Trevor Phillips that, for a combination of reasons, many Muslims have become more conservative and this makes for an increasing divide with the attitudes of the majority of the population.

.... there are many traditional Muslim beliefs that I cannot respect because they go against all our principles of equality, democracy and rationality.

**[4TH 76 ]** .... Islam has in its creed that there should be no separation of religion and state as again all laws belong to Allah. That is the antithesis of being compatible to Western societies view of democracy and is a major part of the reason why democracy has always struggled to cement itself in Islamic countries.

### **This Arab youth survey highlights the dangers of desperation**

**[TOP COMMENT 208 votes]** A "world dominated by exploitation"? Really Guardian? Is that really the cause of Islamic terrorism, and the economic and social malaise affecting the Muslim world?

What about stifling religion, bad leadership, lack of democracy, lack of transparency, lack of protection for fundamental rights, lack of respect for religious minorities, lack of

respect for women, and a tendency to blame problems on others? Those are the real problems, not some unnamed rapacious capitalists.

### **What do Muslims really think? This skewed poll certainly won't tell us**

**[3RD 485]** And no mention of sharia courts. If Muslims truly have a sense of belonging then why the insistence on a parallel legal system?

In no other segment of British society do so many people define themselves primarily by their religion. It is that which is driving division and cannot be laid at the door of the rest of the population.

**[4TH 463]** When I walk around Manchester and see women in the Niqab and Burka the truth of this self-segregation becomes apparent.

### **Shunned for saying they're Muslims: life for Ahmadis after Asad Shah's murder**

**[TOP COMMENT 430 votes]** *"The Glasgow shopkeeper was a member of the Islamic sect persecuted in Pakistan for decades. How did the arcane but deadly tensions, rooted in the theological history of the region, surface in the UK?"*

Because when they emigrated to the UK, they brought their traditions with them and refused to start over?

### **If a moderate like Sadiq Khan shouldn't stand for London mayor, which Muslim can?**

**[2ND 305]** Why shouldn't people dislike Islam? It's just a set of beliefs, ideas and principles, like Conservatism, which do not align with my own beliefs, ideas and principles.

**[7TH 122]** A phobia is an irrational fear of something. As somebody originally from India I assure you that there is nothing irrational about a fear of Islam. Muslims on an individual basis are different but Islam as a belief system? Nothing irrational about being afraid of that.

### **This racist backlash against refugees is the real crisis in Europe**

**[2ND 392]** Relocate them all to Saudi, Qatar, The Emirates, Kuwait, Dubai... Plenty of room, plenty of money and a shared culture. Europe isn't the place for swarms of Islamic, economic migrants.

**[3RD 350]** It's also a matter of scale, the sheer number of people, potentially millions and millions (and the culture they bring with them)

### **France's official blindness to religion only masks religious hatred**

**[2ND 415]** *"France's official blindness to religion only masks religious hatred"*

No. It doesn't.

It separates religion from the work of government and administration, leaving religion to individual choice.

**[3RD 361]** *"French secularism, or laïcité, treats religion as a dirty little secret, and manifests itself as a restriction of public prayer or the open expression of religious identity."*

Well religion ought to be a dirty little secret as it makes big claims for such small (if any) evidence. You see, human beings now use 'logic' and 'rationale' backed by 'evidence' to put forward theories and arguments.

### **The Observer view on the radicalisation of young British Muslims**

**[TOP COMMENT 132 votes]** If there is a wish to counter radicalism, it has to face the facts that multi-culturalism has helped to create a parallel society ...., (little or no intermarriage, or any social interaction). One thing I learned in Bradford was that Ray Honeyford had been trying to push Muslim girls to improve their education, to aim for a career rather just marriage. He was hated for this ....

An honest approach will look at how and why parallel societies, following their own laws and customs, have been allowed to settle, develop and grow in the UK for the last 30 or 40 years. It should look at how official blind eyes have been turned to possible offences in the name of 'cultural sensitivity'. It should look perhaps at how people growing up in such an environment could not be radicalized.

**[4TH 92]** This article reeks of Guardian whataboutery and offers no solution. In fact everything mentioned here has been discussed to death and the only thing the Guardian can propose is that the government needs to 'do more' and treat 'at risk' Muslims with the softest gloves ever.

*"How do we combat the radicalisation of young Muslims? This debate is a political minefield."*

This debate is a 'political minefield' only to left-wing-loonies, the rest of us are very clear about what this issue is. Most of the readers of this CIF are responsible and open-minded people who have had enough of pussyfooting around this issue by the Guardian.

The simple and brutal truth is that Islam as manifested by a fair few of it's adherents can never co-exist in an enlightened European nation like ours – no matter how much we say otherwise. The sooner we all lay this to bare and move forward the better.

### **Cameron and Muslim women: a new twist on an old colonial story**

**[TOP COMMENT 541 votes]** So, an inability to speak English after a decade or more in the country is a good thing, because it is sticking two fingers up to 19th century British colonialism?

**[3RD 343 ]** This insane article makes me bristle with anger. It seems the Guardian sees racism and imperialism in everything.

Cameron was making a sensible remark about immigrants who can't speak English: if they are to integrate and be financially independent, they need to learn it. It's sensible – really rare thing for Cameron.

### **Schools can decide whether to ban full-face veils, says Morgan**

**[TOP COMMENT 368 votes]** ANOTHER COMMENT SAID: *"Just continue stripping people of their freedoms in the name of freedom. Sad"*

The "freedom" for a community to segregate itself from the rest of society and essentially create a parallel community though various factors including dress....

**[3RD 217]** The full veil has no place in British schools, just as a mini skirt would not be tolerated in Saudi schools. This is not a Muslim country.

**[6TH 192]** A mask isn't an item of clothing and face coverings are already banned in Britain. If you are a motorcyclist you have to by law wear a helmet, yet in Banks, Petrol station etc, you are asked to remove it to show your face.

### **Cameron has alienated the very people he must ally with: Muslim women**

**[TOP COMMENT 569 votes]** *"Who are the people in the best position to provide solutions to this problem? Other Muslim women"*

I think that it's time to let go of the idea that Islam can only be reformed from the inside, especially given that there's no sign of it happening. We in the west – including moderate Muslims – should stop tip-toeing around it for fear of causing 'offence'.

The vision of multiculturalism .... has been a manifest failure. But that model isn't the only one available – we could try co-existing around a core set of values that we all share. One such would be the freedom to openly criticise each other's ideas. Everyone should be free to believe what they want, and everyone else should be free to openly question that, with no fear of violence.

.... It's absurd to sit around waiting for Islam to reform itself from within, when it's plain to see that it's moving in the opposite direction. Those Muslims who want to publicly speak out against its oppressive might can only do so if they're ready for immediate martyrdom at the hands of their grim-faced coreligionists. The conditions created by these lunatics are such that Islam can't possibly reform. The process can't even begin.

### **Let's tap into Islam's heritage of critical education to defeat extremism in schools**

**[TOP COMMENT 140 votes]** And exactly what parts of The Koran and the Hadith are actually open to criticism?

This is the fundamental problem with Islam in the Western world. Muslims believe that Islam is the perfect solution for humanity. Perfection cannot, by definition, be criticised. It is extremely, extremely difficult to have a sensible, objective discussion with people on a topic, if that is their starting point.

### **The Cologne assaults challenge the German sense of order – and many fear what comes next**

**[3RD 113]** Angela Merkel – with no mandate – invited in 1.1 million people from some of the most violent and dysfunctional regions of the world, without having any real idea as to who any of these people actually are.

### **After Cologne, the uneasy question: is cultural coexistence still possible?**

**[TOP COMMENT 377 votes]** No. Islam and democracy are incompatible, always will be. 'There's no such thing as a democratic Muslim', as an imam said.

**[2ND 311]** .... The Arabs coming over are in no way interested in becoming good Germans. They want to continue with their present cultural identity, just set within the material comfort and security of a western state. Like water and oil, these two cultures will not mix.

### **Diversity could be the making of Europe – let's talk about it**

**[TOP COMMENT 522 votes]** I have read some deluded and out of touch articles in the Guardian, but this one is written by someone whose bubble is so thick it could never be burst.

"Saying that migrants, whatever their cultural background, must abide by laws as much as be protected by them, may be stating the obvious but it also raises sensitivities and should therefore be part of that debate."

No, it should not be part of a debate – and don't try to kid us with vague statements within an article that effectively says refugees and migrants should do as they please and indigenous populations should do whatever they can to make them welcome.

.... What the author is advocating is exactly how the Rotherham scandal was allowed to evolve. It is why backward hate preaching was/is allowed. It is why sexism is so rife in society.

### **Muslims can reinterpret their faith: it's the best answer to Isis**

**[2ND 131]** *"In my opinion we Muslims need to take the bold step of challenging the very idea that the Qur'an and Sunna are infallible."*

At last! – A sensible article on Islam in the Guardian. And it has only taken around 10 years to recognise that Muslims need to start reflecting on, and reforming, their religion.

**[3RD 101]** Islam has had 1200 years to reform – I am not holding my breath.

### **Merkel is wrong – demanding Syrians assimilate could backfire**

**[6TH 355]** Do any Muslim countries support multiculturalism? Would Saudi Arabia, for example, allow 500,000 Christians to move there, build churches, drink alcohol, wear whatever they feel like, and so on? I don't think so.

The idea that any country would or should allow hundreds of thousands of people to suddenly turn up, for whatever reason, and with the idea that they do not have to adhere to that country's traditions is ludicrous.

### **With Islamophobia on the rise I fear for my friends and family**

**[TOP COMMENT 516 votes]** *"We must do more to challenge Islamophobia. As mayor of London, I'll make tackling hate crimes – including Islamophobia... – a top priority for the Metropolitan police and ensure they get the resources they needs to make a real difference."*

Really? Why is everyone insistent on pandering to this cult/religion .... maybe you should spend police resources on ensuring Islamic hate preachers, problematic mosques and groups of growing radicalised members are being monitored rather than monitoring everyone else in case someone says something that could be considered remotely offensive to Muslims.

## **Daily Mail**

### **Shame on Sharia: Women beaten, robbed and raped. A chilling expose of how BRITISH females are being sentenced to lives of misery by Muslim courts**

**[TOP COMMENT 6693 votes]** There is only room for one legal system in the U.K and it's not Sharia.

**[3RD 4206]** Bloody disgrace spineless Westminster. BRITISH LAW must be supreme in our nation over EU & most certainly over ANY religious regime.

**The ‘extremist’ schools we can’t close: Four Muslim colleges ordered to shut down by the Government use the courts to defy ministers**

[2ND 2325] This country needs to bloody well toughen up & quick. It’s becoming a complete laughing stock.

[3RD 2000] Shut them down for gawds sakes. Should never existed in the first place.

**Nearly TWO THIRDS of the public believe migrants are not fitting in well to British society, according to a poll**

[TOP COMMENT 1131 votes] Only two thirds, I wonder where a third asked came from.

[2ND 1044] What does one expect when they segregate themselves from our traditions and way of life.

**Muslim woman becomes first ever student to be allowed to wear a hijab beneath her uniform at America’s oldest private military college**

[TOP COMMENT 1180 votes] It’s called a uniform for a reason.

[2ND 1034] Don’t know what I find more ridiculous. The college thinking they are being so cutting edge and PC or her thinking she has a right to wear what she likes, unlike every other person.

**Young Muslims who quit the faith ‘live in fear of violent revenge’: Support group says some have been warned they will be killed if they abandon their religion**

[TOP COMMENT 726 votes] You must believe in the sky god or else!!!!

[2ND 462] And we are told that this is a very tolerant religion.

[5TH 323] The official penalty for apostasy in Islam is death — what more do you need to know about this faith? All religion is bad and the world would be an immeasurably better place without any of it, but there is nothing to touch Islam for sheer awfulness.

**Muslim teacher quits her job after she was told she had to shake hands with male members of staff at Swedish school**

[TOP COMMENT 1071 votes] Perhaps it would be better for all concerned that those holding ideological views which are at odds with the dominant culture leave to find a country more tuned to their preferences.

**Yes, boys, you CAN have sex slaves: Outrage as British Muslim cleric at mosque where Cardiff jihadis were radicalised tells teenagers that ‘captives’ are permissible under Islam in vile sermon**

[TOP COMMENT 14256 votes] Not in this country, not in this century! This man is inciting hatred and should be arrested. Hatred of women and hatred of mankind.

[2ND 10624] Who has got the bottle to do something about it? WWaiting...

[4TH 9077] There are so many of his kind here in the UK. They support dæsh, they raise funds for them through dubious charities and in the open, they claim to condemn Isis and their ideology. It is only a smoke screen. They speak from both sides of their mouth. Trust them at your peril.

**EU set for U-turn over whether firms can legally ban Muslim headscarves after senior legal officer rules it IS discriminatory**

[TOP COMMENT 1477 votes] Simple rule for employers – don't employ them! One's religious or cultural beliefs should not take priority. Keep it at home, if you must. It's 2016, for crying out loud!

**Germany to scrap 'cultural immunity' and will no longer allow migrants to have multiple marriages or child brides**

[TOP COMMENT 4087 votes] They were allowing child brides?! That makes me sick to my stomach. What a terrible country Germany has become.

**UK prison imams are free to spread hatred: Preachers found to be distributing extremist literature including homophobic and misogynistic leaflets**

[2ND 610] What the h\*\*l is going on with the British Authorities, Ministers get paid millions for doing a job which they are obviously failing at. It can't be difficult to have all literature and sermons based in English and to tell the Deobandi Imams that their services are no longer required. Religious brainwashing which is racist against our way of life should be banned immediately

## Times, Regional Press, Other

**Muslim family law is a conundrum for those who make the laws of the land**

[TOP COMMENT] Absolutely disgusting.

How weak the british have become. They should stand up for their rights and principles and tell these medieval barbarians to take a hike

There should only be one law of the land and only one court system. Sharia needs to be stamped on and stamped on hard!

[ANOTHER] .... Islam is a repressive political system more than it is a religion. It has caused division, strife, and heartache in every corner of the planet.

[ANOTHER] It's about time for the West in general and the UK in particular to wake up! There should be one civil law for civil society, period. To allow religious bodies of any type legal authority over civil matters is a gross abrogation of government responsibility. The same applies to criminal matters.

For government to cede any powers to religious organizations is a slippery slope towards theocracy, and a clear violation of the implied social contract. Wake up! If Muslims want religious law, let them move to a Muslim country that does not distinguish between the church and the state. [*The Economist*]

**Former Blackburn MP Jack Straw stands by view on full veil 10 years on**

[TOP COMMENT] The veil is worn to be a divisive instrument that sticks two fingers up to the British way of life and cohesion, and has nothing to do with religion or the woman's rights to wear!

.... It is only worn here and in other western countries by Muslims who want to stand out and not integrate with their fellow countrymen. By wearing it, it gives them a platform to jump on the islamophobic bandwagon if you complain. [*Lancashire Telegraph*]

### **May risks entrenching the ethnic divide**

**[TOP COMMENT 68 votes]** There should be no faith schools end off. Education should be separated from religious beliefs. It beggars belief that this is not seen as discrimination against those with no faith.

This is simply a fix for the government who have created a monster with mass immigration and now have to provide schools for these groups, many of whom are Muslim. It will prove to be a disaster ....

**[3RD 52]** .... We already have ethnic minority ghettos and the former head of the Equality and Human Rights Commission has admitted that multiculturalism has failed and communities are living parallel lives – seldom interacting outside of work.

The creation of single faith schools is going to take the country backwards. [*The Times* (£)]

### **Police Scotland says Muslim hijab will become an optional part of its uniform**

**[TOP COMMENT 25 votes]** Why not go the whole way and allow them to wear the niqab that way the accused would not be able to identify which officer had beaten a confession out of them. [*Herald Scotland*]

### **Many Muslims want help to look outwards**

**[TOP COMMENT 119 votes]** Great article. I want everyone in Britain who's Muslim – or any other faith – to have a great, free life here. The elephant in the room is Saudi Arabia. SA's blatant funding of Wahaabism in mosques in the UK and throughout Europe is there for all to see .... Look at pictures of Baghdad or Beirut or Dhaka or Kabul in the Fifties and Sixties and they look like pictures taken in contemporary European cities, with women in fashionable European dress.

**[2ND 105]** There only seems to be one 'minority community' that cannot adapt to British/Western values. And, as usual, we are blamed rather than the particular community which refuses to modernise and which despises us and all we stand for – freedom, democracy, equality of the sexes, tolerance.

**[3RD 98]** I applaud what your trying to say and do, but no amount of integration, educational excellence and social mobility will counteract some of the messianic and hateful content of Islamism. [*The Times* (£)]

### **Mosques ban trousers, travel and Facebook**

**[TOP COMMENT 227 votes]** Islam has become a poison in Western democracies- above all in countries like France and especially in the UK.

.... Nowhere in the world you'll find Islam and democracy cohabitating. As a matter of fact Islamic countries are all in the bottom third on the Democracy Index. It's time for our elected leaders to draw a definite line against a medieval Islam. They could start by putting a stop to the practice of Sharia courts, FGM and forced marriages. If Muslims cannot embrace Western values they should leave. [*The Times* (£)]

## 3.0 The Guardian

November 3, 2016

### **Louis Smith's ban is just a distraction from Britain's real race issues**

When I heard about Louis Smith being banned from gymnastics for two months for mocking Muslim prayer I thought of Toni Morrison, who once said that "the very serious function of racism is distraction". There's no doubt it was a stupid thing for Smith to do, and, yes, if you look at it for what it is, it is Islamophobic. But this story is a distraction.

It's no secret that Islamophobia has been steadily on the rise in the UK, Europe and the US. There's the relentless hounding of Muslims on the front pages of our national newspapers; Donald Trump has added a Muslim travel ban to his repertoire of racist ideas; and broadcaster Fatima Manji has been directly targeted for wearing a hijab by Sun columnist Kelvin MacKenzie, only to have the press regulator uphold his right to attack her. [*Iman Amrani, 1027 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 346 votes]** "Yes, the gymnast's drunken antics were Islamophobic."

Nonsense. In fact, the ban itself is Islamophobic, in the literal sense: fear of Islam. He wouldn't have been banned for mocking Christian prayers.

**[2ND 283]** Let's stop for a second here. A person, in the UK and in 2016, has been suspended for mocking a religion. It is horrible and incredibly dire.

Girolamo Savonarola would be proud of the British Gymnastics federation.

**[3RD 262]** Are we still allowed to take the piss out of Islam?

**[4TH 235]** No its not. It's what's wrong with our Politically correct culture and bowing down to uncomfortable truths.

The only question you need to ask about this sage is, if he ridiculed say Christianity, would he have been punished in the same way if at all?

I rest my case.

**[5TH 233]** 1. You need to stop conflating race and religion. Race no one can help. Religion is a set of ideas, some making pseudo scientific claims and some making moral and ethical directions. They are up for challenge and mockery accordingly.

2. The reports of islamophobia are grossly exaggerated. Tell Mama was discredited long ago, and lost its state assistance accordingly.

3. You mention McKenzie's tabloid hack piece for the Sun. It was a lame piece of hack journalism; but we don't ban that sort of thing in a free society. Any journalist should understand that.

4. So far as McKenzie had anything to say, he said the veil was a symbol of how Islam oppresses women. It does, as do all Abrahamic faiths. Christianity has watered down its sexism considerably, but it still thinks you need a male member to hold the top jobs.

5. Why did McKenzie write his nasty piece? It was in the immediate aftermath of 83 people being murdered as they went about their normal business. If his article is the best example of islamophobia in the wake of such brutal, senseless slaughter by Islamic

fanatics, then I'd say Westerners are a lot less islamophobic than you would like to believe.

6. You left out any mention of that attack. Why?

**[6TH 220]** It could have been worse, he could have drawn a cartoon.

**[7TH 212]** Islam is an ideology like any other. It is vital for democracy and civilisation that we are free to mock any ideology. If it's OK for make fun of Toryism, Jeremy Corbyn and his loony shadow cabinet, and the wishy washy C of E, then it is fine to make fun of Islam too.

It is deeply sinister that Louis Smith has been punished for doing so. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/nov/03/louis-smith-ban-distraction-gymnast-islamophobic-prevent-british-muslims)  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/nov/03/louis-smith-ban-distraction-gymnast-islamophobic-prevent-british-muslims>

October 20, 2016

### **Prevent is failing. Any effective strategy must include Muslim communities**

... At present, rather than enlist Muslim communities as equal partners in the fight against terrorism, they instead must live under the shadow of the government's Prevent strategy, which is widely perceived to be a toxic brand.

... In the report, the former security official and Prevent strategy's architect, Sir David Omand, observed: "The key issue is, do most people in the community accept [Prevent] as protective of their rights? If the community sees it as a problem, then you have a problem."

... Notwithstanding this scepticism, there is a real desire in the community to explore grassroots-led responses to the challenge of terrorism. That is why the Muslim Council of Britain is carrying out a nationwide consultation to find out what Muslim communities would like the government to do to tackle terrorism together.

Initial feedback from this listening exercise suggests that the Prevent strategy is seen as a top-down government-led effort to create a more palatable version of Islam, targeting so-called non-violent extremists without a robust definition. Instead, Muslim communities support a greater focus on violent terrorism specifically, while community cohesion efforts unrelated to terrorism are dealt with separately. [*Miqdaad Versi, 483 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 236 votes]** *"Rather than mosques and madrasas being targeted as potential hotbeds of terrorism, a claim that has no basis in fact" ??????????*

... The material, which was openly available in many of the mosques, including the East London Mosque in Whitechapel, which has been visited by Prince Charles, also encourages British Muslims to segregate themselves from non-Muslims. Channel 4 filmed preachers and obtained DVDs and books inside mosques which were filled with hate-filled invective against Christians and Jews. They condemned democracy and called for jihad. They presented women as intellectually congenitally deficient and in need of beating when they transgressed Islamic dress codes. They said that children over the age of 10 should be hit if they did not pray. Again the main mosque chosen for exposure was influenced and funded from Saudi Arabia.

At that time the Saudis were spending \$2-3 billion annually on Wahhabist propaganda. That sum is thought to have doubled since then. Ban hate preachers.

Abdal Hakim Murad, the student Iman at Cambridge University says

*"I regard what the Saudis are doing in the ghettos of British Islam as potentially lethal for the future of the community."*

I would suggest you start above and please listen to Iman Murad!

**[ANOTHER 145]** *"A grassroots-led programme would be more effective at countering terrorism."*

I'm sorry, no. No, no, no.

You've had your chance to regulate yourselves, we've bent over backwards to leave you alone to do your thing in peace, and you've failed miserably time and time again.

That's why mainstream society has been forced to step in and play policeman, which is what Prevent is.

**[ANOTHER 108]** So what are the alternatives? Apparently, woolly inclusive flammery which ignores political extremism entirely, even though violent terrorism is always the result of political extremism, and the problem is the community which condones the political attitudes that can be used to justify violent action.

*"And according to a BBC/Comres poll last year, an overwhelming 94% of Muslims would report terrorists planning violence to the police."*

So 6% would not. That is quite a big minority for such a serious issue.

Actually the whole problem is that there are 'Muslim communities' in the first place. Muslims should be part of British society, not religiously labelled communities – but that can't happen (and Islam can't be compatible with the secular west) unless we break the link between community identity and religion. We've had the same problem in NI with the 'Catholic community' and 'Protestant community', as opposed to people feeling Northern Irish – even 'British' vs 'Irish' is better than a religiously delineated sectarianism.

*"the best way to tackle violent extremists is to demonstrate that British Muslims are part and parcel of British life."*

So how do we persuade them to join the rest of us in 'British life'? It is not Brits who are unwelcoming to people from other communities – look at how well integrated other minorities are. The problem is in the culture in these 'communities' and how they don't want to integrate. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/oct/20/prevent-isnt-working-inclusive-muslim-communities-counter-terrorism)  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/oct/20/prevent-isnt-working-inclusive-muslim-communities-counter-terrorism>

October 19, 2016

## **Instead of fighting terror, Prevent is creating a climate of fear**

.... Prevent's overly broad definition of extremism – vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values – creates a systemic risk of violations of the right to freedom of expression, the right against discrimination and the right to privacy. Scottish government officials told me that although the term "British values" was in the Prevent guidance, they "don't ever use that phrase" because "it could be damaging or unhelpful if it endorses a 'them and us' mentality".

Having spoken to more than 80 experts and individuals affected by the programme, my research found that Prevent was creating a climate of fear and a chilling effect on free

expression. Case studies in the report describe children in schools being targeted and intimidated under Prevent for expressing political views. In UK universities – considered by many to be bastions of academic freedom – Prevent is apparently leading to the cancellation of conferences and debates about Islamophobia, and students are being targeted for reading course materials on terrorism. [Amrit Singh, 699 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 275 votes]** "Prevent is creating a climate of fear"

Sorry but you are wrong. It was Islamic extremism that did that.

**[2ND 202]** I'm sorry but I don't care if Prevent hurts feelings. If it prevents one Paris style attack I'm all for it.

And before people chime in with 'This is what ISIS' want, just save it, its utter rubbish. If somebody is at risk of extremism we need to act immediately.

**[3RD 175]** Okay, so you oppose Prevent. That's fine. What you and other opponents of the program seem unable to do, however, is provide an actual working alternative.

**[4TH 171]** The quran, hadiths and other Islamic texts specifically mentions the death penalty for homosexuality, infidelity, apostasy and a host of other "unislamic" practices.

Unless the government takes the bull by the horns and addresses this contradiction between what fundamentalist muslims believe in and what British law states, the tensions will continue.

When asked to choose between a literal interpretation of the bible and British law, most British citizens will choose the latter. can we say the same for our muslim population?

**[5TH 159]** Genuine question: Why is the Guardian so far removed from common sense and public opinion that they release pieces like this?

Does the author think that doing nothing about home grown terrorism is acceptable?

[Guardian Cif] [Read more](#)

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/oct/19/terror-prevent-muslims-police-terrorist-attacks>

October 19, 2016

## **Why Ipso was correct: freedom of expression means the freedom to offend**

When the row blew up over Kelvin MacKenzie's column in the Sun about Fatima Manji wearing a hijab while presenting Channel 4 News, I said he was wrong.

Wrong because his criticism was hateful and offensive and vulgar. But that's the price we must pay for freedom of expression (a point made endlessly in the aftermath of the massacre of Charlie Hebdo's cartoonists).

I didn't share MacKenzie's views, but so what? There are precious few things we agree about. It's just how it is. And I'm sure that Sir Alan Moses, chairman of the Independent Press Standards Organisation (Ipso), would have few views in common with MacKenzie.

Indeed, I would doubt if any single member of Ipso's complaints committee agreed with the Sun columnist's opinion. I say again, so what? [Roy Greenslade, 412 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 184 votes]** I am French and although I watch Channel 4 News every day and Fatima, the day she was on air to report on the Nice attack, I was shocked,

traumatized by the events themselves. I still can't understand why Muslims need to dress in a particular way in order to show they're religious.

In that particular case, I had the same reaction as McKenzie's, although not as contemptuous. If you are not French, you may not understand, but that day Ch4 ought to have assumed that some would find Fatima's headscarf too much. I did, regardless of what I think about Islam. Dissociating a headscarf and jihadism is sometimes difficult in that context. Ignoring the fact that it could shock is arrogant.

**[2ND 122]** It is refreshing to see someone defend the right of freedom of speech especially when they disagree with what the person they are defending said.

**[3RD 106]** You absolutely have the right to be offended, you do not have the right not to be offended.

Something that seems to divide the opinion of the West and Islamic world... [*The Guardian*] [Read more](https://www.theguardian.com/media/greenslade/2016/oct/19/why-ipso-was-correct-freedom-of-expression-means-the-freedom-to-offend)  
<https://www.theguardian.com/media/greenslade/2016/oct/19/why-ipso-was-correct-freedom-of-expression-means-the-freedom-to-offend>

October 12, 2016

### **The Guardian view on blasphemy in Pakistan: a dark moment for religious freedom approaches**

The supreme court in Lahore will on Thursday hear the appeal of Asia Bibi against her death sentence for blasphemy. It is a case that has already cost two lives: that of Salmaan Taseer, the governor of the Punjab, who spoke out in her defence, and his bodyguard, Mumtaz Qadri, who murdered the governor for defending her and was himself hanged.

Qadri was described as a saint and a martyr for his crime by many in Pakistan, and by some prominent mosques in Britain. This is a poisonous mess. Successive generations of Pakistani politicians – most notably Zia ul-Haq – have used the statutes on blasphemy as a way to combine religious fanaticism with the fear and resentment of outsiders.

Almost all societies have speech codes enforced by law and reinforced by public opinion. The blasphemy law of Pakistan is not just an affront to liberal decencies; the evidence points to it being used as a tool to persecute minorities. It also involves a distortion and coarsening of the sharia principles it claims to embody. Bad as the Islamic laws against apostasy are – and they are very bad indeed – they can by definition only apply to Muslims. [*150 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 73 votes]** *"Large demonstrations already demand her death."*

And yet there are plenty who claim Islam does not need reforming.

**[2ND 63]** Pakistan is the biggest recipient of British aid. We send them more than £400 million a year. So we should start making demands about its deteriorating human rights record. If they continue to let bad neighbours use the blasphemy law to murder people they dislike, stop sending money.

**[3RD 63]** Blasphemy in Islam seems not to be just about God, but to cover everything relating to Islamic religion and Islamic culture. Quite unbelievable and not very logical. The less we have to do with countries like Pakistan the better off we shall be.

**[4TH 52]** We should shut down all dealings with Pakistan if this is not rectified at appeal. What is the merit of wringing our hands if we are still prepared to deal with such evil?

**[5TH 50]** The elephant in the room is that this woman is a Christian. Grudges against Christians in Pakistan are routinely used to rid people of someone they don't like or have had a dispute with. Being a Christian in such a society is virtually an impending death sentence; I'm just surprised that the whole family haven't been convicted of blasphemy.

Pakistani Muslims hate Christians (and Jews) with a vengeance, though they are hardly alone in that. What has appalled me is seeing the Archbishop of Canterbury welcoming the imam who lauded the murderer of the Punjabi governor who tried to help Asia Bibi, praising him as a hero of Islam. Welby should be ashamed. [*The Guardian*] [Read more](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/oct/12/the-guardian-view-on-blasphemy-in-pakistan-a-dark-moment-for-religious-freedom-approaches)  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/oct/12/the-guardian-view-on-blasphemy-in-pakistan-a-dark-moment-for-religious-freedom-approaches>

September 22, 2016

## **Nicolas Sarkozy's bigotry cannot define our worth as children of immigrants**

"If you want to become French, you speak French, you live like the French. We will no longer settle for integration that does not work, we will require assimilation." These were the words of former French president Nicolas Sarkozy this week. He went on: "Once you become French, your ancestors are the Gauls. 'I love France, I learned the history of France, I see myself as French,' is what you must say."

This week, personalities from both sides of the political spectrum expressed their concern over this statement, made by Sarkozy on Monday night during a meeting in Franconville, a north Paris suburb.

Curiously, the part that stirred up most controversy was the idea that, once you become French, the Gauls are your ancestors. This declaration is historically incorrect: Gaul is actually a geographical construct conceptualised by the Romans to refer to a territory bringing people of varied origins together. This notion was later used by the Third Republic, after defeat in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, to rally the French around symbols such as courage and strength. [627 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 397 votes]** *"If you want to become French, you speak French, you live like the French. We will no longer settle for integration that does not work, we will require assimilation."*

What exactly is wrong with this sentiment?

**[2ND 272]** *"... to become French, you speak French, you live like the French. We will no longer settle for integration that does not work, we will require assimilation."*

Well done, Mr Sarkozy. Honest and frank statement from him without caring one jot about how pseudo liberals that infest the Western society would react. Their crowing and whining won't protect us from those who wish to destroy our society. It is high time that the shackles of political correctness that are so entrenched in our everyday conversational paradigm are broken and the society faces up to some harsh and bitter truths.

I could start with a couple:

1. Sod moral relativism. Not all cultures are equal.
2. People emigrating to a new society must follow the rules and regulations of their host nation at all times even if those very laws go against the culture of the migrants' forefathers.

Nation states can't be expected to make accommodations in their constitutions as per whims and demands of the immigrants.

**[3RD 181]** *"If you want to become French, you speak French, you live like the French. We will no longer settle for integration that does not work, we will require assimilation."*

Sounds about right.

**[4TH 177 ]** Denying one's ancestry as an immigrant is a ridiculous thing to ask.

However, expectation that one speaks French and conforms (within reason) to French norms is not unreasonable...

**[5TH 166]** I was at a National Trust property last summer.

Someone from an ethnic background came past with a big family in tow.

The head of the family took an interest in a motorcycle I had.

We talked at length.

I shook his hand in the standard British greeting, then wishing to be friendly, extended the same greeting to his wife (what else could I do?).

She put her hands behind her back and said that her culture forbid her to make such a greeting.

I stood there, hand extended, more than miffed as you can imagine, indeed shocked.

If this is your "multiculturalism", such that I have to impolite to a woman to avoid offending your culture, then you can keep your multiculturalism. I want nothing to do with it. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/sep/22/nicolas-sarkozy-not-all-french-people-share-same-roots)  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/sep/22/nicolas-sarkozy-not-all-french-people-share-same-roots>

September 20, 2016

## **After the New York bomb, Muslim Americans are braced for a backlash**

Terrorism has strained traditional American notions of individual responsibility. While such attacks fortunately remain rare in our country (data shows that out of 14,000 murders in the United States, a few dozen per year are motivated by religious or political ideologies of any persuasion), violence by a Muslim is often attributed to the entire American Muslim community.

Sometimes, it is accompanied by calls for sending them home or clamping down on them in various ways. Even before police identified Ahmad Khan Rahami as the person suspected of setting off the bomb that exploded in New York on Saturday night, social media was awash with anti-Muslim slurs and threats. A Twitter campaign launched to support Muslims was hijacked to spread fear and hatred instead. [*276 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 196 votes]** According to the survey mentioned above, there were 196 anti-Islam hate crimes in the 20 states which were studied, and 67 anti-Arab crimes.

Over the same period, there were 502 crimes classed as anti-Semitic, and 416 classified as anti-white.

One hate-crime is one too many, but if muslims really are "bracing for the backlash" they are over-reacting.

**[2ND 191]** "... remember our common humanity"

Kind of hard to do that when followers of a certain religion are taught by their holy book that non-believers are less than human and are to be converted or killed.

**[3RD 177]** What a surprise. No concern for the injured victims, only for the supposed backlash against the ideology responsible- which hasn't even happened as far as today's news shows.

