

What the Papers say

About Islam & Muslims

EXPLAINED

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1.0 Summary

1.1 What the Papers Say

This is a survey of press coverage of Islam and Muslims in the UK, other Western countries, and the Muslim world, by British and other English language sources.

The survey gives the headlines of over 700 news reports and articles published over the last 18 months of which 265 directly concern the UK, and in most cases gives short extracts further revealing content and meaning. Popular readers' comments are also sometimes given.

It concentrates on **social, religious, and political** topics and mostly ignores terrorism and armed conflicts in the Muslim world.

We have here in the UK

A parallel legal system that treats women unfairly
Extremism in schools
Imams who know and care nothing of Britain
Polygamy
Segregation of women
Political corruption
Painful slaughter of animals
Denial of common civilities (showing your face)
Rejection of Interfaith relationships (a Muslim woman may not marry a non-Muslim man)
Support of violence
Increasing restrictions on freedom of speech
Self-segregation, etc., etc.

And in addition in countries where Islam dominates

Violent punishments (for what most civilised people would not consider crimes; protest, atheism, standing too close to your boyfriend)
Lack of freedom of religion
Threat of death for apostasy
Threat of death and violent punishment for supposed blasphemy
Unequal treatment of women
Child marriage
Persecution of religious minorities
Enforcing Islamic practices on non-Muslims
A man can (lightly) beat his wife, etc., etc.

1.2 Is this a Fair Picture?

There are several good reasons why this is a fair picture of Islam. The great majority of stories are true, they are not distorted and they are representative.

1.2.1 Picture is Supported by Expert Surveys and Opinion Polls Asking Muslims What They Think

A significant proportion of British Muslims hold views that produce the behaviours described above. **It is not an insignificant few percent; it can be a fifth, a third, or even more, depending on the issue.**

Chapter 6 summarises the results of surveys and polls of British Muslims carried out by expert research organisations.

One of the most important findings says:

"Just over half of British Muslims said they wanted to "fully integrate" (53%), and 37% said they wanted to integrate "on most things" with separation in some areas, such as schooling and laws." 6% sought a "separate Islamic life as far as possible".

"Schooling and laws", what could be more important! Nearly four out of ten wishing to live by their own rules concerning schools and the law (even if only certain aspects) is alarming, and a huge problem if most of them, and the 6% who want total separation, live together in the same areas.

The behaviours described above could become the norm in parts of Britain and a trigger for intercommunal strife on a frightening scale. [1]

Chapter 6 also summarises expert surveys carried out amongst Muslims in other Western countries and in parts of the Muslim world and they provide an equally if not more alarming picture.

Surveys carried out by Pew, one of the most renowned research organisations, showed in the greater part of the Muslim world 37% of Muslims favour the death penalty for apostasy. In France 29% of French Muslims consider Muslim law and sharia more important than French laws. [2]

1.2.2 It is the Whole Press, Left, Right, and Centre, Big, Small, here in the UK, and Overseas, that Brings Us this News

It is a remarkable fact that all the sectors of the press, across the political spectrum, popular and quality, are sources of worrying news about Islam and what Muslims do and believe: not just here in the UK, but in Europe, Australia, Canada, the United States; large international news corporations, independents and small specialist publications.

The English language press of the Muslim world itself produces alarming stories.[3]

Even the Guardian,[4] a newspaper that regularly gives a platform to Muslims who complain and will admit no cause for non-Muslims to be worried, typically represented by the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), can't ignore what is going on.

There are headlines and extracts from 265 news reports and articles covering the UK in Chapter 2.

The Guardian accounts for 19%, The Times 19%, the BBC 9%, The Telegraph and the Daily Mail, 8% each, The Independent (a news website) 4%, and the Daily Express 1%. This is 68% of all the UK reports covered. There are two reports (0.7%) from The Sun.

1.2.3 Expert Opinion

Notwithstanding criticism of parts of the press for *"a significant tendency.... which leads to the publication of prejudicial or pejorative references to race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or physical or mental illness or disability"*, Lord Leveson said in his report following his extensive year-long inquiry into the culture, practices and ethics of the press

".... it is important that stories are accurate, and not calculated to exacerbate community divisions or increase resentment. the majority of the Press appear to discharge this responsibility with care" [5]

An earlier massive study [6] of press coverage of Islam and Muslims involved interviews with a number of Muslim journalists, who made remarks such as:

"I think the press has been pretty fair to Muslims. They don't really need to stitch people up, they do a good enough job of that themselves. My view is Muslims have got to address issues themselves, things like anti-semitism and homophobia that seem to be unchangeable within Muslim communities. As far as I'm concerned newspapers just report them as they are." (Reporter C, p66)

"I take issue with many things done by British Muslims. If the media was doing its job it would help Britain's two million Muslims to be able to develop a kind of reasoned, questioning attitude within itself. And you are beginning to see that a bit." (Reporter D, p67)

1.2.4 Minority Muslim Voices

Muslims too have their say. Chapter 5 is a selection of reports authored by Muslims or reporting their feelings ranging from the unhappy experiences, especially of women with patriarchal attitudes and sharia courts, to sweeping criticism of a religion stuck in the past.

"At the age of just 16 the Iranian woman was forced by her father to marry a man who was a decade older. She says she didn't want to, but Islam left her with 'no rights'."

"I went around all the Sharia courts - I remember sitting crying in front of the imams after all the beatings and black eyes - but all they wanted was money."

"Just imagine a religion that a thousand years ago stopped adding anything, stopped changing, stopped renewing itself. Therefore the way Muslims think is at complete odds with our times, because they think according to the logic of a thousand years ago."

"The world's largest Muslim youth organisation - the youth wing of Indonesia's largest Muslim organisation called for a re-examination of Islamic text to adapt it to modern civilisation."

.... in Islam too little is being questioned and too much simply taken for granted. He warned: "Islam, as it is now, is not sustainable," and said he wanted to "reshape the face" of his religion. Islam is "out of touch with the present" in the way it is currently taught.

Yes, it is a Fair Picture!

A very large number of British Muslims practice their religion in ways most modern people find objectionable and in ways that cause trouble, and that is why there is so much news about Islam and Muslims. **Islam and Muslims are not being deliberately picked on.**

They simply produce more than "their share" of bad and disturbing news.

This is equally true of Muslims in other parts of the Western world and in the Muslim world itself which sets an appalling example of backwardness.

1.3 Muslim Response

Unfortunately many, if not most, Muslims think the press itself is the cause of all the bad news. For example:

".... Every day, as I walk to work past newsstands, it seems there's another front-page splash demonising some aspect of Islam." [7]

"It [the press] should be threatened with sanctions to make it stop its misrepresentative portrayal of Muslims". [8]

They can't bring themselves to recognise, whatever the imperfections of a free and diverse press, the great majority of news stories about Islam and Muslims report events fairly; they are telling the public what really goes on. Muslim "spokespeople" certainly don't help.

1.3.1 Miqdaad Versi and the MCB

Miqdaad Versi, an Assistant Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), regularly surveys the press and media for inaccuracies in their reports concerning Islam and Muslims and on finding an inaccuracy makes a complaint to the publication or the Media authorities. [9]

Some inaccuracies are serious, some are errors that don't really change the message of the article, some are complaints that could be disputed, and some "mistakes" are at least understandable.

For example, Versi complains against a newspaper that refers to "Islamic honour killings". Islam teaches no such thing he says. Islamic teaching might not include honour killings but it clearly teaches death is the punishment for the "dishonourable" crimes of adultery and apostasy.[10]

His complaints also indicate a misplaced sense of priorities. He got the Mail on Sunday to publish a correction to an article that said the Chair of Governors of St Stephens school in Newham resigned because "Staff were too frightened to come to school". More correctly he might have resigned because he said something very rude about a local imam.

This was just one incident in a saga of nastiness by Muslims protesting at the school's ban of hijabs for under-eight year old girls; a protest that involved a torrent of vile and hateful remarks against the Muslim headmistress of a very successful school. The MCB have nothing to say about this stream of hate that might well have worried staff. Evidence also suggests the protest was largely engineered by Muslim activists unconnected with the school.[11]

What Versi thinks is a distortion or inaccuracy is not necessarily what others find faulty. In his latest blast against the press (in the Guardian) he says *"How are we supposed to understand the fake "Islamic plot" to take over schools in Birmingham in many papers"*. [12]

"Plot" may or may not be the best description of this affair but there is no doubt, the evidence is well-documented and overwhelming, that certain Muslims involved in schools and teaching set about imposing extreme Islamic practices and views in state funded schools; practices and views, the great majority of British people find objectionable. He, Versi, might think this is OK, but the rest of us don't.

Though misreporting is a serious matter no perspective is given. All we have are 45 complaints lodged by Versi covering a two year period when there must have been 1000s if not 10s of thousand of news reports about Islam and Muslims, the vast proportion of which were correct in essentials and in their portrayal of Muslim behaviour.

MCB support of conspiracy theories?

Given his interest in the press Versi might explain the views of Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra, another Assistant Secretary General of the MCB. Mogra is co-author of The Oxford Teacher Handbook for GCSE Islam. In a section on "Islam in the media" the book says

"...[M]any Muslims feel they are the targets of a sinister agenda, and that there is a commitment on the part of big news corporations to demonise them at any opportunity", and

"As the role of the RE [Religious Education] teacher requires both an appreciation and appraisal of religions, it is important to redress the imbalance of constant negativity about Islam and Muslims in the media...." [13]

What next, are we going to get the "Protocols of the Elders of Fleet Street"? It is, of course, a disgrace that such a questionable opinion is supported and published in a guide for teachers published by Oxford University Press.

MCB support of segregation?

Mogra is also reported in a Huffington Post article [14] saying in regard to interfaith relationships *"Islam says it's forbidden. And I think to have your daughter openly go against God's law is and can be very very difficult."* Apparently, such relationships can generate opprobrium turning into outright violence and intimidation against the individuals involved.

It is Muslim beliefs such as these that do far greater damage to communal harmony and integration than occasional press errors and even rare serious ones.

