

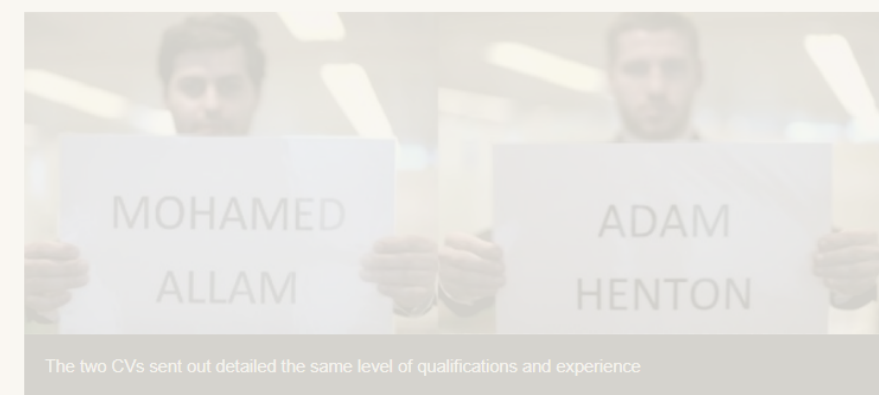
ISLAMOPHOBIA
AWARENESS MONTH



Islamophobia in the UK

Understanding & Eradicating Islamophobia in Our Midst

Miqdaad Versi, 24 November 2020



A job seeker with an English-sounding name was offered three times the number of interviews than an applicant with a Muslim name, a BBC test found.

News / UK / Home News

British Muslim women 71% more likely to be unemployed due to workplace discrimination



Manifestations of Islamophobia

1) Negative
social attitudes &
stereotypes

2) Structural
discrimination

3) Verbal/physical
threat/aggression



Definition of Islamophobia

islamophobia
islamophobia-definition.com

Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness

Despite Muslims being from diverse ethnic backgrounds, they are often racialised and discriminated against based on their name, their perceived cultural identity or beliefs

People may be targeted for their ethnicity, their gender and/or their Muslimness. If Muslimness is one of the reasons for the racism, it is Islamophobia

It is not Muslims who are targeted – but expressions of Muslim identity e.g., a woman with a headscarf or niqab, a man with a thobe, a mosque or a Muslim cemetery.

For example, Sikhs are sometimes targeted because a racist perceives their turban is an expression of Muslimness

APPG on British Muslims

<https://www.islamophobia-definition.com/>

Endorsements from the *top academics* in the field



PROF. TARIQ MODOOD
PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY, POLITICS AND
PUBLIC POLICY
UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL



MR. ABDOLKARIM VAKIL
LECTURER IN CONTEMPORARY
PORTUGUESE HISTORY AND CULTURE
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PROF. HEIDI SAFA MIRZA
VISITING PROFESSOR IN RACE, ETHNICITY AND
CULTURE
GOLDSMITH COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



PROF. MATTHEW FELDMAN
DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR STUDIES
OF THE RADICAL RIGHT



ROBIN RICHARDSON
CO-DIRECTOR OF THE INETC
CONSPIRACY
MILIT



DR. BRIAN SLEG
SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW IN POLITICAL
SCIENCE
ST BENE'S HALL
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



PROF. JAMES DICKSON
PROFESSOR OF ASIAN
LITERATURE
UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL



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PROFESSOR AND CO-DIRECTOR OF THE
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SENIOR LECTURER IN CRIMINOLOGY AND
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PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY
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PROFESSOR OF THE HISTORY OF ISLAM AND
CULTURAL STUDIES - HISTORY
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ROYAL HOLLOWAY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



PROF. ALISON SCOTT
PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY
LONDON



PROF. AVTAR BRAH
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RESEARCH FELLOW, CENTRE FOR TRUST,
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PROF. BRIDGET BYRNE
PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY, DIRECTOR OF
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ETHNICITY
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DR. AMNA KHATIB
PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL



DR. MYRIAM FRANCOIS
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, CENTRE FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES, LONDON



DR. IRENE ZEMPI
LECTURER IN SOCIOLOGY
NOTTINGHAM TRIANGLE UNIVERSITY



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DR. BEN WHITLAM
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DR. KATY STAN
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PROFESSOR RICHARD PHILLIPS
PROFESSOR OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN



PROFESSOR MANSOOR A. BADER
PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL



PROFESSOR TAHIR ABBAS
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PROF. NEEL MEHTA
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ISLAM, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
DELHI