**[4TH 163]** The so-called anti-Muslim backlash is a myth. The problem we've got is radicalised idiots pandering to extremist wahhabist propaganda trying to murder people and blinkered idiots trying to tell us it's not happening and look the other way.

**[5TH 160]** I sometimes wonder how Muslims would react if, say, a small minority of Mormons launched a terrorist campaign directed at them.

One thing I'm sure of is that "we mustn't blame all Mormons" would not be part of it.

**[6TH 151]** But we've been told (or rather beseeched) that this man has nothing whatsoever to do with Islam.....

Nothing at all.

It's all a coincidence.

**[7TH 146]** Trump has said some very daft things in the presidential race.

However, his policy proposal on immigration from Islamic countries is not one of them.

[*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](#)

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/sep/19/new-york-bomb-muslim-americans-backlash>

September 9, 2016

### **European Muslims are not new. Nor are they all the same**

With so many passions aroused in Europe by the impact of the refugee crisis, rising populism, fear of terrorism, not to mention confused debates over secularism and burkinis, exploring what European Muslims think has arguably never been more important. One interesting figure is the grand mufti of Slovenia who I met at a recent conference in Austria, held by the International Peace Institute.

Slovenia is a predominantly Catholic country of two million people – among them, an estimated 50,000 Muslims. The country's first mosque is currently under construction in the capital, Ljubljana. Building it required the overcoming of many political and administrative hurdles – these were eventually cleared when Slovenia's constitutional court ruled that denying a minority the right to a place of worship ran counter to religious freedoms.

Unsurprisingly, Grand Mufti Nežad Grabus thinks these are difficult times for Muslims in Europe. They constantly have to fend off suspicions of links with radical Islamism or terrorism. [*Natalie Nougayrède, 379 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 615 votes]** "How European societies embrace growing diversity will in many ways determine the fate of our democracies. Paying more attention to the

*differences among Europe's Muslims, rather than seeing them as a homogeneous bloc, could be a way forward."*

Keep pushing, keep raising the temperature with your elitist tone-deafness and you're going to see the reaction of all reactions.

Europeans do not want this 'diversity' yet you continue to tell us that we do.

**[2ND 500 ]** Why don't other religions get this blanket coverage from The Guardian? Perhaps if Islam was treated no differently from other religions – tolerated, mocked, ignored etc -then we wouldn't have seen the backlash against it that we have seen throughout much of Europe.

**[3RD 468]** Just look at the pew poll data. The vast majority of muslims surveyed across the world hold what would be considered conservative beliefs regarding marriage, homosexuality, equality of the sexes, freedom of speech and law amongst others. If the question was levelled at me "do you want a group primarily comprised of people like that coming into your country in significant numbers?" My answer would be, emphatically, "no". [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/sep/09/europe-muslims-immigration-terror)  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/sep/09/europe-muslims-immigration-terror>

September 5, 2016

## **The politics of fear: how Britain's anti-extremism strategy has failed**

The British government, like its European and US counterparts, has been struggling to find an effective strategy to counter "radicalisation" within Muslim communities. When programmes like Prevent were established, they quickly came under heavy criticism, both for their approach and for their poor results. Over a decade on, it is clear not a single anti-radicalisation scheme, either in Europe or the US, has proved effective.

There are several reasons for this. To begin with there is the terminology employed. Religious radicalisation is described as a process through which individuals pursue a continuing trajectory, leading from a "moderate" understanding and practice of religion, to an increasingly violent or extremist involvement. Nothing could be further from reality.

The religious practice of the overwhelming majority of those caught up by Isis propaganda is weak at best, and mostly partial or very recent. This diagnosis has been reconfirmed time and time again since 11 September 2001. Far from being "radicalised", such vulnerable individuals slide into terrorist action not because they are supportive of Isis and its claim to "Islam", but for mostly non-religious reasons. [*Tariq Ramadan, 547 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 331 votes]** "At present, those organisations – the "good Muslims"– which the government collaborates with or finances, frequently enjoy no street credibility: how could they, if they never criticise the domestic or foreign policies of their government sponsor?"

The whole problem is the politicising of Islam – and you suggest we pander to it? Religion is just about ok if it consists of private prayer, observance of rituals, festivals and so on. The moment it's used as a prism to view political events, it's already too 'radical'.

Expressing political views is a right – so is holding religious views. But combining the two things results in a third column of people born in Bradford or Marseilles who think that the war in Palestine is an attack on them personally – they're part of the problem, not part of the solution.

**[2ND 249]** *"... how Britain's anti-extremism strategy has failed"*

This isn't a uniquely British problem. There are problems with radical Muslims all over Europe. The title should be how Islam's anti-extremism strategy has failed.

**[3RD 204]** Is there any way of suggesting Islam might have failed Muslims, and everyone else, by having so many murderous, totalitarian thugs?

Or is that exogenous, and the only discussion we have is how wrong we are in the way we are going about dealing with it?

**[4TH 176]** SOMEONE SAID: *"As a percentage of the number of Muslims in the world, the murderous totalitarian thugs are in a very small minority."*

Sure they are; it's people like the 52% of British Muslims who think homosexuality should be illegal for whom you can just drop the word "murderous" and think everything's fine and dandy.

*"Unfortunately, we love to give them what Thatcher called "the oxygen of publicity""*

It's hard not to when they blow up the fucking tube.

*"The reaction of many Muslims in this country when Anjem Choudary was locked up recently was "what took you long?"."*

Don't make me laugh; more people marched against the Satanic Verses, calling for the death of its author, than have ever marched against Anjem Choudary.

*"This was a man who was banned from mosques up and down the country, yet was regularly given a slot on heavyweight programmes like Newsnight and Today as though he spoke for some kind of constituency."*

A man who had followers who actually have committed acts of terrorism on British soil.

**[5TH 173]** The most important thing to remember here is that we are not the problem. There is no chance I will ever become an Islamic terrorist.

You should be broadcasting your message in Muslim held areas and towns. Do Muslim terrorists even read the Guardian?

**[6TH 162]** *"The UK government has created an atmosphere of suspicion and stigmatisation of Muslims."*

Maybe they've not calmed it, but I think the self-exploding Muslims and those driving trucks into toddlers created the suspicion and stigmatisation.

Until Islam gets its own reformation, you're going to look bad as it appears to many to be a horrible and misogynistic religion.

**[7TH 158]** *"Some individuals have been jailed in the UK, Germany and in Belgium, or have been detained under house arrest in France, because of so-called suspicious activities – such as visiting a website, or for expressing their views on Syria or Palestine which are deemed "dangerous"."*

I'm sure that that website didn't feature pictures of cats, and that if you'd print those "views" on Syria or Palestine in full people would be a lot less sympathetic.

Here's an idea: instead of putting the blame for the radicalisation of Muslims squarely at the feet of the West, why don't you try some introspection and admit that all the worst atrocities committed by ISIS, from sex slavery to beheadings and crucifixions and even acts of genocide (killing all the males in a tribe), were sanctioned and/or practiced by Muhammad, Islam's founding prophet. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/sep/05/politics-of-fear-britain-anti-extremism-prevent-government-radicalisation)  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/sep/05/politics-of-fear-britain-anti-extremism-prevent-government-radicalisation>

September 2, 2016

## **Angela Merkel and Marine Le Pen: one of them will shape Europe's future**

Two very different women hold Europe's future in their hands – and neither of them is Theresa May. The battle for Europe's soul is being waged between Angela Merkel and Marine Le Pen. This is a clash of personalities and visions: Germany's chancellor v the leader of France's Front National, the largest far-right party in Europe.

... It is only partly reassuring to say that Le Pen has little chance of becoming president next year (the French electoral system makes that difficult). The trouble is, in recent months, her brand of anti-Muslim, xenophobic and nationalistic politics has spread across the French mainstream right like wildfire.

Le Pen is fast capitalising on this summer's burkini episode and on the national trauma left by jihadi terrorism. It's hard to see which French politician or movement can find the authority and strength to push back against her ideas, or counter their appeal among the French suburban middle classes as well as in rural areas. [*Natalie Nougayrède, 975 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 569 votes]** But surely the Left has helped drive the debate to extreme positions by its seeming inability to differentiate between white supremacist nutjob racists and the "Mrs Duffy's" of this world and treating them as if they equalled the same thing?

**[2ND 557]** Well, Merkel's obviously failed so lets see what Marine can do!

**[3RD 503]** Well, Merkel has certainly done her best to screw up Europe's future.

Maybe Le Pen can reverse some of Merkel's follies

**[4TH 443]** One of them has helped destroy Europe's social fabric and caused divisions that will never be heeled. The other one is Marine Le Pen

**[5TH 440]** The pendulum of history swings from right to left – extreme swings create devastation on both sides.

What Merkel has failed to realize is that her recent decision to welcome the worlds' Refugees / Migrants into Germany has created a deep groundswell of opinion that regards her as selling out the German nation for an Internationalist cultural ideal

**[6TH 428]** They'll both shape the future – Angela is helping Marine get elected.

**[7TH 354]** Angela Merkel and Marine Le Pen: one of them will shape Europe's future

One of them already has. Hideously. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/sep/02/angela-merkel-marine-le-pen-europe-destiny)  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/sep/02/angela-merkel-marine-le-pen-europe-destiny>

August 25, 2016

## **I was escorted off a flight due to racist profiling. Britain must banish this bigotry**

"Do you speak English?" has got to be the one of the most patronising questions you can be asked. I'm only ever asked that because I wear hijab, as if being a part of western culture and being Muslim are mutually exclusive.

Never mind the fact that I was born and raised in London or that I'm going to a Russell Group university to study English – it seems that I will always be stereotyped and judged first by the scarf on my head.

It was also the first question I was asked as I was escorted off an easyJet plane with my sister and brother at 6am last Wednesday morning at Stansted airport. We'd passed security and boarded the flight to Naples, but just as I was about to nod off we were told there was a seating issue and that all three of us would have to follow the air stewardess, who offered no explanation of where we were going.

At the top of the stairs leading down to the tarmac there was a sight I'm not likely to forget in a hurry – a mob of armed police and men in suits waiting for us to meet them. [1675 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 883 votes]** *"The only way for society to progress is for the public to be aware that Muslims are exactly the same as everyone else."*

The only way for society to progress is for the public to be aware that most Muslims are exactly the same as everyone else. And it is the ones who aren't that are the cause of your problem.

What would you have the security services do by the way? Just ignore concerns? Yes, whilst Islamic terrorism is a huge threat all over the world, you will suffer some inconvenience.

**[2ND 811]** The premium many Muslims place on women appearing 'modest' is ostentatiously unlike everyone else.

**[3RD 756]** Nobody is denying that Islamic extremism is a global issue that needs to be tackled, but pointing an accusing finger at any woman in a headscarf is a no way of going about it.

Definitely agree that random pointing and accusing is not the way to go. And what happened to you on the plane anecdote sounds totally uncalled for.

But the unfortunate truth is, the veneer of grudging tolerance that Europeans had towards 'visible' Islam has been largely lost, through recent events. People just don't like the social conservatism of headscarves, the implication that 'being modest' is something to aspire to, and the implication that uncovered women are 'immodest' and asking for attention.

I think Muslims need to make the case for headscarves. Do they help Muslim women integrate and fulfil their potential in Western societies?

**[4TH 669]** Islam is not a race it is a religion so how can the action of the other passengers be racist?

**[5TH 502]** *"It's become apparent that Muslims taking extra care to avoid their behaviour being misconstrued."*

The slight snag is that almost all the major terror incidents in Europe over the past few years have been made in the name of Islam. This has made people paranoid, and although what happened to you is extremely unfortunate, one can see why it has happened.

The point of profiling is to identify those who might possibly be offenders. There have not been many white female old-age pensioners who have become suicide bombers, and so it would be fairly pointless to single them out on security checks.

**[6TH 461]** If a disproportionate amount of people who wear a hijab don't speak English compared to those who don't, how is it out of order to ask if they are English speakers?

[*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](#)

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/aug/25/racist-profiling-bigotry-headscarf-flight>

August 22, 2016

### **The Guardian view on Islamist extremism in prisons: above all, don't make things worse**

Islamist extremism is a growing issue for Britain's – and for that matter the world's – prisons. To recognise that reality is a vital first step towards dealing with it. It is also, in spite of some continuing pockets of denial and some lack of confidence in confronting it, the (relatively) easy bit. It soon leads on to a much harder challenge.

How do the prison authorities devise a strategy for countering Islamist extremism that is appropriate, proportionate and effective without being counter-productive? Britain has a long and often ignoble history of trying to answer such problems in colonial contexts, above all in Ireland. Not all of its answers have proved to be successful, to put it mildly. [94 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 116 votes]** *"It is essential to stem the growth of Islamist extremism both by hard and soft policy."*

We have had 20+ years of the "soft" policy, isn't it about time we tried the hard policy?

**[2ND 113]** "For one thing, Islamist radicals have very different aims from Irish republicans"

Seeing as even The Guardian acknowledges this, it would be great if people stopped indulging in IRA whataboutery in instances involving Islamist terrorism.

**[3RD 100]** I listened to some woman on Radio 4 this afternoon waffling on on why Sharia Courts/Councils and British law should understand each other.

Excuse Me!

Our law. Our Courts. Our Legal System, created over hundreds of years.

That system does not belong here.

**[4TH 92]** ... For 20 years we listen to the left-leaning liberals and UK experienced mass immigration and Islamic terrorism.

The solution to both problems is very obvious: do opposite to what we did. We need hard line against fundamental islam right now.

**[5TH 91]** Are you all feeling enriched? What a truly awful future we are creating for our future generations. They will wonder what the hell we were doing. This is simply just the beginning of the many issues that are coming our way. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/aug/22/the-guardian-view-on-islamist-extremism-in-prisons-above-all-dont-make-things-worse)  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/aug/22/the-guardian-view-on-islamist-extremism-in-prisons-above-all-dont-make-things-worse>

August 19, 2016

## **Britain is full of inspirational Muslim women. They're more crucial than ever**

Type "Muslim women" into Google Images and the most common photographs show a woman wearing a niqab staring out into the distance or straight into the camera. Some may see such images as a reaffirmation of their view that Muslim women are an orientalist "other"; that they are passive, homogeneous, and silent. However, I see a complete erasure of the identity of Muslim women, their work and their roles.

... These women have achieved great things in the public eye in the teeth of stereotyping and disadvantage; stereotyping that led the former prime minister David Cameron to claim that Muslim women needed to learn English, despite the fact that so many are such active members of the societies in which they live, whether their English is a first or third language, broken or fluent. Many Muslim women are the backbones of their communities. [*493 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 508 votes]** It should go without saying that many Muslim women are inspirational, hardworking, compassionate etc. It's such a broad, generalised statement that it's impossible to really disagree with it.

The debate around 'visibly' Muslim women is more specific and nuanced than your piece allows for. By wearing the headscarf, Muslim women legitimise and embody the fetishisation of female 'modesty' that's responsible for untold repression and suffering in Muslim societies across the globe.

It's the same impulse that results in 'honour' killings, most recently of Samia Shahid and Qandeel Baloch, plus thousands of other less high-profile cases. These women were deemed 'immodest'. Women in the west who wear headscarves are perpetuating this 'modest / immodest' dichotomy, by being ostentatiously 'modest'.

In a time when Western societies are moving rapidly in the direction of social liberalism (note Obama's recent stand on bathrooms for trans people, or Cameron's legalisation of gay marriage), how do we integrate the baked-in social conservatism of Islam? To what extent should we tolerate – or embrace – intolerance?

Headscarves are just a visible emblem, a shorthand, for this much deeper incompatibility.

**[2ND 323]** Inspirational muslim women – any mention of Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Mona Eltahawy, or indeed any female critic of Islam – thought not.

The problem with this article and so many like it is the steadfast refusal to portray negative perceptions of an inward looking ideology in a balanced way – the strategy of trying to invoke shame in the reader is an epic fail, I'm afraid.

**[3RD 226]** "However, I see a complete erasure of the identity of Muslim women, their work and their roles."

And whose fault is that? It's not British society that erases you from you – we'd be delighted to see you without the burqa or the hijab. Is it not the fault of the patriarchal religion that forces you to cover up?

*"This climate of heightened prejudice and Islamophobia has at times made me fear for my safety, consider my ability to succeed, and even question if I am welcome in the country of my birth."*

And again, no mention of WHY there are heightened tensions between muslims and westerners right now?

I live in Bradford. I see muslim women all day, every day. And I like it. I love that we live in such a diverse multicultural society. I think it enriches us all, to be exposed to different ideas, different fashions, different cuisines ( the curries in Bradford are the best I've ever found )

But there's a real elephant in the room – and that's Islam itself, particularly radical Islam. If you want to understand why there are barriers to integration, to you being made to feel more welcome, then that's where you should look.

**[4TH 224]** I'm not really sure what evidence there is that a multicultural society enriches us, food aside. I'm really struggling with what ideas within the Islamic culture really strengthen outlet society – there may be some but I'm struggling to find them.

**[5TH 224]** Why are you self-defined as a "Muslim" woman and not a "British" woman or an "English" woman or just "a woman"? Possible that you're defining yourself into a narrow space in thought and also in deed? As long as "Muslim" is your primary identifier, please consider that you're going to be seen primarily in that way – and not as an integrated member of society.

**[6TH 212]** Phobias are based on irrational thought. If you rationally deduce that an ideology is harmful, its neither narrow minded or racist.

**[7TH 207]** Some interesting examples given here and yes they are powerful Muslim women. Although Malia Bouattia is not the best example given her fame/notoriety seems to come mainly from blocking a move to condemn a terrorist organisation.

But let's be honest they are not massively representative of Muslim women in general in Britain. Many are still second class citizens in there own families – look at the northern heartlands and you will see that this is the case.

**[8TH 93]** The most inspirational Muslin woman I know is no other than my own wife. Who against provocation and abuse from some members of her own faith , decided to marry the man that she loved, a white Christian man and not what her own society and upbringing dictated who she should marry – someone of her own faith and culture!

Even now she is called names that are totally unrepeatable by some followers of her own doctrine – nearly always male, just for having the good sense to follow her heart.

She has endured that with her head held high, still follows her faith in a secular way and still smiles and has never let that abuse bother her for one minute.

She will always be my inspiration.

**[9TH 184]** Warsi and Bouattia? You are kidding right?

**[10TH 178]** *"David Cameron to claim that Muslim women needed to learn English,"*

Except that's not what he said, and you know it. He pointed out that there was a small minority of Muslim women - he estimated 38,000 or less than 3% of the total population of Muslim women - who speak no English at all.

Does the author object to these women learning English- or would she prefer that they continue to live in Britain but are unable to communicate in any way with the vast majority of the population?

**[11TH 168]** *"This climate of heightened prejudice and Islamophobia has at times made me fear for my safety."*

I'm sorry, but this "Heightened Islamophobia" business is really starting to anger me.

As I mentioned yesterday, for 20 years Anjem Chaudary went about slagging off the UK, calling for shariah law here, implicitly supporting terrorist groups which want to destroy British society and inspiring people to murder British citizens - and at no time in that 20 years did anyone go and kick the shit out of him.

On the other hand, if I went to an Islamic state and made one - just one - public criticism of Mohammed, my life would be forfeit - even in this country my life may be forfeit. I think you need to exercise a little perspective when running down the UK, accusing those who live here of intolerance.

How many Muslims have been brutally murdered in the UK in recent times, on the grounds of their faith? I can think of one - an Ahmadi man named Asad Shah, murdered, of course, by another Muslim, who used Islam as justification for his actions.

[*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](#)

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/aug/19/britain-inspirational-muslim-women-islamophobia>

August 16, 2016

### **Abuse of Muslims is now mainstream. I never thought my children would see this**

Nadiya Hussain's account on Radio 4's Desert Island Discs of the everyday anti-Muslim prejudice she encounters may have come as a surprise to some people. It won't shock anyone in the Muslim community.

.... It is not only those engaged in politics like myself, London mayor Sadiq Khan or Baroness Sayeeda Warsi who receive abuse. The promotion of hatred and fear has been mainstreamed to the extent that there is now little outcry when a mosque is attacked, or when kids come home crying after being taunted for their faith, or when an elderly man like Mohammed Saleem is murdered. One recent survey suggested a 326% rise in anti-Muslim hate crimes in 2015.

Every Muslim I know has a story to tell. We are resigned to being blamed and vilified for the actions of any Muslim anywhere in the world. No matter how often we denounce the horrible atrocities carried out by some fanatics, we are still associated with them. No matter that this is as unfair and ridiculous as associating all white Christian men with Norwegian mass murderer Anders Breivik because he claimed to act as a Christian, or blaming Christianity itself for the genocidal actions of Radovan Karadzic because he described his war against Bosnian Muslims as "holy". [*Salma Yaqoob, 309 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 1128 votes]** Criticism of Islam, along with all religions, is perfectly justified. Shouting slurs at a person in the street is not.

**[2ND 1016]** Have you ever wondered why? *"No matter how often we denounce the horrible atrocities carried out by some fanatics, we are still associated with them."*

In response to the savage killing of a well liked and locally cherished man, Asad Shah (R.I.P.), perhaps not quite a Moslem according to some Islamic scholars, the leader of Bradford's Mosques said what this country (sic) needs is a blasphemy law so that people won't need to take the law (sic) into their own hands. That is, embrace the justification for murder in order to stop the urge to murder for Allah's sake. Who needs this? You do, apparently. Still wondering?

**[3RD 948]** Questioning religious beliefs in a secular society is entirely acceptable. If you have the faith in your convictions then you should be able to accept this and come out the other side intact. The problem is actually the other way because religions have in built rules to prevent them being questioned, because ultimately the people at the top who use religion as a political tool know that religions are false and useful only for controlling the masses.

Abusing people is not acceptable, whatever their background. Questioning their belief system is acceptable.

**[4TH 933]** Given the large number of atrocities committed in the past few years in the name of Islam, it is not entirely surprising that people may be a little wary of those who adhere to that religion and its customs.

**[5TH 885]** I wonder if it ever occurs to religious people that following a set of beliefs which are not true and call for significant sacrifice in time and energy in order to please non-existent gods, might – MIGHT – put them at a disadvantage when compared with the general population.

I'm increasingly finding it hard to have any sympathy with the plight of religious people in Western society; they have made a conscious choice to live at a disadvantage and we have bent over backward to accommodate their choice – we allow them time off in order to pray, we let them run their own schools, we grant them charitable status for example – but for all this bending over backwards it cannot and should not be overlooked that being religious is a relic of a bygone age, almost completely unfit for a modern, liberal society and that because of this there will be times when religious people feel hard done by or disrespected.

It's not because we dislike religious people as people, it's because we're exasperated at having to cede ground for beliefs which we know, for a fact, are nonsense.

**[6TH 713]** *"He also asked me if he would be safe if he stopped being a Muslim."*

Probably not.. apostasy is frowned upon.

**[7TH 697]** I would far rather some nasty names shouted at me than blown up, beheaded or stabbed.

**[8TH 653]** Until Islamist atrocities became an almost daily event somewhere in the world, I don't think many people here really paid the religion much mind.

Now that more have, they simply don't like what they see.

**[9TH 651]** If you turn up for an interview in extreme religious dress be that monks cassock, nuns habit or hijab you can surely forgive an employer who comes to the conclusion your religion is likely to come before your job, and decides that others may be more suitable.

**[10TH 607]** *"To blame a whole race, ethnic or religious group for the actions of a few is racism."*

Check out the quranic opinion on the vile 'unbeliever' if you're looking for 'racism' and 'othering'....

ALL of us are to be viewed as subhuman, simply for our inability to swallow the nonsense required to be one of the 'faithful'.

Your 'holy' scriptures are a textbook for division and hate.

Please.

**[11TH 606]** The author is right, Islamophobia is a huge, world-wide problem. Every day we hear of Shia Muslims being murdered by Sunni Islamophobes, and vice versa, and of Ahmadi and Sufi Muslims being murdered by Islamophobes of all denominations. Even here in Britain, an Islamophobe recently drove 200 miles in order to kill an Ahmadi Muslim – purely from Islamophobic hatred. It is a massive problem, and needs to be dealt with effectively.

**[12TH 593]** *"No matter how often we denounce the horrible atrocities carried out by some fanatics, we are still associated ...."*

I have a very close Muslim friend, we were at med school & we are both junior doctors. He tells me the level of condemnation/denunciation of extremism in certain mosques is, in his opinion "lamentable, either totally missing or half hearted .. "

This how to dissociate problem for the muslim community has gone on since post – 9/11 ... it's not new – so it's fair to ask why is it still there Salma?

People need more convincing that ordinary muslims really despise extremists.

And, you're right, no-one should assume the opposite. But people are tired of it all and ... they will. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/aug/16/abuse-muslims-prejudice-nadiya-hussain)  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/aug/16/abuse-muslims-prejudice-nadiya-hussain>

August 15, 2016

### **Five reasons to wear a burkini – and not just to annoy the French**

Wahey – it's that time again, people! The burkini is all the rage for the ump-flippin-teenth time, and our latest dip into controversial swimwear politics comes from – you'll never guess – the French.

The mayor of Cannes is going trigger-ban happy by curtailing the right to swim while covered on the French Riviera. The ruling states: "Beachwear that ostentatiously displays religious affiliation, when France and places of worship are currently the target of terrorist attacks, is liable to create risks of disrupting public order." I don't think that thought crossed Nigella Lawson's mind, to be honest.

Nothing says "losing the plot" to me more than demonising what is, let's face it, a wetsuit. Is full-piece swimwear really more offensive than seeing a middle-aged bum crack? Is it really going to terrorise your Mr Whippy into a total meltdown?

Non, they say, we must ban the burqa. Ban the burkini! Ban the bikini! Oh no, wait, the last one is OK because it's not related to religion or politics. [*1404 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 1592 votes]** Make muslim men wear them. The hijab and niqab as well, to maintain the dignity of muslim men....see how long that lasts.

**[2ND 1085]** Been to Saudi recently? I hear Qatar is nice this time of year as well. The Burqa is part of the way women are subjugated within Islam, women are treated like cattle that can't look after themselves, that is what the Burqa symbolises.

**[3RD 977]** So if the writer of this article is supporting the wearing of the burka in Europe I assume she is supporting women wearing bikinis in Saudi Arabia? No? Really? Women's equality is only a problem in Europe I guess?

**[4TH 965]** Nah I agree with the mayor of Cannes. Religious attire has no place on the beach in a secular society. When your argument falls back to the 1950's ban on bikinis in then religiously conservative societies as a reason to defy the ban, it becomes clear where your attitude to dresswear on the beach belongs. Ie: back in the 50's wrapped up in religious dogma.

**[5TH 783]** No matter how hard you try and fool yourself: the burkini, and all Islamic "modest" attire (which, curiously enough, applies only to women: how is it so?) are awful and rather ridiculous-looking instruments of oppression, and also rather new ones, having entered mainstream Islam together with the peculiar fundamentalist wahhabi mentality which have become prevalent in the last two decades. Celebrating them is celebrating fundamentalism.

A better use of this admittedly modest attempt at wit would be in mocking a religion that imposes, in 2016, what women should wear, at the beach or everywhere else.

**[6TH 754]** *"Five reasons to wear a burkini – and not just to annoy the French"*

As if the French have nothing else to be annoyed about at the moment.

Still, what a laugh, eh?

**[7TH 711]** So you're surprised that the French take admittedly foolish measures? Could it be that France has been particularly targeted by terrorists? Burkini's are seen in France as a statement adhering to extremist (islamic) or sharia inspired views. In that context the French apply their traditional adherence to laïcité. No surprise at all.

**[ANOTHER 558]** [To] all the pro-burikini non-muslim feminists: have you ever tried swimming with all your clothes on? do you know it feels?? it's an extremely unpleasant sensation, both in the water and even more so, out of it, afterwards.

it's not even islamic. it's been introduced recently by ultra-conservative elements, and like the wearing of the niqab and burkha is sponsored by extremist groups as a way of propegating supression of women

**[ANOTHER 571]** Think of all the other ways you can diversify women's lib and celebrate freedom along the same lines: refuse promotions at work (voluntary, part-time work, obviously); defer to your husband's every whim; forego your right to vote (as a statement).

**[ANOTHER 570]** I think first and second wave feminists are spinning in their graves. The new feminism is to cover up in a burka. What next? "Women don't go out and work, stay at home, that's freedom "

**[ANOTHER 500]** Hilarious. In Islamic countries, strict dress code is always enforced, and Westerners have to abide by these rules, which they do without complaint. And yet

when you are asked to show the same respect to your host country, suddenly that's all oppressive and illiberal, is it? Your complaints about intolerance and lack of respect for diversity would be far better directed at your own culture, which is far more oppressive than anything you will find in the country you appear to despise so much. [*Guardian Cif*]

[Read more](#)

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/aug/15/five-reasons-wear-burkini-annoy-french-cannes-mayor-muslim>

August 14, 2016

### **Pointless death of this brainwashed teenage bride**

Kadiza Sultana, one of the Bethnal Green schoolgirls who travelled to Syria last year during a half-term break to join Islamic State, after being radicalised online, is believed to have been killed by a Russian airstrike on the city of Raqqa.

On her arrival in Syria, Sultana, 16 when she left Britain, was married to an Islamic fighter, who was killed. She'd confided to her family that she was disillusioned with life under Isis and was desperate to return home, but could see no way out. Another European female who'd attempted to leave had been battered to death.

While the fate of the other British schoolgirls, Amira Abase and Shamima Begum, is unknown, Sultana has not been in contact with her family for several weeks and a number of sources now say that she's dead.

All her own fault? Of course, but still it's devastating – this is not about Sultana "getting what was coming to her", or about the killing of a "jihadi bride", it's about the pointless death of a headstrong, brainwashed teenage girl. [*657 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 217 votes]** The author simply assumes that she was groomed and is therefore a victim.

The idea that the girl might have made a calm and deliberate choice and that she might actually be responsible for her own actions, seems to escape Ms Ellen.

**[2ND 216]** I get that teenage girls are more vulnerable than older women, however they still know about the beheadings and other atrocities and unless they are actually mentally impaired than they have to accept full responsibility. A girl being groomed for sex is not in any way analogous to this.

**[3RD 183]** *"But then, isn't this how groomers operate – making their targets feel unique, noticed, admired? If people accept that children can be sexually groomed online, then why is it so difficult to believe that someone like Sultana can be ideologically groomed – radicalised – by people who know how to cynically manipulate the impressionable teenage psyche? This is how the dogma-flavoured "sweet nothings" unfold. You're special ... You're exceptional ... You're destined for greatness. That's how teenagers like Sultana become fired up via the internet."*

No, sorry, that doesn't work for me. I still can't fathom how a bright, impressionable girl could decide to throw away her prosperous life and future on a whim after being told "Yeah, it's true we murder gays, apostates and all our enemies in the most barbaric manner but you're "unique" and "special"."

I am still not shedding tears over this dumb girl. Teenagers make mistakes but this is rather unprecedented.

**[4TH 173]** Some interesting and thoughtful points about the death of Kadiza Sultana. I would agree that she was "groomed" by ISIS but one also has to ask what made her

susceptible to their advances. Perhaps the answer to that question can be found in Bethnal Green rather than Raqqa.

**[ANOTHER 139]** Utterly disingenuous. That Kadiza Sultana was lured into joining IS has very little to do with her being a headstrong teenager, and most to do with her being brought up in an already fundamentalist Islamic context.

She liked what she saw in the IS propaganda videos, and she embarked on a mission to be part of that. If at all, one can be sorry for her having being brought up in an environment that led her to find appealing fleeing to Syria and joining a murderous deathcult. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/aug/13/kadiza-sultana-isis-death)  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/aug/13/kadiza-sultana-isis-death>

August 12, 2016

### **Isis promised Kadiza Sultana utopia, but in Syria she found fear and death**

... At the age of 16, Sultana and her friends were radicalised online, persuaded to leave their homes, and marry Isis fighters. In the digital age, radicalisation no longer necessitates physical access to extreme preachers or getting hold of jihadi material.

Recent research by the Centre on Religion and Geopolitics and Digitalis found that access to extremist content, ranging from Isis magazines, beheading videos, and jihadi manuals, is no more than a Google search away.

Counter-narratives to such propaganda are failing to compete. As a result, young, impressionable internet users like Sultana are left vulnerable to dangerous ideologies, even in the supposed safety and security of their own bedrooms.

According to her family, Sultana was a very bright student with wide opportunities open to her. Extremist ideologies are powerful, not because of the current grievances, but because they seem to offer a utopia. Women all over the globe have been radicalised by Isis, and there is a considerable amount of diversity in their profiles. The notion that all the western women who travel to join Isis are migrating with the sole intention of becoming "jihadi brides" is misleading. [*805 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 1235 votes]** These idiots watch the news about beheadings, burnings, hand choppings, rape, bombings etc. etc., plus they know how women are treated, yet they still say to themselves, "I'll have some of that". Are we meant to sympathise?

**[4TH 652]** I think we're meant to take the blame, to be honest. That's certainly likely to be the case given the publication.

**[2ND 836]** That seems to be the intention of the family lawyer and MP earlier; berating the government for something or other.

Family, Mosque, community, nowt to do with them it seems.

**[3RD 789]** Anyone leaving the UK to join ISIS should have their British passport cancelled

**[5TH 526]** I once saw a person on a Guardian article commenting that we shouldn't cancel their passports: It's inhumane. As he said, "Even in World War 2, there was no talk of cancelling the passports of people who defected to the Nazis".

It's objectively true. We didn't cancel anyone's passports. Because we just shot them all.

It was the most interesting case of being technically correct whilst basically lying through your teeth I've ever seen in my life. I still have the screenshot somewhere!

**[6TH 365]** I have zero sympathy for these idiots, anyone with an ounce of sense can see the atrocities committed by ISIS yet they willingly joined up. Besides that it should be fairly obvious that travelling to an active war zone from a safe country entails serious risk, so the outpouring of sympathetic articles from the media puzzles me. [*Guardian Cif*]  
[Read more](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/aug/12/kadiza-sultana-syria-islamic-state-raqqa-caliphate)  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/aug/12/kadiza-sultana-syria-islamic-state-raqqa-caliphate>

August 11, 2016

### **For Muslim women life had been getting better. No longer**

.... Muslim women are the most economically disadvantaged group in Britain. They are three times more likely than other women to be unemployed or looking for work, and twice as likely to be economically inactive (ie, not looking for work).

.... According to the parliamentary report, "the impact of Islamophobia cannot be underestimated" and there is now a "chill factor" stopping women applying for jobs and promotion. What a blow that must be. All that faith, all that education, for what turns out to be a false promise, a chimera. They face a triple penalty: they are female, of minority background and Muslim.