1.3.2 Baroness Warsi

Another Muslim public figure who doesn't help matters is Baroness Warsi. She talks as if all news stories that throw a bad light on Islam or Muslim behaviour count as "hate speech".

"Women, the disabled, refugees, the LGBT community, BAME none are beyond the wrath of the hateful write up but I am sure few would dispute that Muslims are now their principal targets. This is true not just of two or three notorious dailies, but also of papers some still regard as responsible and ethical."

Anti Muslim hate speech is becoming a regular feature. Let us be very clear about what is happening. Editors are seizing on every opportunity they can find to vilify and marginalise a substantial minority of their fellow-citizens." [15]

IPSO (Independent Press Standards Organisation) only considers claims of discrimination in a news report if the report concerns specific persons. Warsi wants this changed so complaints can be made if the report refers to a whole class of people. If a group of people do something bad or controversial and it is mentioned they are Muslims then complaints from any Muslim should be allowed if it's unfair (and one might add, it could be a big "if") to mention the people in the story are Muslims. [16]

Warsi blames crude commercialisation for stories and headlines that make people angry. Anger and hate sells newspapers she says. Having just published a book *"The Enemy Within - A Tale of Muslim Britain"* she clearly knows something about titles and headlines that sell publications.

The book is overwhelmingly critical of everybody other than Muslims, and even when Muslims might be at fault, that's usually caused by someone else's behaviour, she even says the British government was at fault for not prosecuting Salman Rushdie for blasphemy.

Warsi is possibly an extreme case of a British Muslim who knows all is not well with the practice of her religion in the modern world, but her sense of Muslim identity is so strong she has to say as much as possible to discredit and find fault with non-Muslims who criticise her religion, before she can whisper anything herself that might sound critical of Islam. Her Muslim identity is far more important to her.

What a change there might be if Muslims like Warsi and Versi, took the trouble to address issues concerning Islam that bother the great majority of British people: *a separate legal system that treats women unfairly; Extremism in schools (plotted and otherwise); Imams who know and care nothing of Britain; Polygamy; Segregation of women; Political corruption; Painful slaughter of animals; Denial of common civilities (showing your face); a Muslim woman may not marry a non-Muslim man; etc., etc.*

And, why shouldn't the British public be very wary of Islam in Britain when they see the terrible examples of how Muslims behave in other parts of the world?

NOTES

[1] The figures quoted are from an ICM survey carried out for Policy Exchange in December 2016. Other survey organisations have produced the same result. **There is a very large British Muslim minority who are at odds with British society.**

- A third (33%) of UK Muslim adults do not feel "part of British culture", Opinium Research, May 2016;
- One in three (33%) refuse to condemn acts of violence against people who mock Mohammed, ICM for Channel 4, April 2016;
- NEARLY one in four (25%) British Muslims would support Sharia law replacing UK law in some areas of the country;
- One in five (20%) British Muslims believe British liberal society can never be compatible with Islam, ComRes for the BBC.

The Casey Review of community cohesion in Britain shows we are already on a very dangerous road! *".... some communities are becoming more segregated. Too many people in this country have been living parallel lives, refusing to integrate, as politicians ducked the controversial issues of social integration for fear of being called racist."*

[2] IFOP for Institut Montaigne, September 2016

[3] Al-Monitor, Daily News Egypt, The New Arab, Hürriyet Daily News, Rabwah Times, Dawn, The Express Tribune, for example.

[4] Of particular note are Guardian readers' comments. Nearly half the UK examples of most popular comments given in this survey are from the Guardian. All of them are

critical of Islam or Muslims, and especially so when the Guardian article explains, if not defends, the Islamic behaviour by partly blaming others or non-Islamic factors.

The volume of negative comments (from generally well educated people judging by their spelling, grammar, and content), was so great the Guardian dramatically cut-back the number of articles concerning Islam or Muslims on which it allowed comments. And, on those it still publishes with comments, curtails comments early.

[5] The Leveson Inquiry into the Culture, Practices and Ethics of the Press. HMSO. Report, November 2012, Vol II, p673

[6] *The search for common ground Muslims, non-Muslims and the UK media*. Greater London Authority, November 2007

[7] [See here](#)

[8] Mehdi Hasan, a presenter for *al-Jazeera English* and former political director of the *Huffington Post UK*, speaking in a personal capacity at a media industry event as reported by *The Guardian*. [See here](#)

[9] Media Misreporting [See here](#). Of the 45 complaints currently listed on the MCB's website, Mail publications account for 10, The Sun 10, the BBC 8, the Express 7, and the Times/Sunday Times 7.

The whole list warrants analysis for the gravity or otherwise of the complaints. Amongst complaints that most people would not think deserve the condemnation pushed by the MCB are three against the BBC.

- The BBC invited a public figure well known for his criticism of Islam onto a programme.

Why shouldn't it? The BBC invites well known Muslims or supporters of Islam on its programmes. A good example was the BBC having Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra, an Assistant Secretary General of the MCB, as the morning paper reviewer.

- The BBC mistakenly added a pillar, "female modesty", to the five pillars of Islam.

Most people would take that as a compliment or at least a figure of speech.

- The MCB called the statement made by the BBC "*The Holocaust is a sensitive subject for many Muslims because Jewish survivors settled in Palestine which became the State of Israel*" inflammatory, and the BBC withdrew it.

The MCB boycotted *Holocaust* Memorial Day because it did not also commemorate the deaths of Palestinians and other minorities. Clearly a sensitive subject for the MCB.

[10] See Chapter 6. The International Men and Gender Equality Survey of nearly 10,000 men in Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Palestine found nearly three-fifths (60%) of Egyptian men agree with honour killing in some circumstances.

[11] Section 2.2 in Chapter 2 concentrates on reports concerning Islam in Schools. A good account of what really happened at St Stephens is given in "*The battle for British Muslims' integration*", Standpoint, May 2018, [See here](#)

[12] "*Islamophobia not an issue in the British press? You've got to be kidding*". The Guardian, 27 April 2018, [See here](#)

[13] The Oxford Teacher Handbook for GCSE Islam. OUP Oxford, June 2017, p107

[14] *"The Beating of a Hidden Heart"*, The Huffington Post UK, September 2014 [See here](#)

All four Islamic law schools forbid a Muslim woman from marrying a non-Muslim man. See Chapter 3, p59 and p60, for news items concerning this matter.

[15] Baroness Warsi delivers the fifth annual Leveson lecture – Transcript [See here](#)

[16] Discrimination as defined by IPSO. i) The press must avoid prejudicial or pejorative reference to an individual's, race, colour, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation or to any physical or mental illness or disability. ii) Details of an individual's race, colour, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental illness or disability must be avoided unless genuinely relevant to the story.


Links to Articles

An online pdf copy of this survey is available at:

<https://islamsurveyed.com/view-download-summary-reports/>

It gives live web links to all the news reports and articles mentioned.

Quick Reading

The symbol  marks a selection of typical news reports and articles. They give the reader a quick but representative picture of what the papers tell us about Islam and Muslims.

2.0 What the Papers Say - UK

2.1 General

May

Oxford Pakistan Society accused of "intolerance and bigotry"

The leaders of Oxford's Pakistan Society have been accused of "intolerance and bigotry" against the Ahmadi religious minority after they allegedly neglected to screen a documentary about Dr Abdus Salam. Salam, who identified as an Ahmadi (or Ahmadiyya) Muslim, was the first Pakistani to win a Nobel Prize.

[*Cherwell Newspaper*]

Islamophobia is real. Stop the obsession with semantics

.... most people of good faith understand that Islamophobia as a concept or social phenomenon also goes beyond a literalist dictionary definition.

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT 718 votes] Islamophobia is used to silence any and all criticism of an ideology. Which, like any other ideology, should be open to perfectly legitimate criticism.

[5TH 384] The distinction between legitimate criticism and 'phobia' is purely in the mind of the beholder. Britain is certainly a more tolerant society than many of those based on Islamic beliefs.

[*The Guardian*]

Birmingham woman duped daughter into forced marriage, court told

.... she was first betrothed to the man on a previous visit to Pakistan when she was just 13. They were told that during the trip she was visited by an imam along with her future "husband", who was then 29.

[*The Guardian*]

Lewisham Tory candidate suspended over 'Islamophobic tweets'

.... she tweeted: "The thing is, religion undermines the hard fought for values and tolerances of progressed countries...suppresses free speech and is auto immune from criticism. This is toxic and where the hostility comes from. Religion is totalitarian. Islam has become the new Nazism."

[*BBC*]

April

Exeter Mosque denies links to extremism after receiving donations from radical cleric

Sheikh Sadiq Al-Ghariani - who has been expelled from the UK over his hard-line views - is known to have donated an undisclosed sum of money to Exeter Mosque.

[*DevonLive*]

Multiculturalism has failed

A YouGov poll of 5,200 people commissioned by anti-fascist group Hope Not Hate, found that 43% predicted relationships between different UK communities will deteriorate over the next few years compared to 14% who feel things will improve. More than one-third of all respondents see Islam as a threat to the British way of life, fractionally more

than the proportion who view the Muslim faith and the British way of life as compatible.
[*The Guardian*]

Children report parents after being 'forced to watch beheading video'

Police intervened after the eldest sibling, a teenage girl, contacted Childline to say they "were kept at home, did not attend school and were kept socially isolated, only being allowed out once in every three weeks".

[*The Times*]

March

'Racist slur' by Muslim group against tolerance tsar Sara Khan

The new anti-extremism tsar was described as an "Oreo" by a senior member of a Muslim advocacy group The term is seen as racist because it describes a biscuit which is brown on the outside but white inside.

[*The Times*]

Divisive Muslim lobby group must clean up its act

.... MEND's claim that Britain might "already be close" to creating the same conditions for Muslims that led to the Holocaust is preposterous. Its statistical projections are based on questionable methodology and the unspoken message from its videos about Islamophobia is: "You do know the state hates you, don't you?"