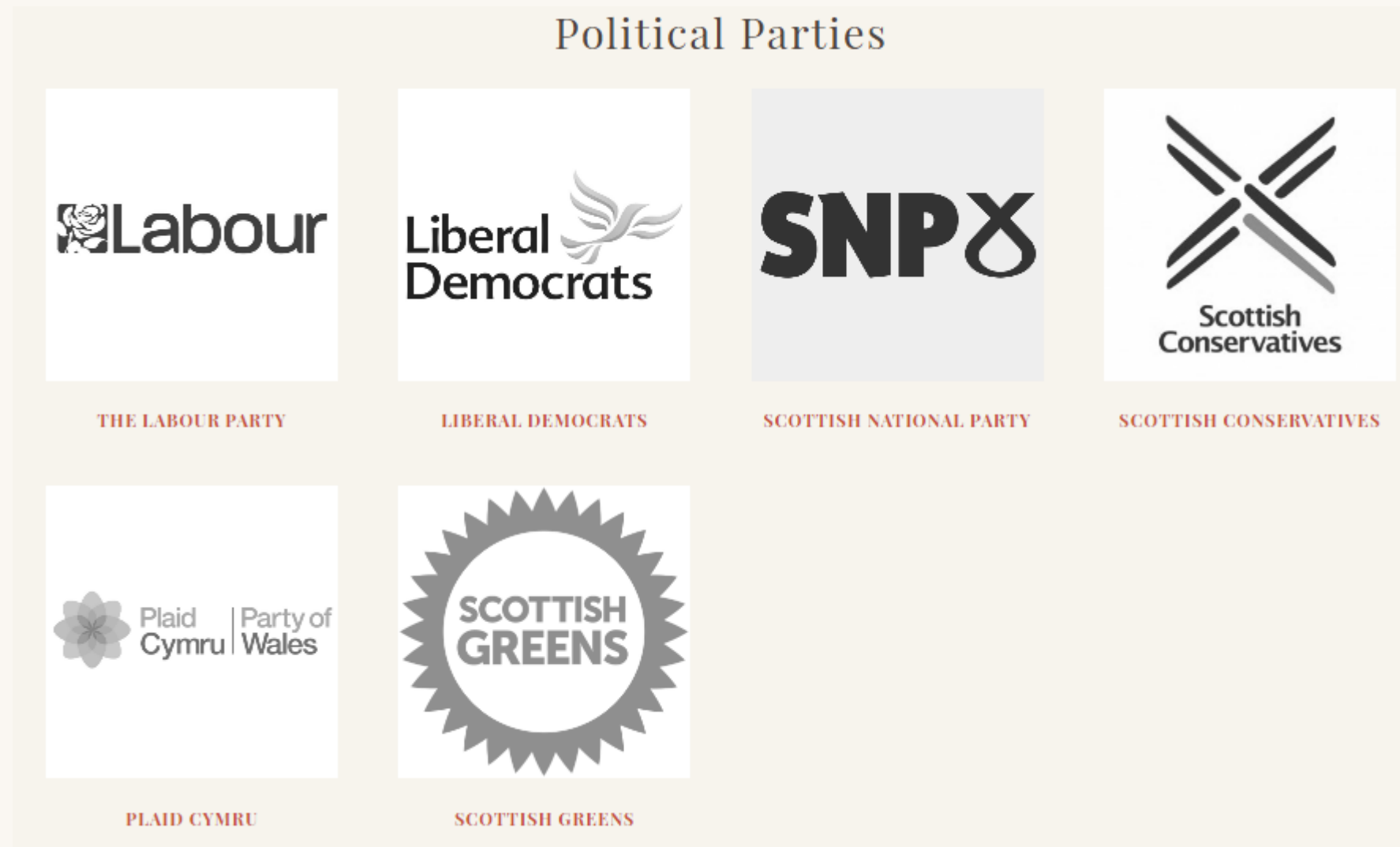


DR. KASIA NARKOWICZ
LECTURER IN SOCIOLOGY AND
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UNIVERSITY OF GLoucestershire



PROF. DAVID MILLER
PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

Endorsements from all the main parties (with an obvious exception)



And dozens of councils across the UK

Endorsements by most the main Muslim groups



...but not everyone

A very small number have an issue with the term; and some find the link to racism a challenge

The infographic features a large, stylized title 'islamophobia' in a dark red serif font. Below the title, the website 'islamophobia-definition.com' is written in a smaller, grey sans-serif font. The main content is organized into a series of horizontal sections separated by thin red lines. On the left, a dark red vertical band contains white text defining Islamophobia as rooted in racism and targeting Muslim expressions. To the right, three white rectangular boxes with red borders provide further context and examples. The first box states that Muslims are often racialised. The second box explains that targeting can be based on ethnicity, gender, or Muslimness. The third box gives specific examples of targeted expressions of identity, such as headscarves or niqabs. A final example at the bottom shows how a Sikh's turban can be misperceived as a Muslim expression. The source 'APPG on British Muslims' is noted at the bottom left of the infographic.