One recommendation in the report is name-blind recruitment. This would help, but not that much. Women who sound "British" and believe they are, turn up at interviews where visceral hostility comes at them. I have experienced it several times in my own life. I started to apply with just "Brown" as my surname, but then felt the air freeze when I arrived at the interview.

.... However, the report's authors are completely right when they say the discrimination Muslim women experience "is exacerbated by the pressures that some women feel from parts of their communities to fulfil a more traditional role". It's clear that self-segregation is increasing within some communities. Farhat Hashmi, who gained her PhD from Glasgow University, is one of the most influential internet female proselytisers. She orders middle-class women to stay at home and give in to men's demands. [*Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, 20 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 700 votes]** Surely it's up to Muslim women to stand up to their domineering ignorant oppressive fathers brothers and indeed mothers and sisters and do what they need to do? Not easy but then change rarely is.

**[2ND 687]** Islam is always someone else's problem.

**[3RD 631]** My other half used to work at a school where one of the students went off to fight for ISIS. She said that the Asian students were the best and worst pupils there, but across the board many of the boys had an absolutely shocking lack of respect for women.

The problem mainly seemed to be threefold:-

- Several didn't see the point in trying hard in school because they looked up to others in their local community (primarily Dewsbury) who would drive around in flash cars despite not having a job/legitimate source of income.
- High levels of immigration from Pakistan and the like had seen their neighbourhood become more insular and regressive.

- They seemed to care more about what their Imam thought of them than school. A lot of them went to an Islamic centre for religious teachings on an evening.

**[4TH 610]** A liberal society is tolerating, and worse encouraging the hopeless places created by modern Islam. It is shameful.

**[5TH 584]** Yep, I knew it'd be all my fault somehow.

**[6TH 472]** *"both discrimination and internal oppression keep Muslim women in their airless, hopeless places. Governments can tackle the first, but who in a liberal society would dare challenge the second?"*

Very good question! And that's a shame, given that discrimination is pretty obviously not the main reason why Muslims fare so much worse than other similar-looking people of the same ethnic origin. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/aug/11/muslim-women-excluded-society-employment-communities)  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/aug/11/muslim-women-excluded-society-employment-communities>

July 29, 2016

### **My charity has received horrific anti-Muslim abuse. But the Met police don't seem to care**

Over the last nine days my colleagues and I at Tell MAMA – an organisation which supports victims of anti-Muslim hatred – have been subjected to some of the worst harassment on our telephone lines in the four years since we first started. The extent of the racist, sexist and anti-Muslim abuse we have received has left the organisation unable to function. My colleagues have been subjected to monkey noises, abuse and general intimidation.

.... We've had the experience of trying to report cases to the police on behalf of victims, only to be told by Met call handlers that the victims themselves must call, which shows they simply are not aware of third party hate crime reporting agencies. When Met officers have come to see us, to take down evidence from victims of anti-Muslim hate who have been abused on Twitter, the police have said they do not use social media and have no clue how Twitter works.

These are not isolated incidents – the Met has real issues when it comes to frontline officers understanding how social media works, the impact on individuals and the application of laws in relation to online hate incidents. Training in these areas is crucial if the Met is to maintain the confidence of victims. [*Fiyaz Mughal, 690 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 552 votes]** The incidents collated by tellMAMA are no doubt upsetting for those on the receiving end, but it's worth bearing in mind that the UK is one of the least racist places on the planet.

In the wake of the appalling wave of Islamist violence across Europe, that the response has been limited to the odd incident of shouting on buses or abusive tweets speaks volumes.

**[2ND 503]** Blaming a recent rise of "islamaphobia" on Brexit seems a bit disingenuous given other current goings on around Europe.

**[3RD 429]** You keep mentioning Brexit as the most recent "trigger", but no mention of Nice, Rouen or recent events in Germany?

**[4TH 423]** "The response from the Met was jaw-dropping. Not only did it transpire that they had lost numerous call logs we had made of incidents since 2012, their threat assessment regarding Tell MAMA and its staff was that we were considered "low risk"."

The thing is, you are at "low risk". Yes, monkey noises are bad as is any racist abuse and the perpetrators should be punished; however, you are not in a position where (like Salman Rushdie for example) you are at risk of having gun-wielding or knife-wielding fanatics coming for you. The police have to prioritise and their first job should be to protect life and limb. Once we no longer have homicidal maniacs walking the streets trying to behead people then maybe we can focus on the threats and name-calling.

**[5TH 396]** The police have no business investigating Twitter accounts when there are real world rapists and thieves they could be investigating. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/29/tell-mama-met-police-care-anti-muslim-abuse)  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/29/tell-mama-met-police-care-anti-muslim-abuse>

July 28, 2016

### **Tackling social ills will do more than bombs to defeat Isis and its gospel of hate**

Tuesday's murder of an 84-year-old priest in Normandy by Isis sympathisers was surprising for two reasons. Until now, Isis had avoided attacking religious leaders in the west who had not directly harmed Muslims, in line with the prophet Muhammad's command. And French security forces had been monitoring both perpetrators for trying to join Isis in Syria.

.... Although military defeat of Isis in Iraq, Syria, and Libya could help make it more difficult for the group to recruit, we will not be able to defeat Isis itself until we find a way to reconnect the neighbourhoods, online communities, and other particularly susceptible social and political settings where attacks continue to find inspiration and support.

The "will to fight" is eminently understandable, and more readily countered, if we are not blinded by our own mindless propaganda about feckless, desperate, cowardly, criminally minded, nihilistic or brainwashed psychopaths. [*568 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 170 votes]** The best way to defeat ISIS is to ally with the Russians, Syrian Army and wipe them out.

Also, stop the propaganda about "moderate" rebels in Syria. Nobody is buying it anymore.

**[2ND 146]** France needs to consider internment as opposed to tagging potential terrorists.

**[3RD 146]** To defeat ISIS we must discredit its ideology. However, we are not allowed to discuss its ideology. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/28/isis-hate-jihadis-recruits)  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/28/isis-hate-jihadis-recruits>

July 25, 2016

### **Treating Muslim children as terror suspects does not make Britain safer**

In the last year, there has been growing unease around the government's Prevent strategy. The UN special rapporteur, along with human rights groups and the government's own independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, have voiced serious

concerns. MPs and peers from the joint select committee on human rights have also called for an independent review.

Last summer, the government's counterterrorism policy became a legal duty in schools and nurseries and for childcare providers. With just a few hours of training, a host of public sector workers were now expected to spot people who might be vulnerable to radicalisation, and refer them to the government's deradicalisation programme, Channel.

.... Apart from a few terrifying exceptions, British Muslims want to protect their country and their young people as much as non-Muslims (who also have a few terrifying exceptions). Surveys show they are more patriotic than the wider community, and intelligence from Muslim communities is vital in countering terrorism. But for this to happen, British Muslims need to feel they are partners in keeping the country safe, not just suspects. [460 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 536 votes]** This is not Pakistan, this is not the middle east, this IS GREAT BRITAIN. IF you want Islamic Values then why not live in a 100% Islamic state?

I don't want that to seem aggressive. I just want to get the idea across that this is NOT an islamic state. Britain has no history of islam, indeed we could even say Britain was Western and Christian.

So, let's try to keep it real. I understand the far-left dislike my views. Well, they are as they are. Ignorant and blind.

**[2ND 455]** Given that 40% of UK Muslims support Sharia law in the UK I'd say we have a pretty terrifying problem on our hands. Not being proactive is not a viable or logical position to take.

**[3TH 404]** Mudrassas in the UK must be ended NOW. I'm not blaming the children. How can they do different if they are thrown into a Mudrassa? We have to end this type of thing. Religion should begin and end in a person's bedroom and home. I don't want a Mudrassa on my street.

**[4TH 398]** Pretending Islam isn't a problem doesn't make Britain safer.

**[5TH 388]** .... She criticises the government's strategy and clearly doesn't feel the need to offer an alternative as, in her mind, there simply isn't an issue to address.

The problem, it's suggested, is Islamophobia not Islam and therefore the fault lies entirely with the non-muslim majority.

.... I have nothing in common, culturally, with the prepubescent girls wearing identical hijabs shown in the top photo, or with those who want to eat halal food, or who regard a religious cartoon as blasphemy, or who see pet dogs as dirty, or who regard Western music as Satanic, or who pray numerous times every day to a god I don't believe in, or who condemn homosexuality as a sin, or who cheerfully support the segregation of men and women.

We aren't "all in this together", of it certainly doesn't seem that way. [*Guardian Cif*]

[Read more](#)

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/25/prevent-strategy-muslims-children-school>

July 22, 2016

**The attacks in France show that its colonial past endures**

The attack in Nice, in which 84 people were mown down by a French resident of Tunisian origin, has been a watershed in French politics. After the trauma of the killings, incidents of open, blatant, anti-Muslim hatred have sparked a new, worrying phase.

"Why France?" has been the question on many lips, as the nation recovers from its third mass-slaughter terror attack in 18 months.

Some point to the French republic's specific brand of secularism – its model of laïcité (the prohibition of religious influence on anything that relates to the republic) inherited from the 1905 law separating church and state – which is often caricatured and misunderstood. Others point to France's recent military interventionism in the Muslim world, from west Africa to Iraq. Yet more highlight the discrimination its Muslim minorities suffer. None of this can be ignored.

... According to Le Maire, the enemy that must be "fought with utmost strength within France" is "political Islam". He didn't say "jihadi fundamentalism". He defined political Islam as "Islam that criticises our culture" and "wants to make women invisible". This is what French colonists thought about Muslims in general.

France's republican model is not responsible for the terrorism it endures. But it is a European country that, unlike others struck by terrorism, still has to come to terms with its colonial past if it wants to build an inclusive, promising future for all its citizens. [333 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 811 votes]** *"if it wants to build an inclusive, promising future for all its citizens."*

It cannot build an "inclusive, promising future", if some citizens do not accept the level playing field of secularism and do not accept (for example) the equality of women. It is not acceptable to permit men in some religious subcultures to silence and 'keep invisible' women who have the misfortune to be part of that subculture. Their rights as citizens should come first.

**[2ND 572]** Well, the British have a colonial past in India and Africa. We don't see bombings here by Hindus or Black Africans.

At some stage soon Muslims are going to have to decide if they wish to live in non-Muslim societies. Period. Patience is running out.

**[3RD 553]** Yeah, definitely a colonialist problem. That's why we have all those Hindu extremists committing massacres over here all the time.

Blaming the west is really beginning to wear thin, you know.

**[4TH 432]** I sometimes think that, with articles such as these, The Guardian has some unfathomable agenda to make me turn my back on my liberal principles and turn me into an EDL supporter.

**[5TH 416]** *"The attack in Nice, in which 84 people were mown down by a French resident of Tunisian origin, has been a watershed in French politics. After the trauma of the killings, incidents of open, blatant, anti-Muslim hatred have sparked a new, worrying phase."*

What an utterly shameful opening paragraph. Anti-Muslim hatred is what's worrying you, is it?

They are never ever going to admit how badly they have got this wrong are they?

[*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](#)

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/22/attacks-france-colonial-past-war-terror>

July 21, 2016

## **A refugee with an axe, and Germany's open door could be slammed shut**

A teenager. An axe and a knife. A hand-painted Islamic State flag found in a room. The first major attack committed in Isis's name on home soil was not what Germans have been bracing themselves for.

We feared there would be clandestine cell structures, months of elaborate planning, and then havoc, like in Paris and Brussels. So what happened near the Bavarian town of Würzburg on Monday night when a young refugee severely injured four people and was shot dead by police, is by no means the worst-case scenario. But in terms of political impact, it was huge.

... There's a strong case to be made that, despite Würzburg, taking care of refugees is still far better than sending them back to war zones, and that it's in the long-term interest of Germans (and other Europeans too) not to shut themselves off.

But advocates of Willkommenskultur have been on the losing side of the public debate since the events that unfolded in Cologne on New Year's Eve. They'd be well advised to acknowledge that the open-door asylum policy was overly idealistic, and that they underestimated some of the challenges posed by mass migration. [*342 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 508 votes]** *"... despite Würzburg, taking care of refugees is still far better than sending them back to war zones"*

Not for the innocent victims of violent attacks, who are still in hospital care. What a tasteless article. And you admit this guy is possibly from Pakistan, not from a "war zone" but just another without paperwork who says whatever will get him access to western Europe. He is also probably not 17 judging by his pictures. Shame on Merkel.

**[2ND 464]** Germany of the future will look a lot more like France I predict high unemployment as many arrivals choose not to work and ghettos and mutual suspicions. France today is Germany 2020. What hope for Europe then?

**[3RD 430 ]** ... what seems to be forgotten in all the left wing hand wringing about Europe's duty in this "refugee crisis" is a Govt's first duty is the security of its own population. Even genuine refugees need not be admitted if they threaten that security, never mind those who pay smugglers and peddle a fake story.

The Guardian is wilfully ignoring the bigger picture here, because the population increase in the migrants' countries of origin is so great that even if Europe took 65m people in 2017, that would still be less than the babies born that year.

This is not a "refugee crisis" is an over-population crisis, and there's no question its going to pretty much destroy MENA – the only question is whether we let it destroy Western Europe too; to absolutely no avail to anybody.

**[4TH 427]** This is the reality of the "unaccompanied child refugees". Adult men with no paperwork. Not the kids with tricycles from Guardian stock photos, whose parents have been cropped out for propaganda purposes.

**[5TH 380]** They might slam the door shut but the horse has bolted. Germany will have to get used to frequent violence as France has to. Merkel has blood on her hands. And stop calling this ISIS attacker a refugee.

**[6TH 321]** Plenty of us BTL warned of these things, when this paper and even the Murdoch press was demanding we accept substantial numbers here in the UK after the death of a child during a crossing from Turkey.

**[7TH 304]** Merkel was an idiot to open the floodgates

She effectively tipped the scales and caused BREXIT and has sown immense disunity throughout Europe. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/21/refugee-axe-germany-train-open-door-migration)  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/21/refugee-axe-germany-train-open-door-migration>

July 21, 2016

### **Don't underestimate Islamic State. More atrocities are on their way**

Islamic State waited less than 48 hours to claim responsibility for the horrific massacre in Nice in which at least 84 people – 10 of them children – lost their lives last Thursday night. This week Isis again moved swiftly to claim responsibility for Monday's axe attack by a 17-year-old Afghan refugee on a train in Germany, in which four people were seriously injured before the attacker was killed by police.

... Islamophobia and the rise of the far right in Europe are, paradoxically, doing the work of the extremists who wish to sow the seeds of discord that may eventually grow into the full-blown civil conflicts we now witness in the Middle East and North African region's failed states.

It is difficult to see how the west can counter this escalating challenge. The biggest mistake would be to underestimate Isis and to imagine it can be bombed out of existence. Now that it is losing its geographical heartland, it will increasingly become an ideological state intent on destruction, fuelled by implacable hatred and vengeance, and assisted by anyone it can enlist or influence, however indirectly, to carry out acts of violence it can then claim. We should expect more atrocities in the weeks and months to come. [*1573 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 550 votes]** *"Now that it is losing its geographical heartland, it will increasingly become an ideological state intent on destruction."*

But it will be far less successful than it is now. It draws much of its legitimacy from actually being a state. It will be harder to claim that Allah is on their side when they're reduced to 15 men posting youtube videos from a cave somewhere.

*"Islamophobia and the rise of the far right in Europe are, paradoxically, doing the work of the extremists."*

So-called "Liberals" are doing the work of IS by ring-fencing the religion from criticism, using the term "Islamophobia".

**[2ND 436]** ANOTHER COMMENT SAID: *"I believe that we shall have to talk to these people sooner or later."*

They have no interest in talking. In fact if they were seen negotiating with the West, their entire legitimacy would drain away. They're a millenarian cult dedicated to spreading their Caliphate worldwide, or dying in the attempt.

**[3RD 375]** Whatever happens, it will be our fault.

We in the West should stop being freedom and liberty-loving secular people, and accept that all our societal and technological progress and prosperity; all our tolerance and, above all, our acceptance of unaccompanied women wearing revealing clothing (or – heavens forbid – showing their hair) has made us legitimate targets for those following the path of Righteousness.

To think otherwise would surely be bigoted, right?

**[4TH 282]** Islamic violence is fuelling the far right, not the other way round.

Islamism is assaulting our liberal society, which was moving towards a much hoped for post racist, post homophobic, future in which men and women would be equal.

If the liberals don't come up with a way to counter Islamism, then it's going to be down to the Le Pen's and Trumps to come up with their solutions.

**[5TH 247]** Here we go, that buzz word again, Islamophobia, for the record I despise all religions, all ideologies used to enslave humanity with nonsense, lies and violence that includes Christianity.

But let's be fair Christianity has had to move with the times and seriously moderate it's message.

Labelling any criticism of Islam as islamophobic is totally counter productive, the ideology needs to be criticised and challenged because a lot of the teachings are quite frankly abhorrent. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/21/islamic-state-atrocities-nice-bavaria)

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/21/islamic-state-atrocities-nice-bavaria>

July 21, 2016

### **Newt Gingrich has turned Islamophobia into an art**

If you missed Newt Gingrich's speech at the Republican National Convention then this was the gist of it: 'Be afraid of the Islamists. Be very, very, very afraid. Thought September 11 was bad? Hah! You ain't seen nothing yet.'

.... As someone on Twitter pointed out, an anagram of "Republican National Convention" is "Con vulnerable nation into panic" and Gingrich did just that in a way that only Gingrich can really do.

.... After the media reported his exact words he quickly backtracked by saying that "the news media went into a hysteria overnight in trying to grossly exaggerate what I was saying." Not wanting a repeat of this, Gingrich did some Googling and found some statistics about how, while not all Muslims want to kill you, a sizable proportion of them do.

"Pew Research finds that just 9% of Muslims in Pakistan support Isis," Gingrich said. "Unfortunately, that 9% is 16 million people. And that's just one country." So there you go. He did the math and it proves that he isn't Islamophobic thank you very much.

Just maybe slightly creative when it comes to the interpretation of data, seeing as that study said 9% of Muslims had a favorable view of Isis, not that they would support it. And, more importantly, the same 2015 Pew report found that Pakistan was an outlier; views of Isis were "overwhelmingly negative" in 10 Muslim-majority nations. Which Gingrich didn't feel was important to mention. [*732 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 192 votes]** To be honest, I am not sure that trying to distinguish between 16m muslims who have a 'favourable' view of Isis, as opposed to 'supporting' Isis, is your best argument!

**[2ND 178]** *"Just maybe slightly creative when it comes to the interpretation of data, seeing as that study said 9% of Muslims had a favorable view of Isis, not that they would support it."*

So this is where we've ended up, the regressive left trying to convince us that having a 'favourable view' of ISIS does not necessarily mean that you 'support' ISIS. Stop taking your readers as fools.

**[3RD 164]** *"... that study said 9% of Muslims had a favorable view of Isis, not that they would support it."*

Oh well that's all right then! 9% seems to be enough for almost daily jihadist violence in Pakistan and the frequent brutal murder of Christians and other minorities. A phobia is an irrational fear of something that doesn't actually pose a threat. It doesn't apply here.

**[4TH 154]** We've all seen the figures from polls showing British Muslim attitudes to things such as terrorism, drawing cartoons & homosexuality. Islam has a problem which in turn is causing the rest of us problems and people want our governments to do something about it other than the usual appeasement. That's not islamophobia, that's self preservation.

**[5TH 154]** *"His Republican National Convention speech started with a roll call of all the recent disasters that he believes Muslims were responsible for. There were many"*

To be fair, muslims are responsible for a lot of them. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/21/newt-gingrich-islamophobia-rc)  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/21/newt-gingrich-islamophobia-rc>

July 20, 2016

### **Kelvin MacKenzie, we're sick of your toxic propaganda. Fatima Manji is admirable**

If anyone had steam coming out of their ears this past week, it was Kelvin MacKenzie. The human pressure cooker could not contain his indignation at having to watch Channel 4 news reporter, Fatima Manji, cover the tragic attack in Nice. In an article for the Sun newspaper, MacKenzie wrote that "I could hardly believe my eyes" when he saw the British Muslim correspondent who wears a headscarf doing her job.

Not only is it malicious to single out a news reporter in this way, MacKenzie's abhorrent rant attempts to equate Manji's headscarf to terrorist atrocities and to female slavery: "Was it done to stick one in the eye of the ordinary viewer who looks at the hijab as a sign of the slavery of Muslim women by a male-dominated and clearly violent religion?" he spouted. [*2690 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 712 votes]** The headscarf is a symbol of religious oppression, no matter how the liberal left try to twist and turn to deny it. No amount of apologia will change that.

**[2ND 610]** People just don't like hijabs and what they represent. They're tolerated, and rightfully so, but not embraced.

**[3RD 537]** ANOTHER COMMENT SAID: *"So we should tell Muslim women that we don't like it so they must not wear it?"*

They are free to wear them, the same as others are free to criticise Islamic attitudes to women.”

**[4TH 416]** 84 men, women and children were murdered by a muslim maniac invoking ISIS and thus Islam as a justification. The first thing viewers see on C4's report is an obviously Muslim presenter. Isn't it just common sense that this would create a hurtful impression and thus be grossly insensitive?

**[5TH 352]** Why is she admirable?

**[6TH 317]** The headscarf is the symbol of Islamic culture. The same culture which is the source of violent terror, the same culture where a large percentage of its members are terror apologists or blame all its' problems on the West. How about an Imam goes on TV after an attack like this and instead of defending Islam (which has created so many wonderful countries today!), apologised for the terror emanating from Muslim communities.

**[7TH 284]** I will celebrate when Muslim women in Britain (and Europe... or anywhere) don't feel the need to wear religious headscarves.

It's obvious that the headscarf in Britain is a symbol of self-imposed division and separation from British society and identity. That 2nd/3rd/4th generation Muslims are wearing such garbs is utterly depressing. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/20/fatima-manji-kelvin-mackenzie-toxic-propaganda-sun-anti-muslim)  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/20/fatima-manji-kelvin-mackenzie-toxic-propaganda-sun-anti-muslim>

July 15, 2016

### **Sympathy should be our only response to the Nice terror attack**

... A Nice truck driver does not remotely threaten the security of the French state, any more than such acts do the security of America or Britain. The identification of the nation state with random killings of innocent people has become a political aberration.

The implication that leaders can somehow prevent such attacks by armed response is a total distraction from the intelligence and police work that might at least diminish their prevalence. It nationalises and institutionalises public alarm. It leads governments into madcap adventurism abroad and "securitises" the private lives of citizens at home.

What has happened in France is tragic and calls for human sympathy. Beyond that, there is nothing we can usefully do – other than make matters worse. [*Simon Jenkins, 3000 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 527 votes]** What will happen next:

- 1) A lame hashtag will be set up by people who think taking action begins and ends in a re-tweet
- 2) There will be some sort of solidarity march, some aimless gathering to make people feel good about not actually doing anything.
- 3) World leaders will condemn the attack whilst simultaneously making sure never to mention wahabi islam and its main supporters.
- 4) The mainstream liberal media will offer up a somber tone & recant tales of the lost lives of the innocent dead but will simultaneously run small editorial articles by multiculturalist puritans who will tell us how although they are horrified by the attacks their concerns now lie with the possible reprisals on muslims.

5) Reprisals will amount to someone throwing a bag of pork scratchings into a mosque car park & a muslim being called a terrorist on the tube.

6) The media will begin running articles about how muslims feel unsafe in Europe because of our intolerance, we are tacitly reminded to feel bad about ourselves.

7) We await the next attack.

My sincere condolences to all those that lost loved ones and thoughts to those fighting for their lives in hospital. RIP to those that died.

**[2ND 487]** Isn't this almost identical to the article that appeared after the last attack, and the one before that, and the..

**[6TH 318]** *"But there is no defence force on Earth that can defend a crowd from a madman in a truck."*

Unless they identify him and his intentions before hand and stop him. Clearly it hasn't happened in this case but to suppose it can never happen is just silly.

**[3RD 430]** And it seems highly likely that he wasn't just a madman but a particular type of madman. Denial of the problem is a big part of it.

**[4TH 345]** Please, stop telling people how they should feel about, or react to this.

**[5TH 328]** Let's not notice the elephant in the room, pt. 94 [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/15/nice-terror-attack-truck) <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/15/nice-terror-attack-truck>

June 12, 2016

## **The Observer view on killings in Bangladesh**

It has been another bloody week in Bangladesh. A Christian shopkeeper, a Hindu priest and the wife of a prominent anti-terror security official were killed in separate attacks by assailants. On Friday, a monastery administrator enjoying an early morning walk in the north-western district of Pabna was hacked to death in a similar unprovoked assault.

In all, nearly 50 people have been murdered since 2013.

Their offence? Not conforming to the fanatical faux-religious outlook espoused by Islamist extremists, for whom majority Sunni Muslim Bangladesh's tradition of democratic, secular governance and multi-confessional inclusiveness is an abomination deserving of annihilation.

.... Crime and punishment is not the sole issue here. At stake is Bangladesh's tradition of cultural diversity, religious tolerance and secular governance. At risk is the future of a moderate Muslim nation battered by a destructive international political cyclone that it alone cannot control. [*94 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 76 votes]** .... The terribly secular, modern and enlightened western-oriented Guardian/Observer editors apparently know better than these religious zealots themselves what their motivation is and despite religion being absolutely, rooting-tootly, 195%, up front and in your face, no doubt about it, shout it from the rooftops, the self-proclaimed reason given by these fanatics for these attacks, the good old Guardian knows better, it's all a "faux-religious outlook".

The Guardian editors will still be claiming it has nothing to do with religion as the religious maniacs are cutting their throats, chanting verses from their holy book as they do so.

It's not faux-religion Guardian! It is real, genuine, unashamed, proud to proclaim it religion in its truest sense that lies behind these attacks, why do you continue to deny what is so obvious to the rest of the sentient population?

**[2ND 56]** This is a disgraceful article trying to minimise the importance of Islamic extremism in Bangladesh.

**[3RD 53]** According to the Bangladeshi Home Minister – *"These killings are part of a national and international conspiracy. Those who are carrying out these incidents are communicating with Mossad,"*

Meaning in a racially prejudiced country, in which Christians are discriminated against and Jews are banned, you can still have anti-semitism, because instead of anti-semitism against individual Jews who are not allowed in the country, the option of collective anti-semitism is available you just blame ISrael for everything.

But the Guardian would have a moral problem pointing this out.

**[4TH 51]** It is preposterous to describe Bangladesh as a moderate Muslim nation blighted by a few nutters. As In Pakistan, there is wide tacit support for these murders and for the Islamist agenda. That is why it is thriving.

**[5TH 49]** *"fanatical faux-religious outlook"*

What exactly is "faux" about it? [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jun/11/bangladesh-religious-killings-observer-view)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jun/11/bangladesh-religious-killings-observer-view>

May 15, 2016

## **Muslims are not a 'different' class of Briton: we're as messy as the rest**

"It shows it is possible to be Muslim and a westerner. Western values are compatible with Islam." So said Sadiq Khan after his victory as London mayor. Trevor Phillips, former chief of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, takes a much bleaker view of Islam's place in western society.

Last month he presented a Channel 4 documentary – What British Muslims Really Think – based on an ICM poll of Muslim attitudes. The poll revealed a deep well of social conservatism. Just 18% of Muslims thought that homosexuality should be legal, four in 10 thought wives should always obey their husbands, almost 90% wanted to prohibit mockery of the prophet.

Phillips wrote of "a chasm opening between Muslims and non-Muslims" and "the unacknowledged creation of a nation within the nation, with its own geography, its own values and its own very separate future". Last week, he developed his thesis in a pamphlet for the thinktank Civitas. In *Race and Faith: The Deafening Silence*, he argues that Britain's "superdiversity" has combined with the authorities' laissez-faire attitude to make integration much more difficult.

Muslims, in particular, are a problem, remaining at "a significant social distance" from wider society and "resistant to the traditional process of integration". "Rome may not yet be in flames," Phillips ominously suggests, alluding to Enoch Powell's infamous "rivers of

blood" speech, "but I think I can smell the smouldering while we hum to the music of liberal self-delusion". [Kenan Malik, 330 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 122 votes]** If all Muslims were as tolerant as Sadiq Kahn then Islam would not be causing so many problems around the world. Sadly Phillips documentary seems far nearer the reality concerning the attitudes of many Muslims. One can only hope that decent Muslims such as Kahn can lead the way in fostering a new kind of thinking and provide the many decent Muslims with the courage to stand up to their more extreme neighbours.

**[2ND 102]** An interesting and well argued essay. However the bottom line is that Mr Malik does in the end agree with Trevor Phillips that, for a combination of reasons, many Muslims have become more conservative and this makes for an increasing divide with the attitudes of the majority of the population.

I would add that Mr Malik assumes that non-Muslims should respect Muslim beliefs, even when they want to challenge them. Sorry, but there are many traditional Muslim beliefs that I cannot respect because they go against all our principles of equality, democracy and rationality.

**[3RD 81]** For me this was a superbly reasoned article, unlike 90% of the apologist articles published in the Guardian where it's all the West's fault and there is absolutely nothing wrong with Islam.

I would comment on this though:

*"Partly they lie in the growing influence of Saudi Arabia on Islamic institutions in the west and its aggressive promotion of Wahhabism."*

To me the Partly should be replaced by "Almost entirely". Wahhabism is a pure evil which is being allowed to poison English life. Saudi pays for mosques and preachers to introduce and maintain Islamofascism in this country.

**[4TH 76 ]** *"Western values are compatible with Islam."* So said Sadiq Khan after his victory as London mayor.

How can Western democracy be compatible with Islam when Islam specifically states in its most holy texts that no man-made laws should be ever supreme over Sharia, the holy laws of Islam that is deemed by Islam to be given to Muhammad directly by Allah himself?

And of course Islam has in its creed that there should be no separation of religion and state as again all laws belong to Allah. That is the antithesis of being compatible to Western societies view of democracy and is a major part of the reason why democracy has always struggled to cement itself in Islamic countries. [Guardian Cif] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/may/14/muslims-class-islam-citizen-britain)

May 10, 2016

**As an American Muslim, Donald Trump doesn't scare me. He inspires me to vote**

So now we know. Donald Trump will be the Republican nominee for president of the United States. Considering the Islamophobia of Trump's campaign up until now, some terrible months lie ahead for Muslim Americans. But I won't be intimidated by Trump. In fact, this is an exciting turn of events.

Trump was never alone in his Islamophobia, and most of the other Republican candidates for president of the United States had also expressed alarmist ideas regarding Muslim Americans. Ted Cruz called on police to patrol "Muslim neighbourhoods". Ben Carson stated that a Muslim would "have to reject the tenets of Islam" before becoming president. Chris Christie said that the United States should not admit any new Syrian refugees, not even "orphans under the age of five".

.... Even more fundamentally is the organising energy I see from young Muslim Americans and so many others determined not to let their country be taken over by radical haters. What I've never seen – and don't expect to see – are Muslims cowering in fear of Trump.

He may never have expected it, but Trump is helping to build the strongest, most multicultural, multifaith, and multi-ethnic America we have ever had. So, thank you, Donald. You really are making America great. [696 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 124 votes]** *"Islamophobia of Trump's campaign..."*

A phobia is an 'irrational' fear.

There's nothing 'irrational' about fearing nihilistic and 'misogynistic' behaviour embedded in religious belief!

**[2ND 98]** *".... and mobilising to oppose radical haters"*

Does that include followers of an ideology that despises women and homosexuals?

**[3RD 96]** The Left is fantastic at confronting symptoms, but never the root problems.

The Left is fantastic at confronting "Islamophobia" but never the very real problems that exist within Islamic culture today.

The Left has made its position quite clear in recent years. It can be summed up as:

*"Better to be dead than to be culturally insensitive."*

This ex-Leftist has hence jumped ship. I wouldn't say I've joined the Right, but I am certainly no longer "Left."

**[4TH 73]** Every time Obama and Hillary tell the American people that "terrorism has no religion", Trump will gain more voters.

This is the simple truth. If the sane political leaders are not prepared to be honest about this issue, they leave the door open for insane leaders to lead the charge.

Stop lying. Address the problem. And Trump's appeal will evaporate.

**[5TH 72]** I wish those who condemn Trump really read what he actually said after the terrorist attack in San Bernadino- "Put a temporary ban on the entry of Muslims coming to America until we find out what is going on". He wanted validation of visa applications especially for people coming from countries that are associated with terrorist activities. To the best of my knowledge, nothing has been said by him against Muslims residing in the US.

I wish all those who protest against Trump would do as much against ISIS and AlQaeda. Why aren't they marching in the streets condemning these terrorist outfits?

Why is the idea of building a wall on the southern border so outrageous when millions come in illegally and drugs flow in unchecked? Why did the UK block the entry of Refugees trying to come across from Calais? [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/may/10/american-muslim-donald-trump-vote-republican-nominee-us)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/may/10/american-muslim-donald-trump-vote-republican-nominee-us>

April 30, 2016

## **Zayn Malik – saviour of Muslim teenagers**

Muslim teenagers in Britain, so we are told, are caught between extremism and integration. Thousands of pounds have been spent on projects such as Prevent – arguably a total waste of money. Teenagers don't care what some crusty MPs and self appointed "community leaders" think. Things are grim.

But the more I think about it, the more I realise there's only one man who can save us.

Zayn Malik.

Yes, really.

Zayn is one of us, but far cooler. He's a product of Britain. He's the successful boy next door, and he can be seen to celebrate and enjoy liberal values – he works hard and plays hard. This month his new album shot to the top of the Billboard chart in the US.

Born in Bradford into a Muslim family, Zayn, like many of us, had to go the local mosque (apparently he's read the Qur'an three times). [*392 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 341 votes]** *"As Ramadan approaches in a few weeks, Muslim teenagers will again get sick and tired of explaining the concept to their kafir pals. Zayn makes it all all right. He gets it."*

Is that a joke? You actually use the word kafir to describe non Muslims. Forget the literal translation, the word has thoroughly negative connotations and is usually applied pejoratively. So where do you get off using this word? Any Muslim teenagers who have non Muslims friends and refer to them as this aren't really getting it. And as for explaining Ramadan to someone, is that such a hardship? It's very straightforward and takes a couple of minutes.

**[2ND 320]** The day may eventually come where nobody heeds the primitive and divisive tribal nonsense of scripture of any variety. Only then will mankind be saved.

**[3RD 271]** "kafir pals" in the article is an interesting turn of phrase. Isn't "kafir" a derogatory term?

**[4TH 243]** Why is the author using the word "Kafir" to describe non-muslims which is a very hateful & derogatory word towards us?