[2ND MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] I do not see either MEND or Cage cleaning up their acts and they will continue to promote their divisive influence on integration of Muslims into British society

[3RD] integrated Muslims don't need a MEND. Radical Muslim groups, however, are very happy to jump on any bandwagon that will fill their coffers, especially from public funds. Naive politicians created this problem and naive politicians are nurturing its expansion.

[*The Times*]

Mosques launch anti-radicalisation scheme as alternative to Prevent

.... The government's flagship anti-radicalisation strategy has attracted condemnation from many Muslims, who see it as a tool for spying on them

[*The Guardian*]

Jeremy Corbyn's drive for tolerance 'gave platform to extremists'

Islamophobia Awareness Month (Iam), which was celebrated in council buildings, universities and schools, featured extremist speakers. The campaign promoted the views of Cage, the pressure group that once described Mohammed Emwazi — Jihadi John — as having been a "beautiful young man".

[*The Times*]

Dame Louise Casey interview: I'm sick of some men's version of Islam: telling women what to do

.... "It's a patriarchal society in some of these areas where essentially the imam and community leaders lead in the name of a religion. They say kids can't go swimming, play music or go to the theatre, it's a deliberate interpretation to pull people further away from mainstream society."

[*The Times*]

As an imam, I'm often asked about women's role in Islam – and this is my message for International Women's Day ♦

The Quran regards men and women as equals in the sight of God. It's time, then, that we champion the success of Muslim women

[READER'S COMMENT] *"The Quran regards men and women as equals in the sight of God"* is a lie. 4:34 in my old Penguin Classics, The Koran, reads *"Men have authority over women because God has made the one superior to the other"*.

I stopped reading there because Quari Asim revealed he either hasn't read the Koran (hardly likely as an imam) or he is using taqiyya - the practice in Islam of lying to gain the trust of infidels.

[*The Independent*]

Nottingham radio station's song against non-Muslims breached rules

The watchdog found the Urdu nasheed "glorified historic violence against infidels" and suggested similar acts committed now would bring honour to Islam.

[*BBC*]

February

Muslim radio station fined for broadcasting 'hate speech' ♦

[*Nottingham Post*]

£6m a year gift aid for Islamic charities linked to extremist speakers

[*The Times*]

MPs endorse Labour council candidate who claimed ISIS doesn't exist

[*Birmingham Mail*]

UK mosques must make space for women – not turn us away

.... Of the 1,975 mosques in Britain, 28% do not offer facilities for women, and up to 50% of all South Asian-run mosques do not accommodate them. When mosques do offer it, the access is restricted, and often does not even include a prayer space, but rather a teaching space, such as a girls' madrasa.

[2ND MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] About time we had journalistic scrutiny of this deep inequality and sexism in the very infrastructure of the faith, my former faith.

.... In fact I would go so far as to say that most Mosques, the small ones in ordinary residential homes and unused spaces above shops, are pretty much a law unto themselves and I am afraid extremist preaching has happened, a lot.

[*The Guardian*]

January

Anti-extremism tsar Sara Khan has no credibility, say Muslim groups

Downing Street was forced yesterday to defend its appointment of Britain's first counterextremism commissioner after complaints from Muslim groups. A petition to the Home Office signed by 100 Muslim organisations and scholars called for Sara Khan to be removed from her new role as head of the Commission for Countering Extremism.

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] So a hundred mullahs are enraged at the appointment of this eminently qualified female.... What is it about this one religious group that thinks it can dictate government policy?

[2ND] Only in Britain. We have a section of the community that has produced virtually every terrorist in the country for the last thirty years and they want to be able to dictate who should be in charge of a counter-extremism initiative.

[6TH] If the Muslim Council of Britain are against Sara Khan then that only means she's doing some good. The MCB, MAB and all other "muslim" groups are nothing more than a front for extremism.

[*The Times*]

BBC Panorama White Fright: 'Blackburn IS more divided'

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] The crux of the matter, as I see it, is that many older (Pakistani-heritage) people never really left Pakistan they just brought it with them and expected that they would be able to live here exactly as they lived there.

Now you would think that the passage of time would erode this and that, slowly, integration would happen.

Yet I see little sign of that, and transcontinental marriage must be a factor in all of this. Many of the young Asian-heritage people that I meet (and I spent years teaching them in a Blackburn high school) do not identify as British. They identify as British PAKISTANIS. There you have the problem.

[*Lancashire Telegraph*]

Why is Britain keeping quiet about Pakistan's assault on free speech?

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] Because if we spoke out about it you'd probably call us out for some sort of Islamophobia or colonial overtones.

[2ND] And what would happen if the UK Government did criticise the Pakistani Government? There would be accusations of Islamophobia and cultural insensitivity, some 'loner with mental health and drug issues' will either blow himself up or plough into a bus stop and then we'll get the usual cycle of self blame and hand wringing.

[*The Guardian*]

December 2017

Amir Khan and wife Faryal Makhdoom receive death threats for putting up a Christmas tree

[*Manchester Evening News*]

Radio Dawn told listeners to ignore non-Muslim doctors ♦

The scholar, who was described on the phone-in programme as "the Mufti", said that it was unacceptable for a diabetic to miss fasting days during Ramadan on the recommendation of a non-Muslim.

[*The Times*]

November 2017

Ahmadi mosques on guard over death threats from Muslims

[*The Times*]

Charity boss's links to online hate ♦

A charity handing out millions of pounds to mosques and other organisations in Britain is run by a former Qatari official who founded a website that instructed Muslims to hate Jews and Christians.
[*The Telegraph*]

Muslim road rage driver who hadn't eaten for 20 days during Ramadan has jail sentence cut

.... there was "substantial mitigation" and that the driver had not received sufficient credit for his guilty pleas. It was also claimed that Aslam was a "quiet" family man and had been fasting for 20 days at the time of the incident.
[*Daily Express*]

No Safe Haven: Persecution Continues for Pakistani Religious Minorities in UK

The attacks by Pakistani Sunni Muslims on Christians and Ahmadiyya Muslims in the UK indicates that the religious hatred generated throughout Pakistan's educational curriculum remains embedded in some Pakistani Sunni communities in the UK.
[*Conatus News*]

The latest Prevent figures show why the strategy needs an independent review

[POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] If the author thinks Muslims are being targeted disproportionately by Prevent, he should look at the pattern of terrorist attacks in the UK. On the day that Hebridean grandmothers are committing most of the attacks then I'll suggest targeting them.
[*The Guardian*]

'Those who denounce Prevent as Islamophobic are themselves dangerous'

[*Tes Global*]

Far right and Islamic terrorists 'thrive' on political correctness, says Dame Louise Casey

In our desire to embrace diversity we are creating division. The far right is growing and they are milking it every time we are overly politically correct and unable to deal with Islamic extremism.
[*The Times*]

Jury did not have enough Muslims, says rape convict

A man jailed for raping and threatening to kill his wife has begun an appeal because he felt that there were not enough Muslims on the jury.
[*The Times*]

October 2017

Beaten up for poppies on his car

Tajamal Amar, 46, a food delivery driver in Derby, said he believed the men attacked him because they regarded him as a kaffir (infidel) and he displayed his support for British armed forces.
[*The Times*]

Teacher has SIX kids with TWO wives - but admits he loves one partner more than the other

He spoke after Birmingham Labour MP Jess Phillips criticised a dating website which helps Muslim men find second wives. Secondwife.com describes itself as a "Muslim polygamy matchmaking service" for "practising Muslims who are seeking marriage and accept polygamy as a lifestyle".

[*Birmingham Mail*]

Storm over secondwife.com polygamy site for Muslims ♦

There have been calls for the website to be shut down for treating women like "ornaments" to be collected. An MP, a Muslim women's rights campaigner and a prominent Islamic scholar raised concerns yesterday that it was encouraging a practice that can leave women with no legal rights.

[*The Times*]

Freshers' fair students are bombarded with leaflets promoting Muslim extremists who call for homosexuals to be killed and say the punishment for mocking Allah is death

[*Daily Mail*]

Market trader, 56, is BANNED from town centre after selling Knights Templar coffee mugs that are 'offensive' to Muslims

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT 10,305 votes] Pathetic country we live in. Are they going to ban all shops and butchers from selling pork now?

[*Daily Mail*]

Market trader banned for selling Knights Templar mugs - because of who they killed 700 years ago

.... last Friday she was told she could no longer trade at any Loughborough market, as concerns had been raised about her selling Knights Templar coffee mugs.

[*The Leicester Mercury*]

Integration of Pakistani women 'shockingly bad'

[*The Times*]

September 2017

Non-violent Islamist groups serve as recruitment pool for jihadists

More than three quarters of British jihadists have been involved with non-violent Islamist groups before turning to foreign fighting and carrying out terrorist attacks, a report has indicated.

[*The Times*]

Top university accepts Islamic Society's gender-segregated event was 'unlawful' ♦

The London School of Economics (LSE) came under fire in March last year after the Islamic Society held a gala dinner for which students had to buy separate tickets depending on whether they were a "brother" or a "sister".

[*The Independent*]

Lidl removes crosses from Greek church on food packaging in attempt to be 'religiously neutral'

[*The Independent*]

August 2017

Britain is 'home to 35,000 Islamist fanatics', more than any other country in Europe, top official warns

[*The Telegraph*]

Moderate Muslims need help from all of us

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] there is no moderate version of the Koran. People interpret it the way they see fit. Currently, the leader of ISIS, Abu Bakr al Bahgdadi, interprets it literally. And he has a doctorate in Islamic Studies.

[2ND] As part of the (failed) multi-culturalism experiment one section of society alone has been left to self-police and failed miserably. One religion alone is constantly shown to be intolerant of both its own adherents and former followers (never mind about non-believers). How many death threats has the apostate Aliyah Saleem received?

[*The Times*]

Why I know that ISIS is a problem of MY religion: Leading activist SARA KHAN on why it is the job of fellow Muslims to defeat terror

.... counter-terrorism initiatives need to recognise this existential battle for the soul of Islam and support those Muslims who are on the frontline. It is a battle we must win.

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] Lost cause when Muslims detest western values and don't want to integrate.

[2ND] All these deaths because people believing in fairy tales, I don't need religion to enable me to be a decent human being.