islamophobia

islamophobia-definition.com

Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness

APPG on British Muslims

Despite Muslims being from diverse ethnic backgrounds, they are often racialised and discriminated against based on their name, their perceived cultural identity or beliefs

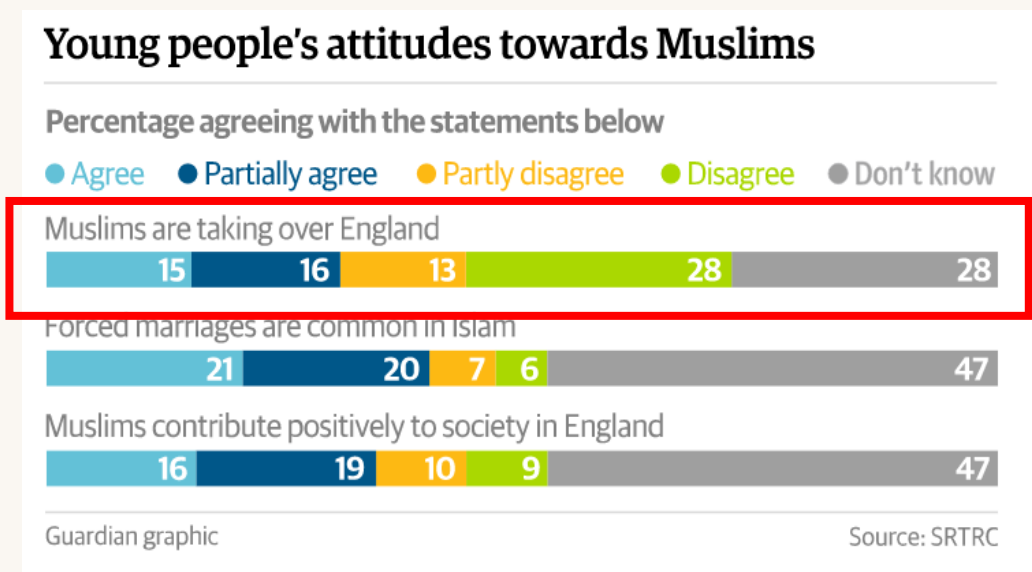
People may be targeted for their ethnicity, their gender and/or their Muslimness. If Muslimness is one of the reasons for the racism, it is Islamophobia

It is not Muslims who are targeted – but expressions of Muslim identity e.g., a woman with a headscarf or niqab, a man with a thobe, a mosque or a Muslim cemetery.

For example, Sikhs are sometimes targeted because a racist perceives their turban is an expression of Muslimness

The remaining slides will focus on how Islamophobia manifests i.e. the same way as racism

1) Social Attitudes About Muslims



56%

Believe Islam (not fundamentalist groups) poses a threat to Western liberal democracy

32%

Believe there are no-go areas in Britain where sharia law dominates and non-Muslims cannot enter

31%

Of young children think Muslims are taking over England

18%

Muslim immigration to this country is part of a bigger plan to make Muslims a majority of this country's population

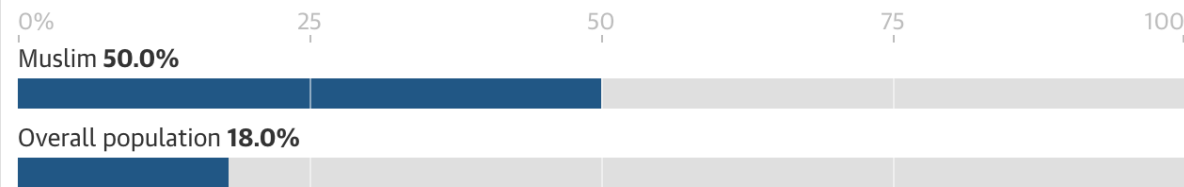
1) Social Attitudes About Muslims – key stereotypes

- **Causing, calling for, aiding or justifying the harm against a Muslim**
- **Causing, calling for, aiding or justifying acts of aggression against Muslim targets**
- **Denying the right of a Muslim to be an equal citizen**
- **Dehumanising, demonising or making stereotypical allegations about Muslims in a way that is not used to those of other backgrounds**
- **Making unjustified assumptions about Muslims and their beliefs**
- **Demanding from Muslims that which is not demanded of others**
- **Denying the suffering of Muslims in a way that would not be done of other faiths or backgrounds**
- **Prescribing to/ propagating conspiracy theories about Muslims**

As is well established, being critical of the faith of Islam is not Islamophobic, but often Islam is used to create the pretense of not being racist, despite the underlying argument being racist.