**[5TH 237]** This is great to read.

You say that young Muslims don't have role models. I think the Guardian should do something more to promote a different kind of young Muslim female role model. There's a place for articles about "why I wear hijab" etc, but what would be truly inspiring is if you gave column space to a young woman who whilst holds on to her faith and values her heritage has decided to say "fuck off!" to some of the more backward components of her religion.

Women who wear T-shirts and short skirts if they want, women who party, go on marches and protests, women trying to reform their religion by choosing to live in a way

that isn't traditionally approved of within these communities. That would perhaps allow younger Muslims to feel a little less alone in their confusion at the clash between their faith and western society.

**[6TH 202]** '...kafir pals', really? And this is supposed to be a position piece? Talk about about 'othering'. Have a word with yourself editor. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/apr/30/muslim-teenagers-extremism-integration-zayn-malik)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/apr/30/muslim-teenagers-extremism-integration-zayn-malik>

April 15, 2016

### **Not all British Muslims think the same – whatever Channel 4 might claim**

... After the programme aired I was called "an apologist for extremists" – which I found hugely amusing. I don't think I talked about extremism at all. I was criticised for even agreeing to participate. But I had felt being a part of the conversation was more productive than ignoring it altogether. Let the liberal Muslim voice be heard (for a change).

Despite all the negative output and divisiveness it stirred up, despite all the critique and quarrelling, despite all the Twitter trolling, the Facebook abusing, the pointing and laughing (occupational hazard), I stand by my very first contribution on the documentary: "It's a privilege that we get to live in a country, the UK, which lets us practise our belief. And I firmly take this as a privilege. Muslim people, we can go to the mosque, we can pray, we can dress the way we want to ... we've got halal food pretty much everywhere. What a time to be alive!"

I made my points. Antisemitism is wrong. Homophobia is wrong. Misogyny is wrong. Surely in 2016 people can just take that as given? British Muslims are good people, so don't buy into the scaremongering. Britain is better than that. [*995 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 347 votes]** Part 94 in the Guardian's "Islam is so amazing" series.

I really don't get it. Why is this religion held up on a pedestal so much? What is so great about it?

**[2ND 327]** *"How can it be possible that the views of 1,000 odd people can prove something about an entire community?"*

That's the whole concept of doing surveys and polls. They don't claim to be foolproof, but they do generally give a broad-strokes indication of something that would otherwise be impossible to quantify.

As you say, you're on the liberal end of the scale – so why get so defensive when someone talks about the less-liberal end of the scale? Why does that not merit discussion?

**[3RD 302]** Personally I believe the polls were properly conducted and accurate. They were defended pretty convincingly in this letter to the paper: <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/apr/12/our-survey-of-muslims-was-as-thorough-as-can-be>

All facts are friendly. A poll, properly carried out, cannot be "phobic" or "scaremongering". It is simply a snapshot of the reality. Yes, the results might be worrying and these results were, although they were not surprising IMO. Are you suggesting the results should have been concealed because they were disturbing? Or that these questions should never have been posed in the first place?

We're being "othered".

No, some British Muslims are "othering" themselves by choosing not to integrate as previous waves of migrants have done. It's great that you do not do this and that you are not antisemitic or misogynist. Unfortunately – as the polls have shown – many of your co-religionists are. There is no point in blaming Channel 4 for reporting what is there. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/apr/15/channel-4-islamophobic-bandwagon-british-muslims)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/apr/15/channel-4-islamophobic-bandwagon-british-muslims>

April 13, 2016

### **This Arab youth survey highlights the dangers of desperation**

.... Even Tunisia, considered the most successful example, and awarded the 2015 Nobel peace prize for its civil society's efforts to avoid civil war through implementing dialogue between rival political parties, is challenged by terror and the expansionism of Isis. It is claimed that the country is the biggest exporter of jihadis to Syria and Iraq. The rapid spread of the terrorist group suggests that the vast majority of young Arabs are poised and ready to join Isis.

But the Arab Youth Survey refutes that claim. Conducted to explore attitudes among Arab youth in 16 countries in the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) region, the survey found that an overwhelming majority of young Arabs reject Isis and believe that the group will fail in its aim of establishing an Islamic state.

Rather, the group surveyed believes that the biggest obstacles facing the region are unemployment, lack of democracy, rising living costs and civil unrest. Only 13% of the 3,500 interviewed agreed with the statement: "If Isis did not use so much violence, I could see myself supporting it"; 78% rejected it while 9% were unsure about their position. And the majority of those interviewed perceive the lack of jobs and unemployment as the top reason for joining Isis. [*707 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 208 votes]** A "world dominated by exploitation"? Really Guardian? Is that really the cause of Islamic terrorism, and the economic and social malaise affecting the Muslim world? What about stifling religion, bad leadership, lack of democracy, lack of transparency, lack of protection for fundamental rights, lack of respect for religious minorities, lack of respect for women, and a tendency to blame problems on others? Those are the real problems, not some unnamed rapacious capitalists.

**[2ND 162]** A part of this seemingly perpetual state of economic decline and stagnation in Arab countries might have something to do with the fact that companies and people don't want to do business there. Who in their right mind would want to take their family to a region where wives and daughters are seen as second class citizens and people are executed for saying they don't believe in God? Arabs should look at themselves first and foremost and put their own house in order.

**[3RD 148]** I'm all for fighting poverty, but it's not the main reason for islamism.

**[4TH 137]** So, one in every 10 young Muslims DOES support Isis.

And who do the other 9 support? el-nusra?

India is very poor and has plenty of corruption, yet they don't blow up air ports.

Vietnam is poor as dirt, and when it comes to foreign intervention, they had more than their fair share, yet they too don't seem to be running around the globe shooting up places.

Desperation is not causing their situation, it is the result of it. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/apr/13/arab-youth-survey-desperation-terrorism)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/apr/13/arab-youth-survey-desperation-terrorism>

April 12, 2016

## **What do Muslims really think? This skewed poll certainly won't tell us**

.... the question here implies that, whatever your Muslim neighbours may tell you, don't believe them. Phillips, formerly head of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission, said as much in a Sunday Times article last weekend: apparently the pollsters wanted to ensure the respondents did not "disguise the answer that you think will be all too disturbing for people from a different culture to hear".

Phillips, who also wrote in yesterday's Daily Mail, claims this poll, undertaken by ICM, supports his belief that there is "a chasm" opening between Muslims and people of other faiths, and therefore that Muslims are different and apart from the rest of society. He claims it reveals "the unacknowledged creation of a nation within the nation, with its own geography, its own values and its own very separate future". In his view, this means "we have to adopt a far more muscular approach to integration than ever, replacing the failed policy of multiculturalism".

This is not the first time polls have been used to paint a picture of Muslims as at variance with British culture

But when there are 13 Muslim MPs, a British Muslim candidate for mayor of London, a Muslim dragon in the Dragons' Den, and a Muslim winner of the Great British Bake Off, it seems that in reality, Muslims are very much part of British society. There is a fringe minority, as is the case with all communities, but Phillips chooses a distorted interpretation of the UK's diverse Muslim communities. [*Miqdaad Versi, 2130 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 587 votes]** The finding come as no surprise at all for very many of us at the sharp end, but probably horrify the Guardianista class who seem so keen to foist their multi-culti 'vision' down the throats of those who were never consulted in the first place.

**[2ND 502]** As the author suggests the poll may be skewed to a certain extent but it is still disheartening to discover that over half the Muslim population wishes homosexuality to be declared a criminal offence!

**[3RD 485]** And no mention of sharia courts. If Muslims truly have a sense of belonging then why the insistence on a parallel legal system?

In no other segment of British society do so many people define themselves primarily by their religion. It is that which is driving division and cannot be laid at the door of the rest of the population.

**[4TH 463]** When I walk around Manchester and see women in the Niqab and Burka the truth of this self-segregation becomes apparent.

**[5TH 457]** Frankly I don't give a damn about what muslims think. They either obey our laws, or remove themselves to another country.

**[6TH 445]** "But when there are 13 Muslim MPs, a British Muslim candidate for mayor of London, a Muslim dragon in the Dragons' Den, and a Muslim winner of the Great British Bake Off, it seems that in reality, Muslims are very much part of British society."

I'm not sure a Muslim winning Bake Off is of much statistical significance, and much of this article suggests the author has his head firmly in the sand. I take the point that poorer and more religious communities may have been over-represented in his polling, but even if the attitudes Phillips found are only representative of these areas, then we still have a major problem.

**[7TH 441]** So varied that the MCB declared that no Muslim should have to refer to the Ahmadi as Muslim? How reasonable, how liberal?! [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/apr/12/what-do-muslims-think-skewed-poll-wont-tell-us)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/apr/12/what-do-muslims-think-skewed-poll-wont-tell-us>

April 9, 2016

### **Shunned for saying they're Muslims: life for Ahmadi after Asad Shah's murder**

Some of Samia Sultan's neighbours don't greet her any more, and sometimes it's hard for her to understand why. Sultan, a dentist, lives in Glasgow, in an area of the city that is – like most Muslim populations in the UK – majority Sunni. But Sultan isn't Sunni: she is Ahmadi. And that is the source of the problem.

"My neighbours were fine, but when they came to know I was Ahmadi, their attitude changed," Sultan explains. It is a bright morning in Glasgow, but the boredom of the school holidays is beginning to bite, and her daughters are impatient to borrow her smartphone so that they can use its stopwatch to time their game. Sultan passes her palm gently over her older daughter's hair as she sends her back out to play. "They would no longer reply to my greeting As-salamu `alaykum [peace be upon you]" with Wa'alaykumu s-salam [and upon you peace]."

At first hearing, it seems almost negligible; a petty withholding. But this doorstep refusal to return the universal Muslim greeting is blunt in its intended humiliation: a denial of the basic vocabulary of belonging. Sultan shrugs lightly. "We can't stop it by ourselves and we are taught to bear hardship with patience, so we try to be friendly." She pauses. "But it is hard. Sometimes you think: what is wrong with me?" [209 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 430 votes]** *"The Glasgow shopkeeper was a member of the Islamic sect persecuted in Pakistan for decades. How did the arcane but deadly tensions, rooted in the theological history of the region, surface in the UK?"*

Because when they emigrated to the UK, they brought there traditions with them and refused to start over?

**[2ND 415]** The Muslim Council of Britain, which has no Ahmadi members, stated that – although it is "unacceptable" to target Ahmadi on the basis of their beliefs, "Muslims should not be forced to class Ahmadis as Muslims if they do not wish to do so, at the same time, we call on Muslims to be sensitive."

What has it got to do with the Muslim council of Britain, or any other Muslims? If someone says they are a Muslim, that should be enough.

Once again, we see the truly ugly reality of political Islam.

**[3RD 304]** The reaction of the Muslim Council of Britain is very telling.

**[4TH 282]** Looks to me he is making an objective criticism which reveals the ghastly sectarian nature of the MCB. Or did I miss something you saw?

**[5TH 262]** It's worrying how indoctrinated and medieval these people are, that they will murder someone without thinking twice because they disagree with them. The article implies that this murder is just the tip of the iceberg. Worrying for the future of this country

**[6TH 259]** Shocking. Everything about Ahmadis that makes them model citizens – their peacefulness, tolerance, reaching out to those of other faiths – is what makes them a target. How worrying. [*The Guardian*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/09/shunned-for-saying-theyre-muslims-life-for-ahmadis-after-asad-shahs)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/09/shunned-for-saying-theyre-muslims-life-for-ahmadis-after-asad-shahs>

April 4, 2016

### **How did Charlie Hebdo get it so wrong?**

This week, the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo published an editorial that answered once and for all the question "Is Charlie Hebdo racist?". In a dispatch that read like a call to arms, the magazine – the target of a horrific terrorist attack last year that killed 11 people – considered what had happened in Paris and Brussels over the past year and asked: how did we end up here?

The editorial then laid the blame squarely on two factors – the complicity of the average, unaffiliated Muslim, and the erosion of secularism by a conspiracy of silence. Terrorism was fomented, it said, and people died because society could not voice discomfort at the many little "iceberg tips" of religious expression that had cumulatively eroded laïcité – the secularism written into the French constitution. Terrorism happened, in short, because freedom of speech was curbed.

The editorial gives credence and sanction to the view that there is no such thing as an innocent Muslim. That even those who do not themselves commit terrorism, somehow by just existing and practising, are part of a continuum that climaxes with two men blowing themselves up in Brussels airport. [*Nesrine Malik, 898 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 812 votes]** I read their piece and yours, and I fall on their side.

**[2ND 686]** Quite. I don't think it is bigotry and prejudice to suggest that the muslim communities of western Europe need to take a long, hard look at themselves.

**[3RD 582]** I think Charlie Hebdo got it spot on.

**[4TH 505]** This piece is disgusting. Guardian you should be ashamed of printing this sinister apologism.

Where does begin wit the clangers. "Mild-mannered academic and religious scholar Tariq Ramadan" Planet Earth. Guardian, if you only knew, how people are making fun of you.

**[5TH 433]** you mean how did it's narrative not align to The Guardian's?

Tariq Ramadan is the king of twisting and turning, but hey. I'm probably a facist for posting Hitch

**[6TH 428]** If you can't say whatever you like about religion, then freedom of speech is indeed dead.

What is special about worshipping a sky god?

**[7TH 400]** If anything European secularism needs to become more vocal, more prominent and less tolerant. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/apr/04/charlie-hebdo-islam-terrorism)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/apr/04/charlie-hebdo-islam-terrorism>

March 28, 2016

## **Religious extremists will never succeed in taking over Pakistan**

A week ago, on Palm Sunday, scores of Pakistani Catholics were lined up in front of a metal detector, waiting to enter St Anthony's, a small Catholic church 900 metres from Karachi's Cantonment train station. Across the road, vendors sold religious paraphernalia – crucifixes, prints of Jesus and the Virgin Mary, red and gold-spangled cloth to decorate shrines, garish reproductions of Da Vinci's Last Supper.

A lone guard stood at the door waving people through, and a volunteer scout directed the traffic. The scene illustrates how vulnerable this particular minority is to the rage of Pakistan's religious extremists, who have been trying their hardest to destroy the diversity that is so important to Pakistan's slowly growing awareness of pluralism and tolerance. [1004 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 373 votes]** I think they are already running things in Pakistan.

**[2ND 348]** I have no doubt you mean well but the evidence is massively against your opinion. Radical Islam (ie literal 8th century Islam) has already infiltrated the highest echelons of Pakistan's military, government and civil service. To give only one of numerous examples, why do you think you think Osama Bin Laden hose to live safely in a conspicuous fortified compound in the Pakistan equivalent of West Point or Sandhurst ? He knew he would be protected. No wonder the Americans could not risk informing their so called ally of their plan to get him.

Today Islamic extremism is playing the same role as Bolshevism in the 20th century: it is an ideological epidemic, crossing borders, radicalising young people, infiltrating our own societies and wreaking havoc wherever it gains power. The most virulent strain of the epidemic is Isis. Ten years from now, I fear, we shall look back and wish we had done more to snuff it out before its imagined caliphate became a reality.

The proposition that Islam and democracy are -currently – incompatible should be debated seriously, something which the author fails to do. The possibility that Christianity might have acted – at a time in the past when state and church were joined at the hip – as a geopolitical structure as well as a religion, does not , in itself, negate the thesis that Islam is doing exactly the same now.

Yes but how does one deal with a sizeable percentage of people who adhere to a belief grounded in medieval pre Enlightenment superstition and certainties ?

Islam came out of the xenophobic and violent Arab / Bedu culture of Saudi Arabia. It was then spread violently by conquest throughout the Middle East, Far East, North Africa and into Southern Europe. The sword on Saudi Arabia's flag celebrates this fact.

We used to say that there was nothing more dangerous than a fool with a cause. Well, a fool with a cause who believes they are carrying out God's will is literally capable of anything. Any genocide, any atrocity, any sacrifice. We have three pillars of the State – The Monarchy, The Church and Parliament and they are all largely independent. The Church and Monarchy have been suitable neutered and liberal parliamentary democracy rules supreme.

Islam is not just a religion. In Islamic countries it is not part of the state, it is the state. It is also an ideology that seeks total control over its citizens in their personal life, their economic life and their political life. In Saudi Arabia, Iran, Qatar, Yemen, Sudan, Pakistan Somalia and Afghanistan Sharia is the only source of legal decisions. Stoning to

death, beheading and amputation of limbs remain a legal form of punishment for such crimes as apostasy, blasphemy, adultery, theft and homosexuality.

In the West we value rational evidence based debate, democracy and the rule of law. Much of Islam values only irrational religious doctrine written down hundreds of years ago for a different age.

**[3RD 307]** "The majority of Pakistanis are peaceful and would not act violently towards religious minorities even if they do not share their religious beliefs."

1) The constitution of Pakistan forbids non-Muslims from becoming President or Prime Minister.

2) No non-Muslim has ever been elected to a general seat in Pakistan's parliament (a small number are appointed directly by the political parties).

3) All non-Muslims are officially classified as "dhimmis", a derogatory term used for subjugated non-Muslims living in a Muslim country.

4) Since 1947, the proportion of non-Muslims in Pakistan has fallen from 22% to 1%.

If most Pakistanis are secular and peaceful, why don't they change these apartheid-style laws that victimize non-Muslims? [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/mar/28/religious-extremists-will-never-succeed-in-taking-over-pakistan)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/mar/28/religious-extremists-will-never-succeed-in-taking-over-pakistan>

March 1, 2016

### **If a moderate like Sadiq Khan shouldn't stand for London mayor, which Muslim can?**

I did warn him. Shortly after he became the first Muslim to attend cabinet, I urged Sadiq Khan to be prepared. The Islamophobes, the new McCarthyites, would at some stage come after him. He laughed it off. Yet it was only a matter of time. In the current climate of anti-Muslim hysteria, it was perhaps naive of Khan and his advisers to believe that he could run for City Hall as a proud and public Muslim without being targeted or smeared.

Consider the recent spate of newspaper headlines: "Exposed: Sadiq Khan's family links to extremist organisation" (Evening Standard); "Khan joined radical imam at rallies" (Sunday Times); "Khan linked to 'online bin Laden'" (Daily Telegraph); "Sadiq Khan gave speech with 'black flag of jihad' flying" (the Sun).

These stories basically boil down to: hard-working constituency MP and former human rights lawyer who campaigned against the extradition of a constituent, Babar Ahmed, to the US on terrorism charges, and for the release of British resident Shaker Aamer from Guantánamo Bay, may, in the process, have shared platforms with allegedly unsavoury characters who've made unpleasant remarks. Quelle surprise. [*Mehdi Hasan, 1110 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 355 votes]** People smear Goldsmith for being a millionaire – Khan's running for office, so whatever stick people can beat him with, they will.

That said, Islam in particular is perceived as incompatible with the socially progressive ideas that we hold dear. And; let's face it Mehdi – by and large, it is.

**[2ND 305]** Why shouldn't people dislike Islam? It's just a set of beliefs, ideas and principles, like Conservatism, which do not align with my own beliefs, ideas and principles.

**[3RD 175 ]** So the fact that Khan actually did those things as reported means he's being victimised for his religion? Surely any political up for election has their pasts raked over don't they? And where has anyone said he 'shouldn't be' running for mayor? You've decided to write this article first , and then gone looking for justifications to write it. What a pile of shit.

**[4TH 162]** Once you reduce this article to its core substance, the message appears to be that because Sadiq Khan is a Muslim, anyone who draws attention to that fact or brings up anything contentious or questionable he has said, or reports any actions in his past or those of his extended family which may call into question his fitness to hold the office of Mayor of London, is guilty of Islamophobia.

However, it is perfectly acceptable for he and his supporters to do exactly that about any of his opponents which may call into question their fitness to hold the office of Mayor.

This is basically another demand for special treatment for someone based on their religious beliefs and as such should be roundly rejected.

**[5TH 131]** That shouldn't mean...

Of course it shouldn't. That's why newspapers investigate. Mr Hassan seems to think kuffirs (his word) should shut up and elect the candidate he favours. Anyone standing for electoral office should expect investigation on the issues which are pertinent. For Zac Goldsmith that'll be having shitloads of dosh and non-dom status. For Sadiq Khan, that'll be his religion.

**[6TH 124]** When you are choosing a person, you have to consider what they believe. So you MUST consider their religion.

**[7TH 122]** A phobia is an irrational fear of something. As somebody originally from India I assure you that there is nothing irrational about a fear of Islam. Muslims on an individual basis are different but Islam as a belief system? Nothing irrational about being afraid of that.

**[8TH 117]** Are cattle allowed to comment on this?

**[9TH 111]** Moderate or extreme, they all read the same texts. The difference is one of emphasis. Ayaan Hirsi Ali (who Mehdi has shamefully smeared in the past) makes a division between Mecca Muslims and Medina Muslims.

Mecca Muslims choose to focus on the early stages of Mohammed's career, when he's building alliances and preaching a 'peace and love' message. Medina Muslims focus on his later life, where he becomes a successful leader, and where he teaches a much more warlike message.

But whatever you focus on, the question remains – how do you choose which parts of God's message to trust? If God said it all, isn't it all true? [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/mar/01/moderate-sadiq-khan-london-mayor-muslim-labour)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/mar/01/moderate-sadiq-khan-london-mayor-muslim-labour>

February 25, 2016

## **This racist backlash against refugees is the real crisis in Europe**

A coalition of the inhumane is rising in Europe. A group of political leaders have been meeting this week in Vienna to coordinate how to seal the western Balkan refugee passage. The countries involved, including Macedonia, Croatia and Serbia, don't want to risk hosting thousands of stranded people in their poor societies. They expect that by

intentionally causing a humanitarian disaster in Greece they are going to stop the misery of the world getting in their backyard. Only this week Greece pleaded with Macedonia to reopen its border as 4,000 refugees became stranded.

Meanwhile the four Visegrád countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) who have not been not invited to join these discussions, are also at the forefront of this ideological campaign to seal the Balkan route. Their motivation is based on an Islamophobic narrative, as advocated by Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orbán, a self-declared enemy of liberal democracy and consolidator of a Christian front against the Islamisation of Europe. [1636 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 492 votes]** I think the backlash is mainly against economic imigrants rather than real refugees.

I don't think it is racist either. Most people don't care what race they are, they just don't want them here.

**[2ND 392]** Relocate them all to Saudi,Qatar, The Emirates, Kuwait, Dubai.... Plenty of room, plenty of money and a shared culture. Europe isn't the place for swarms of Islamic, economic migrants.

**[3RD 350]** It's also a matter of scale, the sheer number of people, potentially millions and millions (and the culture they bring with them)

**[4TH 346]** How about all the people who don't want them but are not racist?

**[5TH 304]** Take in one million and there will be another two million behind them. Europe must take the hard decision now and close off it's borders.

**[6TH 284]** We have seen the first signs of disaster associated with this wave of migration:

- Increased crime
- Pressure on public services
- Pressure on housing
- Pressure on the NHS

We need to close the borders now if we want to be able to take the truly deserving

It's NOT RACIST to be concerned about migration

**[7TH 254]** The author appears to have a limited knowledge of geography. Why else does he concentrate on the flow of migrants towards Europe. There is plenty of space (and there are plenty of jobs) in the Middle East. [Guardian Cif] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/feb/25/racist-backlash-against-refugees-greece-real-crisis-europe)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/feb/25/racist-backlash-against-refugees-greece-real-crisis-europe>

February 4, 2016

### **France's official blindness to religion only masks religious hatred**

On Monday morning, without warning, a group of heavily armed French police descended on the Calais refugee camp to flatten a 100-metre buffer zone between the camp and the motorway. A church and a mosque were torn down, despite promises that they wouldn't be touched. It's all part of a wider effort by the French authorities to shift refugees into a new camp of numbered shipping containers, surrounded by a large wire fence.

... Secularism can mean many different things. For some it is the simple separation of church and state: no bishops in the House of Lords, no religion test for political office etc. For others, secularism is something much more: purging religion from the public sphere. It's a bit like the Victorian attitude to sex: if you must do it, do it privately and don't talk about it.

Here, secularism treats religion as a dirty little secret, and manifests itself as a restriction of public prayer or the open expression of religious identity. And that's about as neutral as the attitude to God taken by state communism.

In a recent survey in *Le Journal du Dimanche*, 56% of people said they would react badly if their daughter married a Muslim, 91% of people said that Jews in France "are very insular", and 56% that they "have a lot of power". State blindness isn't helping. *Laïcité* doesn't eradicate religious hatred. At best, it simply camouflages it. At worst, it provides it with an alibi. [*Giles Fraser, 949 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 597 votes]** *"But why don't the refugees want asylum in France? One reason is because many of them perceive Britain to have a stronger tradition of religious tolerance than France."*

I suspect that's fairly low down on their list

**[2ND 415]** *"France's official blindness to religion only masks religious hatred"*

No. It doesn't.

It separates religion from the work of government and administration, leaving religion to individual choice.

**[3RD 361]** *"French secularism, or laïcité, treats religion as a dirty little secret, and manifests itself as a restriction of public prayer or the open expression of religious identity."*

Well religion ought to be a dirty little secret as it makes big claims for such small (if any) evidence. You see, human beings now use 'logic' and 'rationale' backed by 'evidence' to put forward theories and arguments.

**[4TH 303]** Careful observers will probably have noted a few displays of religious hatred in France over the last couple of years. Few people other than the author, though, would have thought to place the blame for these on secularism.

**[5TH 284]** *"the ban on the wearing of headscarves in public schools, a ban which also included Jewish boys wearing their kippot and Sikhs wearing their turbans"*

I suppose that all depends Giles on when you believe a person becomes a Muslim, a Jew (religion), a Sikh, or indeed a Christian.

I'm all for children not being labelled any of those until they are old enough to make up their own mind, and especially not demonstrate their allegiance to any particular faith group in school.

**[7TH 270]** In many parts of the world, secularism is a dirty little secret.

All this self-pitying bleating about religious suppression is just a distraction from the bigger problem – the persecution of people who don't buy into the ludicrous idea of a sky-dwelling space daddy.

**[8TH 264]** *"It continues as a cover for discrimination against Muslims."*

Sorry, but this is pure nonsense. Why is it that it is mainly Muslims who are having problems with french laïcité? I don't hear Jews, Christians, Buddhists or Hindus complaining about it nearly as much.

Remember, this is a country in which all religions can be ridiculed in cartoons- except for one. The authors of these cartoons were killed by radical Muslims.

But a wider, more important point needs to be made

It is not the job of a laïque society to mold itself around the religious proclivities of Muslims. It is the job of Muslims to mold themselves to fit into a laïque society.

If conservative religious immigrants don't like the system, they should leave France. France should not be expected to change its laws about laïcité, which are over 100 years old now, just because some immigrants feel marginalized by these laws.

"La France tu l'aimes ou tu la quittes." Period. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2016/feb/04/frances-official-blindness-to-religion-only-masks-religious-hatred)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2016/feb/04/frances-official-blindness-to-religion-only-masks-religious-hatred>

January 31, 2016

## **Europe's immigration bind: how to act morally while heeding the will of its people**

... In immigration policy, there are no quick fixes that allow us to tie together the moral, the workable and the democratic. The migrant crisis is a longstanding one and whatever policies are conjured up will not solve it this year or next. Indeed, the key problem lies not at the level of policy at all, but at the level of attitude and perception. That is why we need to think more in the long term.

Liberal immigration policies can be enforced only by winning public support, not in spite of public opposition. Winning such support is not a chimera, there is no iron law that the public must be irrevocably hostile to immigration. Large sections of the public have become hostile because they have come to associate immigration with unacceptable change.

That is why, paradoxically, the immigration debate cannot be won simply by debating immigration, nor the migration crisis solved merely by enacting migration policies. Anxieties about immigration are an expression of a wider sense of political voicelessness and disengagement. Until that underlying political problem is tackled, the arrival of migrants on Europe's shores will continue to be seen as a crisis. [*Kenan Malik, 1612 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 554 votes]** There is so much wrong with this piece I don't know where to start.

Let's consider the following statement:

*"There are already 1.3 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon – 20% of the population. That is the equivalent of Europe playing host to 150 million refugees."*

Refugees in Lebanon are mostly confined to camps. Their employment opportunities are restricted and they are heavily reliant on international aid agencies. There is no intention that they should ever become citizens or even permanent residents.

As an example there are "Palestinian refugees" in Lebanon whose grandparents were born in that country. They are restricted in the jobs they can do and are largely dependent on UNWRA for survival.

If the UK treated refugees like Lebanon they would be confined to camps in remote areas and would be unable to access the NHS.

You are not comparing like with like. It is one thing for Lebanon or Turkey to keep large numbers of refugees in camps with help from aid agencies. It is entirely different for a welfare state to do it.

*"A million refugees and migrants arrived last year. That represents not much more than 0.1 per cent of the EU population."*

Again a false comparison. It's not what proportion of the total European population they represent but what proportion of their age cohort. In Germany for example the arrivals are slightly more than 1% of the total population but almost 10% of the 15 – 24 age cohort. In fact +- 15% of the 15-24 male age cohort. These are the people who will have to compete with arrivals for everything from jobs to access to healthcare.

If I were a business owner who relied on relatively low skill cheap Labour I'd love an influx of fit young males into a welfare state would make sure they don't starve.

For everyone else this may not be such a pleasant experience.

Above all there is the chutzpah of believing that accepting a large influx of refugees really is the "moral" policy and the unwashed masses must somehow be cajoled into accepting this. The very premise of this piece – that the author knows what constitutes a moral policy – is, at the very least, debatable.

**[2ND 425]** This piece mentions politicians' "disdain" for the opponents of immigration yet shares it. Neither economic pressure on the poor nor religious segregation are mentioned, yet they are both a threat to the "little people". One would think immigrants were neither poorer than nor culturally distinct from Europeans.

But the fact is that most migrants are poor, and most have a certain robust religious culture and will, to a considerable extent, be mentally segregated from the host communities, whether they live together in physically segregated modern ghettos or not. Quite quickly, because of their higher birthrate, they will take over.

**[3RD 310]** You can only take the piss for so long before people start to realise. Preaching that there are only positive effects of immigration and anyone who questions this is a bigot will inevitably cause a backlash.

**[4TH 300]** I have always supported a reasonable immigration policy and believe that our country has been enriched and is truly multicultural with the historical immigration of Asian, West Indian, Irish, Italian, Polish etc. ....

But what we are seeing now is the possible mass immigration of a people with one specific backward religion who have no desire to join the western way of life and instead form their own communities within our country.

Like many people in the UK I am proud of the hard won freedoms , and tolerance we have in this country ....I don` t want to import a culture of intolerance, homophobia, and anti-women bigotry.

**[8TH 258]** The gist of this piece seems to be that (a) people can't see the benefits of uncontrolled mass immigration because they are pig ignorant, and thus (b) if we talk to them slowly, patiently and often enough, they will eventually see the light and decide that letting in hundreds of millions of (mostly economic) migrants from the Global South is a truly wonderful thing.

The electorates of Europe do not need and do not want these vast quantities of people. They know that we cannot cope with one million, or two million, or more every single year for the indefinite future.

We lack the means to successfully integrate vast numbers of people from different cultures – to provide them with homes, and jobs, and language skills, and to train them to fit into our society successfully, and to keep an eye on all the religious nutjobs who will inevitably come in with them so that they don't commit acts of mass murder. This is not going to change. When will thick left-liberals finally get the message?! [*Guardian Cif*]

[Read more](#)

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jan/31/europe-bind-act-morally-on-immigrants-heed-its-citizens>

January 24, 2016

### **The Observer view on the radicalisation of young British Muslims**

How do we combat the radicalisation of young Muslims? This debate is a political minefield, but, like it or not, it is one that ministers have to wade into: 800 Britons have gone to Syria to fight or support Isis since 2012 – and that is probably a conservative estimate; a further 600 have been caught trying to enter.

The prime minister attracted much criticism last week for his announcement that Muslim women must learn English or face deportation as part of measures to combat radicalisation. Some of the criticism was fair, but too much has been unnecessarily kneejerk.

The debate risks being party politicised: those who see it as an opportunity to undermine support for an ethnically diverse Britain; others who see it as an opportunity to lambast what they see as an illiberal government unfairly targeting groups of citizens. [*681 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 132 votes]** The issues go back a long way. In the early 90s you could see posters for the Young Muslims in Bradford calling for a Muslim Britain. Mention it here, and you get moderated. In the same city, I knew of 2nd and 3rd generation immigrants who spoke no English. Again, when I have mentioned it on CiF, my comments have been deleted.

If there is a wish to counter radicalism, it has to face the facts that multi-culturalism has helped to create a parallel society which interacts in the public sphere (they go to the same shops, work alongside people, etc), but not in the private (little or no intermarriage, or any social interaction). One thing I learned in Bradford was that Ray Honeyford had been trying to push Muslim girls to improve their education, to aim for a career rather just marriage. He was hated for this, and when he (stupidly) published in the Salisbury Review, it was the slip that the community leaders were waiting for.

An honest approach will look at how and why parallel societies, following their own laws and customs, have been allowed to settle, develop and grow in the UK for the last 30 or 40 years. It should look at how official blind eyes have been turned to possible offences in the name of 'cultural sensitivity'. It should look perhaps at how people growing up in such an environment could not be radicalized.

**[2ND 105]** Why do we have segregated schooling? It seems to me that this notion that children should be hived off into schools designated appropriate according to faith is just a divisive construct. We need all British children to be mixing freely and playing together with their parents interacting with each other. That would be a start.

.... Where are the media debates about this with ordinary British people from varied backgrounds and faiths who can participate in discussions about this? We never hear from the alienated and the angry. If we don't open up the forum for debate and see the representation of all those who need to talk then we are only going to ignore this problem until one day it may become insurmountable.

.... It's time for the rule of law; the outreach programmes; the schools to become the juridical and social embodiment of one for all and all for one. It is a mammoth task and something some of us on the Left have been pointing out for years while others looked at us askance and accused us of everything from paranoia to low grade racism. Sadly, the truth is out, and we must work together to establish a coherent response to a now rather entrenched and knotty problem.

.... Things are really roiling, and it's not a surprise that considerable numbers of people are seriously worried about this. There is a palpable sense of fear in people I talk to about this.

**[3RD 93]** There is no debate. Embrace civilisation or die ignorant. I for one will not respect any religious group that does not accept women and gays as equals.

End of discussion.

**[4TH 92]** This article reeks of Guardian whataboutery and offers no solution. In fact everything mentioned here has been discussed to death and the only thing the Guardian can propose is that the government needs to 'do more' and treat 'at risk' muslims with the softest gloves ever.