[*Daily Mail*]

Man vows never to return to Aldi after spotting sign saying cashier is unable to sell alcohol

[*Metro.co.uk*]

Accepting the notion of 'Islamophobia' means the end of legitimate criticism of Islam. We cannot allow de facto blasphemy to destroy our liberal values

The notion of 'Islamophobia' is constructed out of a desire to perpetuate a siege mentality and sense of victimhood amongst Muslims, or to put an end to legitimate criticism, or to engage in lazy abuse.

[*Conatus News*]

Ranking countries by their blasphemy laws

The five countries deemed to practise the grossest violations of international standards were all Muslim-majority lands. Top came Iran and Pakistan, both countries where "blasphemers" can face death.

[*The Economist*]

Prevent scheme could be made compulsory, police lead says

.... Cole hit out at those criticising Prevent, such as former Met police superintendent Dal Babu, and those who said it was a cover for a spying programme on innocent people. He said: "This notion of Prevent as a toxic brand is simply incorrect, and is borne from misunderstanding. What I would like to hear more of is constructive dialogue about how we can all work together to stop innocent people being killed.

[*The Guardian*]

Prevent criticism 'stems from ignorance'

.... some criticism came from parts of the community that "don't want Prevent to work in the first place".

[BBC]

Protests at Birmingham mosque over controversial cleric ♦

He is accused of promoting the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM).

[BBC]

July 2017

Saudi Arabia boosting extremism in Europe, says former ambassador

.... he did not believe Saudi Arabia was directly funding terrorist groups, but rather an ideology that leads to extremism, and suggested that its leaders might not be aware of the consequences. "It is unhealthy and we need to do something about it," he said.

.... "That is a dialogue we need to have. They are not funding terrorism. They are funding something else, which may down the road lead to individuals being radicalised and becoming fodder for terrorism."

[The Guardian]

Tunstall imam to go on trial accused of glorifying Islamic State at mosque

The 39-year-old is alleged to have encouraged support for the terror group, as well as influencing his congregation at a mosque to carry out terrorist acts. According to two of the charges, Hussain, of Knightsbridge Way, Tunstall, addressed a meeting at the mosque to 'encourage support for a proscribed organisation, namely Islamic State'.

[The Sentinel]

Rudd's refusal to publish full report into extremist funding 'unacceptable'

.... The summary said the most common source of support for extremist organisations was from small, anonymous public donations, mainly from individuals in the UK.

It also said overseas backing helped some individuals study at institutions "that teach deeply conservative forms of Islam and provide highly socially conservative literature and preachers to the UK's Islamic institutions", adding: "Some of these individuals have since become of extremist concern."

[The Guardian]

Muslim FM radio station broadcast 25 hours of Al Qaeda speeches calling for a holy war 'by mistake'

A complaint was made to Ofcom, which has suspended the Sheffield-based station's licence.

[Daily Mail]

Saudi Arabia has 'clear link' to UK extremism, report says ♦

.... The Saudi embassy in London says the claims are "categorically false". Meanwhile, ministers are under pressure to publish their own report on UK-based Islamist groups.

[BBC]

UK mosques should appoint British-born imams, says report

[The Guardian]

Mosques must appoint British-born imams with good English, report concludes

.... many imams are born and educated overseas, but said: "It is of great importance that British-born imams, who have a good understanding of British culture and who fluently speak English, are encouraged and appointed in preference to overseas alternatives."

[*The Telegraph*]

June 2017

In Plain Sight: MEND, CAGE, and So-Called "Non-Violent Extremism"

.... whilst being filmed by an undercover reporter for Channel 4 Dispatches, Azad was recorded as saying that democracy should be dispensed with if its result is not the imposition of Sharia law: "Democracy, if it means at the expense of not implementing the sharia, of course no-one agrees with that."

[*Conatus News*]

Tariq Ramadan's 'Debate' 'Within the Islamic Tradition' on Female Circumcision

Tariq Ramadan Defends Female Genital Mutilation: 'Part of Our Tradition' and an 'Internal Discussion' for Muslims Only.

[*Tendance Coatesy*]

Stop fretting over religious sensitivities. We must push hard against Islamists ♦

With our liberal blessings, extremist preachers are free to promote their hatred, virtually unchallenged.

[*The Guardian*]

My guide dog and I have been turned away by taxis 30 times – and it still hurts

It's happened to me 30 times or more in 18 years of working with a guide dog – but no words can describe just how crushed and assaulted I felt this week when an Uber driver refused to carry me with my guide dog in Hertfordshire.

[POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] "*Cultural misunderstanding*" my foot. Unfortunately these groups think their religion overrides the law.

[ANOTHER] Cultural misunderstanding? Shame we can't talk about which culture is having problems understanding.

[*The Guardian*]

Diversity is Britain's greatest strength. It must be at the top of the political agenda

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] Come to the UK if you have something to contribute, obey the laws of the land, do all of the integration yourself - and do not expect your host to accommodate your old language, your supposed norms or your cultural quirks. If that is too much to sacrifice - we can do without you enriching us.

[2ND] "*Yet diversity is necessary for the legitimacy of any representative democracy.*"

Why? If you come to a fairly homogeneous society - why should exceptions be made for diversity? How does a less diverse society somehow lack legitimacy? Are the Japanese bad?

[*The Guardian*]

Good Morning Britain fans disturbed by Muslim Imam's live interview about UK terrorism

Imam Yunus Dudhwala told presenters Piers Morgan and Susanna Reid that there is no extremist preaching in UK mosques despite being confronted with evidence to prove otherwise.

[*DIGITAL SPY*]

Welby says Islamism is everything to do with Islam, and Muslim leaders must take responsibility

The Archbishop of Canterbury has boldly gone where other religious leaders fear to tread, and politicians daren't hardly ever go. Cutting straight across the liturgical denials of those who preach that terrorists who blow themselves up crying 'Allahu Akbar!' are "not Muslims"; and those who believe that slicing people's throats on London Bridge shouting 'This is for Allah!' is "nothing to do with Islam", Justin Welby has sounded a trumpet from his holy mountain.

[*Archbishop Cranmer*]

General Election 2017: Police to guard polling stations in Tower Hamlets to stop voter intimidation

[*Evening Standard*]

British Imam: 'Not a single mosque in the UK promotes extremism'

'It's the Internet. It's foreign policy, identity, and previous criminal behaviour that we need to address.'

[*Yahoo News UK*]

Archbishop of Canterbury says we must not disconnect terror from its religious roots

[*KentOnline*]

Anti-Semite and a Muslim Brotherhood supporter behind new UK mosque

Plans for a new mosque in Britain have been overseen by a cleric reported to be a supporter of the Muslim Brotherhood and a Kuwaiti official who claims Jews orchestrated the September 11 attacks.

[*The Telegraph*]

Nazir Afzal accuses Islamist groups of peddling 'myths' on UK's Prevent anti-extremist strategy

The country's most prominent Muslim lawyer, Nazir Afzal, claimed that an "industry" of Muslims groups are spreading false information on the Prevent strategy.

[*The Sun*]

May 2017

Leaders at Didsbury Mosque attended by Manchester bomber admit they have a 'lot to learn'

Faith leaders at a mosque attended by Manchester Arena bomber Salman Abedi have said they need to do more to deter young people away from extremism - and have admitted they have 'a lot to learn'.

[*Manchester Evening News*]

Manchester attack: Question Time debates 'Didsbury Mosque' leaflet

.... a spokesman for the Didsbury Mosque has said the leaflet was not printed by the mosque and did not carry its name, but admitted that unauthorised leaflets are sometimes left by people who are not affiliated with them.

[BBC]

Students at bomber's university tried to sabotage Prevent anti-terror scheme because it 'demonises Muslims'

The Muslim chaplain for both Manchester University and Manchester Metropolitan University, said the scheme needed to be 'wrapped up' and said society should 'move on'. Prevent places a legal duty on universities to report any signs of students becoming radicalised to the authorities.

[Daily Mail]

The Wahhabi Threat - Westerners must wake up to the danger in our midst

Even if there was no direct link between the action of Salman Abedi and the Saudi or Wahhabi state, the latter has spent untold millions in spreading its version of rigorism in the world, on creating the atmosphere in which it flourishes and without which it would not survive.

[City Journal]

"We cannot allow this" - Muslim students hold open-air prayer in protest at loss of religious space

A spokesman said: "As part of a £2m investment in new library study spaces and the complete refurbishment of the university's main lecture theatres the use of a prayer facility near Lecture Theatre 2 will be temporarily unavailable for safety reasons during the building works.

[Eastern Daily Press]

Historian Tom Holland on Isis, receiving death threats and why there is a 'civil war' in the Muslim world

He argues that Isis "self-consciously draws on Islamic scriptures, texts and episodes from Mohammed's life to justify what they're doing".

[Evening Standard]

April 2017

Theresa May criticised by Muslim MPs for scheduling general election during Ramadan_♦

[Evening Standard]

Welsh schoolgirl taken to Saudi against her will had warned school, charity says

Last year a British court ordered that Mohammed al-Jeffery must "permit and facilitate" his daughter's return to the UK after he removed her from school on account of her "un-Islamic" behaviour and took her out of the country. He refused to comply with the order.

[The Guardian]

Children taken to meet Islamic preacher who had 'promoted and encouraged religious violence'

A primary school took children on a trip to meet an Islamic preacher, just months after the High Court ruled the imam an 'extremist' who had 'promoted and encouraged religious violence'.

[*The Telegraph*]

Hardline cleric is invited to UK by Islamic charity for fundraising tour ♦

Yasir Qadhi, a Saudi-educated American academic, has been recorded apparently telling students that killing homosexuals and stoning adulterers was part of their religion. Dr Qadhi, who features in an eight-city tour starting this month, described Islamic punishments such as cutting off the hands of thieves as "very beneficial to society"

[*The Times*]

Islamist who claimed killing British soldiers was 'justified' becomes director of a controversial Muslim pressure group with influence over Westminster

[*Daily Mail*]

The Enemy Within: A Tale of Muslim Britain by Sayeeda Warsi – review

.... Warsi is at her best delivering a withering polemic on the flaws in government rhetoric and policy on extremism and multiculturalism. In a chapter entitled "Islamophobia", she dismisses the approach of David Cameron and other former colleagues as "nonsense".