2) Structural Discrimination

50% of Muslim households are considered to be in poverty, compared with less than 20% in the overall population



Guardian graphic | Source: Analysis of the 2011 census, Nomis/ONS

MO COMPARE Motorists fork out £1,000 more to insure their cars if their name is Mohammed

Top firms such as Admiral and Marks & Spencers have been dragged into an insurance race row after giving far lower quotes for drivers with traditionally English names like John

News > UK > Home News

British Muslim women 71% more likely to be unemployed due to workplace discrimination

The screenshot shows the BBC News website interface. The article title is 'Is it easier to get a job if you're Adam or Mohamed?'. The byline is 'By Zack Adesina and Oana Marocico, BBC Inside Out'. The date is '6 February 2017'. The article features a photo of two men holding signs that read 'MOHAMED ALLAM' and 'ADAM HENTON'. Below the photo, a caption states: 'The two CVs sent out detailed the same level of qualifications and experience'. The main text of the article begins: 'A job seeker with an English-sounding name was offered three times the number of interviews than an applicant with a Muslim name, a BBC test found.'

2) Structural Discrimination: impact of politicians and media on Islamophobia



Media fuelling rising hostility towards Muslims in Britain



Mainstream media reporting about Muslim communities is contributing to an atmosphere of rising hostility towards Muslims in Britain, according to a University of Cambridge/ESRC Roundtable held at the House of Lords.



'Politicians and media fuel hate crime in Britain,' say University of Leicester experts

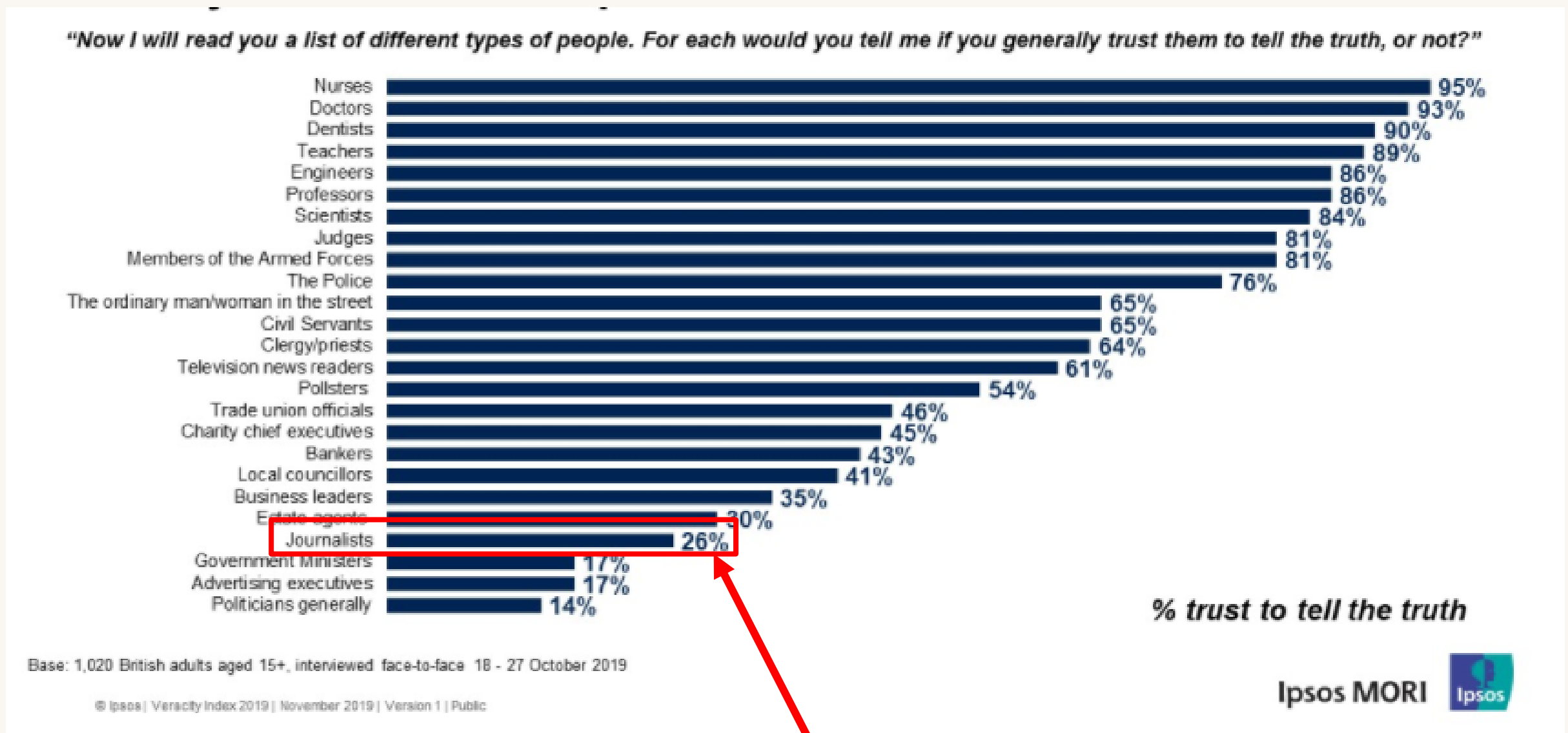
Posted by [pt91](#) at Jun 29, 2016 05:19 PM | [Permalink](#)

'Toxic climate' around EU referendum debate highlighted for contributing towards hate incidents

"When ordinary people have a political mandate to blame those who are different for society's ills then the shackles of human decency are stripped away."