*"How do we combat the radicalisation of young Muslims? This debate is a political minefield."*

This debate is a 'political minefield' only to left-wing-loonies, the rest of us are very clear about what this issue is. Most of the readers of this CIF are responsible and open-minded people who have had enough of pussyfooting around this issue by the Guardian.

The simple and brutal truth is that Islam as manifested by a fair few of it's adherents can never co-exists in an enlightened European nation like ours – no matter how much we say otherwise. The sooner we all lay this to bare and move forward the better.

*"The debate risks being party politicised: those who see it as an opportunity to undermine support for an ethnically diverse Britain; others who see it as an opportunity to lambast what they see as an illiberal government unfairly targeting groups of citizens."*

Do we now Guardian?

*"But he was wrong to frame English lessons for Muslim women as an anti-radicalisation measure linked to punitive deportation. This is particularly true given the government's poor overall record on integration."*

How much does this affect people who are not muslim, that would an interesting statistic to see. All non-muslim immigrant communities do fairly well as far as integration is concerned. So successive governments don't have a 'poor overall record'.

*"But much of the critique of the government has been misleading and incendiary, attempting to impose a black-and-white filter on a world that exists in shades of grey."*

Nope, there is nothing misleading. There is only one thing that needs clarity (none of this black-and-white filter nonsense) and it's that radicalisations only happens in Muslims who have a perceived victimhood complex and something urgently has to be done about it.

Can at least the Observer editorial offer a bit more clarity please and avoid of phrases such as '*nuanced and responsible approach*'. [Guardian Cif] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jan/24/islam-radical-young-politics)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jan/24/islam-radical-young-politics>

January 22, 2016

### **Cameron and Muslim women: a new twist on an old colonial story**

Before David Cameron launched himself this week into a critique of the English language skills of Muslim women in the UK, he would have done well to take a tour of Tate Britain's exhibition Artist and Empire. It's a deeply unsettling reminder of a past that the British have made an art of half-forgetting.

This is painting by the square metre: huge canvases to demonstrate the struggle and the glory of British expansionary militarism. It's a reminder that spreading that pink across the globe was a brutally violent process. But it was the undercurrent of erotic thrill to empire that is even more disturbing.

Imperial maps are bordered by large-breasted maidens holding cornucopia brimming with exotic fruits for the conqueror. One portrait of a coy, bare-breasted woman was that of a hostage imprisoned by James Cook in his cabin as part of negotiations with a recalcitrant indigenous people in the Pacific. Empire offered an abundance of available women; in contrast the imperialists' womenfolk are dressed and presented in domestic settings, safely established under male control as wives and daughters. [*Madeleine Bunting, 1419 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 541 votes]** So, an inability to speak English after a decade or more in the country is a good thing, because it is sticking two fingers up to 19th century British colonialism?

**[2ND 352]** OMG Guardian stop embarrassing yourselves...

**[3RD 343 ]** This insane article makes me bristle with anger. It seems the Guardian sees racism and imperialism in everything.

Cameron was making a sensible remark about immigrants who can't speak English: if they are to integrate and be financially independent, they need to learn it. It's sensible – really rare thing for Cameron.

*"No issue is more likely to incense Muslim families than targeting their mothers and grandmothers; it will be seen as a threatening and unwarranted intrusion into their private domestic lives."*

Then they should grow up. Immigrants who refuse to do the minimum and learn at least some English should not be allowed to stay permanently. Other nations have similar policies – for example, Norway.

*"In the Muslim homes I have visited it was clear that the women were extremely busy cooking and caring for many family members."*

Aren't traditional values lovely? If only white women could be as easily domesticated as the brown ones.

Truly pathetic!

**[4TH 332]** *"In the Muslim homes I have visited it was clear that the women were extremely busy cooking and caring for many family members."*

And why shouldn't they be content with that eh..?

**[5TH 315]** Sikhs, Hindus, and Muslims in the UK hail from the same background and were all affected by colonialism. When you study how the communities have progressed there are startling differences (muslims with degrees 20%, Sikhs: 30%, Hindus: 45%). The key issue is the progress made by respective women. The better the women are integrated the better the whole community does. If you stand in the way of progress of women then you suffer. See:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/cmpo/migrated/documents/ethnicityreligion.pdf>

[*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](#)

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jan/22/david-cameron-muslim-women>

January 21, 2016

### **Chess forbidden in Islam, rules Saudi mufti, but issue not black and white**

Saudi Arabia's grand mufti has ruled that chess is forbidden in Islam, saying it encourages gambling and is a waste of time.

Sheikh Abdulaziz al-Sheikh was answering a question on a television show in which he issues fatwas in response to viewers' queries on everyday religious matters.

He said chess was "included under gambling" and was "a waste of time and money and a cause for hatred and enmity between players".

Sheikh justified the ruling by referring to the verse in the Qur'an banning "intoxicants, gambling, idolatry and divination". It is not clear when the fatwa was delivered. [2365 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 1003 votes]** An honest question: if Saudi Muslims are so against gambling, how come they are so active in horse-racing?

**[2ND 683]** Yes I can understand how a game that encourages logical thought would be frowned upon by a follower of a magic sky pixie. What an idiotic pronouncement. Plus any religion that classes music as a vice can really fuck off as far as I'm concerned.

**[3RD 575]** An honest answer – hypocrisy. [*The Guardian*] [Read more](#)

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/21/chess-forbidden-in-islam-rules-saudi-arabia-grand-mufti>

January 19, 2016

### **Schools can decide whether to ban full-face veils, says Morgan**

The education secretary, Nicky Morgan, has said it is "very much up to schools" if they want to ban the full-face veil, arguing that being able to see a person's mouth was important for teaching.

Morgan was speaking after the chief schools inspector, Sir Michael Wilshaw, said inspectors had found that religious dress that covered the face sometimes caused communication problems.

David Cameron had said on Monday that he would back institutions with "sensible rules" over Muslims wearing full-face veils, but he ruled out a full public ban.

Speaking to BBC Radio 4's Today programme on Tuesday, Morgan said: "The prime minister was absolutely right to say, and we have a very clear view in this country, we are not going to tell people what they can and can't wear; that would cut across the values we are talking about that we want everybody to follow. [*1444 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 368 votes]** ANOTHER COMMENT SAID: "*Just continue stripping people of their freedoms in the name of freedom. Sad*"

The "freedom" for a community to segregate itself from the rest of society and essentially create a parallel community through various factors including dress and refusal to speak the host language?

**[2ND 222]** Symbols of their parents' ideologies should be kept out of schools. Would we accept UKIP t-shirts? No way!

**[3RD 217]** The full veil has no place in British schools, just as a mini skirt would not be tolerated in Saudi schools. This is not a Muslim country.

**[4TH 197]** Typical cowardly politician. She should actually lead on this, and say that schools are expected to be full face veil free, and will be failed by Ofsted if they're not.

BTW not one muslim parent I know would have any objection to it either.

Typical cowardly politician. They should also make sex ed compulsory in Primaries up and down the country.

**[5TH 194]** Nuns don't cover their faces.

**[6TH 192]** "*Going for the French approach of banning an item of clothing, I do not think that's the way we do things in this country and I do not think that would help.*"

A mask isn't an item of clothing and face coverings are already banned in Britain. If you are a motorcyclist you have to by law wear a helmet, yet in Banks, Petrol station etc, you are asked to remove it to show your face. Yet Muslim face masks are not worn because of British law only Saudi fashion and they will not be asked to remove them in a Bank of Petrol Station, so do we have one law for all of us? Or different laws for different communities? I think the French have got it right, one Law for ALL. [*The Guardian*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/jan/19/schools-can-decide-whether-to-ban-full-face-veils-says-morgan)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/jan/19/schools-can-decide-whether-to-ban-full-face-veils-says-morgan>

January 18, 2016

## **Cameron has alienated the very people he must ally with: Muslim women**

You'd think, from the way politicians tend to frame the issue, that there were legions of misguided voters passionately intent on protecting the right of controlling men to isolate their wives from all influence but theirs.

David Cameron, in 2016, sounds no different to David Blunkett in 2002, when he insists that immigrant women must be empowered to learn English, or else. Except that they don't say "migrant women". They say "Muslim women" when speaking of the "alarming picture of forced gender segregation, discrimination and social isolation". Misogyny, it seems, is only a problem when it's Islamic misogyny.

Just to be clear, it is not controversial to declare that Islamic misogyny is a particular and large problem. Islam is a highly patriarchal belief system. Muslim feminists argue that their religion does not have to be practised in a way that oppresses women. But the fact is that Islam is used again and again, by nations, cultures and individuals, to justify the negation of the rights and freedoms of women. This is not unsayable, and authorities from Cologne to Rochdale who believe that such assertions should not be encouraged or confronted are part of the problem. [*Deborah Orr, 1210 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 569 votes]** *"Who are the people in the best position to provide solutions to this problem? Other Muslim women"*

I think that it's time to let go of the idea that Islam can only be reformed from the inside, especially given that there's no sign of it happening. We in the west – including moderate Muslims – should stop tip-toeing around it for fear of causing 'offence'. We should just move past that. There's no human right not to be offended. There never was.

The vision of multiculturalism as a set of discrete, non-overlapping blocs, each with their own value system, has been a manifest failure. But that model isn't the only one available – we could try co-existing around a core set of values that we all share. One such would be the freedom to openly criticise each other's ideas. Everyone should be free to believe what they want, and everyone else should be free to openly question that, with no fear of violence.

A couple of hundred years ago, criticising the Pope in Europe could fast-track you to a grisly end, like Theo Van Gogh, or the Charlie Hebdo cartoonists. One of the key reasons Catholicism lost that power is the spread of information, the loosening of taboos, the gradual erosion of the edifice of solemnity and mystery that it shrouded itself in. Islam retains that edifice to this day. In Europe and elsewhere, fundamentalist Muslims have successfully implemented a blasphemy law, enforceable by summary execution.

How could we have allowed that to happen? It's absurd to sit around waiting for Islam to reform itself from within, when it's plain to see that it's moving in the opposite direction. Those Muslims who want to publicly speak out against its oppressive might can only do so if they're ready for immediate martyrdom at the hands of their grim-faced coreligionists. The conditions created by these lunatics are such that Islam can't possibly reform. The process can't even begin.

**[2ND 391]** 1) Ditch the facemasks

2) Learn English

3) Ensure integration by allowing your daughters to intermarry if they wish.

**[3RD 374]** The misogynists are those that want to suppress women by isolating them, physically and linguistically, from British society so that they do not get ideas above their station.

**[4TH 361]** Must ally with?

Am I the only person who's a little tired of being told what 'we' must do in order to better accommodate Muslims per se?

**[5TH 349]** How luck we are to have Deborah Orr to tell us what Muslim women think.

**[6TH 347]** Muslim communities exercise postal voting to an extent completely out of kilter with the rest of the population.

Since Muslims are no more prone to disability or infirmity than any other section of the population, there must be a reason for this unusual number of postal voters.

Please take your head out of the sand; democracy is being subverted.

**[7TH 231]** What Cameron said was quite clear. Orr seems intent on muddying the issue. If you're upset about how a politician says something rather than what he is saying then you'll probably hate the next few years. People are getting sick of cotton wool politics when it comes to a particular misogynistic and ill-integrated demographic, and will welcome strength and determination from politicians on such matters. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jan/18/david-cameron-muslim-women-anti-women)

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jan/18/david-cameron-muslim-women-anti-women>

January 12, 2016

### **Rules to fight extremism 'creating fear among teachers and pupils'**

In the aftermath of the Paris attacks, Jenny Smith, headteacher at Frederick Bremer school in Walthamstow, east London, put up a display of press cuttings and photographs. Students, many of whom are Muslims, were invited to add their comments. Discussions about the Islamic State attack were held in citizenship classes.

Then, in December, pupils put on a shadow puppet performance in the borough about injustice and prejudice faced by a young Muslim. The performance was part of an exhibition organised by Maslaha, an organisation working with schools to explore Islam's contribution to UK culture.

Smith's approach seems in marked contrast to the government's policy to prevent radicalisation, which places increasing pressure on schools, through its Prevent strategy, to be vigilant and report suspicions about students. [*121 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 50 votes]** *"In the aftermath of the Paris attacks, [.....]. Then, in December, pupils put on a shadow puppet performance in the borough about injustice and prejudice faced by a young Muslim."*

I'm not sure if I'm reading this right. Of all the "injustices" they could have discussed, i.e. the mass slaughter of the kuffar in central Paris, the murderous assault against cartoonists, the destruction of Syrian architectural and cultural heritage, they decide to stage a play reinforcing the victim narrative?

**[2ND 48]** Immigration causing problems....who'd have thunk it

So heads in the sand didn't work, what shall we try now?

**[3RD 41]** *"Young Muslims care deeply about their faith".*

Do they care enough to ask, with real intellectual honesty, if it's true? If not, then what this means is that they are, and want to remain, brainwashed. [*The Guardian*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/jan/12/rules-extremism-teachers-pupils-spy-radicalisation-muslims-prevent)

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/jan/12/rules-extremism-teachers-pupils-spy-radicalisation-muslims-prevent>

January 12, 2016

## **Let's tap into Islam's heritage of critical education to defeat extremism in schools**

The policy response to the threat of radicalisation has focused on law, security and intelligence. As the problem spirals out of control, this one-dimensional response, which includes the government's Prevent policy in schools, seems merely to be repeated more aggressively.

Applying security and surveillance policy across society not only risks limiting civil liberties, but also isolating mainstream Muslims. This does not counter the manipulative interpretation of Islam being used by extremists to play upon grievances held by some Muslims.

A sensible alternative is a long-term educational policy that would support Muslim communities to address the rise of religious extremism in their midst. Since 9/11, official counter-terrorism policy has largely been determined by right- and left-leaning thinktanks. Rightwing pundits tend to explain Islamic extremism by the supposed inability of Islam to reform itself, together with Muslims' unwillingness to integrate into wider society.

Analysts on the left try to understand extremist action as a political struggle that has almost nothing to do with religion. While the former avoids sharing responsibility for addressing the root causes of the problem, the latter dismisses the possibility that a form of theology defines the central ideology of Islamic extremism. [599 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 140 votes]** And exactly what parts of The Koran and the Hadith are actually open to criticism?

This is the fundamental problem with Islam in the Western world. Muslims believe that Islam is the perfect solution for humanity. Perfection cannot, by definition, be criticised. It is extremely, extremely difficult to have a sensible, objective discussion with people on a topic, if that is their starting point.

**[2ND 124]** By all means, but let us not pander to the out-of-date aspects of religion, particularly those which clash with secular law. Equal rights for women is the law. Medieval dress codes for women are not. The interpretation of the religion must be brought up to date to take account of modern knowledge and customs. It cannot be allowed to impose social customs and legal traditions from the 8th century in the Middle East as the norm for the 21st century in the Western world.

**[3RD 111]** Unmitigated sophistry, coming from a religion that punishes, or even executes, apostates.

For this country to move forward and embrace true integration, we must become secular and remove all religious influence from our laws and schools.

Superstition has no place in the classroom. [*The Guardian*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/jan/12/islam-education-extremism-schools-muslim-prevent)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/jan/12/islam-education-extremism-schools-muslim-prevent>

January 11, 2016

## **The Cologne assaults challenge the German sense of order – and many fear what comes next**

.... Who attacked all those women in Cologne and other cities? Was it refugees who came to Germany, as initially thought? Was it asylum seekers already in Germany for years, as

some suggest? Was it an organised criminal network, as the justice minister hinted? It's not clear yet.

What is apparent, though, is that the incidents highlight how Germany is now reaching a crossroads. Deep unease and fears over security and the refugee crisis that have been simmering for the past year are bubbling over.

For some Germans, it is a situation marked by a sense of vulnerability in going about one's daily life, concerns the country is spinning out of control and worries that things are never going to be the same again.

7 January 2015 kicked this off, with the attacks on Charlie Hebdo magazine and a kosher grocery store in Paris. Germans always feel close to what happens across the border in France to a far greater degree than they do regarding incidents in Poland and Denmark. [959 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 119 votes]** I think some of the naivete or ideological bias comes from not spending time in the countries from which the immigrants are moving. I'm female & have been going in & out of the Middle East, North Africa & the Horn since 1992, and have seen a sharp deterioration over these years, especially where women's rights are concerned.

The area has experienced a huge population spike without employment opportunities for young men (young women don't even figure here in the equation), fatally coinciding with the high water mark of Saudi-financed Wahhabi propaganda in mosques, schools and social welfare groups.

The result is a huge young, newly-urbanised, male underclass who mill around the urban cafes in a culture that anglophone Arabs refer to as "the street", where they spend hours bonding, discussing conspiracy theories (such as Mossad's attack on the Twin Towers on 9/11) and basically supporting each other in a new form of radicalisation, albeit rarely as extreme as that found in ISIL.

Women have become more and more covered on the streets of Cairo, Amman & Tunis; society is on the whole, in our terms, going backwards.

Mein Kampf in Arabic is a best-seller in many a street kiosk. Of course there are vast numbers of educated Moslems who don't like this, & indeed sometimes feel themselves under siege in their own capitals. But we are absorbing thousands of young men whose education is minimal and whose view of women is one of contempt, and we don't expect any negative consequences??

I think there are 2 groups of people who need to be very frightened by Merkel's policies: women and Jews. A dreadful irony.

**[2ND 118]** The guardian has no problem writing reams of articles on rape culture in college campuses. Or the horrible sexual violence in India.

But after cologne, it was obvious the guardian got it wrong.

And last few days, this paper came out with apologia.

If these were white men assaulting muslim women, the hard questions will be asked.

Guardians moral cowardice has enabled the far right to ask the hard questions.

Guardians stick your head in the sand approach to islamism has seen the far right in ascendancy throughout Europe.

When faced with a religious supremacist ideology, the cowardice by the regressive leftists, it is no wonder Pegida and its ilk are gaining traction

**[3RD 113]** Angela Merkel – with no mandate – invited in 1.1 million people from some of the most violent and dysfunctional regions of the world, without having any real idea as to who any of these people actually are.

Reading the above paragraph should take your breath away. And if it doesn't, keep re-reading it until it does. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jan/11/the-cologne-assaults-challenge-the-german-sense-of-order-and-many-fear-what-comes-next)

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jan/11/the-cologne-assaults-challenge-the-german-sense-of-order-and-many-fear-what-comes-next>

January 10, 2016

## **Germany's welcome for refugees has to survive the Cologne attacks**

We still do not know exactly what went on at Cologne's central station on New Year's Eve. Police have recorded 379 allegations of violence, 40% of them sexual assaults, with two reports of rape. They have identified 31 suspects, who include at least two Germans, a Serb, an American and 18 asylum seekers from the Middle East and north Africa.

That's all we know for sure. But the public still hasn't recovered from the headlines last Monday saying that a crowd of 1,000 refugees had mobbed German women. Since then, some of us have been searching for a source whose testimony we can trust.

... But my fear is that Willkommenskultur could end up as nothing more than a slogan. The people who always wanted it to fail, who believe in a Germans-only state, are abusing the fears and insecurities we all have over the background of the new arrivals. And more than that, they are abusing the dozens of women who were victims of assault on New Year's Eve. [*1076 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 588 votes]** *"Well before New Year's Eve, tensions in Germany were rising. But those who truly support the victims that night should not give in to the fears and insecurities spread by the far right".*

So, ladies, if you are walking through Cologne at night and your path takes you through a throng of Middle Eastern looking youths, you are pandering to the prejudices of the far right should you feel fearful or insecure.

**[2ND 529]** No, we must ensure our borders and especially external Schengen borders are properly secured against migrants and all who want to enter must be fully screened and registered beforehand. Any non-EU national must be immediately deported after the slightest infraction against our laws.

**[3RD 499]** *"The people who always wanted it to fail, who believe in a Germans-only state, are abusing the fears and insecurities we all have over the background of the new arrivals. And more than that, they are abusing the dozens of women who were victims of assault on New Year's Eve."*

My wife was opposed to the recent large-scale migration from Syria partly because she thought people wouldn't integrate and that women's rights in Europe would be endangered. By the columnist's logic, that means she is actually abusing the German women who were victims. I don't think so. The abusers are the abusers – pure and simple. Why are Guardian writers not defending women's rights here?

**[4TH 456]** Leftist liberals also need to correct the mistakes they have made.

**[5TH 450]** Anyone who dares to question immigration levels is "far right". Got it. [Guardian Cif] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jan/10/ensure-germany-welcome-refugees-cologne-attacks)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jan/10/ensure-germany-welcome-refugees-cologne-attacks>

January 10, 2016

## **After Cologne, the uneasy question: is cultural coexistence still possible?**

Three thousand refugees now arrive in Europe every day, mainly heading for Germany. It's hard not to feel uneasy – even fearful – about how German and European politics are going to evolve in reaction, and how this might affect the very future of the EU.

Paris might still be reeling from the 130 deaths in November's terrorist attack, but now Germany is recoiling from the multiple attacks on women on New Year's Eve from apparently young Arab men, many new immigrants or asylum seekers.

... What is being asked of Germany is enormous: it is to their credit that Germany's leaders accept it – and to the public's credit that so far it has stood behind them. But the latest poll in Germany for the first time reports a majority in favour of closing Germany's borders. More Colognes, and that figure will grow further.

Yet this is a common European problem. It would be magnificent if a leading British politician would make the case for sharing Merkel's objectives, and give her and her people a sense that we are with them – working to the same ends with the same mixture of realism and idealism. I bay at the moon. [Will Hutton, 2286 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 377 votes]** No. Islam and democracy are incompatible, always will be. 'There's no such thing as a democratic muslim', as an imam said.

**[2ND 311]** It scares me that people with such a naive world view are allowed to express themselves in newspapers.

The Arabs coming over are in no way interested in becoming good Germans. They want to continue with their present cultural identity, just set within the material comfort and security of a western state.

Like water and oil, these two cultures will not mix.

**[3RD 295]** *"more than half the refugees are highly skilled, it's been said",*

"It's been said"

**[4TH 278]** *"The British interest is unambiguous: Merkel must succeed"*

No, she must fail and she must be shown to fail, as a lesson for other EU leaders of what not to do.

**[5TH 228]** The sheer numbers involved here is what is so worrying. Terrorism is orchestrated by a few individuals, and we accept that only a tiny minority are involved. There is no contextualisation that can take place when around a thousand men are involved in these attacks in just one city.

A mass deportation of every lone male asylum seeker that has settled in Cologne in the last three years, is justified and would it make clear to these newly arrived communities that their residency is permitted only with our continued goodwill.

**[6TH 228]** *"... is cultural coexistence still possible?"*

Is there only two cultures in Guardianland? Indian and Chinese migrants, despite facing the same, if not worse, difficulties as Muslim immigrants are now completely, and successful, integrated. Integrated not assimilated.

Why is Muslim Culture in the West failing? Perhaps ask Gaby Hinsliff, she's good with the 'hard questions'.

**[7TH 217]** *"who are inducing such a toxic reaction."*

So it's a toxic reaction to be opposed to Merkel's stupidity in sending out an open invitation which has resulted in over a million people (mainly young men) (and goodness knows how many keen to follow) entering the EU in an uncontrolled migration. With large numbers coming from cultures that do not accept liberal, Enlightenment values such as –er– the equality of women.

And if you think these recent attacks on women are just isolated incidents that can easily be contained perhaps you should consult those in Sweden who are honest enough to talk about the rape statistics there.

**[8TH 210]** *"The German media, police and criminal justice system have been agonisingly slow to respond, perhaps hoping that silence would make the problem go away."*

That has already been clarified in the German media: the German police were ordered not to mention any criminality committed by "refugees", some media follow that line too. There is no perhaps here.

*"There will be no talk of noxious multiculturalism, but instead of cultural coexistence in which the host society's values are paramount."*

European values are clearly specified in European legislations. We do not make legal excuses for Christians, Jews or Jehovah witnesses, we do not make legal excuses for people living in poverty. Of course German values should be paramount – anything else would be deviation from German law.

**[9TH 208]** *"Meanwhile the extreme right..."*

It's not just the extreme right....it's the majority of people

People who don't recognise the issues that come with mass immigration are in the minority

**[10TH 207]** Cultures which respect women are welcome to co-exist. Cultures which do not, are not. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jan/10/after-cologne-attacks-british-politicians-show-share-merkel-values)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jan/10/after-cologne-attacks-british-politicians-show-share-merkel-values>

January 9, 2016

## **A year after the Charlie Hebdo attack, France is still in denial**

The good news, as France marks the first anniversary of the Charlie Hebdo attacks, is that one year on, and even amid renewed tensions in Paris with the shooting dead of a man wielding a knife and shouting "Allahu Akbar" outside a police station on Thursday, the magazine itself is still up and running, its provocative streak intact.

.... The assaults may have been planned in Raqqa or in Yemen, but they were carried out by what the French call "children of immigration". This was arguably a traumatic year's biggest shock. Perhaps the burying of heads in the sand by the ruling elite is a result of France's official state indifference to religion or ethnicity, but it is more likely that no one in government has found the words to address such a sensitive subject without fuelling extreme views.

The "war" is in the Middle East but should not be within France. This should be said more clearly – it is an omission that stands out particularly in a week when a taboo-breaking publication is being honoured for its courage. As Albert Camus once said: "Misnaming things adds to the misfortunes of the world." [*Natalie Nougayrède, 1148 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 289 votes]** *"The most worrying development has been talk of a country "at war" – vocabulary without parallel in other European states. Although he has rightly designated Islamic State as the enemy, François Hollande has failed to show that he has come to terms with the fact that almost all of the perpetrators of the 2015 attacks were French citizens."*

But, they weren't any old French citizens were they Natalie. The weren't Jews, Catholics, Sikh's or Hindus were they?

**[2ND 282]** But but..... cultural diversity and letting in millions of migrants with an alien ideology would never cause any problems for western liberal democratic society and to say otherwise must make one a racist or fascist or some other word lefties chuck about to close down debate.....

**[3RD 278]** I can only see things getting worse. France and other Continental countries are a precursor of how the UK will look in the future. Things are going to get brutal.

**[4TH 264]** ANOTHER COMMENT SAID: *"There are many people in denial"*.

I don't think most Europeans are in denial. The people who are in denial are the liberal elite in their ivory towers far removed from the real world. This includes most main stream politicians, the BBC and many news publications, especially the Guardian. But you only have to read the comments on this forum to realise that most Guardian readers are not in denial. Although there is the odd exception.

**[5TH 239]** COMMENT ABOVE SAID *"... in the future?"*. We're well on the way, with our ghettos, enclaves and no go areas, silencing of free speech etc.

**[6TH 233]** The whole of liberal-democratic Europe is in denial.

The longer it remains blinkered to what is happening in its midst – and this doesn't mean just out-and-out terrorism – the worse the outcome and the longer it will take to fix it.

[*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](#)

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jan/09/charlie-hebdo-paris-terror-attacks-france>

January 8, 2016

## **Let's not shy away from asking hard questions about the Cologne attacks**

On New Year's Eve, something happened that I don't really want to talk about. It happened not to me but to about 100 women in Cologne and other German cities, some of whom probably didn't want to talk about it either; it often takes a while for victims to report sexual assault to the police.

But that's not quite why it has taken nearly a week to piece together the story of a spate of muggings and sexual attacks carried out that night by seemingly organised gangs of young men.

Many Germans are asking why politicians, police and broadcasters seem so reluctant to discuss what happened under cover of the crowds (the state broadcaster EZF apologised for not covering the attacks until Tuesday), and whether it's because the attackers are widely described as looking Arab or north African. Which is why, of course, liberals like me are reluctant to talk about it.

.... Too often anti-immigrant feeling stems from what's really a long-running failure of the state – to protect children at risk, to provide enough social housing or school places, to police what has reportedly been a rough area of Cologne for years – which becomes more visible as the population grows. And since that growth can't be turned on and off like a tap, whatever some politicians say, the answer is for governments to do what we elect them to do: rise to the challenge, calm the fear that breeds extremism by demonstrating they can cope.

Which in this case means treating this crime wave exactly as they would any other: policing more effectively, with extra manpower if necessary, and being upfront at all times about doing so. Bluster and blame fools nobody. But neither, it turns out, does queasy silence. [*Gaby Hinsliff, 6127 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 2131 votes]** Finally, after several days of refusing to report the biggest story of 2016 so far because it does not fit with its highly ideological driven narrative, this paper is allowing comments on a story which has shown its contempt for victims of sexual assault. It's predictable enough that the first writer to tackle this does not ask why the Mayor of Cologne and many on the left are blaming the victims themselves for their own rapes.

The writer should at least acknowledge the only solution left available to citizens, when the police cannot protect them from clear danger and politicians blame victims for the crime simply because the perpetrator was a foreign male of arabic extraction, is to arm themselves.

Please never print another article on women's rights ever again, you have no credibility on this issue and owe those on the opposite side of the political spectrum who have now been proved correct a massive apology. I write this as a guardian reader and buyer of 17 years and someone who has always voted for left of centre parties (both of which I won't be doing ever again).

**[2ND 1071]** *"The same isn't always true of young male migrants exchanging life under repressive regimes, where they may at least have enjoyed superiority over women, for scraping by at the bottom of Europe's social and economic food chain."*

The point is that if you claim to be fleeing a repressive culture, you don't go and practice the same culture in your chosen safe haven. If you do, you have lost all credibility as a refugee. In consequence, this is precisely why so many question the true motives behind the influx of migrants. Are they refugees or simply opportunists?

**[3RD 990]** *"Let's not shy away from asking hard questions about the Cologne attacks"* – and this article does exactly that. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jan/08/cologne-attacks-hard-questions-new-years-eve)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jan/08/cologne-attacks-hard-questions-new-years-eve>

January 5, 2016

**Diversity could be the making of Europe – let's talk about it**

If Europe's big test in 2015 was the refugee crisis, integrating the newly arrived will be 2016's. This will require the type of *Wir schaffen das* (we can do it) message that German chancellor Angela Merkel has been sending out.

The refugee crisis has highlighted a historical fact: Europe's cultural, ethnic and religious diversity will increase in a transformative way in the years and decades to come. Which makes it a good time also to open a healthier more cool-headed debate about our collective identity.

.... Is there a way to explore the notion of being "hyphenated Europeans" – Turkish-German, Algerian-French or Asian-British, just as one can be African-American or Italian-American? Diversity, as experienced across Europe, by Europeans and non-Europeans alike, is the next looming horizon. It is a compelling, gripping transformation – a story that we are all part of, and one we should start talking about in new ways. [*Natalie Nougayrède, 1727 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 522 votes]** I have read some deluded and out of touch articles in the Guardian, but this one is written by someone whose bubble is so thick it could never be burst.

*"Saying that migrants, whatever their cultural background, must abide by laws as much as be protected by them, may be stating the obvious but it also raises sensitivities and should therefore be part of that debate."*

No, it should not be part of a debate – and don't try to kid us with vague statements within an article that effectively says refugees and migrants should do as they please and indigenous populations should do whatever they can to make them welcome.

Multiculturalism can only work if two cultures are compatible – if one is centuries less mature than the other it will not and cannot work.

If the UK continues to invite people from some of the most backward countries in the world the people already living and paying taxes in the UK have every right to expect these new peoples to live by the rules of the UK.

What the author is advocating is exactly how the Rotherham scandal was allowed to evolve. It is why backward hate preaching was/is allowed. It is why sexism is so rife in society.

**[2ND 503]** There isn't a single practical suggestion made here, just lots of buzzwords and no explanation as to why diversity is intrinsically a good thing. Homogenous countries such as Japan and South Korea are doing perfectly well. Why do only European countries need to be 'enriched' in larger numbers year on year, regardless of the wishes of their citizens?

*"Why is it that those who help refugees in Calais have so few organised contacts with those who do the same in Berlin?"*

What should they be doing, practically speaking? Those in Calais are in a safe developed country and have a simple economic preference for Britain. They certainly aren't going to qualify for asylum in Germany. I suppose the diversity they bring will have to enrich France for now, but should have benefited any of the safe countries they passed through to get there.

*"Or that virtually no one from liberal west European circles has engaged with those, Hungarians and others, who have become convinced their nation is being "swamped"?"*

Why aren't Hungarians entitled to self-determination – something I'm sure you would support for any non-European nation? They look at the cities in western Europe which have been subject to high immigration and decide they don't want the same for Hungary. That is their right. Why should they be patronised by these 'liberal west European circles', whoever they are?

**[3RD 368]** Might it not also be the breaking of Europe ?

So far it's difficult to see the argument for increased diversification. There's enough chaos as it is

**[4TH 328]** Europe was not built upon Islamic or Hindu or African cultures but a European culture through to the highest points of Christianity. And from there towards the secular liberal western present day. The absurdity is this free liberal western system now infected with "cultural Marxism" opens the doors to cultures which will close it down. It must not and a rejection of the left position on this is inevitable.

**[5TH 312]** Why not give democracy a go and hold an EU wide referendum on how much immigration its population would like to see?

I suspect because the answer would be 'drastically less'.

You're afraid of democracy. The EU machine is terrified and enraged by it. [*Guardian Cif*]  
[Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jan/05/europes-citizens-need-start-debate-diversity)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jan/05/europes-citizens-need-start-debate-diversity>

December 23, 2015

### **The British Muslim family's refused entry reveals America's hypocrisy**

The Mahmood family's ordeal at Gatwick airport in London, where the Disneyland-bound group of 11 UK citizens was pulled out of the boarding line by American officials and had their tickets cancelled, speaks to more than just the apparent institutional prejudices of the American government's security measures.

Also laid bare are the paradoxes of the fight over Islamophobia here at home. How can we ask Muslim communities the world over – including in the US – to forcefully reject the extremists among them and, more onerously, reveal themselves as the peace-loving people they are when at the same time we fail to treat them this way at our borders?  
 [333 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 394 votes]** Has there been any evidence which would indicate that this family was denied entry on the basis of their religion? Perhaps, or far more likely, there was another reason they were refused entry?

**[2ND 369]** The reason is right in the article ... Anyone who has travelled to Iran, Pakistan, Iraq or Syria since 2011 will be subject to the requirement to apply for a Visa instead of having a Visa Waiver, this was voted in by Congress after the Paris attacks. It says the wife was recently in Pakistan. Nothing to do with being Muslim. There we have our answer, check the law people...

**[3RD 299]** The Guardians approach to this is a disgrace.

How many Muslims traveled to the US this month from all around the world? Tens of thousands? Did all of the Homeland Security people who let those people enter not get the anti-Muslim memo?

How can you run multiple articles smearing the US, accusing them of racism, when you have ZERO evidence?