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] Religious identity should be a private matter and our society should become more secular, religiously neutral and communal, not several parallel.

[ANOTHER POPULAR COMMENT] What is Baroness Warsi's position on the Rushdie fatwa? Some reviews are suggesting that she advocated his prosecution for blasphemy. That can't be right, can it?

[*The Guardian*]

March 2017

Charity put extremist imam on stage with Lib Dem leader

His appearance came only six weeks after a High Court judge ruled that Mr Begg, an imam in Lewisham, south London, espoused extremist views and promoted religious violence. Mr Begg had accused the BBC of libel for calling him an extremist but Mr Justice Haddon-Cave ruled in favour of the broadcaster.

[*The Times*]

BBC Asian Network apologises for asking 'What is the right punishment for blasphemy?' ♦

Presenter Shazia Awan suggested viewers should weigh in on Pakistan's request for Facebook to crack down on blasphemous content. She said Pakistan's Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, had called blasphemy an "unpardonable offence" and asked: "Do you agree with this? Is this the right way to handle blasphemy?"

[*The Independent*]

Caller Tells BBC On Air: 'Those Who Insult Islam Should be Killed'

A self-identified Birmingham Muslim has told the BBC that those who "insult Islam" should be subject to the death penalty, during a discussion on blasphemy organised by the broadcaster's Asian Network. On March 17th, the BBC Asian Network broadcast a programme asking listeners, "What is the right punishment for blasphemy?"

[Breitbart London]

Imams to be told to preach in English at mosques

Imams are to be encouraged to deliver their sermons in English under measures being prepared to rid Britain of hate preaching.

The Telegraph has been told that the counter-extremism taskforce is working on the plans amid concern that preaching in foreign languages enforces divisions between Islam and mainstream British society and can foster radicalisation.

[The Telegraph]

The town that pioneered multiculturalism

This is a district built on the absorption of strangers, particularly sailors from all corners of the globe, and the resulting community is one of the most truly mixed I've ever seen. The area gave us Shirley Bassey

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] Guardian confusing multiculturalism with multiracialism again I see. Author failing to understand the distinction between assimilation, racial integration, and multiculturalism. Throughout the article praise is heaped on the two former eg "very British Muslims" in the name of the latter. Multiculturalism is about people retaining intact their cultural identities. Not mixing them.

[ANOTHER POPULAR COMMENT] Very woolly thinking here. The examples show how assimilation and integration are both excellent well worn paths for newcomers to Britain over the ages. And how multiculturalism the antithesis of integration has failed. And miserably so.

[The Guardian]

Islam – unlike Christianity – refuses to see virtue in secularism

Lots of these young Muslims, though not very religious, saw it as their duty to become more religious as they grew up and settled down. Religion, for them, was an essential part of becoming responsible, civic-minded, family-minded, and about putting away youthful selfishness. And – the other side of the coin – secularism was assumed to be devoid of such healthy values, the site of mere hedonism.

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] It's no good us saying what Islam needs because we are unbelievers who should be forced to obey Islam. What we think has no influence on Islam, and that is exactly the problem.

[The Spectator]

Muslim women win right to wear full body suits in amateur swimming competitions

[The Telegraph]

Murderer Tanveer Ahmed inspires Pakistani hardliners from Scottish jail

.... Ahmed stabbed to death Glasgow shopkeeper Asad Shah - who belonged to the persecuted Ahmadi sect - because he believed he was committing blasphemy by uploading online videos in which he claimed to be a prophet. But in Pakistan, Ahmed is developing a growing number of supporters who see him as a "defender of Islam" for having killed someone they believed to be disrespecting the Prophet Muhammad.

[BBC]

'SHE NEEDS TO BE KILLED' Muslim teen girl, 17, suffers horrifying death threats after she is caught twerking in the street while wearing hijab

A MUSLIM teenager who was filmed twerking in Birmingham city centre while wearing a hijab has been targeted by vile trolls who said she is a "stupid b****" who "needs to be killed". The 17-year-old was out shopping with pals when she and a friend joined a street performer and began dancing.

[*The Sun*]

Girl in viral twerking video says she is 'sorry' ♦

The video received thousands of negative comments and death threats towards the girl. One person commented on the video: 'F*****g s**t someone give me her address I will kill her' While another person commented: 'Stupid b****h needs to be killed'.

[*British Asians UK*]

February 2017

Are Muslims Doing Enough To Integrate In The United Kingdom?"

The problem we've had in this country is that for so long we've been pretty paralysed from being able to speak about it.

[*LBC*]

Imtiaz Shams from Ilford received death threats after renouncing Islam and wants to reach out to others like him with his support group Faith to Faithless ♦

He said: "Every Muslim has questions about their faith when they they're growing up, and that's totally fine. "But as I got older and my critical thinking developed, I started to doubt whether the answers I was getting really made sense anymore."

[*East London and West Essex Guardian*]

Stoke-on-Trent mosque imam charged with terrorism offences

Kamran Sabir Hussain, 39, from Stoke-on-Trent, is accused of encouraging support for the terror group, as well as influencing his congregation to carry out terrorist acts, at a mosque in the city. Prosecutor Karen Jones described Hussain, clad in a light grey tracksuit, as a "prominent and influential person in the community".

[*Asian Image*]

Stoke byelection: Lib Dems alert police over text urging Muslims to vote Labour

The Lib Dems have alerted the police after messages sent to some Muslim voters in Stoke-on-Trent suggested they could go to hell if they failed to vote Labour to keep out Ukip's Paul Nuttall.

[*The Guardian*]

Ilford father claims he was forced to move house after renouncing Islam

.... when the 43-year-old stopped going to mosques in Ilford he claims he started getting harassment on a weekly basis. The father-of-two said: "I heard religious people say things I couldn't put up with any longer – it was all too hateful. "These people knew I had become an atheist and soon enough my whole family was being harassed.

[*East London and West Essex Guardian*]

January 2017

'We must stand up to extremism', activist and author Sara Khan tells Bradford University audience

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] Noble effort by M's Khan. However she ought to stick her neck out and state the obvious: Saudi influenced schools and mosques are not welcome in the U.K. as the Saudi version of the faith has no compassion and encourages segregation by its unbelievably literal interpretation of religious texts.

[*Telegraph & Argus*]

Leicester taxi driver fined for refusing to pick up blind couple with guide dog ♦

A taxi driver who refused to take a couple with a guide dog on religious grounds has been ordered to pay a total of £590 by a court.

[*The Leicester Mercury*]

Sectarian killer Tanveer Ahmed calls for enemies of Islam to be 'eliminated' in new prison recording

From behind bars in Scotland's Barlinnie prison, Ahmed has continued to spread his violent sectarian message, and in an Urdu recording apparently made over the telephone he praises fellow Islamist killer Mumtaz Qadri, who assassinated liberal Pakistani politician Salmaan Taseer in 2011.

[*International Business Times*]

Muslim and blind – the stigma of having a guide dog

Speaking to Emma Barnett, he explained there are certain rules he has to observe: "If you get saliva from a dog on your clothes, they have to be thoroughly washed before you can pray. "Some of my family and people in the community aren't happy that I have a guide dog, but they've calmed down."

[*BBC*]

Two Years on from the Hebdo Massacre, Freedom of Expression is More Imperiled Than Ever

.... Whether forcing students of the LSE Atheist, Secularist and Humanist Society to remove "Jesus and Mo" T-shirts or attempting to silence ex-Muslim Maryam Namazie's speeches to students at Warwick University or Goldsmiths College, a climate of intimidation prevails.

[*Conatus News*]

Waltham Forest Asian Seniors Group which was awarded £37,000 reluctant to let women join

He said: "We are trying to bring men and women together because we want to address issues in our community such as domestic violence and different Islamic interpretations. "But a lot of the men are not comfortable sitting next to a woman".

[*East London and West Essex Guardian*]

December 2016

'I'm keeping families together' insists man who runs polygamy website

[*Metro.co.uk*]

Furious Tesco shopper is ordered to 'go and join another queue' by Muslim cashier who refused to sell him a bottle of wine because it was 'against her religion' ♦

The store confirmed the member of staff worked on a kiosk where alcohol is 'generally not purchased' and would request another colleague's help if the situation arose again in the future.

[Daily Mail]

Voters will have to show passports to combat voter fraud in 'vulnerable' areas with large Muslim populations

[The Telegraph]

Controversial Muslim cleric banned in Pakistan is preaching in UK mosques

According to legal documents seen by Scotland's Sunday Post, Mr Quadri was branded a "firebrand" by Pakistani authorities and was banned from addressing crowds in October.

[The Independent]

Fatima Manji: 'It's really important that newsrooms reflect the population' ♦

A correspondent on Channel 4 News since 2012, in March Fatima Manji became Britain's first (and only) hijab-wearing newsreader on national television.

[POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] Muslim yes. Headscarf, why? What Ms Manji can't see is the fact that you don't need to state your religion in an obvious way. Why should it be? TV especially on a news programme is a neutral ground and should stay this way. And no, I cannot get over a headscarf especially with news from Syria.

[The Guardian]

Muslim cleric banned in Pakistan is preaching in UK mosques

Qadri publicly praises Mumtaz Qadri who in 2011 murdered his employer, Salman Taseer, a popular Pakistani politician who spoke out against the country's blasphemy laws. [Qadri] was a key influence on Tanveer Ahmed, the Bradford taxi driver who in March stabbed to death Asad Shah.

[The Guardian]

British Muslims urge UK to declare Ahmadis 'non-Muslim'

[Rabwah Times]

Supervisor told raped Muslim bus driver she was 'westernised so wanted it' ♦

A female Muslim bus driver who was raped by her colleague was told she was 'westernised so wanted it' after complaining to her boss, a tribunal has heard.