- Professor Neil Chakraborti and Dr Stevie-Jade Hardy, University of Leicester

2) Islamophobia in the Media : Background



What does it say about our democracy that journalists, who are supposed to inform and hold power to account, are trusted so little?

Source: Ipsos Mori Veracity Index, 2017

2) Islamophobia in the Media : Key facts

10,931

articles analysed this
quarter

Terrorism

is the most recurring theme
in the media relating to
Muslims & Islam

59%

of all articles analysed
associated Muslims with
negative behaviours

**Daily Mail
Australia**

has the highest proportion
of articles rated "Very
Biased"

Over

1/3

of all articles
misrepresented or
generalised about Muslims

37%

of articles in right leaning and
religious publications were

"Very Biased"

Centre for Media Monitoring, 2019

2) Islamophobia in the Media: Case Studies

Muslim savages update

Rod Liddle

<https://blogs.spectator.co.uk/2009/11/muslim-savages-update/>



2) Islamophobia in the Media: Pick up in the far-right



Tommy Robinson @TRobinsonNewEra

Gunman screaming 'Allahu Akbar' opens fire in Spanish supermarket



Gunman screaming 'Allahu Akbar' opens fire in Spanish supermarket
The attacker walked into the Mercadona shop, As Lagoas, before opening fire.
daily mail.co.uk

RETWEETS 170 LIKES 104

Tommy Robinson @TRobinsonNewEra

Christian child forced into Muslim foster care | News | The Times & The Sunday Times



Christian child forced into Muslim foster care
thetimes.co.uk

2:41 am · 28 Aug 17

englishdefenceleague @EDLOfficialpage

Enclaves of Islam in Britain see UK as 75% Muslim thetimes.co.uk/article/enclaves-of-islam-in-britain-see-uk-as-75-muslim ...
In the Louise Casey report they tried to delay, censor and bury



f Muslims in all-Muslim enclaves in northern cities like Walsby and Blackburn seldom leave their areas and are outside.
ch separate lives that they believe Britain is an Islamic country. Louise Casey's report to be published this week.
these communities think Britain is a Muslim country is Muslim."
ie to Casey said: "There is a desire among policymakers to level of significant difference that you have over y too far."
ill be quite hard reading for some people.
tack the police and other state bodies for "weakne false notions of what they think ethnic communities ice chief who said female officers could be allowed

Abridged by English Defence League
ww.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/enclaves-of-islam-see-uk-as-75-muslims-have-almost-no-idea-of-life-outside-their-areas

englishdefenceleague @EDLOfficialpage

#adoptionjihad in Tower Hamlets, London thetimes.co.uk/article/christian-child-forced-into-muslim-foster-care...

Christian child forced into Muslim foster care

ern for girl who 'had cross removed and was encouraged to learn Arabic'

Britain First @BritainFirst

Islamisation: Some Muslims so isolated in UK they believe country is 75% Islamic, ... - christianfightback.com/islamisation-s ...

Paul Golding @GoldingBF

Why is this allowed to happen?

Christian child forced into Muslim foster care

Concern for girl who 'had cross removed and was encouraged to learn Arabic'



2) Islamophobia in the Media: What can be done?

Bring the evidence



"What's impressive about CfMM is not only its powerful and insightful research, but also its ability to bring in the leaders across all sections of the media, hold them to account and constructively work together to improve the reporting of Islam and Muslims. This is testament to the brilliant work of the CfMM team."

Baroness Warsi

Engage to elicit change for the better

MEET THE MEDIA WEBINAR
THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2020 | 6PM - 9PM

Centre for Media Monitoring is excited to present our second "Meet the Media" event. Don't miss this great opportunity for Muslim community leaders, organisations, and individuals to engage, question, and network with editors and journalists from major UK media outlets. This is an interactive session with topics such as media representation of Muslims, how to pitch a story, and how communities can best engage with journalists. With contributions from community members reflecting on their experiences with media representation, and small group breakout sessions with the panellists so you can ask your questions.