You really have just turned into the Daily Mail of the left. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/dec/23/the-british-muslim-familys-refused-entry-reveals-our-islamophobia-hypocrisy)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/dec/23/the-british-muslim-familys-refused-entry-reveals-our-islamophobia-hypocrisy>

December 16, 2015

### **Muslims can reinterpret their faith: it's the best answer to Isis**

There is a great deal of talk about reform and reinterpretation of Islam these days, in order to counter the views of extremists such as Isis.

Liberal and progressive interpretations depend mostly on nuanced readings of the Qur'an and Sunna, or forcing new meanings out of them. But by playing the extremists' game of interpreting the texts, we allow them a semblance of legitimacy. We also give them the opportunity to come back with theological workarounds.

In my opinion we Muslims need to take the bold step of challenging the very idea that the Qur'an and Sunna are infallible. This will come as a shock to those of us brought up on the idea that the Qur'an is the perfect word of God, but some Muslims are already doing this. Thinkers such as Abdul Karim Soroush from Iran, Sayyed Ahmad Al-Qabbanji from Iraq and Saeed Nasheed from Morocco are questioning traditional views about the Qur'an. [*Hassan Radwan, 1158 comments*]

**[TO COMMENT 158 votes]** *"Why is this such an essential step? Because once you stop protecting ideas on the basis that "God said it", you create a level playing field where good ideas can battle it out with bad ideas on an equal footing."*

Excellent piece, and you make very important points.

The reason this approach has such opposition among the religious is – once you acknowledge that these things are fallible (and therefore not divine), then you undermine the entire edifice. That's a slippery slope to believing none of it, and living your life without concern about what happened in the 7th Century. That's exactly what we in Europe did with our own myths.

A few hundred years ago, the Christian church in Europe responded to things like that with swift, extravagant violence, so no one did it. It was long process of gradual erosion of the edifice of 'respect' the church had erected, which delivered us to a more-or-less entirely secular society.

I think that if we opened the gates to humour and satire and hard-headed criticism – books, plays, cartoons, political commentary – then Islam would start to lose some of the awesome, mysterious, and entirely undeserved 'respect' it has accrued at gunpoint. Then – hopefully – people in 40 or 50 years can live in the same rational, secular, liberal environment that we were lucky to be born into.

**[2ND 131]** *"In my opinion we Muslims need to take the bold step of challenging the very idea that the Qur'an and Sunna are infallible."*

At last! – A sensible article on Islam in the Guardian. And it has only taken around 10 years to recognise that Muslims need to start reflecting on, and reforming, their religion.

Excellent article.

**[3RD 101]** Islam has had 1200 years to reform – I am not holding my breath.

**[4TH 93]** I had to do a double take when I read the article and the site I was reading.

This is what most of us have been banging on about for years but labelled as Islamophobic. Perhaps, in the coming years, we will be allowed to have an actual debate about Islamic reformation rather than the suppression of criticism and apology pieces, that has become so part of politics and the MSM in Europe over the last couple of decades.

It needs more thinkers and realists like the writer of this piece to lead the way. Sadly though I think his voice will be drowned out as as others who have made similar suggestions in the past, were also silenced.

Good luck though. I think you are going to need it!

**[5TH 82]** Why not just give up the entire notion of god? Lots of people have, are perfectly happy about it and get on with their lives without fearing some invisible celestial overseer. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/dec/16/muslims-faith-isis-religion-islam)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/dec/16/muslims-faith-isis-religion-islam>

December 16, 2015

### **Sudan threatens 25 Muslims with death on charges of apostasy**

Twenty-five Muslim men, including three teenagers, are facing the death penalty in Sudan after being charged with apostasy for following the wrong version of Islam.

The men were released on bail on Monday after being arrested in Khartoum in November while listening to religious teachings and imprisoned for more than five weeks.

The men, aged between 15 and 51, belong to the minority Hausa ethnicity, many of whom follow a different interpretation of Islam to the one sanctioned by Omar al-Bashir's government.

They are accused of "rejecting the prophet Muhammad's teachings", rejecting the Hadith and taking the Qur'an as the sole source of religious legitimacy – a crime punishable by death in Sudan. [*469 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 98 votes]** All of the countries to criminalize apostasy as of 2014 were majority Islamic nations [...] no country with Christian, Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, agnostic or atheist majority had any criminal or civil laws forbidding or encouraging apostasy, or had laws restricting an individual's right to convert from one religion to another.

No further comment.

**[2ND 85]** It is puzzling that the world targets ISIS for following a literal interpretation of Sharia but turns a blind eye to a dozen or so other states which apply exactly the same interpretation and derive the same outcome for those with non-conformist religious views. Somehow it would be more satisfying if there was one principle for all.

**[3RD 80]** The sad reality which the West refuses to acknowledge is that apostasy is considered a serious crime by moderate Muslims. It tells you that religious freedom in the ranks of the 'good' faithful is far more fascist than it pretends to be.

Muslims can 'tolerate' that other people are not born in the Islamic faith but the ones who leave it are very often seriously castigated by their own communities. There are examples of this happening in Europe but these news story are quickly swept under the rug. An inconvenient truth which cannot be let out. The radicals go one step further by

sentencing them to death. I don't know why Western liberals are so obsessed in defending the indefensible. [*The Guardian*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/dec/16/sudan-charges-25-death-penalty-apostasy-sharia-law)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/dec/16/sudan-charges-25-death-penalty-apostasy-sharia-law>

December 15, 2015

## **Merkel is wrong – demanding Syrians assimilate could backfire**

The German chancellor, Angela Merkel, in an address to the annual conference of the Christian Democrat party on Monday, said: "Those who seek refuge with us also have to respect our laws and traditions, and learn to speak German. Multiculturalism leads to parallel societies, and therefore multiculturalism remains a grand delusion."

Some will find this odd given that Merkel has taken a brave stand in allowing large numbers of refugees – perhaps up to a million – to enter and be welcomed in Germany over the past few months.

Of course the plan is that their claims for refuge and asylum will be processed, some may be refused and repatriated, some may stay until there is peace in Syria, but it is not unrealistic to assume that the large majority will become long-term settlers in Germany. Some may even think that her anti-multiculturalist remarks are a sop to her party's angry right wing, who are opposed to her humanitarian stand.

... Germany, unlike Britain, has a declining population, and one of the consequences of the large refugee inflow is to boost the labour force. That many of the Syrian refugees are professional and business people has not been lost on analysts and employers, and already some companies have new apprenticeships targeted at the refugees. Merkel's humanitarian instincts may yet bring long-term material benefits for her country, as long as Germany is careful not to alienate prospective citizens by demanding assimilation as the price of citizenship. [*837 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 483 votes]** *"Germany is careful not to alienate prospective citizens by demanding assimilation as the price of citizenship"*

omfg, then don't come to Germany!

**[2ND 436]** Multiculturalism died a decade ago.

All that remains is a zombie ideology flogged by the left.

**[3RD 427]** *"Merkel's humanitarian instincts may yet bring long-term material benefits for her country, as long as Germany is careful not to alienate prospective citizens by demanding assimilation as the price of citizenship."*

The author makes it sound like it is the Syrian refugees who are doing Germany a favour...

**[4TH 400]** I think if you want to live in a country you should be prepared to accept the values and laws of that country, live in accordance to them and make an effort to learn the language of that country.

**[5TH 356]** Multi culturalism in Sweden has been a disaster if you measure it by crime, employment, education outcomes and the like.

**[6TH 355]** Do any Muslim countries support multiculturalism? Would Saudi Arabia, for example, allow 500,000 Christians to move there, build churches, drink alcohol, wear whatever they feel like, and so on? I don't think so.

The idea that any country would or should allow hundreds of thousands of people to suddenly turn up, for whatever reason, and with the idea that they do not have to adhere to that country's traditions is ludicrous. That is not seeking refugee status, that is in an invasion.

**[7TH 333]** *"Merkel's humanitarian instincts may yet bring long-term material benefits for her country, as long as Germany is careful not to alienate prospective citizens by demanding assimilation as the price of citizenship."*

I'd love to see what would happen to European women if they refused to change their own cultural values when they are in "Muslim" countries.

**[8TH 328]** Are we supposed to take this article seriously? There is not one single multicultural country in this world that can be called a success.

**[9TH 326 ]** Why is so wrong to ask immigrants to assimilate into their host community? Why should the host community lose its traditions, identity and values to accommodate people who have just arrived? This premise is absurd and leads to division and alienation not the fair request that new immigrants assimilate as waves of people before have done so over hundreds of years. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/dec/15/merkel-syrians-assimilate-germany-multiculturalism)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/dec/15/merkel-syrians-assimilate-germany-multiculturalism>

December 13, 2015

### **Saudi Arabia elects up to 17 female councillors in historic election**

Saudi Arabia has elected its first female local councillors in a historic step for a country where women are banned from driving and face routine discrimination.

.... Rasha Hefzi, a prominent businesswoman who won a seat in Jeddah, thanked all those who supported her campaign and trusted her, pledging: "What we have started, we will continue." Hefzi and other candidates used social media to contact voters because of restrictions on women meeting men and bans on both sexes using photographs. [*353 comments*]

**[A TOP COMMENT 48 votes]** Actually, I have a question about the council meetings. Are they allowed to attend without male relatives? And how do they discuss things if they are not allowed to see or talk to people of the opposite sex? Genuinely interested.

**[ANOTHER]** The article states "...the country's Grand Mufti, its most senior religious figure, described women's involvement in politics as "opening the door to evil".

The Grand Mufti should be barred from entering Western countries for this hate speech.

In fact, he should be barred from entering any other country for this misogyny. [*The Guardian*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/dec/13/saudi-arabia-elects-up-to-17-female-councillors-in-historic-election)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/dec/13/saudi-arabia-elects-up-to-17-female-councillors-in-historic-election>

December 11, 2015

### **With Islamophobia on the rise I fear for my friends and family**

.... Trump is just the latest public figure to articulate a growing wave of Islamophobia across the western world. His shocking views justify the actions of those who commit hate crimes and worse, play into the hands of terrorists such as Daesh (Islamic State) – making Britain less safe.

Islamophobia is on the rise. The number of Islamophobic incidents recorded by the Metropolitan police increased by 70% over the past year alone. Every time there is a

terrorist incident involving evil fanatics who abuse the name of Islam ordinary, law-abiding Muslims pay a heavy price. [*Sadiq Khan, 1853 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 516 votes]** *"We must do more to challenge Islamophobia. As mayor of London, I'll make tackling hate crimes – including Islamophobia... – a top priority for the Metropolitan police and ensure they get the resources they needs to make a real difference. I'll work with the police and community organisations to improve the way we report and record Islamophobic crimes – so we have the best possible information to act on"*

Really? Why is everyone insistent on pandering to this cult/religion, the polices resources should be spent investigating Murder/Rape and working and walking the beat in order to help people feel safe. You will not get my vote.

This country is not an Islamic one, we are fed up of Islam being put on some sort of pedestal as some sort of inscrutable way of life, it inst we are all humans, if they want to go talk about made up fairy tales, fine, but maybe you should spend police resources on ensuring Islamic hate preachers, problematic mosques and groups of growing radicalised members are being monitored rather than monitoring everyone else in case someone says something that could be considered remotely offensive to Muslims.

**[2ND 428]** Of course. It's our fault that people want to join ISIS and kill infidels.

**[3RD 369]** *"Few people in Britain take Trump's words seriously"*

The great majority of what he says should not be taken seriously. Some of it should be, such as the following statement, which the Guardian's own analysis shows as essentially accurate (if you read through its attempt to change the question):

*"In Britain, more Muslims join ISIS than join the British army".*

**[4TH 359]** A COMMENT SAID: *"Tell Mama, the organisation that monitors Islamophobia, revealed there were 115 attacks in the week after the terrorist attack on Paris – a spike of more than 300%"*

A lot less than the number that died or had their lives ruptured by the Paris attacks.

'Islamophobic Attacks', all non-fatal and a lot likely to have been verbal or merely perceived.

Not nice, but inevitable and – forgive me – inconsequential, in the scheme of things.

**[5TH 234]** Trump is a fool and I would not like his finger within a hundred miles of the nuclear button.

But over the Muslim issue he is not advocating violence or breaking any of our laws.

Oh and about all these thousands of names on the petition to ban him I'd just love to know if there are many from people who sympathise with the murder of cartoonists and apostates or approved of the fatwa against Rushdie. Now that is real criminal incitement to violence.

So are we monitoring the people who enter our country to find out their attitudes about apostasy, punishments for homosexuals etc.?

Should we admit anyone who is advocating murder. [*Guardian Cif*] [Read more](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/dec/11/london-islamophobia-donald-trump)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/dec/11/london-islamophobia-donald-trump>

## 4.0 The Independent & similar

November 7, 2016

### **Many ‘political Islam’ movements share our values, say MPs**

The government should narrow its definition of ‘political Islam’ and recognise that many Islamic political movements share the same values as Britain, according to a report by an influential committee of MPs.

The report criticises the Foreign Office for using the term to describe both groups that embrace “democratic principles and liberal values” and others that instead hold “intolerant, extremist views.”

It was also heavily critical of the FCO’s recent report into Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood, which was conducted by Sir John Jenkins, while serving as British Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, which gave the impression that it could have been influenced by a foreign state. [199 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT]** Except that political Islam by definition is theocracy not democracy.

**[ANOTHER]** Democracy, freedom etc is the complete opposite of Islam.

**[ANOTHER]** Islam is the religion of hate (witness the 100,000 demonstrating in Pakistan for the Christian Governor of their State to be executed). Of the 66 official “trouble” spots in the world all but one are caused by Islam. Islam is intolerant, demanding, and incapable of living alongside other cultures. For our own survival its practice must be proscribed across Europe.

**[ANOTHER]** Moderates until you draw a cartoon of Mohamed and then they go loopy and demand your head is cut off.

**[ANOTHER]** “... many Islamic political movements share the same values as Britain”

No they bloody well don’t — the values of Britain do not include establishing a One World Religion of Islam, nor any requirement that Sharia is universally applicable to everyone

**[ANOTHER]** National Socialism also ‘shared much of our values’, it was still the biggest threat we faced at the time. No amount of appeasement changed that.

Indeed, it could be argued that Islam is a much bigger threat given how supine we are in response to it. [The Independent] [Read more](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/many-political-islam-movements-share-our-values-say-mps-a7401351.html)  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/many-political-islam-movements-share-our-values-say-mps-a7401351.html>

November 1, 2016

### **An inquiry into sharia courts doesn’t have to criticise Islam – but after the claims of some women, it is necessary**

The vexed subject of sharia law is currently under investigation by two separate inquiries.

The first, led by Professor Mona Siddiqui, was established earlier this year by Theresa May when she was Home Secretary. Another review is being conducted by the Home Affairs Select Committee, now under the chairmanship of Yvette Cooper. Both inquiries are seeking to consider whether the existing system of sharia councils in the UK should be overhauled.

Opponents of the councils, which use Islamic law to settle disputes on everything from financial quarrels to marital breakdown, argue that women are regularly disadvantaged because sharia is a fundamentally patriarchal construct. Baroness Cox, who has long campaigned for the abolition of sharia councils and who is seeking to bring forward legislation against them, says she has considerable support among Muslim women who don't otherwise "have a voice".

**[TOP COMMENT]** Where Shariah – Islamic law – is in line with British secular law, it is redundant; and where it contradicts British secular law, it is illegal.

For these two reasons alone, it should be dumped!

**[ANOTHER]** .... And sorry, should it matter if Islam comes in for criticism? Is it a precious orchid we're supposed to tiptoe around? This is how twisted, hardline nonsense is allowed to skyrocket. We've created a culture where we're bending to their sensitivities, in a way we'd never do with other religions.

Ask the average Catholic, or CofE member how much criticism they've had to take from the progressive press and protesters. How much the Pope has been expected to apologise over Catholic scandals, or Arch Bishop has been expected to accommodate women/gays. There is no hesitation in criticising them from anyone.

Christians, Hindus, Buddhists etc. accept criticism, accept they will feel insulted, disrespected sometimes. They don't go around behaving like this...what happened to Je Suis Charlie.

If they don't like it, go live in a place with Sharia and be miserable there. It's UK, it's Europe, end of. Get over it.

**[ANOTHER]** There must only be ONE law in the UK!!!

Sharia must be banned

**[ANOTHER]** Sharia law is oppressive and blatantly discriminatory towards women. It should not be allowed and UK law should ban it. Let's not be liberal apologists please.

**[ANOTHER]** To compare sharia with beth din is misleading. The beth din runs parallel to civil law in the case of marriage, and all Jews are strictly observant of British law. Sharia has no respect for the law, as their views on polygamy show.

If I were to live in a Muslim country, I would consider myself bound by their laws. Why is it too much to expect the same in return

**[ANOTHER]** An enquiry into sharia courts SHOULD criticise Islam, because let's face it, there is a lot to criticise about that religion.

**[ANOTHER]** When the ECHR has stated that sharia is incompatible with human rights then how can we discuss sharia courts without criticising islam? [*The Independent*] [Read more](http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/an-inquiry-into-sharia-courts-doesnt-have-to-criticise-islam-a7391886.html)  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/an-inquiry-into-sharia-courts-doesnt-have-to-criticise-islam-a7391886.html>

October 6, 2016

### **Norway sets out plans for banning burqa in schools and universities**

The burqa veil is to be banned in schools and universities across Norway following similar measures in other European countries, according to the Norwegian education minister.

The country's right-wing government confirmed it was considering "national regulations prohibiting the full-face veil in schools and universities", a move supported by the opposition Labour Party.

Education minister Torbjorn Roe Isaksen confirmed the ban would only apply to the full-face veil and not to other Islamic headscarves including the hijab, chador and niqab.

He did, however, defend the right of Norwegians to express their religion in their clothing, in contrast to the strict secularity laws in place in France.

**[TOP COMMENT]** This oppressive clothing also needs to be banned in the UK.

**[ANOTHER]** For all those who support the wearing of burqas, niqabs, hijabs, burkinis etc. Remember that these are merely symbols of a brutal and misogynistic ideology that demeans and despises females:

*"I was shown Hell and I have never seen anything more terrifying than it. And I saw that the majority of its people are women." They said, "Why, O Messenger of Allah?" He said, "Because of their ingratitude (kufr)." "Are they ungrateful to Allah?" He said, "They are ungrateful to their companions (husbands) and ungrateful for good treatment. If you are kind to one of them for a lifetime then she sees one (undesirable) thing in you, she will say, 'I have never had anything good from you.'" (Narrated by al-Bukhari, 1052)*

**[ANOTHER]** Just proscribe Islam.

**[ANOTHER]** All forms of religious clothing need banning along with banning religion in schools.

**[ANOTHER]** The knuckle dragging culture of Islam that produces nothing and sponges in the west. This pseudo "religion" has killed millions in the spread of the Arab Islamic Empire and War on the Buddhist Hindu and Christian nations. They turn on each other both muslim Shia against Sunni muslim. Islam is no fun and Islam will be destroyed.

**[ANOTHER]** And every Muslim woman wearing such garb symbolizes the following repressive and misogynistic ideology:

"MEN HAVE AUTHORITY OVER WOMEN BECAUSE GOD HAS MADE THE ONE SUPERIOR TO THE OTHER and because they spend their wealth to maintain them".

**[ANOTHER]** In the meantime, women in Iran are putting themselves at risk to gain the freedom to drop the scarves and all that ragg but in Europe, they seem to be fighting for it. Why? Pure provocation.

Anyway, the Q'ran does not require women to hide their hair, let alone their face. Those who do are there supporting radical religious thinking which should not be tolerated in Western countries of any kind. Good on Norway!

**[ANOTHER]** "He did, however, defend the right of Norwegians to express their religion in their clothing, in contrast to the strict secularity laws in place in France."

Actually, France has only banned the burqa so this law would bring Norway exactly into line with France. Mind you, the Islamic headscarf is next on the list here in France with Sarkozy talking about banning it if he returns to office next year. Not a big fan of the man but it's definitely got to go and go it will. France is Churchill on this issue and the UK is Chamberlain.

**[ANOTHER]** Its an enemy uniform. It needs to be banned on that basis. Period.

**[ANOTHER]** I cant think of anything more miserly than the withholding of the sight of a fellow human face.

**[ANOTHER]** Well done Norway. Lets hope more countries follow your example. If muslims want to live in the west they should have the decency to respect western customs. [*The Independent*] [Read more](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/norway-banning-burqa-in-schools-and-universities-a7347521.html)  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/norway-banning-burqa-in-schools-and-universities-a7347521.html>

September 26, 2016

### **British Muslims ‘should be allowed to bypass police’ when reporting hate crime, Andy Burnham says**

British Muslims should be given a new way of reporting hate crimes that bypasses the police, because the Government’s controversial Prevent anti-extremism strategy has ruined trust between the two parties, Andy Burnham has suggested.

The shadow Home Secretary called for a “root and branch review” of Prevent and said the true scale of Islamophobic hate crimes was being hidden because Muslims were reticent to report such crimes to an institution involved in monitoring them.

Mr Burnham, who is Labour’s candidate for Mayor of Greater Manchester, compared Prevent to the French ban on the burkini swimming costume and said it “singles out one community for different treatment”. He said such an approach risked legitimising or inspiring Islamophobic hate crime.

**[TOP COMMENT]** Report straight to the Sharia Court. Good one.

Muslims do not believe in the Primacy of the UK Courts, why continue to dance around the problem.

How low can you go to get a Vote.....almost there Andy

**[ANOTHER]** Can the rest of us bypass the police when it comes to reporting Islamic inspired hatred directed at non-Muslims or even other Muslims who aren’t ‘Muslim enough’?

**[ANOTHER]** For the most part “hate crimes” especial when Islam is involved are a symptom. The people who commit these crimes are individuals that have seen friendly areas becomes super intolerant because of Islam or understand that when you have an Islamic population of over about 3% there are problems that start coming with it.

So instead of trying to close debate on the issue by having strict laws if you decide to speak up against Islam the politicians should go after the problem – Islamists, a rising Islamic population and the problems that come with it.

**[ANOTHER]** Burnham is a total nut case. No one should be allowed to bypass the police – they are our law enforcing agency. Why should a (currently) minority religion be given such a right

**[ANOTHER]** So, Mr Burnham, should Slovakian Roma in Page Hall be given a special way to report attacks on them when they are being plotted by British Muslims?

Why make one group so special that they are untouchable? Won’t this just fuel the anti-muslim sentiment arising from the refusal of many of them to integrate fully?

Why should just muslims get special treatment? Why not Hindus, West Indians, Blacks, the Jewish community being targeted by Labour supporters and muslims, and what about the sects within Islam being targeted by muslims such as the shopkeeper and imam recently murdered?

Why oh why, Mr Burnham, would you want to divide Britain further? Is there a large muslim community in Manchester you need the support of to become Mayor and to use it as a base to oppose Corbyn.

No, Andy, your approach is totally wrong and divisive. One rule of law for all. [*The Independent*] [Read more](#)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/prevent-anti-extremism-strategy-legitimising-islamophobic-hate-attacks-andy-burnham-warns-a7330951.html>

September 25, 2016

### **Nahed Hattar shot dead: Prominent Jordanian writer charged with offensive Facebook post killed**

A Jordanian writer who was arrested for posting a cartoon deemed offensive to Islam has been shot dead.

Nahed Hattar was assassinated in front the Supreme Court in Amman with local media reporting he was shot three times in the head.

The shooter has reportedly been arrested by security forces.

Mr Hatter had turned himself in to authorities after the Jordanian Prime Minister, Hani Mulki, ordered an investigation into a cartoon he had shared on Facebook.

The cartoon depicts God in paradise, being treated as a servant by an Arab man, who is in bed with two women and asking for wine.

Saed Hattar, a relative of Mr Hatter, said the cartoon was posted to illustrate the twisted religious views of Isis extremists and was deleted after the post received angry responses. [*141 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT]** To some of us Jordanians Mr Hattar is and will always will be a martyr in the name of our plight for free speech. He lived a writer, an activist for secular government, and worked against the political islamist tide.

They shot him because they could not tackle his ideas, they shot an unarmed defenseless. During his trial he received many death threats and his family asked him to flee, he refused citing he did not fear death, simply that he was saddened that his country had come to this. That is the Nahed Hattar we will remember, a man who in the face of death thought of his country first.

**[ANOTHER]** This is islam folks. Stop fooling yourselves with the "it is just a lone wolf" or "not all muslims" or "religion of peace" fallacies. History has proven this for over 1000yrs. [*The Independent*] [Read more](#)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/nahed-hattar-shot-dead-prominent-jordanian-writer-charged-with-offensive-facebook-post-killed-a7328651.html>

August 27, 2016

### **Being A Muslim Woman And Wearing A Headscarf Post-Brexit – “It’s noticeably more tense.”**

Following the EU referendum, reports of racism in the UK rose dramatically. We spoke to three British Muslim women at the Ahmadiyya Muslim Festival – a gathering which aims to combat terrorism and extremism – about what it's like to wear a headscarf post-Brexit.

Last month, the head of the National Police Chiefs' Council said the debate had directly led to an increase in reporting of hate crimes.

*"It is very clear in the last couple of weeks that more people have been aware of experiencing such incidents than we have had before,"* explained Mark Hamilton.

Reports to police increased by 42% in the two weeks surrounding the vote – equating to more than 3,000 hate crime allegations across Britain.

*"Some people took that as a licence to behave in a racist or other discriminatory way,"* Hamilton added at the time. *"We can not divorce the country's reaction to the referendum and the increase in hate crime reporting."*

Anti-Muslim hate group Tell MAMA warned of heightened racism following Brexit.

The group's annual survey had found a 326% rise in Islamophobic incidents during 2015. Chairman Shahid Malik said the UK stood in "unchartered territory".

**[TOP COMMENT]** If there is tension expressed, it is because the tension was unaddressed. It is that simple. When liberals and left stop playing Islam's political game of victimhood and listen to the grass roots, the tensions will be addressed in an atmosphere of honesty.

Brexit resulted not because of racism but clearly-Islamic agendas, not of the peaceable Ahmaddiya type, but the kind that led to the murder of a decent, Glasgow shopkeeper, which sees every political victory as the March of Islam to defeat those who live in "the House of War." It is hardly surprising that many identified European, post-War, PC pseudo-liberalism as a kind of Trojan Horse.

There is also the natural fear of people who see their culture and homeland gradually being handed over by moral surrender to alien cultures that make them feel like a marginalised group in their own country. This is deliberate cultural imperialism by a religion that produces few examples of functioning and fair democracy.

Burkini bans and racist attacks are unintelligent, but they are symptoms of the national debate we need to have. As long as we continue to use the narrative of nasty-white-racists-against-innocent-Muslims, it will not happen. Huffpost editors and writers have a serious responsibility here they are currently neglecting. [*The Huffington Post UK*] [Read more](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/being-a-muslim-woman-and-wearing-a-headscarf-post-brexit_uk_57b71876e4b0b8a585b43a03?oiivyd9svyce67ds4i&utm_hp_ref=uk)

August 8, 2016

## **If we can't ban halal meat, we should at least let people know when they're buying it**

The UK now carries out more halal slaughter than the rest of Europe. Most of us eat halal meat unwittingly on a daily basis, since it is sold in most major outlets, including big brand-name supermarkets, without being labelled as such

The EU's 2009 Slaughter Regulation requires all animals, including poultry, to be stunned before slaughter. Stunning is defined as any intentionally induced process which causes

loss of consciousness and sensibility without pain, including any process resulting in instant death.

The UK has invoked the "religious exemption" from the EU's "slaughter directive" and in practice now carries out more halal slaughter than the rest of Europe. Traditional halal meat is expected to be killed by hand and must be blessed by the slaughterman. The exception allows for animals to be slaughtered without being stunned first. [920 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 34 votes]** I am neither Islamophobic nor belong to any religion. A staunch Atheist. But to me Halal slaughter does not fit in with British values. I would get rid of it full stop, have it all imported. Religion under no circumstances should impact on evolved thinking and 21st century life. Its 2016 and people are still following the teachings of thousand year old con artists.

The whole idea of Religious exemption should be scrapped. If you cant integrate into the area you decide to relocate to then you should not really move there. I am all for multiculturalism, but when it impacts on common sense and integration then it should not even be thought of as an option.

Before anyone starts kicking off, my heritage is not of British descent.

**[2ND 31]** It is an utter scandal that in the 21st century any of our laws have 'religious exemptions'. Pandering to those who wish to perpetuate ancient and often cruel practices just serves to further divide our society. [The Independent] [Read more](http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/if-we-cant-ban-halal-meat-we-should-at-least-let-people-know-when-theyre-buying-it-a7178481.html)  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/if-we-cant-ban-halal-meat-we-should-at-least-let-people-know-when-theyre-buying-it-a7178481.html>

June 15, 2016

## **Germany to end unofficial tolerance of polygamy**

Germany is to end its unofficial tolerance of polygamy – including marriages involving minors, the country's justice minister has vowed.

Heiko Maas said the move was designed to prevent people in Germany committing to more than one marriage.

*"No one who comes to us has the right to put their cultural roots, or their religious beliefs, above our laws,"* Mr Maas told Bild newspaper.

*"For that reason multiple marriages cannot be recognised in Germany."*

Polygamy is a criminal offence in Germany, but Bild alleged German authorities "often look the other way" if a migrant brings several wives to the country.

**[TOP COMMENT]** When a western country needs to introduce new laws that, up until now weren't needed because of common values and common sense, you know it has a problem with immigration and failure of integration. This is just another sign that Muslim integration is a myth.

**[ANOTHER]** *'No one who comes to us has the right to put their cultural roots, or their religious beliefs, above our laws,'* says justice minister

A good start. Now, the German politicians have to get their heads round the fact that polygamy, child brides and FGM, are approved by Allah.

And if you disagree with Allah, you are in a state of rebellion, and rebelling against god automatically puts you in the cross-hairs ..... and violence naturally follows.

**[ANOTHER]** They should be made to live by our rules throughout Europe. No ifs no buts, they can always go back

**[ANOTHER]** High time we did something about this in the UK. I hope the German president will rid himself of this ridiculous burden. We want to discourage large families. Child support should be only for the first two children.

**[ANOTHER]** If mass Muslim immigration continues, as Merkel said it will, ethnic Germans between the ages of 20-40 will be a minority by 2020. It is unenforceable because political power and political will is going to change soon due to shifting demographics. The more Muslims, the more Islamic cultural practices such as polygamy will be accepted as the norm. *[The Independent]* [Read more](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/germany-will-not-recognise-polygamy-or-underage-marriages-a7083751.html)  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/germany-will-not-recognise-polygamy-or-underage-marriages-a7083751.html>

March 27, 2016

### **After Asad Shah's 'religiously prejudiced' death, we know inter-Muslim hatred is a problem in Britain**

... It's shocking, but not entirely surprising, that the persecution Ahmadis face in Pakistan has travelled over here. Several British Ahmadis I spoke to say they have known of someone who had been threatened or attacked for being an Ahmadi here in Britain. One anti-Ahmadi group with offices in London organises conferences that spread hate-speech against them; a popular Facebook group sent out a message of "congratulations" on news of Shah's death.

The persecution of British Ahmadis by other Muslims has become worryingly normalised, yet has remained largely unspoken. In recent weeks, several British imams in Glasgow and Bradford openly praised Mumtaz Qadri, who murdered a Pakistani governor for campaigning against the country's vicious blasphemy laws (used primarily to persecute and even kill religious minorities including Christians, Hindus, Sikhs and Ahmadis in Pakistan). *[153 comments]*

**[A TOP COMMENT]** Ahmadiyya Muslims are well-known for love, peace, and charity for non-Muslims for the last 100 years. They've raised tonnes of money for Great Ormond Street, Cancer Research and other UK charities, and they do the same in all the other countries of the world too.

One of the reasons they get killed is because their founder in the 19th century said that you can't kill people in the name of Islam. We should support the Ahmadiyya by at least protecting them from being murdered, and we should stop supporting the Wahhabi Saudi terrorists with weapons, otherwise this world isn't going to be a pretty place! It's time the West realised it's helping to create Frankenstein's monster!

**[ANOTHER]** Been looking up this Ahmadi Islam. Apparently, the problem other Muslims have with Ahmadis is that they only resort to violence when under extreme attack themselves – they refuse to use it to extend Islam. Says it all, really.

**[ANOTHER]** Saudi Arabia has destroyed Islam.

**[ANOTHER]** "In 2010, *The Independent* reported hard line Muslims in west London calling for Ahmadis to be killed." – and I'll bet absolutely NOTHING was done about it by police. Too risky – too much chance of the police being called Islamophobic.

However, when some idiot stops a Muslim woman in the street asking her to "explain Brussels" (and tweets about it) he's ARRESTED and charged with INCITING RACIAL

HATRED by SCOTLAND YARD. This would be laugh-out-loud funny if you could ignore the fact that this is how precious police resources are being focused.

And you wonder why people throughout Europe feel police and the government are unable to protect them and their families from terrorism.

No, not Broken Britain – spineless, stupid Britain. [*The Independent*] [Read more](http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/after-asad-shahs-religiously-prejudiced-death-we-know-inter-muslim-hatred-is-a-problem-in-britain-a6955146.html)  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/after-asad-shahs-religiously-prejudiced-death-we-know-inter-muslim-hatred-is-a-problem-in-britain-a6955146.html>

## 5.0 Daily Mail, The Telegraph & similar

November 13, 2016

### **Shame on Sharia: Women beaten, robbed and raped. A chilling expose of how BRITISH females are being sentenced to lives of misery by Muslim courts**

As a young British-Pakistani woman, Lubna faced an agonising decision. She was brought up a devout Muslim in a prosperous middle-class family in the north of England, but her arranged marriage to the father of her two children was a disaster.

He was both sexually abusive and physically violent; he and members of his family regularly beat up Lubna.

When he suddenly disappeared to pursue a new life in America with a new woman, she was left to work night and day to support his elderly parents until they threw her out of their house.

... The court granted her custody of their children and successfully hid her address from him for fear of reprisals. But after she was persuaded to obtain an Islamic divorce in the sharia court, her true nightmare began.

First, the clerics tried to persuade her to attempt a reconciliation with her abusive husband. Then, after they disclosed her address, he threatened to kill her, kidnapped her children, and subjected her to an horrific rape that left her needing an abortion. [*1218 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 6693 votes]** There is only room for one legal system in the U.K and it's not Sharia.

**[2ND 4707]** We already know all this, so why, is this allowed anywhere in the world, let alone the UK. STOP IT NOW!

**[3RD 4206]** Bloody disgrace spineless Westminster. BRITISH LAW must be supreme in our nation over EU & most certainly over ANY religious regime.