[Metro.co.uk]

Muslims are failing to integrate because men keep marrying abroad, major report warns

Muslim communities remain isolated even after decades in the UK because men keep marrying foreign wives, a Government adviser has warned. Dame Louise Casey said that there is a "first generation in every generation" phenomenon in Muslim communities which is acting as a "bar" to integration.

[The Telegraph]

Javid: many people in UK 'leading parallel lives' over social integration

"But I've also seen, with my own eyes, the other side of the equation. For too long, too many people in this country have been living parallel lives, refusing to integrate, and failing to embrace the shared values that make Britain great."

[The Guardian]

White people must play a role in integration too

[2ND MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] I'm not making a single concession for Islam. Sorry, I'm just not.

It's your choice, nobody is forcing you to be a Muslim, and I gain no benefit from it whatsoever. If you suffer negative consequences while trying to gain your place in eternal paradise (at my expense) why should that concern me?

So no, I won't make a single concession, to your religion or to any other. I wish all religions were at the bottom of the sea.

[*The Guardian*]

Segregation at 'worrying levels' in parts of Britain, Dame Louise Casey warns ♦

.... Afraid of being dubbed racist, afraid of losing support, afraid of challenging minority communities - that is Dame Louise Casey's view of Britain's decision-makers. Dame Louise makes clear her outrage at what she calls "regressive practices" targeting women and girls. She accepts she is putting Muslim areas under the spotlight.

[*BBC*]

Migrants should swear an oath of allegiance when they arrive in UK, Dame Louise Casey says

It warns that parts of Birmingham, Blackburn, Burnley and Bradford up to 85 per cent of the local population is Muslim, with many holding "very socially Conservative views" about women and homosexuality. Muslims living in the UK are, it suggests, increasingly identifying with a global Islamic "Ummah", or community, rather than with being British.

[*The Telegraph*]

Casey report criticised for focus on UK Muslim communities

Bana Gora, chief executive of the Muslim Women's Council, said: "I am not denying that there is a problem in Muslim communities, but I would not put it down to self-segregation. We have to look at the broader picture, at education qualifications, at economics, at social mobility, at barriers in the jobs market.

[*The Guardian*]

The tough questions on social integration are being ducked

In some council wards, as many as 85% of the population come from a single minority background, and most of these high minority concentrations are deprived Pakistani or Bangladeshi heritage communities.

But there's more to it than that. I have also seen and heard that this sense of retreat and retrenchment can sometimes go hand in hand with deeply regressive religious and cultural practices, especially when it comes to women. These practices are preventing women from playing a full part in society, contrary to our common British values, institutions and indeed, in some cases, our laws.

.... A failure to talk about this only leaves the ground open for the far right on one side and Islamist extremists on the other.

[*The Guardian*]

Fury as watchdog says it's OK to send gay people death threats – but only if you're Muslim

[*Daily Express*]

November 2016

Don't cancel Christmas on behalf of Muslims like me – I love it

[SECOND MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] *"the myth of Islamic intolerance"*
A quick look at the Islamic world strongly suggests that it's not a myth.
[*The Guardian*]

Justin Welby: It's time to stop saying Isis has 'nothing to do with Islam'



Society should no longer say the atrocities of Isis have "nothing to do with Islam" because the approach restricts efforts to fight extremism, the Archbishop of Canterbury has warned.
[*The Independent*]

Justin Welby: It's time to stop saying Isil has 'nothing to do with Islam'

Religious leaders of all varieties must "stand up and take responsibility" for the actions of extremists who profess to follow their faith, the Most Rev Justin Welby said.
[*The Telegraph*]

Muslims in Scotland: Demographic, social and cultural characteristics

.... 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*]

Watchdog raps 'reckless' Islamic charity

Iera's head of research, once said: "We as Muslims reject the idea of freedom of speech, and even of freedom." He has since distanced himself from the comment and claims he was quoted out of context.
[*The Times*]

Scots Koran revisionist offered police guard

A Scottish publisher who has published a new translation of the Koran that challenges many of its accepted statements on issues including violence, polygamy and female dress has been offered police protection amid fears for his safety.
[*The Times*]

British Muslim publishes 'true' Koran reading

A British Muslim living under a fatwa is risking further security fears by publishing a new translation of the Koran which he claims establishes its true position on contentious issues such as the use of violence and women's attire.
[*The Times*]

British 'sharia courts' under scrutiny

Sharia courts or councils, as they prefer to be called, mainly pronounce on Islamic divorces, which today constitute 90 percent of the cases they handle. Campaigners cite instances where courts have refused to grant religious divorces to women who are victims of domestic abuse, and accuse them of legitimising violence, including marital rape. [AFP]

Uber driver fined after saying it was 'against his religion' to let guide dog in car

Kayd, of Beaumont Leys, Leicester, admitted refusing to convey a guide dog under the Equality Act 2010 at Leicester Magistrates Court.

[Metro.co.uk]

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

[POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] 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.

[The Economist]

Man forced to flee his home after converting from Islam to Christianity

Nissar Hussain, who converted from Islam 20 years ago, was hospitalised after one attack when two men, armed with a pick-axe, left him with a smashed kneecap. Last week, he and his family left their home in Bradford, West Yorkshire, to a safe house.

He added that the harassment and violence escalated after he appeared on a Channel 4 documentary about the mistreatment of Muslim converts. He points the finger at sections of the Islamic community.

[Metro.co.uk]

'Persecuted' family forced to flee Manningham home as threats escalate

.... "This extreme persecution by certain people in the Muslim community because we are converts has broken us as a family," he said. Last year, Mr Hussain was hospitalised after his kneecap was smashed and his hand broken during an attack outside his home.

[Telegraph & Argus]

Islam - No Mockery Allowed: A New Case

[Conatus News]

Louis Smith's mockery of Islam was neither clever nor funny. But his suspension for it is outrageous

The decision by British Gymnastics to suspend Louis Smith for two months for he and a mate pretending to pray to Mecca (at a private party) is appalling. His actions were neither clever or funny. But religious freedom (including mockery) and a belief in a private sphere are two of the cornerstones of not just British but Western and enlightenment culture.

[ConservativeHome]

2.2 Islam in Schools

Reports and articles concerning hijabs and schoolgirls are collected together at the end of this section.

May

Report reveals Leicester Islamic school's library contained books condoning violence to women

[*The Leicester Mercury*]

Call to shut down Islamic school that warned girls not to use tampons

[*Birmingham Mail*]

March

Illegal 'schools' teach children hatred

The Times obtained five extremist books relating to Islam, including Dos and Do Nots of Islam and The Islam Way of Life. One was by Abu Ameenah Bilal Philips, a Jamaican-born extremist Muslim preacher who has been banned from Britain.

[*The Times*]

February

We'll stand up for schools that ban hijabs and fasting, pledges minister

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] *"The Muslim Council of Britain said last week that Ofsted had issued a "disproportionate" number of statements about Muslims. It warned: "A lack of appropriate engagement will undoubtedly strengthen the negative perception among many Muslim parents about Ofsted's interventions."*

This is where I lose any sympathy for Muslims. They live in the UK, they are a minority and yet they expect their own cultural and religious ways to dominate those of their host country. They have totally the wrong attitude. They should be doing what they can to integrate into their host country. If they aren't they need to be challenged as to why not.

[*The Times*]

Religious extremists use schools to 'isolate and segregate' children and brainwash minds, Ofsted chief warns

[*The Telegraph*]

January

Luton Islamic school complains over critical Ofsted report

Ofsted found pupils at the independent Olive Tree Primary School in Luton had to ask for toilet paper and wash their cutlery in toilet sinks. Despite school leaders stating the titles had been removed, the books, including some by a banned author with "extreme views about punishment by death", were still on the shelves when inspectors re-visited the establishment in November.

[*BBC*]

December 2017

Head of Ofsted reveals she faces 'personal attacks' from 'extremists' trying to intimidate the watchdog over crackdown on illegal Muslim schools

[Daily Mail]

'There are children in this country for whom British values are meaningless' ♦

.... What horrifies her most is "the extent to which there are places in society that are very determined to have children not even knowing that there is any other way of thinking besides that which prevails in their particular group. There are people growing up in this country who . . . aren't aware of the reach of equalities law and for whom British values are pretty meaningless. We are seeing separate or divergent societies developing."

[The Times]

Private faith schools are resisting British values, says Ofsted chief

Of the 140 small Muslim private schools inspected by Ofsted in the year, 28% were graded as inadequate....

[The Guardian]

Ex-governor of alleged Trojan Horse school loses bid to overturn ban

.... Investigators had found evidence of "co-ordinated, deliberate and sustained action, to introduce an intolerant and aggressive Islamic ethos" into a few schools in Birmingham, he said.

[Birmingham Mail]

November 2017

Islamic faith schools endorsing misogyny, dossier reveals

[National Secular Society]

Books in UK Islamic school say it's OK to beat women for refusing sex

[International Business Times]

It's OK to beat your wife, says Islamic school book

Ofsted has compiled a file of the worst examples of discrimination and sexism its inspectors encountered. The material includes excerpts from library books and children's marked work which sanction domestic violence.

[The Times]

Some Islamic schools in England still segregating children ♦

The court heard that boys and girls were taught in different classrooms and were made to use separate corridors and play areas. The segregation policy also applied to clubs and school trips.

[The Guardian]

Birmingham Council insists Trojan Horse did happen and promises to challenge those who deny it

[Birmingham Mail]

Anger over debate asking whether 'Trojan Horse' plot to take over Birmingham schools really happened

A debate about the Trojan Horse affair has been cancelled after organisers were accused of attempting mislead the local community. An inquiry in 2014 found "a sustained and coordinated agenda to impose upon children in a number of Birmingham schools the segregationist attitudes and practices of a hardline and politicised strand of Sunni Islam."

MEND publicity material advertising the event said: "Has a hoax letter, a media scrum, a forceful education secretary and political motivations in education regulation lead to the stigmatisation of a community, discrimination against outstanding teachers/school leaders and exam failure for a generation of children?"
[*Birmingham Mail*]

October 2017

Al-Hijrah Islamic school defies ruling on mixing sexes

The school has informed parents that there will be "no immediate changes", however. The appeal to the Supreme Court will be lodged by the Association of Muslim Schools on behalf of Al-Hijrah.

[POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] So a state-funded Islamic school (that sentence is already weird...) considers itself under no obligation to adhere to the laws and regulations of said state. How very not surprising.
[*The Times*]

Trojan Horse plot: Ofsted chief Sir Michael Wilshaw given guards

The former chief inspector of schools had to be protected by two bodyguards after being "threatened and intimidated" during his investigation into the influence of Islamists on Birmingham schools.
[*The Times*]

Islamic faith school's segregation of boys and girls ruled unlawful sex discrimination by Court of Appeal

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] Faith schools are a bad idea. They reflect and reinforce divisions in society.

[2ND] A far greater concern is that the pupils are taught that unbelievers are inferior, 'the worst of creatures' and destined for eternity in hell fire (Q 98:6). Not really a good basis for community cohesion.
[*The Independent*]

New teacher disciplinary procedures to deal with 'Trojan Horse' attempts to infiltrate schools

Education Secretary Justine Greening said the Trojan Horse affair, when teachers and others attempted to introduce an "intolerant" religious ethos into Birmingham schools, was "a shocking wake-up call".
[*Birmingham Mail*]

September 2017

Teachers 'scared' to teach lessons on 9/11 terror attack

Some teachers are too scared to discuss 9/11 with their pupils as they fear a backlash from Muslim parents, a leading expert in counter-extremism education has warned.
[*The Telegraph*]

July 2017

Ministers order takeover of Muslim school after it is branded unsafe

.... The books stated that a husband can beat his wife and insist on having sex with her. They were found in the library of the Al-Hijrah School in Birmingham, which became state-funded in 2001.

.... For more than a year the co-educational Islamic school has fought through the courts to try to suppress an earlier critical Ofsted report that said its segregation of girls and boys for all lessons from the age of 5 to 16 was a breach of the Equality Act.
[*The Times*]

Hate-spewing ISIS supporter, who posted homophobic rants online has been working as a teaching assistant in British secondary schools

He warned that religious opponents face attack with a 'blunt butter knife' and issued a series of deeply disturbing homophobic statements. In one sickening post, he endorsed the barbaric execution of homosexuals.
[*Daily Mail*]

Birmingham Islamic school's gender separation unlawful, court told

A state-funded Islamic school in Birmingham unlawfully discriminated against pupils when it separated them by sex from age nine, a court has been told.
[*The Guardian*]

Religion, gender segregation and sex education in schools

.... We refer to the case of Al-Hijrah school, a co-ed faith school in Birmingham that has been segregating boys and girls during lessons and all breaks, activities and school trips

.... We are in danger of creating a two-tier system in which minority women, especially Muslim women and girls, are being systematically treated as second-class citizens.
[*The Guardian*]

Segregating pupils is the first step in demonising women

Meanwhile, here in Britain, the state is being taken through our courts by a co-educational Islamic school that segregates boys and girls from the age of nine: it is not enough that girls at the school have to wear the veil from the age of five. And the state is funding this, as the school is voluntary aided.
[*The Times*]

June 2017

Ofsted will crackdown on extremism and promote 'British values', Amanda Spielman vows

It comes two years after Ofsted warned that it had uncovered unregistered Islamic madrassas across the UK, raising fears large numbers of children were at risk of being "abused and radicalised" in them.
[*The Telegraph*]

Teachers' college slated over Trojan Horse plot

Speaking after misconduct cases against five former Birmingham school leaders were thrown out last week, Sir Michael Wilshaw said: "NCTL has always been and still is incompetent. The good work by Ofsted has been wasted and the safeguarding of children in Birmingham and beyond has been put in jeopardy."
[*The Times*]

May 2017

Schools urged to 'show sensitivity' to Muslim pupils by moving GCSE and A-Level revision classes and rescheduling sports days for Ramadan

[Daily Mail]

April 2017

Primary pupils at risk of extremism at Birmingham school, Ofsted warns

.... a published report has highlighted a 'weak culture of safeguarding' at the Golden Hillock Road school, including a lack of alertness by staff to 'the risks of pupils being radicalised'.

[Birmingham Mail]

Fears of another 'Trojan Horse' scandal reignited after Islamic school posts advert for 'male-only' teacher

The advert which risks being in breach of the Equalities Act, has since been retracted - but the headmaster claims that the role must be occupied by a male teacher because of "religious observance reasons".

The decision has prompted calls for the Salafi Independent School, located in Small Heath, to be investigated, amid fears its stance promotes "gender-based discrimination" and threatens to undermine "British values".

[The Telegraph]

Birmingham Islamic school forced to pull job advert for 'male only' teacher after equalities row

Salafi Independent School, based in Coventry Road, Small Heath, caters for more than 150 Muslim pupils aged from five to 11. It recently posted the job advert on Twitter, stating: "The Salafi Independent School is now recruiting a part-time male science & Islamic Studies teacher."

[Birmingham Mail]

March 2017

Segregated schools persist because parents maintain the divide

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] *"Yet no one would need to say this attack is not a representative of an entire religion if we were sharing our lives with Muslim neighbours, colleagues and school friends in a more meaningful way."*

What about areas where "...Muslim neighbours, colleagues and school friends ..." don't wish to integrate? Is it still going to be our fault when Islamic Extremists attack us then?

[2ND] It doesn't help when that religion actively discourages integration.

[The Guardian]

Birmingham has 'not learned lessons of Trojan Horse' warns Government tsar

A GOVERNMENT integration expert has condemned a councillor for stepping in to insist a Catholic school allow a four-year-old girl to wear the hijab Islamic headscarf - in defiance of its uniform policy.

[Birmingham Mail]

Birmingham accused of going soft on extremism

In a letter seen by The Times, Dame Louise warned of a repeat of the scandal when aggressive school governors in the city tried to impose an intolerant Islamic ethos on head teachers. She said: "I do question whether sufficient lessons have been learnt."
[*The Times*]

February 2017

Counter terrorism police investigate fears of a 'Trojan Horse-style' plot at a primary school where the headteacher is forced to work from home because of threats from Muslim parents

Trish O'Donnell, head of Clarksfield Primary School in Oldham, has endured 'harassment and intimidation' in the form of 'aggressive verbal abuse' and 'threats to blow up her car' from parents pushing conservative Muslim ideals.

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT 10,521 votes] This is Britain not Pakistan. If you don't want your kids to be brought up with British values then you know the answer. Move back to Pakistan.....
[*Daily Mail*]

Islamists won't give up trying to take over British schools because nobody is willing to stop them

[*International Business Times*]

Revealed: new 'Trojan Horse plot' - Head teacher fears for her safety

Fears of a new "Trojan Horse" Islamic plot to take over a state school in Oldham have been raised by its head teacher, who says she has been concerned for her personal safety.
[*The Times*]

January 2017

School forced to apologise after dozens of Muslim children are served up ice-cream containing forbidden pork gelatin

Instead of the usually Halal-friendly dessert, the school were sent ice-cream laced with pork gelatin by a supplier.
[*Daily Mirror*]

Religious extremists ARE infiltrating other schools in the same way as in the Trojan Horse scandal, integration tsar Louise Casey warns MPs

Government integration tsar Dame Louise Casey published a major review on community integration across Britain last month, revealing a shocking picture of 'ghettos' in some British towns.
[*Daily Mail*]

Bethnal Green Islamic school slammed by Ofsted for 'book on how women should behave'

[*Evening Standard*]

December 2016

Children at risk in 'rotten borough' Birmingham

He warned that a repeat of the so-called Trojan Horse scandal, which saw a radical Islamic ethos introduced to schools in the city, was likely unless the government acted.

.... Wilshaw said Birmingham had the most worrying cases of segregation of the type identified in a recent report by Dame Louise Casey, the government's social cohesion tsar. Nine of 21 schools in the east of the city where all the pupils are from ethnic minorities had been rated "less than good" in their latest Ofsted inspections.
[*The Times*]

Teacher at Tower Hamlets school 'condoned Charlie Hebdo terror attack in front of pupils'

A teacher faces a classroom ban after he allegedly "condoned" the Charlie Hebdo terror attack in front of pupils at a Tower Hamlets school. effectively said during a lesson that the victims murdered by Islamist gunmen "should be killed for insulting the prophet", a professional conduct panel ruled.
[*Evening Standard*]

November 2016

'Trojan Horse' plotters dodge teaching ban

The ringleaders of the "Trojan Horse" plot to impose conservative Islamic values on state schools in Birmingham are back in teaching, despite being banned from the classroom, an investigation by The Sunday Times has established.
[*The Times*]

Second Muslim school told to raise standards by Ofsted

A previous report into child safety at the school was withdrawn by the regulator after Sky News revealed the inspector had not talked to pupils or teachers because he was told they were celebrating the Eid religious festival.
[*Sky News*]

Schoolgirls and Hijabs

March

Government should set policies on hijabs in schools, Ofsted chief suggests

Amanda Spielman, the chief inspector of schools, said it is "worrying" that headteachers can be "bullied" by campaigners into changing their uniform policies. Her comments come after she threw her weight behind the head of an east London primary school who attempted to ban pupils under the age of eight from wearing hijabs.

[*The Telegraph*]

February

Teachers at school in Newham that banned hijab were failed by council, say inspectors

Teachers at St Stephen's school in Newham faced a coordinated campaign of bullying and harassment after the school stopped young girls from wearing the headscarf.

[*Evening Standard*]

Ofsted condemns council for not backing hijab ban school

[*Tes Global*]

Police inquiry into online abuse of Newham head teacher Neena Lall who banned hijab

Police are investigating allegations that abusive messages were sent to the head teacher of an east London primary school embroiled in a row about banning the hijab and to its chairman of governors.

[*The Times*]

Ministers too 'politically correct' to enforce hijab policy in schools, former Ofsted boss warns

He also highlighted concerns that there are 150 schools around the country which make it compulsory for children to wear hijabs, adding that "the country has enormously changed" and some communities hold very conservative views which cannot easily be challenged.