THIS SESSION FEATURES:

 Alison Phillips Editor (Daily Mirror)	 Diane Ridley Editorial Manager (ITV News)	 Emma Tucker Editor (Sunday Times)	 Gary Jones Editor-in-Chief (Daily Express)
 Peter Clifton Editor-in-Chief (Press Association)	 Roohi Hasan Senior News Producer (ITV News)	 Toby Castle Deputy News Editor (BBC)	

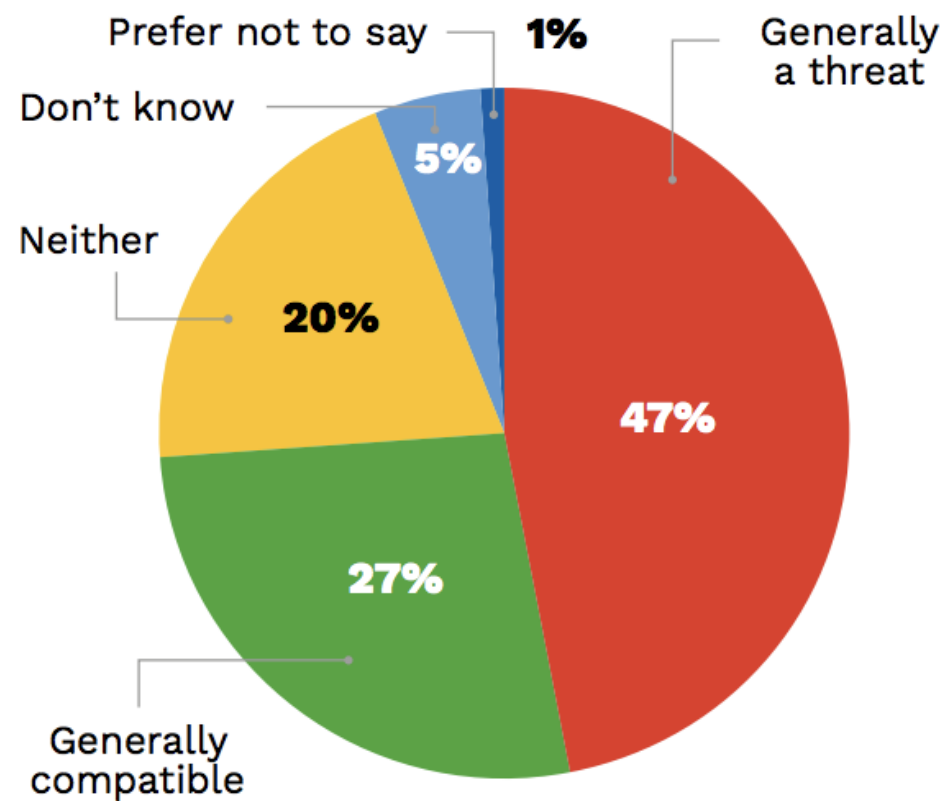
REGISTER NOW: bit.ly/MeetTheMedia2020

CENTRE FOR MEDIA MONITORING
cfmm.org.uk [cfmmuk](#) [cfmmuk](#) [MeetTheMedia2020](#)

MCB
The Muslim Council of Britain

2) Islamophobia in Politics

Do you think Islam is generally compatible with the British way of life or generally a threat to the British way of life?



Hope Not Hate, YouGov Poll of Conservative Party members (2020)

57%

Conservative Party members polled have a negative attitude towards Muslims, 21% a very negative attitude

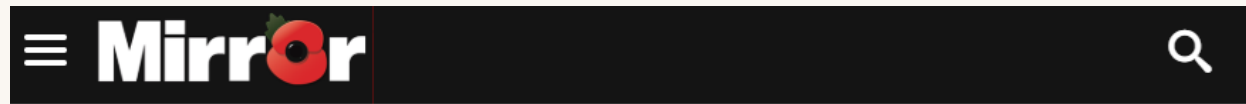
66%

Conservative Party members that voted for current PM believe "there are no-go areas in Britain where Sharia law dominates & non-Muslims cannot enter"

"they [Muslims] are simply outbreeding us and within 30 years this will be a Muslim led country with sharia laws"

(Party member, 2020)

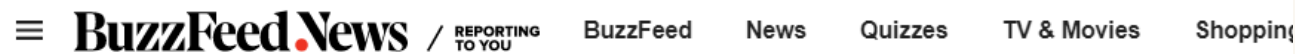
2) Islamophobia in Politics



NEWS

Muslim Council demands watchdog probe into Tories over 150 Islamophobia claims

The MCB said that there five main grounds for their complaint in a letter to the Equality and Human Rights Commission



Anti-Muslim Tory Members On Facebook Are Telling One Another To Stop Sajid Javid From Becoming Prime Minister

BuzzFeed News has presented Conservative
be Tory members and have made Islamophob



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News > UK > UK Politics

More than 350 mosques urge Conservatives to launch internal inquiry into Islamophobia claims

Exclusive: Eleven umbrella organisations across the UK reiterate need for formal inquiry