**[4TH 3747]** Sharia law needs to be stamped out worldwide, it's about time these pathetic individuals were taught that women are equal, and not 2nd class citizens.

**[5TH 3447]** Why are these courts allowed in The UK? [*Daily Mail*] [Read more](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3930510/Shame-Sharia-Women-beaten-robbed-raped-chilling-expose-BRITISH-females-sentenced-lives-misery-Muslim-courts.html)

November 7, 2016

### **The 'extremist' schools we can't close: Four Muslim colleges ordered to shut down by the Government use the courts to defy ministers**

Four Islamic schools ordered to close following fears over extremism or pupil safety continue to operate because the Government is powerless to shut them down, the Daily Mail can reveal.

One allegedly taught girls that men can beat their wives. Another distributed leaflets saying music is an 'act of the devil'.

They could continue operating for months, if not years, after launching legal appeals against closure. The four fee-paying independent establishments include a girls' boarding school, Jamia al-Hudaa in Nottingham, that was ordered to close last month after Ofsted found books in the library by individuals banned from entering Britain. [543 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 2517 votes]** Does anybody know just how many groups of people are totally above the law in the UK? The prisons are so full that certain crimes can be committed without fear of imprisonment. No permanent address, stop where you like, damage as much as you like and then move on without any recourse to the law.

Now this and Sharia courts! It looks like the people who should be protecting the legal and proper citizens of the UK just haven't got the guts to do so. They pretend that issuing parking tickets and checking refuse bins is tackling crime. Don't even mention human rights and Brexit!

**[2ND 2325]** This country needs to bloody well toughen up & quick. It's becoming a complete laughing stock.

**[3RD 2000]** Shut them down for gawds sakes. Should never existed in the first place.

**[4TH 1868]** No legal shenanigans. Get them closed.

**[5TH 1753]** What would happen if it was Christian type schools. [Daily Mail] [Read more](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3911470/The-extremist-schools-t-close-Four-Muslim-colleges-ordered-shut-Government-use-courts-defy-ministers.html)

November 1, 2016

## **Je suis Louis Smith: why we must be free to mock Islam**

If you thought the public shaming and punishment of people for ridiculing religion was a thing of the past — a dark past when you'd be put in the stocks, or worse, for failing to bend your knee to certain gods and beliefs — then think again. Just look at the treatment of Olympian gymnast Louis Smith.

Since a video of him taking the mick out of Islam was leaked in October, he's been pilloried in the press, pressured to recant his heretical humour, dragged on to TV to repent before the Loose Women (the new guardians of public morality, apparently), and now he's been suspended from his job for two months. All for having a laugh about a religion. There have been no rotten tomatoes or licking flames, but Smith's treatment nonetheless echoes that time when 'blasphemers' were made to suffer for their thoughts and words.

**[TOP COMMENT 142 votes]** Where is the leadership on this? Who in the government, the church or the universities will stand up and say, 'Enough! Freedom of speech is not to be abridged.'

**[2ND 116 ]** If Islam is "not to be mocked", then I am even more convinced than I was before that it has absolutely no place in our society whatsoever.

And neither, it seems, does 'British' Gymnastics. From my previous position of passive support, I now find myself wanting to sabotage their efforts whenever the opportunity arises.

**[3RD 108]** It's hard to think of anything more deserving to be mocked than Islam.

**[4TH 72]** This despite Smith's having visited a mosque and issued numerous groveling apologies. Do you think he would have received this suspension if he had been perceived as having insulted any other group?

Neither do I. But in Britain today, and all over the West, Sharia blasphemy laws forbidding criticism of Islam coalesce nicely with the initiative to ban "hate speech" against supposedly vulnerable minorities. The freedom of speech is far more severely threatened than most people realize. [*The Spectator*] [Read more](http://blogs.spectator.co.uk/2016/11/je-suis-louis-smith-must-free-mock-islam/)

October 31, 2016

## **Nearly TWO THIRDS of the public believe migrants are not fitting in well to British society, according to a poll**

Nearly two thirds of the public believe that migrants are not integrating well into British society, according to a poll.

Research by YouGov found concern over how arrivals were fitting in rose to 79 per cent among those who voted for Brexit in the historic EU referendum.

By contrast, among people who supported Remain the figure was much lower at 38 per cent.

The results of the survey, conducted for of social integration charity The Challenge, underline the importance of immigration in the referendum result.

They emerged as the government prepares to publish an official review of integration.

The study by Dame Louise Casey is said to criticise ministers for failing to manage immigration better, tackle extremism and help minorities fit in.

The assessment has apparently been ready for months but its publication was delayed after Home Office officials expressed 'unhappiness' about its content. [*811 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 1131 votes]** Only two thirds, I wonder where a third asked came from.

**[2ND 1044]** What does one expect when they segregate themselves from our traditions and way of life.

**[3RD 837]** Prospective immigrants should agree to do their bit, and promise to abide only by English law and dress in accordance with British culture.

**[4TH 789]** They don't integrate. They want to live in their own communities & want continually. I want to know how many don't speak or read English yet drive a taxi, badly I may add. Many are a hazard on the road.

**[5TH 739]** And what angers – me is, they look at me and my family like filth – and shouldn't be in my own country.

**[6TH 658]** Is allowing sh@ria courts in this country helping immigrants to integrate?

**[7TH 561]** It is too late to integrate migrants once they have been given permanent settlement or citizenship. The best way to integrate is by filtering out those that will contribute nothing and won't fit in during the immigration process.

We should take only migrants that are high earners, educated, fluent in English and have either lived in the west for years, or live in modern international areas of cities in their own countries.

There should be a points based system for citizenship which deducts points if migrants decide to live in segregated areas and rewards those that integrate. [*Daily Mail*] [Read more](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3889844/Nearly-TWO-THIRDS-public-believe-migrants-not-fitting-British-society-according-poll.html)  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3889844/Nearly-TWO-THIRDS-public-believe-migrants-not-fitting-British-society-according-poll.html>

October 16, 2016

## **Muslim woman becomes first ever student to be allowed to wear a hijab beneath her uniform at America's oldest private military college**

She's the first woman ever allowed to wear a Muslim headscarf beneath her military uniform at the nation's oldest private military college.

But don't call Sana Hamze a pioneer.

'I don't really see it as me changing the world or changing the U.S., even,' said Hamze, 18, a freshman at Vermont's Norwich University.

'I just kind of see it as the school allowing an American student to practice her faith while also training to be an officer in the Navy.'

... But the uniform for the 18-year-old student from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is a little different. Unlike other female members of the corps, Hamze wears her Muslim hijab, or head covering, beneath.

As part of her effort to fulfill her lifelong dream of continuing her family's legacy of military and public service while staying true to her devout religious beliefs, she asked for a uniform accommodation to wear the hijab when she was applying to colleges earlier this year.

Norwich, one of the nation's six senior military colleges, agreed to make the accommodation.

**[TOP COMMENT 1180 votes]** It's called a uniform for a reason

**[2ND 1034]** Don't know what I find more ridiculous. The college thinking they are being so cutting edge and PC or her thinking she has a right to wear what she likes, unlike every other person. Years ago I wanted to be a Policewoman, but I couldn't. I was too short. I accepted it. All she has to do is remove what to me is an offensive item. It may as well be chains round her ankles.

**[3RD 981]** This is just not right.

**[4TH 878]** What a Disgrace!!!! [*Daily Mail*] [Read more](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3841064/Muslim-woman-settles-Vermont-military-college.html)  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3841064/Muslim-woman-settles-Vermont-military-college.html>

October 5, 2016

## **Revealed – five schools STILL open despite extremist fears... and 18 private Islamic schools defy inspectors branding them unsafe**

Dozens of Islamic schools continue to operate despite inspectors finding that pupils are unsafe, exposed to extreme views or unaware of basic British values, a Mail investigation reveals today.

The findings suggest that a supposed Government crackdown on extremism in schools – following the Trojan Horse scandal – has failed to materialise.

Five Islamic schools have been allowed to stay open after inspections found they were failing to protect children from extremism or radicalisation.

Dozens of Islamic schools continue to operate despite inspectors finding that pupils are unsafe, exposed to extreme views or unaware of basic British values, a Mail investigation reveals today.

Some 18 are still open despite Ofsted warning that pupils are 'unsafe' there.

These include one where children were given books about stoning to death, and another where 99 pupils were found to have gone missing and to be 'at risk of exploitation'. [614 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 2766 votes]** What is going on. Get these places closed down.

**[2ND 2563]** What is wrong with this country. We're being sold down the river in the name of political correctness.

**[3RD 2090]** WHY?? Justine Greening, earn your salary and stop the people running these schools, thumbing their noses at the British education system- which SHOULD be promoting British values.

**[4TH 1725]** Only in this country would we be too PC wary to enforce this!

**[5TH 1634]** Sort it out May NOW [Daily Mail] [Read more](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3818797/five-schools-open-despite-extremist-fears-18-private-Islamic-schools-defy-inspectors-branding-unsafe.html)  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3818797/five-schools-open-despite-extremist-fears-18-private-Islamic-schools-defy-inspectors-branding-unsafe.html>

October 4, 2016

## **Young Muslims who quit the faith 'live in fear of violent revenge': Support group says some have been warned they will be killed if they abandon their religion**

Young Muslims who abandon their faith face violent retaliation and abuse from their families, a support group said yesterday.

The Council of Ex-Muslims of Britain said those born into the religion are often frightened of speaking out – and those that do are in danger of attack.

It said one former Muslim said she was warned by her mother that she would be killed if she said she no longer believed in Allah.

The concern over the risk of reprisals against apostates – those who renounce their religion – was made public at a time of deepening scrutiny of the behaviour of some Islamic communities and institutions.

The risks to Muslims who abandon their religion were set out by former believers and campaigners in an ITV documentary to be broadcast on October 13. [278 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 726 votes]** You must believe in the sky god or else!!!!

[2ND 462] And we are told that this is a very tolerant religion.

[3RD 442] I wonder whats in store for us non Muslims when they become the majority in the UK.

[4TH 410] What a truly enlightened & tolerant religion islam is !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

[5TH 323] The official penalty for apostasy in Islam is death — what more do you need to know about this faith? All religion is bad and the world would be an immeasurably better place without any of it, but there is nothing to touch Islam for sheer awfulness.

[Daily Mail] [Read more](#)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3820690/Young-Muslims-quit-faith-live-fear-violent-revenge-Support-group-says-warned-killed-abandon-religion.html>

## September 23, 2016

### **Muslim teacher quits her job after she was told she had to shake hands with male members of staff at Swedish school**

A Muslim teacher has quit her job at a school in Sweden after being told she would have to shake hands with male members of staff.

Fardous El-Sakka had been working as a substitute teacher at the Kunskapsskolan school in Helsingborg, when she was asked to shake hands with a male teacher.

But the 20-year-old refused as her religion forbids her from touching any member of the opposite sex who is not related to her.

The man then reported Miss El Sakka to the school's principal, who told her that if she wanted to work there, she would have to abide by the institution's values of shaking hands.

However, she decided to quit rather than go against her religious beliefs and has now referred her case to the Swedish trade union Unionen. [166 comments]

[TOP COMMENT 1071 votes] Perhaps it would be better for all concerned that those holding ideological views which are at odds with the dominant culture leave to find a country more tuned to their preferences.

[2ND 875] If you don't like the societal rules of a country you have moved to, simply move to a country with rules you can abide by.

[3RD 791] There's no rule in Islam about not shaking hands. This is a modern doctrine which is quite frankly ridiculous for people living in Western countries to adhere to.

[4TH 633] Backward self-centred idiot. We're in the 21st century. [Daily Mail] [Read more](#)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3802369/Muslim-teacher-quits-job-told-shake-hands-male-members-staff-Swedish-school.html>

July 31, 2016

### **Yes, boys, you CAN have sex slaves: Outrage as British Muslim cleric at mosque where Cardiff jihadis were radicalised tells teenagers that 'captives' are permissible under Islam in vile sermon**

A hardline Muslim preacher suspected of radicalising three British jihadis told teenage disciples that it is 'permissible' under Islam to have sex slaves.

Ali Hammuda, an Imam at a Cardiff mosque where three young jihadis from the city worshipped before travelling to Syria to join Islamic State, also told the group of boys as young as 13 that the 'day of judgment is close' – a key part of IS's warped propaganda.

The revelations come amid heightened fears over the Islamist terror threat in the UK in the wake of the bloody attacks in France.

Hammuda is still preaching at the same mosque, two years after the three 'Cardiff jihadis' – Nasser Muthana and Reyaad Khan, then 20, and Muthana's younger brother Aseel, then 17 – left for Syria in 2014.

The cleric's extraordinary preachings were recorded secretly at a halaqa, or religious study circle, at the Al-Manar mosque by an undercover reporter. The event was publicised by posters mimicking the famous British wartime propaganda slogan, declaring Keep Calm And Come To Halaqa. Fringed by drawings of sports equipment, the poster added: 'Brothers Only, Ideal age 13-18. Followed by indoor football.' [1194 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 14256 votes]** Not in this country, not in this century! This man is inciting hatred and should be arrested. Hatred of women and hatred of mankind.

**[2ND 10624]** Who has got the bottle to do something about it? WWaiting...

**[3RD 9972]** Arrest him and jail him for inciting. Britain is a Christian country. You want to do that, pack your bags and go to Syria, and take your cohorts with you.

**[4TH 9077]** There are so many of his kind here in the UK. They support dæsh, they raise funds for them through dubious charities and in the open, they claim to condemn isis and their ideology. It is only a smoke screen. They speak from both sides of their mouth. Trust them at your peril.

**[5TH 7349]** He can say this and get away with it, but certain chants at football matches are punishable?! [Daily Mail] [Read more](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3716280/Yes-boys-sex-slaves-Outrage-British-Muslim-cleric-mosque-Cardiff-jihadis-radicalised-tells-teenagers-captives-permissible-Islam.html)

July 13, 2016

## **EU set for U-turn over whether firms can legally ban Muslim headscarves after senior legal officer rules it IS discriminatory**

The European Union's top court could be set for a U-turn on whether companies can legally ban women from wearing Muslim headscarves after it was ruled discriminatory.

The European Court of Justice has been hearing a case from Muslim Asma Bougnaoui, who was dismissed from her job with Micropole SA as an IT consultant in France, after clients complained about her wearing a headscarf.

It comes after a previous case brought to the same court by a Belgian woman who was also fired from her job for wearing a veil.

In that case, the court's advocate general said companies may ban Muslim headscarves if they are enforcing a general prohibition on religious symbols in the workplace.

However, in the case of Ms Bougnaoui another advocate general Eleanor Sharpston today said that the court 'considers that a company policy requiring an employee to

remove her Islamic headscarf when in contact with clients constitutes unlawful direct discrimination.' [412 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 1477 votes]** Simple rule for employers – don't employ them! One's religious or cultural beliefs should not take priority. Keep it at home, if you must. It's 2016, for crying out loud!

**[2ND 1179]** Leave your religion at home when you go to work.

**[3RD 1043]** Who cares what the EU says ??? We're out!!

**[4TH 927]** Head scarves are not a problem full veils are.

**[5TH 813]** If wearing one is not in their holy book and NOT a requirement for their religion then why is anybody arguing for it?? [Daily Mail] [Read more](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3688183/EU-set-U-turn-firms-legally-ban-Muslim-headscarves-senior-legal-officer-rules-discriminatory.html)  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3688183/EU-set-U-turn-firms-legally-ban-Muslim-headscarves-senior-legal-officer-rules-discriminatory.html>

June 15, 2016

## **Germany to scrap 'cultural immunity' and will no longer allow migrants to have multiple marriages or child brides**

Germany will no longer allow migrants to have multiple wives or child brides, the justice minister has said.

Heiko Maas told German newspaper Bild that no one has the 'right to place their cultural values or religious beliefs above our laws'.

There has been increased concern over polygamous marriages in the wake of a rise in the number of migrants arriving in Germany, many from Muslim countries.

While polygamy is already banned in Germany, many officials 'turn a blind eye' to migrants who arrive in the country with more than one wife, the newspaper reports.

This is also true of forced and underage marriages.

Mr Maas told the tabloid: 'We need to look very carefully. Forced marriages, we can not tolerate, and certainly not when underage girls are involved. [643 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 4087 votes]** They were allowing child brides?! That makes me sick to my stomach. What a terrible country Germany has become.

**[2ND 3132]** When will the UK follow suit.

**[3RD 2918]** When you become a resident and take the oath of citizenship you agree that the law of that country is now your law. If you are a guest then honor your host for the hospitality/asylum as long as you are staying in that country. It only makes sense. Return to your homeland if that doesn't suit you.

**[4TH 2324]** Why was it being allowed anyway. And child brides why was that allowed that is just wrong on so many levels. How soon before that would be allowed here too?

**[5TH 2098]** Look out, common sense is beginning to break out in Germany!

**[6TH 1665]** The man talks sense but whether it happens or not is another matter

**[7TH 1541]** What took you so long? [*Daily Mail*] [Read more](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3643411/Germany-scrap-cultural-immunity-no-longer-allow-migrants-multiple-marriages-child-brides.html)  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3643411/Germany-scrap-cultural-immunity-no-longer-allow-migrants-multiple-marriages-child-brides.html>

May 6, 2016

## **Mosques ban Muslim women from wearing trousers, leaving the house without their husband's permission and order them to close Facebook accounts**

Muslim women should not wear trousers, leave the house without their husband's permission or use Facebook, according to controversial rules published by British mosques.

The Green Lane Masjid in Birmingham said that women were not allowed to wear trousers, even in front of their husbands, while the Central Masjid of Blackburn called Facebook a 'sin' and an 'evil'.

One Islamic organisation also stated that Muslim women must not leave the house without their husband's permission.

The controversial ruling was published this week by the Blackburn Muslim Association, an affiliate member of the MCB, telling women that they should not travel more than 48 miles without a male chaperone. A document written by a mufti at the Croydon Mosque and Islamic Centre, entitled 'Advice for the husband and wife', also stated: 'A woman should seek her husband's permission when leaving the house and should not do so without his knowledge.'

In another article, the mosque calls abortion 'a great sin' and describes acting and modelling as 'immoral acts'. [*618 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 2060 votes]** Ladies, the sky is not going to fall in if you wear trousers, log on to Facebook or go out without telling your husband. You now live in the West where you have equality and freedom. Don't let these men control you any more. You do not belong to them, they cannot tell you what to do.

**[2ND 1660]** This is against British Law! If they want to live by Sharia law, then they should be forced out of this country to live in a muslim country of choice!

**[3RD 1279]** Since when did the government let outside parties set new laws?

**[4TH 1158]** Any such ideas should be nipped in the bud! British law always above any other crazy secular or religious ideas of this type. In Europe men and women are equal, if you don't like it, simply leave!

**[5TH 1050]** Absolutely sick of this. Enough is enough. [*Daily Mail*] [Read more](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3576547/Mosques-ban-Muslim-women-wearing-trousers-leaving-house-without-husband-s-permission-order-close-Facebook-accounts.html)  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3576547/Mosques-ban-Muslim-women-wearing-trousers-leaving-house-without-husband-s-permission-order-close-Facebook-accounts.html>

April 26, 2016

## **Europe 'to have more Muslims than Christians': Belgian minister warns Brussels attacks hearing that the continent should not 'make an enemy of Islam'**

Muslims will 'very soon' outnumber practising Christians in Europe, a Belgian minister claimed yesterday.

Koen Geens, the justice minister, told the European Parliament the continent 'does not realise this, but this is the reality'.

At a hearing by MEPs into the Brussels attacks, the Belgian deputy prime minister Jan Jambon added that 'the worst thing we can do is to make an enemy of Islam'.

The remarks follow claims by Mr Jambon in the wake of the suicide bombings that 'a significant section of the Muslim community danced when attacks took place'.

Speaking before the Parliament's justice and home affairs committee yesterday, Mr Koens said the EU needed to realise a shift in population was taking place.

'In Europe, very shortly we're soon going to have more practising Muslims than practising Christians,' he said.

'That is not because there are too many Muslims, it is because Christians are generally less practising.

'Europe does not realise this, but this is the reality. [965 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 3649 votes]** Then why do they erode Christian beliefs while protecting the immigrants? Time to start repatriation. They passed laws to stop Christians wearing their symbols of belief but allowed Burqas, and for them to pray 5 times a day and build prayer rooms for them. Time to start to put our values and culture first.

**[2ND 3124]** I don't want to be a Muslim country! I did not choose to move to a Muslim country!! Previous generations fought for standards above Islam! Wonder if Muslims will be as accommodating to other faiths if they are a majority in Europe ?

**[3RD 2069]** Don't worry, there will be more atheists than Christians and Muslims combined and we're not going to put up with religious tolerance for much longer. [*Daily Mail*] [Read more](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3558706/Europe-Muslims-Christians.html)  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3558706/Europe-Muslims-Christians.html>

April 19, 2016

## **UK prison imams are free to spread hatred: Preachers found to be distributing extremist literature including homophobic and misogynistic leaflets**

Muslim preachers approved by the Government are routinely distributing extremist literature in British prisons leaving hundreds of inmates at risks of radicalisation, a leaked report has found.

The extremist review, ordered by Michael Gove last year, found extremist CDs and pamphlets in more than 10 jails in November, it was reported today.

Inspectors also found hate tracts encouraging the murder of apostates, misogynistic and homophobic leaflets and extreme Islamic literature preaching contempt for British society.

The report is said to have sparked panic among officials who are worried about being seen to have lost control of jails – but ministers have not yet approved its publication.

There was evidence that a large number of clerics were from the Deobandi sect, which traditionally promotes conservative anti-British ideology.

A website promoting the Deobandi movement says loyalty is owed only to the global brotherhood of Muslims while integration into British society is denounced. [189 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 741 votes]** The jails are the least of the problem, try looking at the Universities

**[2ND 610]** What the h\*\*l is going on on with the British Authorities, Ministers get paid millions for doing a job which they are obviously failing at. It can't be difficult to have all literature and sermons based in English and to tell the Deobandi Imans that their services are no longer required. Religious brainwashing which is rascist against our way of life should be banned immediately

**[3RD 457]** Stop them from visiting jails, we are too soft on these lunatics.

**[4TH 432]** I retired from the Prison Service over 13 years ago, and staff were warning of this long before then. That's the trouble with the government, they don't listen. [Daily Mail] [Read more](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3546919/Prison-imams-free-spread-hatred-jails-Preachers-distributing-extremist-literature-including-homophobic-misogynistic-leaflets.html)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3546919/Prison-imams-free-spread-hatred-jails-Preachers-distributing-extremist-literature-including-homophobic-misogynistic-leaflets.html>

April 16, 2016

### **Trevor Phillips's documentary on Muslims was shocking – but not surprising**

'Our findings will shock many people,' promised Trevor Phillips at the beginning of What British Muslims Really Think (Channel 4, Wednesday).

But the depressing thing is that I doubt they will, actually. I think the general British public have known for some time what Phillips's documentary professed to find surprising: that large numbers of Muslims don't want to integrate, that their views aren't remotely enlightened, and that more than a few of them sympathise with terrorism. It's only the establishment elite that has ever pretended otherwise.

As former head of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, Phillips was very much part of that elite. He commissioned the 1997 Runnymede report that popularised the word 'Islamophobia'. The fact that so impeccably liberal a figure is now issuing a mea culpa like this speaks volumes about how dire the situation has grown. 'Everyone who has pinned their hopes on the rise of reforming and liberal British Muslim voices are in for a disappointment,' said Phillips. [883 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 65 votes]** Nothing will change In 10-15 years another TV programme will be made about the same subject. The only difference will be a larger proportion of Muslims supporting terrorism/covering women/banning gay men and women. And every year more will come and more will be born in Britain. No one has any backbone to stop it and the law/government all support it due to white guilt and fear of looking racist. When the English are a minority in England don't expect the non-English to have any guilt or fear, of treating us the way ISIS treats its nonmuslims in Iraq or Syria

**[2ND 44]** ANOTHER COMMENT SAID: "*Well if the white majority choose not to have babies, they cannot be surprised when they become a minority, the answer to your problem is for white women to have more babies.*"

A stunningly ignorant comment.

Particularly in light of the future population problems of the world, the destruction of marriage and the family unit, abortions on request and the fact that most modern western family units cannot afford to have one spouse stay at home all the time. Filling

the country with cheap labour will only drive down wages thus requiring both spouses to work.

In a nutshell, liberal ideology has enabled the very things I have just mentioned above.

And now you bitch and whine because western women are 'not having enough babies'... the planet has a population problem for god sake!

*"the answer to your problem is for white women to have more babies."*

And overpopulate us? No Mary the answer is clearly to stop importing 3rd worlders on mass and maintain our population at a level where we can self provide if required. All you want to do is load this country with people, turning it into a socialist overcrowded broken hellhole and then later you'll be whining about the fact cat rich. You work for them, you support their policies and you don't even realise because you are so utterly blinded by race guilt liberal BS.

**[3RD 35]** What I have always found amazing is how the Left and the BBC worked tirelessly to destroy Apartheid in South Africa whilst enthusiastically promoting the same ideology in the UK.

Separate Development is a euphemism for Apartheid. Multiculturalism is a euphemism for Separate Development

It is all about segregation – we are well on our way to being Balkanised with all the problems that is going to bring.

**[4TH 28]** I live in the heart of the Muslim stronghold of West Yorkshire and have mixed with a lot of Muslim people socially and politically. It's getting worse for liberals as they come under increasing pressure to conform to third world practises. I've worked with young people who have been just like everyone else until Grandma decides they are too western; then they're off on Hadj and never come out after work any more.

As for a couple of guys we all knew were gay being forced into arranged marriages! There is now a purity race on; who is most religious? Who behaves in the most Muslim way? Etc etc. I worked with a guy who was high up in the accounts department in my company who went to prayers every Friday, where he was routinely mocked for wearing a suit.

He left the company after a couple of years of it. But before he went he cajoled a young Muslim colleague into accompanying him to Friday prayers when he had previously joined in with the Friday pizza run and played Half Life at lunch time instead of praying. Unless this pressure can be reversed every Muslim will at least pay lip service to the wilder strictures of the ROP.

We have pandered for so long they think they are untouchable and the refuseniks have no one to turn to. For decades the contraception advisors at Dewsbury maternity hospital have been banned from advising Muslim women 'because their GPs don't like it'. I don't know about Muslim men having a paternal and infantilising attitude to women, the left leaning establishment are no better. [*The Spectator*] [Read more](http://www.spectator.co.uk/2016/04/why-do-we-pretend-that-all-muslims-are-sweet-smiley-and-integrated/)

March 31, 2016

### **Can Islam move away from theocracy?**

Terrorism is a distraction. It's a distraction from the big question of our day, about Islam and violence. Only a tiny minority of Muslims affirm that sort of violence. A far larger

proportion of Muslims condone another, vaguer sort of violence. It is this that we must confront.

I mean the violence of theocracy. Theocracy is the belief that one religion should be absolutely culturally dominant. Of course it thinks that the state should enforce this; if the state fails to do so it loses legitimacy. This theocratic worldview is the underlying cause of Muslim terrorism.

To judge from its founding texts, and its history, Islam is a religion that wants to be very firmly established. It wants to be the official religion of a nation, or empire. It rejects the notion that politics should be conducted without reference to religion, and it rejects the notion that various different religions should be treated equally. To be blunt, it has a very strong theocratic tendency. [*Theo Hobson, 549 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 103 votes]** *"look at Asad Shah, the Glasgow shopkeeper whose messages of inter-faith harmony seemingly got him killed. The vast majority of British Muslims surely see his attitude as admirable, and his killing as abhorrent. So British Islam has largely become post-theocratic."*

What utter nonsense! Mr Shah was an Ahmadi and therefore a heretic to most other Muslims. Nothing haram about killing a heretic or about vigilantism..."Do not suffer an apostate to live" etc.

The author's assertion that the vast majority of Muslims admire his attitude and abhor his killing (no data provided) is nonsense. And his conclusion that British Islam has largely become post-theocratic is nonsense squared.

**[2ND 76]** Referring to the recent murder in Glasgow; *"The vast majority of British Muslims surely see his attitude as admirable, and his killing as abhorrent. So British Islam has largely become post-theocratic."*

That's a lot of assumptions to make. The Ahmadi branch of Islam that Mr Shah followed is arguably "post-theocratic". Yet he was murdered, allegedly, by a Sunni muslim who thought this post-theocratic brand heresy. If you can be murdered simply for practising a tolerant form of Islam, by a fellow muslim, I fail to see how this is evidence that "British Islam has largely become post-theocratic". Quite the opposite in fact.

**[3RD 34]** Exactly. The use of the word 'surely' shows that the writer hasn't mixed with too many Muslims from Luton or Blackburn lately. I haven't either, because of the aggression and threats I faced when last I tried. Some people don't think peaceful thoughts when they think of their religion. Relying on 'surely everything will be OK' is a recipe for disaster.

**[4TH 29]** British Islam is not post theocratic. Islamic texts clearly state don't try and create theocracy when a small minority.

There is no such thing as post theocratic Islam, it is basic tenant of faith.

There will be no reformation and when demographics catch up we will have conflict. Wishful thinking isn't going to solve this problem. We have made a terrible mistake and our grandchildren will pay a horrendous price.

**[5TH 28]** Whether Islam can move away from theocracy or not is neither here nor there. The essential point is that the rest of us should not have to temporise with the religion in its present form while it makes up its mind. [*The Spectator*] [Read more](http://blogs.spectator.co.uk/2016/03/can-islam-move-away-from-theocracy/)  
<http://blogs.spectator.co.uk/2016/03/can-islam-move-away-from-theocracy/>

February 15, 2016

**The Islamic extremists taking over UK prisons: Muslims make up just one in 20 Britons – but one in SEVEN inmates. As Levi Bellfield embraces Islam, we reveal how fanatics recruit behind bars in ‘jihadi jails’**

Friday morning in Wakefield Prison and Yusuf Rahim joins 60 other Muslim prisoners as they head to the jail’s gym to say their prayers. If nothing else, it is a chance to get out of his cell and take a break from the normal routine.

The same goes for the halal food the 47-year-old is served every mealtime — Rahim is particularly partial to the spicy vegetable curry — an improvement on the normal prison fare.

And there is one other advantage to his new-found religion. Because, as one of Britain’s most reviled murderers, he is banking on his Muslim ‘brothers’ providing him with some level of protection during his time inside. Friday morning in Wakefield Prison and Yusuf Rahim joins 60 other Muslim prisoners as they head to the jail’s gym to say their prayers. If nothing else, it is a chance to get out of his cell and take a break from the normal routine.

**[TOP COMMENT 3306 votes]** This is what happens when you give religion unnecessary reverence – in places where the worst of society loom, the extremists will exploit every opportunity. This country is in trouble – the British people may have to find their backbone...

**[2ND 2601]** Why is it that all the converts never look too bright?

**[3RD 2336]** We would free up our prisons if we brought back hanging for those who terrorise this country! [*Daily Mail*] [Read more](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3447159/The-Muslim-extremists-taking-British-jails.html)  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3447159/The-Muslim-extremists-taking-British-jails.html>

January 27, 2016

**Yes, Muslims are different. No, we shouldn’t accept that**

Oh dear. Where to start with Trevor Phillips? It’s tempting not to bother, since you have to wonder if he just says silly things just to get attention. He is, after all, a former journalist, and old habits die hard.

But let’s assume he’s serious about what he said at Policy Exchange this week about British Muslims:

*"Continuously pretending that a group is somehow eventually going to become like the rest of us is perhaps the deepest form of disrespect.*

*"Because what you are essentially saying is the fact that they behave in a different way, some of which we may not like, is because they haven’t yet seen the light. It may be that they see the world differently to the rest of us."*

In other words, we mustn’t talk about Muslims integrating into British society and living lives that are more like the lives of their non-Muslim compatriots. We should accept that Muslims are different and respect their different ways. [*391 comments*]

**[A TOP COMMENT 155 votes]** All migrants to Britain should respect our historical culture and make every effort to integrate with the entire community.

If you do not wish to do this, you are advised to leave.

**[ANOTHER 125]** Few Muslim women, if any, wore the veil in the 1970's or even 1980's in the UK.

So the question is why are they wearing it now, unless to make a very public political statement ?

If its also a "human right" for the veil to be worn, then its also a "human right" for others such as shop owners, bank employees,etc, not to serve anyone who in effect is deliberately wearing a mask.

They can't complain of being victimised if such incidents occur.

Only the emancipation of Muslim women will see the end of Islamic extremism.

That British feminists have already been repeatedly posted missing when horrific misogyny is being inflicted on Muslim women via forced marriage, FGM, honour killings, etc, says so much about the British feminist sisterhood.

No doubt issues such as gender specific childrens toys or banning Page 3 is more important.

**[ANOTHER 114]** Muslim Shmuslim.... Am I alone at being HEARTILY SICK of the special pleading, accommodation and down right nuisance caused by these people? I spent most of my life as a pretty liberal sort of chap, but I am SICK TO THE BACK TEETH of these people dominating the news and the reports of crime and problems that they bring.

If you are brown, black or yellow, and pleased to be British, and accept our ways gladly and are a part of them, I don't care where you come from or what kind of a fairy tale god you believe in, but if you live here acting like a special group, entitled to despise our values, and our world, and act out pre-modern prejudices against half the human race, I want you gone. [*The Telegraph*] [Read more](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12124961/Yes-Muslims-are-different.-No-we-shouldnt-accept-that.html)  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12124961/Yes-Muslims-are-different.-No-we-shouldnt-accept-that.html>

January 26, 2016

### **PC brigade 'failing victims of sex abuse': Minorities tsar slams liberals over Muslim criminals**

David Cameron's integration tsar has blasted 'hand-wringing' liberals # Says they fail to tackle forced marriage and abuses in Muslim communities # Louise Casey said some officials are 'wrapped up in political correctness' # She's carrying out review of how to boost integration for isolated groups.}

David Cameron's integration tsar has blasted 'hand-wringing' liberals for failing to tackle forced marriage and other abuses in Muslim communities.

Louise Casey said some officials were 'so wrapped up in political correctness' they ignored shameful scandals which led to vulnerable women and children being harmed.

Miss Casey, who chaired the Government's troubled families unit and led an investigation into social services in Rotherham – where Asian sex gangs had abused as many as 1,600 children – is carrying out a review of how to boost integration in the most isolated communities.

Commissioned by the Prime Minister, this is looking at how to help migrants learn English, as well as other ways of boosting women's job prospects.

But Miss Casey claimed one issue was that the liberal elite had turned a blind eye to problems within some Muslim groups.

Speaking to the Policy Exchange think-tank in London last night, she said: 'We let forced marriage happen because we were so wrapped up in political correctness and wanting our multicultural Britain. We forgot to talk about equality and we forgot to talk about equal rights.'

**[TOP COMMENT 1605 votes]** The problem we have is that since 1997 we have had nothing but "hand-wringing" liberals running the country!

**[2ND 1395]** The liberal elite are clueless, and that includes Mr Cameron who is one of those "hand-wringing" liberals himself who has promoted PC non stop since he came into power. I don't like hypocrites.

**[3RD 1246]** At last someone in authority is pointing this out, even if it is a little late. Not like her boss isn't one of those 'hand-wringing liberals' himself though. We need a proper Conservative government to sort this country out and put British people first.

[*Mail on Sunday*] [Read more](#)

<http://www.mailonsunday.co.uk/news/article-3416571/PC-brigade-failing-victims-sex-abuse-Minorities-tsar-slams-liberals-Muslim-criminals.html>

## 6.0 Times, Regional & International Press, Other

November 16, 2016

### **Muslims in Scotland: Demographic, social and cultural characteristics**

.... Several indicators evidence the relatively smooth integration of Muslims in Scotland. The community's small numbers and the lack of ethno-religious clustering, save for Pollokshields and Govanhill in Glasgow, have facilitated contact between Muslims and non-Muslims.

Pakistanis, many of whom originally migrated from the well-off area of Faisalabad in Punjab, have also preferred self-employment, therefore not competing for public services in the 1950s and 1960s. Later, they stayed away from major troubles.

The Rushdie Affair-related disturbances in 1988-89 and the 2001 and 2011 English riots were not mirrored by similar violent action in Scotland. At the same time, clashes between South Asians and white people (e.g. in Pollokshields in 2003) did not reach the levels of riots in English cities, such as Birmingham, Bradford and Burnley.

The sectarian tensions that have historically gnawed at the relationship between Catholics and Protestants, and predated the settlement of the majority of the South Asian community, have partly cushioned other religious minorities (including Muslims) from more serious prejudice.

Similarly, neo-fascist and racist groups, including their more recent manifestations in the form of the Scottish Defence League, have never gained a foothold, thus reducing the space for anti-Muslim populist discourse.

**[COMMENT]** I'm a Scot who has lived in England for more than 30 years. In fact, I live in Bolton in the North West of England so have good experience living in a town with an above average number of Muslims within the community (I do hate the term community).

The main difference between the Scottish and English experience is in the numbers of Muslims that are living in a number of towns, Bolton has 20%, Blackburn > 40% as is Bradford. Having moved from Scotland 30 years ago, I have seen a big change in the Muslim population.

These changes include the ghettoisation with many areas in the town almost 100% made up of Muslim or a least Asian people. I believe that this is especially true of the less wealthy and poorer educated of the Muslim community. There has, in the past ten years, been a growth, in what I perceive to be, conservative Islam. This is denoted by the increase in the numbers of women wearing the hijab and niqab in public.

This is a form of cultural dress from the middle east and not from the Indian Sub-continent where the majority of British Muslims come from. I don't know if these issues are a result of poor integration in Bolton, a rise in the numbers coming from rural areas of India/Pakistan or an increase in Mosque staff who preach the Wahabi/Salafist agenda to the Mosque attendees.

In any case, this is perceived by the rest of the community as a growing parallel society that does not want to integrate with the rest of the groups in the town (Christian, Hindu,

Buddhist, Sikh, and the ever increasing numbers of atheists). [*London School of Economics*] [Read more](http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/religionpublicsphere/2016/11/muslims-in-scotland-demographic-social-and-cultural-characteristics/)  
<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/religionpublicsphere/2016/11/muslims-in-scotland-demographic-social-and-cultural-characteristics/>

November 12, 2016

## **Muslim family law is a conundrum for those who make the laws of the land**

.... The ever-growing reality of "sharia councils", mostly attached to mosques, emerged clearly during some hearings conducted earlier this month by a British parliamentary committee. Dozens of such councils are believed to exist: at least 30 well-established ones and probably many more that operate less formally. For some Muslims with marital difficulties they are an indispensable port of call.

The House of Commons home affairs committee heard both strong pleas to recognize the legitimacy and usefulness of such councils, and powerful arguments against them. Amra Bone, a legal scholar, said the work she did as part of a sharia panel attached to Birmingham Central Mosque was helpful to "hundreds and perhaps thousands of women who otherwise would be in a very difficult and oppressive situation."

Most of the people who approach sharia councils are women seeking an Islamic divorce, which is a separate procedure from a civil divorce, and has no standing in British civil law but is nonetheless very important to somebody living deep inside an Islamic sub-culture. Islamic law makes it much easier for a man to initiate divorce unilaterally.

**[TOP COMMENT]** Absolutely disgusting.

How weak the british have become. They should stand up for their rights and principles and tell these medieval barbarians to take a hike

There should only be one law of the land and only one court system. Sharia needs to be stamped on and stamped on hard!

**[ANOTHER]** .... Islam is a repressive political system more than it is a religion. It has caused division, strife, and heartache in every corner of the planet.

**[ANOTHER]** It's about time for the West in general and the UK in particular to wake up! There should be one civil law for civil society, period. To allow religious bodies of any type legal authority over civil matters is a gross abrogation of government responsibility. The same applies to criminal matters.

For government to cede any powers to religious organizations is a slippery slope towards theocracy, and a clear violation of the implied social contract. Wake up! If Muslims want religious law, let them move to a Muslim country that does not distinguish between the church and the state.

**[ANOTHER]** The fact that a respected journal deems it worthy to present the pros and cons of a repugnant law is exactly the reason why the Trumps of this world will prevail for years to come. A complete disconnect between the elite and most moderate independent minded people, let alone the right wing fanatics. [*The Economist*] [Read more](http://www.economist.com/blogs/erasmus/2016/11/sharia-law-britain)  
<http://www.economist.com/blogs/erasmus/2016/11/sharia-law-britain>

October 7, 2016

## **Former Blackburn MP Jack Straw stands by view on full veil 10 years on**

FORMER Blackburn MP Jack Straw said his opinion has not changed 10 years after he called on Muslim women not to wear the full veil.

Mr Straw prompted an international debate on the issue when he wrote in his Lancashire Telegraph column in October 2006 about asking Muslim women to remove their veil when they visit his surgeries.

At the time he said the veil could be seen as a "visible statement of separation and difference" and was concerned "that wearing the full veil was bound to make better positive relations between the two communities more difficult."

Speaking a decade on from the column, he said what sparked it had been an interaction with a constituent in his surgery.

He said: "A lady I knew but had not seen for a few years came and she said 'it is so nice to see you again face-to-face'. I smiled and thought she was the lucky one. Now I talk to her about it. At the time she decided to remove it so we could have a proper conversation. [*Lancashire Telegraph*]

**[TOP COMMENT]** The veil is worn to be a devious instrument that sticks two fingers up to the British way of life and cohesion, and has nothing to do with religion or the woman's rights to wear! How come that in a predominantly Muslim country like Saudi with its strict intolerance towards the breaking of religious rules, that the majority of women do not wear the veil? It is only worn here and in other western countries by Muslims who want to stand out and not integrate with their fellow countrymen. By wearing it, it gives them a platform to jump on the Islamophobic bandwagon if you complain.

**[ANOTHER]** This is England, what's the matter with you Jack Straw.

Each & everyone should can & will have their own faith but when you see drivers with this said veil on and only looking out through a small oblong gap, that is what should be stopped, not only is it not visually safe, when it comes down to them having an accident how can they be identified if they leave the scene or will not give you details, doesn't mean that they drive their own car does it. The veil should be kept for their praying and indoors only. Not out amongst the public when they cannot be identified.

**[ANOTHER]** I think it is time the full veil was banned in public really as it is probably a security risk as well and when you see a woman with a small child – well how is that child supposed to see the mother's expression when her face is covered up. As for driving wearing that – words fail me at the stupidity of it.

**[ANOTHER]** Part of British culture is that women are free to choose to dress as they please.

But the women who wear the niqab have deliberately chosen to put up a barrier between them and me and also to make insulting assumptions about my behaviour. So they are free to choose to dress as they please but I am free to want to have nothing at all to do with them. [*Lancashire Telegraph*] [Read more](http://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news/blackburn/14786809.Former_Blackburn_MP_Jack_Straw_stands_by_view_on_full_veil_10_years_on/)  
[http://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news/blackburn/14786809.Former\\_Blackburn\\_MP\\_Jack\\_Straw\\_stands\\_by\\_view\\_on\\_full\\_veil\\_10\\_years\\_on/](http://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news/blackburn/14786809.Former_Blackburn_MP_Jack_Straw_stands_by_view_on_full_veil_10_years_on/)

September 26, 2016

## **What Would It Mean for France to Accommodate Muslims?**

A philosopher grapples with Islam, secularism, and their place in society.

... We have ... borrowed from Islamic propaganda the notion of Islamophobia that now plays a major and troubling role in our social and political life. It has no meaning, but it has a function. The notion of Islamophobia makes it possible tendentiously to disqualify all speech on Islam or on the Muslims.

Anyone who begins a sentence by the term "Muslims" knows that he must be careful about the words that follow, for an offense is in the making. It is possible to speak calmly of Muslims only in order to give voice to legitimate complaints that they address or could address to the rest of the social body. ...

We can speak of Muslims to say that they have too few mosques and of Christians to say that they have too many churches. Once the notion of Islamophobia is established and validated, it is impossible to speak of Muslims except to state their grievances, and they cannot speak except to complain. [217 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT]** Why is it that in every country that has a muslim population they create problems? Take a look at Albania, France, Germany, Sweden, and here in the US with the muslim terrorist.

**[ANOTHER]** France has made great strides in evolving beyond religion. Why should they take steps backwards by pandering to backward stone age beliefs?

**[ANOTHER]** In France, the concept of secularism, or *laïcité*, is a little bit different than it is in America. The French conceive of secularism as freedom from religion, rather than freedom of religion. It entails that religion be a private affair, removed from public life. It was formally adopted in 1905 in order to dismantle the power of the Catholic Church. The idea that *laïcité* somehow targets Muslims is laughable given that it was originally intended to exclusively target Catholicism.

On another note, I have quite a few good friends in France, most of whom are refugees or the children of refugees who fled South East Asia during the Vietnam War and the Khmer Rouge.

Since arriving in France, these people have become doctors, lawyers, accountants, etc. – all productive members of French society. Absolutely no one from this community has ever committed any terrorist attacks in France, nor do they complain about being "marginalized" by French society. They chose to integrate, despite coming from circumstances at least as difficult and a culture at least as foreign as more recent migrants from the Islamic world.

**[ANOTHER]** France – as does the US and the rest of the EU – has absolutely no obligation to accept immigrants from any particular place. The logical position would be to end immigration from places whose people have the most difficult time reconciling the way they want to live their lives with the norms of their prospective host country.

France is not just a place on a map, it's a culture. It's sad to see it willingly let that heritage be subsumed by a vague globalist credo that anyone should be able to move anywhere they want and impose their values.

**[ANOTHER]** Remigration works better than accommodation. [*The Atlantic*] [Read more](http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2016/09/islam-france-pierre-manent/501626/)  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2016/09/islam-france-pierre-manent/501626/>

September 12, 2016

**May risks entrenching the ethnic divide**

.... So it was dismaying to hear the prime minister's announcement last week on faith schools. Previously, over-subscribed new schools could only select 50 per cent of pupils on the basis of religion. Now it is to be 100 per cent. More mono-cultural, mono-faith, mono-racial schools. More bubbles. More parallel lives.

.... It is already happening at the Waterhead Academy in Oldham, where one overwhelmingly white school was merged with a largely Asian school four years ago. Survey evidence shows clear improvements in cross-community relations, trust and friendship. Where 15 years ago racial division saw riots explode, now children are learning together and getting to know each other.

May's education plans demonstrate a laudable desire to transform rather than tinker. But on faith schools, she must be wary of unintended consequences. Because when "communities" of faith or race are served separately, when parallel lives are reinforced, then the wider community — the nation — is poorer. [159 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 68 votes]** There should be no faith schools end off. Education should be separated from religious beliefs. It beggars belief that this is not seen as discrimination against those with no faith. This is simply a fix for the government who have created a monster with mass immigration and now have to provide schools for these groups, many of whom are Muslim. It will prove to be a disaster and shows the complete lack of understanding/admitting the problem by the PM.

**[2ND 62]** I never asked for my country to be filled with people from elsewhere and neither am I prepared to "integrate" with them to provide after-the-fact justification to the whole ghastly experiment.

**[3RD 52]** I thought Mrs May was doing quite well until she announced this policy.

We already have ethnic minority ghettos and the former head of the Equality and Human Rights Commission has admitted that multiculturalism has failed and communities are living parallel lives – seldom interacting outside of work.

The creation of single faith schools is going to take the country backwards. State Education should be secular. If people want their children educated in a particular faith, they have the option of "Sunday Schools" or paying for private education.

This is a dreadful decision which, in order to pander to Catholic sentiment, is going to affect society negatively for decades to come.

BAD CALL MRS MAY.

**[4TH 52]** So, according to Clare Foges, if I live in Bradford, Blackburn or Halifax, I should be denied the opportunity to send my child to a Christian faith school, because it perpetuates segregation. Tell me what efforts her taxi-driver's niqab-wearing wife is making to integrate – and how many non-Muslim mothers will be wanting their children to be friends with hers, when they can't even see her face to speak to her in the playground.

**[5TH 50]** Faith schools should be banned – we should take a leaf out of the Singaporean education system where there are 2 mainstream ethnicities – Malay and Chinese and all are educated in common schools – it's a part of the nation building process.

**[6TH 45]** Why do faiths need to run schools?

**[7TH 42]** This article totally misses the point.

There should be no religion in schools. Religion is a faith based belief in the supernatural and an afterlife, that nobody has ever come back from to tell us about. How stupid does it get to allow this to dominate any debate concerning education?

Get religion out of schools and stop poisoning minds with it. Kids unfortunately inherit religions from parents – an accident of birth. We should not tolerate the promotion of it in the school system.

**[8TH 37]** Keep religion out of schools, period. What chance do we have if you create an apartheid system where kids learn some middle ages dogma that has no place in a modern, western, society. [*The Times* (£)] [Read more](http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/may-risks-entrenching-the-ethnic-divide-mlbbdvkw)  
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/may-risks-entrenching-the-ethnic-divide-mlbbdvkw>

August 23, 2016

### **Police Scotland says Muslim hijab will become an optional part of its uniform**

THE hijab will become an optional part of Police Scotland’s uniform, it has been announced.

Officers and staff have always had the option to wear religious headwear but the force’s announcement today formally ratifies the Police Scotland hijab.

It will also encourage women from Muslim communities, who may previously not have seen policing as a career option, to reconsider.

A hijab is a veil that covers the head and chest, and is worn by Muslim women in the presence of adult males outside their immediate family.

**[TOP COMMENT 25 votes]** Why not go the whole way and allow them to wear the niqab that way the accused would not be able to identify which officer had beaten a confession out of them.

**[2ND 23]** Isn’t integration meant to be a process where immigrants merge with the time honoured customs and usages of the land they have moved to? Seems to me that the U.K. is travelling in the opposite direction.

**[3RD 18]** Can we now expect the Police to allow other items of clothing from other religious organisation to be worn?

Perhaps we could see bowler hats, Orange sashes or even Masonic aprons?

**[4TH 17]** Not bothered about the hijab provided wearers are smartly dressed and can perform the full range of police duties, for example teaming up and travelling in a car with a male police officer or tackling a violent male drunk who may rip off their hijab in an affray. [*Herald Scotland*] [Read more](http://www.heraldsotland.com/news/14699287.Police_Scotland_says_Muslim_hijab_will_become_an_optional_part_of_its_uniform/)  
[http://www.heraldsotland.com/news/14699287.Police\\_Scotland\\_says\\_Muslim\\_hijab\\_will\\_become\\_an\\_optional\\_part\\_of\\_its\\_uniform/](http://www.heraldsotland.com/news/14699287.Police_Scotland_says_Muslim_hijab_will_become_an_optional_part_of_its_uniform/)

August 23, 2016

### **Our weakness makes the Islamists stronger**

As the Islamist demagogue Anjem Choudary awaits sentencing for inviting support for Islamic State, the government is facing a crisis of its own making over the radicalisation of Muslim prisoners.

Choudary, who is said to have radicalised thousands of British Muslims over the years, is reportedly to be segregated from other prisoners when he is sent to jail next month.

The review by Ian Acheson of Islamist extremism in prisons, whose summary was published yesterday while the rest remains classified, suggests that a small number of the most dangerous Islamist prisoners be segregated to prevent them from accelerating still further the growing problem of inmate radicalisation.

... Unlike Christianity, it is not merely a set of spiritual beliefs but creates a strong sense of peoplehood. Since Islam represents divine perfection, it also follows that any thwarting of its religious expansionism means that many Muslims believe their whole community to be under attack.

Which is why young Muslims don't need to know anything about Islam to become radicalised. All that's needed is to incite them to a false but utterly incendiary belief that their people have to be defended against a cruel and evil enemy. Britain and the West refuse to acknowledge this reality. Instead they attack those who identify it as Islamophobic in order to silence them. Those who thus refuse even to name the enemy they face will surely be defeated by it. [*Melanie Phillips, 173 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 173 votes]** Well said Melanie. It's tragic that Government ministers still refuse to see the danger of Islam not just in prison but in mainstream society.

**[2ND 161]** I wish if only our successive governments had recognised the potentials of Islamic terrorism and its dangers! It had been there staring at us for years. Instead the taxpayers have funding it in the guise of multiculturalism and cohesion.

Instead we have been promoting and funding segregation, disaffection and planting the seeds of Islamic terrorism.

For years Melanie Phillips and some others had warning us.

**[3RD 153]** Our inability to face the facts head on, to the point of denial, could be our downfall. A brave article in a world of political correctness.

**[4TH 152]** Well said Melanie, as is often the case, you state the truth that so many of us see, but which the establishment foolishly continue to deny; The threat is uniquely centred upon Islamic religious fanaticism.

Choudary and his ilk haven't made this stuff up, it's there in Islamic scripture, in the Koran, the Sira and the Hadith. You can't tackle the Choudarys of this world without tackling Islam itself. [*The Times (£)*] [Read more](http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/our-weakness-makes-the-islamists-stronger-07h0c8b2n)

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/our-weakness-makes-the-islamists-stronger-07h0c8b2n>

August 8, 2016

## **Mass murder of Christians is the new Isis plot**

... Yet however cutting-edge the production of the magazine may be, many of its features have a decidedly antique flavour. This, in a magazine devoted to the thesis that the ideal state existed back in early 7th-century Arabia, is hardly surprising. As revolutionaries, the propagandists of Isis are simultaneously radical and conservative, cleaving to a vision of global apocalypse that is founded on their understanding of the age of Muhammad.

The very name they have given their magazine bears witness to their consuming ambition: to head back to the future. Dabiq is a town in northern Syria currently occupied by Isis — and according to a prophecy supposedly made by Muhammad, the

End of Days will be heralded by a great battle fought there between Muslim and Christian armies. This is why, on the masthead of every edition, the same message is proclaimed. "The spark has been lit here in Iraq, and its heat will continue to intensify — by Allah's permission — until it burns the crusader armies in Dabiq."

.... The threat this represents to the Christians of the Middle East, already in the eye of the storm, is all too obvious. No one should doubt, though, in the wake of the murder last month of a French priest as he was celebrating mass, that the churches of Europe are also being targeted. The Catholic hierarchy, in the wake of Father Hamel's murder, have understandably sought to play down the religious motivation of his killers. No one who reads the most recent edition Dabiq, though, can really doubt it. Christians everywhere should consider themselves warned. [*Tom Holland, 136 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 147 votes]** I am very glad this article has appeared in The Times. It has astonished me how little interest or compassion has been shown to the Christian communities of the middle east and Egypt.

**[2ND 134]** The 'people of the book' thing itself is not tolerance as we understand it. It suggests that you live under sufferance of someone else, that your humanity is defined and 'allowed' only because you accept your secondary status. It seems more like a protection racket. If Muslims had to pay a tax just to live in peace and continue their existence it would be seen as unfair and sinister. If this is the best hope for tolerance within Islam, there is little hope.

**[3RD 89]** Time we stopped taking Muslim 'migrants' and instead take Syrian Christians? [*The Times (£)*] [Read more](http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/mass-murder-of-christians-is-the-new-isis-plot-2jmkspvfb)  
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/mass-murder-of-christians-is-the-new-isis-plot-2jmkspvfb>

August 2, 2016

## **May needs to wake up to the reality of Sharia**

While she was home secretary, Theresa May set up an independent inquiry into the operation of Islamic law in the UK as administered by Sharia courts or councils. One witness due to appear before the inquiry was Professor Elham Manea of Zurich university. She is a widely respected expert on Sharia, a Muslim and a campaigner for women's rights. A few days ago, however, she decided not to give evidence after all.

Brought to London by the Brussels-based European Foundation for Democracy, she said she believed the inquiry would whitewash Sharia. Instead of investigating whether Sharia courts undermined justice and human rights, the inquiry's terms of reference suggested a prior objective to expand the reach of Islamic law in Muslim communities with a few cosmetic tweaks.

Sharia, she said, was intrinsically fundamentalist and oppressive. "The issue for the inquiry is best practice in Islamic law. But you can't have best practice of bad law." [*Melanie Phillips, 453 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 196 votes]** Melanie Phillips at her absolute best – making a clear distinction between the probity of Jewish religious communities with their respect for the modern law of the land, and the cosseted mediaevalism of Sharia.

**[2ND 190]** If what Ms Phillips writes is correct, then there is indeed a problem. It is Sharia law that is the problem not the application of 'best practice' within it.

**[3RD 183]** I cannot understand why the British Government tolerates any parallel laws in Britain.

If Ms Phillips is correct the government will face unanswerable questions in the near future. If the government does not know what is going on then they should act quickly, get to the bottom of these enquiries, establish root cause and take action to prevent illegal discrimination.

**[4TH 122]** Hope you're reading this Theresa!

**[5TH 101]** This problem has been staring Europe in the face for three decades or more and the entire continent is in danger of being ruled by Sharia law some time in the next thirty years. Mark Greenwood, where exactly among Jewish and Christian principles does "British Muslim woman "could be treated as a minor, who could be married off as a child, and beaten by her husband, and that would be considered acceptable"."

**[6TH 93]** Once upon a time there was immigration. The presumption was that those who joined our society did so on the assumption and presumption that they would assimilate and be accommodated into our way of life.

Then along came the word multiculturalism. Where it came from no-one seems to know.

The assumption of multiculturalism is entirely the opposite of assimilation into the host society.

The premise of multiculturalism is to enshrine in law the rights of other ethnicities, to protect and preserve their own ethnic and religious identities.

Here , in essence is the fatal flaw.

Without any numerical limits to multiculturalism and multi-faithism we have endorsed our own eventual demise as the host.

In a democracy, Parliament becomes the will of the majority. If the majority population outside of parliament becomes a community of diverse ethnicities with no allegiance or loyalty to the values and norms of the host nation, then surely as night follows day, we will have erased our own culture through a process of natural denudation and demographic attrition.

We in effect have allowed a multitude of other nations to colonise our small Island, not only with absolute impunity, but with open arms.

The only word that springs to mind is, Lemmings.

**[7TH 90]** Sharia and English law are simply incompatible, because they are underpinned by fundamentally different worldviews, history, and priorities. Ban Sharia now or reap the terrible consequences, first for Muslim women, and then for everyone else. [*The Times* (£)] [Read more](http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/may-needs-to-wake-up-the-reality-of-sharia-tb8rhgkp6)  
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/may-needs-to-wake-up-the-reality-of-sharia-tb8rhgkp6>

July 27, 2016

### **Father 'held girl prisoner in cage for 4 years'**

.... Amina Al-Jeffery was born in Swansea but was taken to Saudi Arabia aged 16 because her academic father objected to her western lifestyle. She has since been held captive in her father's home in Jeddah, the family division of the High Court was told yesterday.

.... Anne-Marie Hutchinson, a British lawyer, said that she had spoken to Miss Al-Jeffery when she briefly escaped from her father's home. "She is a normal Welsh girl and still

has her Welsh accent,” said Ms Hutchinson, a member of the international Academy of Family Lawyers. “She wants to return home so she can have control of her own life and make her own choices.”

Mr Justice Holman said that the jurisdiction of the British courts was not clear because Miss Al-Jeffery was now an adult with dual Saudi and UK citizenship. He said: “We have to be careful about asserting the supremacy of our cultural standards.”

**[TOP COMMENT 39 votes]** *“We have to be careful about asserting the supremacy of our cultural standards.” Why?*

**[3ND 24]** Good question. The Saudi authorities will have no doubt about the “supremacy” of their cultural standards, and this means the male relative is able to dictate all decisions relating to his daughter.

As she has UK citizenship she should be treated as a British citizen and have her wishes represented more seriously than Justice Holman seems to be able.

**[2ND 30]** *“We have to be careful about asserting the supremacy of our cultural standards.”*

I think Mr Justice Holman should be kept in a cage for such a defeatist attitude. Our cultural standards are superior to one where a father thinks its ok to keep his daughter in a cage. [*The Times (£)*] [Read more](http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/father-held-girl-prisoner-in-cage-for-4-years-zwv62vqdp)  
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/father-held-girl-prisoner-in-cage-for-4-years-zwv62vqdp>

July 25, 2016

## **Many Muslims want help to look outwards**

The case of the ‘Trojan horse’ school shows that Britain was wrong not to expect minorities to embrace liberal values.

For years in Britain there has been a pernicious trend to shy away from making a case for our liberal values among minority communities. As these values continued their march unabated among the mainstream, certain multiculturalists assumed that to assert them among minorities would be deemed offensive, perhaps racist, and in the Muslim context even Islamophobic.

The successful turnaround of the “Trojan horse” school Park View — now Rockwood Academy — couldn’t have proved this view more wrong. Two years after the scandal, the school has surpassed expectations, with cadet recruitment, after-school drama classes, counterextremism workshops and trips to Wimbledon. Those who worried about a more active integration policy alienating the Birmingham school’s predominantly Muslim students really needn’t have. So why did they? [*116 comments*]

**[TOP COMMENT 119 votes]** Great article. I want everyone in Britain who’s Muslim – or any other faith – to have a great, free life here. The elephant in the room is Saudi Arabia. SA’s blatant funding of Wahaabism in mosques in the UK and throughout Europe is there for all to see in the tens of thousands of Muslim teens that wear the hijab in Gulf State style, and whose parents didn’t wear the veil. Look at pictures of Baghdad or Beirut or Dhaka or Kabul in the Fifties and Sixties and they look like pictures taken in contemporary European cities, with women in fashionable European dress.

Wahaabism is a Subjugation Algorithm, a really nasty misogynist xenophobic sect that is causing enormous harm throughout the world. Where’s the politician who will call it out and ultimately take it out?

I would've thought Sadiq Khan had a duty to do just this as our most prominent Muslim who surely knows what's going on.

**[2ND 105]** There only seems to be one 'minority community' that cannot adapt to British/Western values. And, as usual, we are blamed rather than the particular community which refuses to modernise and which despises us and all we stand for – freedom, democracy, equality of the sexes, tolerance.

**[3RD 98]** I applaud what your trying to say and do, but no amount of integration, educational excellence and social mobility will counteract some of the messianic and hateful content of Islamism.

It should be remembered that many of worlds terrorist atrocities have been undertaken by highly educated people. Moreover many of the worlds terrorists and despots have been educated at some of Britains' finest institutions where liberalism and raised expectations were indeed already the norm.

There will always be a clash between the presumptions of many religions and modern secular, science-based education because they simply cannot co-exist logically. It is naive to think that one will obliquely displace the other. But I wish you good fortune in your endeavour.

**[4TH 62]** Mainstream society DID wake up to it earlier ... much earlier.

But the Establishment Parties and the liberal media not only didn't wake up to it, they deliberately suppressed any attempt to discuss it by screaming "racist and bigot" at any one who tried. [*The Times* (£)] [Read more](http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/many-muslims-want-help-to-look-outwards-dk2jtz05w)  
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/many-muslims-want-help-to-look-outwards-dk2jtz05w>

May 6, 2016

### **Mosques ban trousers, travel and Facebook**

Muslim women must not leave the house without their husband's permission, should avoid wearing trousers and should even delete their Facebook accounts, according to rulings published by mosques and Islamic associations around Britain.

The statements provoked anger among anti-extremism campaigners and moderate Muslims, who have spoken out against "outdated and patriarchal" attitudes. The Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) is facing calls to demand that affiliated institutions remove online advice that curtails the freedom of women.

Controversy was triggered this week by a ruling published by the Blackburn Muslim Association, which told women that they must not travel more than 48 miles without a male chaperone. The association is an affiliate member of the MCB, an umbrella body representing hundreds of mosques, schools and other organisations. Research by The Times found that other MCB members had published similar statements. [270 comments]

**[TOP COMMENT 227 votes]** Islam has become a poison in Western democracies- above all in countriea like France and especially in the UK. Western democracies are secular and its the responsibility of our politicians to actively defend our democratic values and not surrender to an alien and medieval religion like Islam. Nowhere in the world you'll find Islam and democracy cohabitating.

As a matter of fact Islamic countries are all in the bottom third on the Democracy Index. It's time for our elected leaders to draw a definite line against a medieval Islam. They

could start by putting a stop to the practise of Sharia courts, FGM and forced marriages. If Muslims cannot embrace Western values they should leave.

**[2ND 186]** When is the Government of this country going to take some active steps to curb these people, they are just toeing the water to see just how far they can get away with their medieval practices, we passed the thin end of the wedge some time ago, if something isn't done soon I fear for our future. Any Mosque promoting anything alien to the culture of this country should be shut down.

**[3RD 144]** There is no place for these kinds of edict in British society. Shame on them!

**[4TH 133]** They don't live in British society, they have created a parallel society. When you import as many as Labour have, it is impossible to have a national society. Ethnicities stick together, that's how countries came to exist, and shy Britain will break apart.

**[5TH 105]** Facebook I avoid but this edict is preposterous and leaves those who issue it open to scorn. But I suspect those same people don't give two figs for the views of those who view this as unacceptable, and therein lies the problem. This cult is alien and I marvel that our politicians cannot see it. Truly to speak of Londonistan is neither an exaggeration nor nonsense. When taking the measure of something I look to its fruits and this example alone should raise serious questions about Islam and its place in this country. [*The Times* (£)] [Read more](http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/kb-mosques-06-hsc-rfprdczj)  
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/kb-mosques-06-hsc-rfprdczj>

April 29, 2016

### **Law, not culture, is Europe's answer to Islam, a pundit says**

... In his latest book, *In Europe's Shadow*, he goes back to Romania, and finds pleasant surprises, including a happy mixture of devoutly practised eastern Christianity and pro-Western strategic orientation. A country that was literally a dark place in the 1980s, because of economic misery, power shortages and an exceptionally harsh form of communism, has lightened up in many ways, he discovers.

Corruption may flourish but so too does healthy political opposition to that vice. If his optimism is well-founded, then we have to conclude that eastern Christianity and Western political alignment may, after all, be compatible, despite the claims to the contrary by the late Professor Sam Huntington, who popularised the idea of a "clash of civilisations" as a driver of global conflict.

... So is Mr Kaplan merely repeating the idea, widespread among American conservatives, that Europe, because of its soft-mindedness in the face of Islam, is rapidly turning into Eurabia, a Muslim or half-Muslim space? No, his point is more interesting and nuanced than that. In his view, the historically Christian countries of Europe would be making a mistake if they responded to the Muslim influx by erecting new barriers or raising high the banner of cultural nativism.

**[TOP COMMENT 19 votes]** I admire the writings of Robert Kaplan but in this case, his recommendation is off the mark.

Why you ask?

Because secular progressive Europeans have proven to be utterly spineless when it comes to confronting the barbaric attitudes and beliefs of their Muslim populations, be that bloodthirstiness for anyone who even so much as criticizes their religion (including against their own fellow Muslims), a worse than medieval attitude towards women and gays and a contempt for secularism and favoring instead of fundamentalism of the one

faith on earth that is MOST conducive at this point to violence and barbarism (as opposed to say Hinduism, Judaism, Jainism, Christianity or Buddhism).

Yes, the best possible thing would have been for secular progressives – and not Christian fundamentalists – to stand up for these values. But these spineless pathetic impotent eunuchs fear the label of racism FAR FAR MORE than they love Western values and will turn and run with their tails between their legs. They want to oh so be loved and accepted so so much, they will lay supine as inferior but prouder cultures that will readily employ violence rape and pillage their civilization.

Unfortunately the only Westerners who seem to have the balls to stand up to the Islamic threat are religions Christians. Not the best choice but infinitely more preferable to the Islamic barbarians.

**[2ND 18]** *"Law, not culture, is Europe's answer to Islam, a pundit says"*

And who makes the laws? The majority. So, what will happen when we have a Muslim majority in Europe in the (near) future?

**[3RD 16]** *.... "In previous writings, what marked Mr Kaplan out from other international-affairs pundits was the way he liked to explore as well as theorise. His musings on state failure were rooted in wanderings round the roughest parts of West Africa, and his ideas about the Balkans were forged in smoky, sweaty writers' clubs in Sofia and Belgrade. Perhaps now is the moment for him, or some cub reporter under his tutelage, to get on the road again."*

Yes! Get on the road again. There is no shortcut to this road.

Credit to secular law for the mere thoughts contained in this refreshing article!

**[4TH 15]** It is always amusing to see old academics theorising on how the West might absorb the Islamic culture and ideology.

Of course the question might be better answered by observing empirically how minority Muslim society is absorbed in Asia or Africa. The answer of course it isn't. There are Christian/Buddhist/ Hindu societies and there are the Muslims. They do not mix socially and even have different laws. This in itself is not terrible; the problem is that their Sharia law insists that they are superior and that they must convert the others by all means possible – normally by intimidation and violence. Their greatest allegiance will always be to the Uma (the Muslim world) and the Koran.

How anyone can equate the Greek Orthodox of Eastern Europe and their rejection of corruption with the Muslims only confirms that this old academic should leave his ivory tower and start travelling in the real world. [*The Economist*] [Read more](http://www.economist.com/blogs/erasmus/2016/04/europe-religion-and-geopolitics/comments?sort=3#sort-comments)  
<http://www.economist.com/blogs/erasmus/2016/04/europe-religion-and-geopolitics/comments?sort=3#sort-comments>