ITV REPORT

17 May 2019 at 5:57pm

ITV News Exclusive: Dossier exposes more than 100 accusations of Islamophobia and racism from Conservative Party members



Muslim Council reveals 300 Islamophobia cases in the Tories in damning dossier

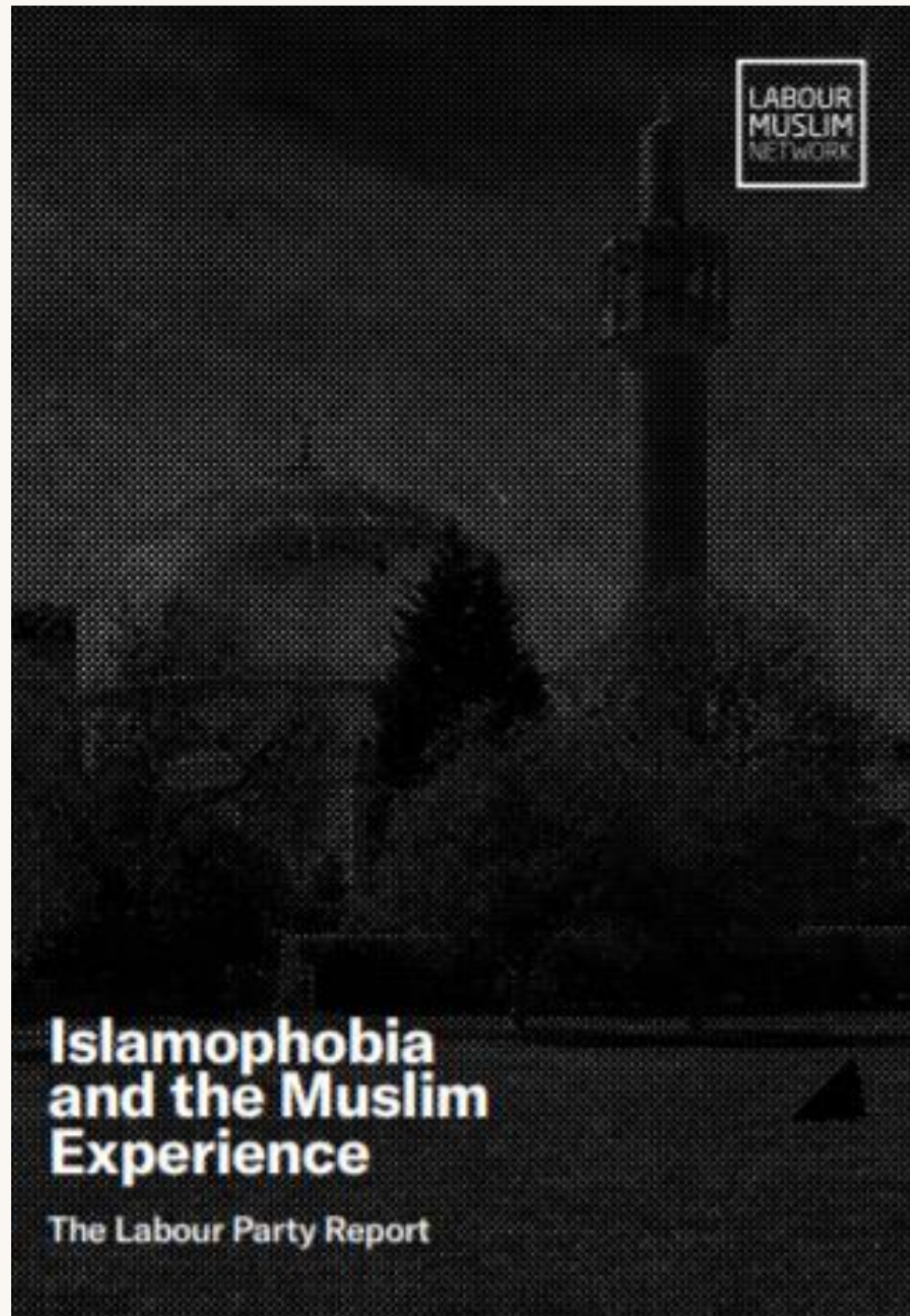
The submission to the Equality and Human Rights Commission contains allegations against 16 MPs, one MEP, nine election candidates and 183 party members according to the MCB. They want the body to investigate the party

SHARE   

By **Nicola Bartlett** Political Correspondent & **Sam Blewett**
17:03, 5 MAR 2020 | UPDATED: 17:50, 5 MAR 2020

NEWS

2) Islamophobia in Politics : other parties & think tanks



- Over 1 in 4 (29%) Muslim members and supporters have directly experienced Islamophobia in the Labour Party
- Over 1 in 3 (37%) have directly witnessed Islamophobia within the Labour Party
- Nearly half of Muslim members (44%) and supporters do not believe the Labour Party takes the issue of Islamophobia seriously
- 59% of Muslim members and supporters do not feel “well represented by the leadership of the Labour Party.”

3) Verbal/Physical Violence

Darren Osborne jailed for life for Finsbury Park terrorist attack

Van attack on north London mosque left one man dead and 12 injured

Man who ripped off woman's veil while shouting "You f*ing stupid Muslim" is jailed**

Peter Scotter, 56, pleads guilty to racially aggravated assault by beating

Man tried to kill Muslim woman and 12-year-old girl as 'revenge' for terror attacks

Paul Moore said he was 'doing the country a favour' after targeting woman wearing headscarf

Evans threatened to use a power drill on his kneecaps and feet, and screamed at the Islam-convert: "We don't like Muslims over here, you know. I f***ing hate them."

3. Hate & Prejudice Faced by Muslims

3 Perceived religion of victims of religious hate crimes

Key results

- Just under half (47%) of religious hate crime offences were targeted against Muslims (3,530 offences), a similar proportion to last year;
- A further 18% religious hate crime offences were targeted against Jewish people (1,326 offences).

Home Office - Hate Crime (2018/2019)

74.5% Muslim respondents felt Islamophobia 'getting worse'

TellMAMA - Islamophobia in North East England (2020)

In 2017/18, where the perceived religion of the victim was recorded, just over half (52%) of religious hate crime offences were targeted against Muslims (2,965 offences). This is a much greater proportion than the proportion of the population on England and Wales that identify as Muslims. In the 2011 Census, 4.8 per cent of the population of England and Wales identified as Muslim.

The next most commonly targeted group were Jewish people, who were targeted in 12 per cent of religious hate crimes (672 offences). Around 0.5% of the population in England and Wales identified as Jewish in the 2011 Census.

Home Office - Hate Crime (2017/2018)

It is possible to make a difference starting small....



miqdaad versi

miqdaad versi is head of public affairs at the Muslim Council of Britain. He is writing in a personal capacity



December 2019

Denial, obfuscation, apathy: why it's so hard to get Islamophobia on the political agenda

I've been trying to hold Boris Johnson's Tories accountable for their anti-Muslim members. Here's what I've learned, says Miqdaad Versi of the Muslim Council of Britain

6 Dec 2019



March 2019

The Tories' response to raging Islamophobia? Turn a blind eye

A litany of unpunished bigotry by MPs should perhaps be no surprise from a party which seems to attract anti-Muslim racists, says Miqdaad Versi



We now have an organisation...



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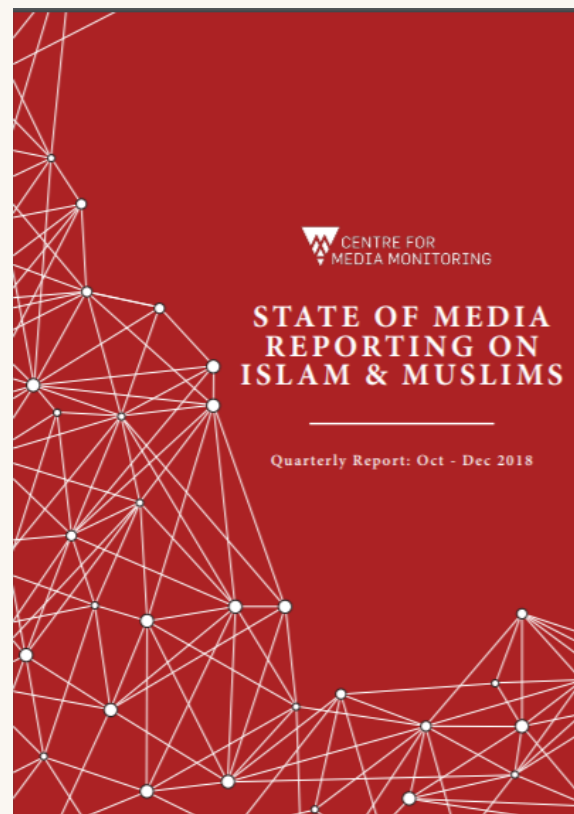
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[CONTACT US](#)

Promoting Fair And Responsible Reporting Of Muslims And Islam

CfMM engages constructively with the media, and empowers communities to make a change

[About Us](#)



What can be done at the Harrow Council level?

1. **Reach out & listen** to those who raise questions of Islamophobia, whether or not they raise them in the way that you would hope
2. Publicly and unequivocally demonstrate **solidarity** with those who are victims of Islamophobia, not just with words but action:
 - **Islamophobia Awareness Month**
 - Short statements & videos by leadership
 - Embed an understanding of Islamophobia in the Council (definition and more broadly)
 - **Events** like this
3. Change processes to ensure action is behind words of support

Any questions?

m.versi@mcb.org.uk