.... Amanda Spielman will be questioned by MPs after she backed the Newham school's decision. Earlier this month she said some religious fundamentalists want to "actively pervert the purpose of education ... and in the worst cases indoctrinate impressionable minds with extremist ideology".

[*The Telegraph*]

Schoolgirls wearing a hijab is a path to extremism? Now that's a leap

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] No, schoolgirls wearing a hijab is not a path to extremism, but it is most certainly a path to inequality.

In a country that is currently commemorating the centenary of the 1918 suffrage act and where equality for women is still not a given, I find it very sad to see girls and women covering their heads and limbs because a misogynist born 1500 years ago told them to do so.

Sexualizing young girls by making them wear a hijab should not be allowed and if parents insist on doing so, they should be fined or prosecuted.

[Comments closed early by Guardian] [The Guardian]

Divisions deepen over hijab ban for primary pupils

[The Times]

I didn't want to wear my hijab, and don't believe very young girls should wear them today

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] We are in practice a secular society in which a segment of the population is growing numerically and trying to cement an increasingly unassimilable religious identity, bolstered by law (sharia councils) and education. I think we should politely push back.

[2ND] Wear hijab if you think it shows your modesty (and sluttiness of others by implication). I'll keep saying it shows backwardness and misogyny of idiotic cult formed by medieval illiterate warlord.

[The Guardian]

Senior Ofsted official backs headteacher over hijab ban for under eights

[The Guardian]

January

St Stephen's head likened to Hitler as activists step up attack on hijab-ban school

A video, circulating on social media this weekend, portrays the head teacher of England's best primary school as Hitler. The school's former chairman of governors is Stalin and some of its management team are shown as Hitler's acolytes.

[The Times]

Hijabs sexualise little girls and school heads are right to ban them

[Evening Standard]

Police are called in after primary school is 'intimidated' into dropping a ban on Muslim girls wearing hijabs

[Daily Mail]

St Stephen's in Newham bans hijabs for girls under 8

The country's best state primary school has called on the government to take a firm stand on hijabs and fasting among young Muslim children in classrooms, rather than leave schools to create their own rules.

[The Times]

Human rights activists in Britain have been subjected to intimidation by Islamists for convincing Ofsted to interview British primary school girls

[Conatus News]

November 2017

School inspectors to question Muslim girls who wear hijabs amid concerns they are being forced to wear headscarf

.... wearing the hijab at such an age could be seen to be sexualising young girls, as they are traditionally worn by young women after puberty as a sign of modesty in the presence of men.

[*The Independent*]

September 2017

'Compulsory hijab' uniform policy at two Bradford schools criticised

.... research found that out of 142 Islamic schools that accepted girls, 59, or 42 per cent, had uniform policies that suggested a headscarf or another form of hijab was compulsory. This included eight state-funded schools and 27 primary schools, three of which are state-funded.

[*Telegraph & Argus*]

State-funded schools 'force' girls to wear hijab

[*The Times*]

Ofsted steps into battle over hijab

The chief inspector of schools has agreed to meet Muslim campaigners who are calling for a ban on the Islamic headscarf in state primaries after The Sunday Times revealed that pupils as young as five were wearing the hijab.

[*The Sunday Times*]

5-year-olds wear hijab as school uniform

[*The Times*]

March 2017

Birmingham schools reassured of right to ban hijab after row over four-year-old

Birmingham City Council is to reassure schools that they are free to ban pupils from wearing Islamic headscarves, after its equalities chief was criticised for trying to force a headteacher to allow a four-year-old to wear the hijab.

[*The Telegraph*]

January 2017

Muslim campaigner on head scarves row: "We should let children be children"

Shaista Gohir from the Muslim Women's Network made the comments as she defended a Birmingham Catholic school which banned a four-year-old pupil from wearing the hijab. She added that St Clare's School in Handsworth was within its rights to set its own uniform policy – and criticism of it had been unfair. Ms Gohir argues that the hijab is meant to discourage sexual advances – and so that forcing it on young children could be "sexualising" them.

[*ITV*]

Muslim pupil's headscarf ban at Catholic school challenged

A school has been accused of breaching anti-discrimination laws after claims a four-year-old Muslim pupil was told she could not wear a headscarf.

[*BBC*]

Catholic school prompts uniform row by banning Muslim girl from wearing a headscarf

A Catholic school has prompted a uniform row by banning a four-year-old Muslim girl from wearing a headscarf at school.

St Clare's School in Handsworth, on the outskirts of Birmingham, asked the girl's parents to respect their strict uniform policy, which includes no headwear or scarfs.
[*The Telegraph*]

2.3 Hijabs and Veils

March

Women should not be able to hide their faces behind a veil in court as it prevents juries from reading their body language, says UK's top judge

[Daily Mail]

Top judge Baroness Hale of Richmond backs no veils in courtroom ♦

"I suspect that most advocates would find it difficult to imagine how one would cross-examine a witness whose face one could not see."

[The Times]

February

Scout master fired for 'Darth Vader' veil jibe ♦

A Scout master has been expelled for comparing a Muslim leader who wore a niqab, which covers the face, to the Star Wars villain Darth Vader.

[POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] ".....It's not a barrier; it doesn't stop me from doing anything" she says.

It does exactly what it is designed to do, it's a misogynistic construct to prevent her interacting with the world. For a 'teacher' and 'guide' of children I'd have thought personal and social interaction would be rather important.

.... She has every right to wear what she wants but she should not be able to teach or lead children wearing that type of outfit. It's simply inappropriate for the role and shouldn't that be the criteria to on which to base a decision of suitability rather than 'cultural rights' and PCness.

[The Times]

Foreign Office staff invited to wear hijab for the day: Civil service accused of promoting 'oppression of women' after giving out free headscarves ♦

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT 6370 votes] Why? What a total waste of time and money!

[2ND 5475] Meanwhile in Iran women in Iran are burning them. We are mad.

[Daily Mail]

UK Foreign Office faces backlash after giving out headscarves during World Hijab Day event

.... criticised the FCO for "supporting World Hijab Day and the institutional oppression of women through modesty culture, while brave Iranian women risk all to remove the hijab tyranny". "I'd like to know whose bright idea this was. It is ridiculous, a complete waste of taxpayers' money and not the business of a Government department.

"I can't see the Foreign Office promoting Christianity or the handing out of crosses."

[International Business Times]

December 2017

Butlin's faces legal action over dodgems 'hijab ban'

[*The Guardian*]

October 2017

Muslim mother-of-five, 44, was ordered to leave sixth-form college open evening because she was wearing niqab face veil 'that stopped her being recognised on CCTV'

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT 937 votes] Good for the college

[2ND 863] It should be banned in public in the UK everywhere. Can't wear a motorcycle helmet into a building because it obscures the face.

[3RD 852] Good for them! We can't have one rule for one lot and another for the rest of us - either ban all face coverings or legalise all, anything else is unfair treatment

[*Daily Mail*]

'Modesty' clothing and culture within British Muslim communities prevents Muslim women from fully participating in 21st century society

[*Conatus News*]

September 2017

Maajid Tackles 'Feminist' Muslim Who Said She'd Burn In Hell If She Didn't Wear A Hijab

.... Faduma has worn a headscarf since she was seven and said God would punish her if she took it off, by burning her in hell.

[*LBC*]

August 2017

The hijab is not for children. It was right to drop these distasteful images 

The portrayal of a pre-school female child wearing a hijab was most obviously offensive, because it is commonly accepted that Muslim women – if they choose to wear a hijab – do so in adolescence or after puberty because of the link to the growing sexuality of a woman's body.

The images were only dropped after a Muslim mother's complaint, and an investigation by a Times journalist brought them to the attention of the mayor of London, Sadiq Khan.

[*The Guardian*]

Hijab girl in children's books 'is sexualising four-year-olds'

Transport chiefs have been forced to drop a children's road safety campaign depicting a Muslim nursery schoolgirl wearing a religious headscarf.

[*The Times*]

July 2017

Muslim mother takes legal action against school over face veil ban

.... But when she attended an evening for parents of new pupils at the school on 13 June, she was shocked to be challenged over her decision to wear a face veil.

[*The Guardian*]

Face veils and respect for British culture

The face veil can be intimidating and frightening for children. Ironically, the countries that encourage women to wear a burqa or niqab are those where women's education is thought to be unnecessary and dangerous.

.... The school should not have to deal with this issue – this is a provocative action and the local authority should be supporting the school. Rachida Serroukh is importing a 12th-century custom which discriminates against women into 21st-century Britain.
[*The Guardian*]

May 2017

Councillor censured for comparing women in burqas to 'walking black post boxes'

Cllr Fletcher has this week accepted his post boxes comparison was "crass", adding that he also regretted his statement about banning Muslim culture in Britain.

But he stressed the point he was trying to make was that full face veils can be intimidating and inappropriate in certain public situations, noting that plenty of people would agree with this.
[*Telegraph & Argus*]

Why catwalk Hijabs are upsetting some Muslim women

"I don't feel that the brands are doing us a favour - we don't need the approval of the mainstream companies to approve of our identity," Ahmed says. "It's not doing anything for the Muslim community other than reducing the hijab - which I see as an act of worship - into something as simple as a fashion statement."
[*BBC*]

March 2017

After EU headscarf ruling, UK PM May says government should not tell women what to wear

It is not right for government to tell women what to wear, British Prime Minister Theresa May said on Wednesday, after the European Union's top court ruled that companies may ban staff from wearing Islamic headscarves under certain conditions.
[*Reuters*]

The hijab ruling is a ban on Muslim women

This week's decision by the European court of justice to allow the hijab to be banned in the workplace is yet another sign of the continent's obsession with how Muslim women dress. I have friends who have taken to wearing the hijab in recent years because they feel their Muslim identity has been threatened, and they have decided to take a stand for their faith.

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT 1034 votes] "*the continent's obsession with how Muslim women dress*" Surely it's the obsession of misogynist religious fanatics who want to deny women a public identity.

[POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] And I have friends in Turkey who have had to flee their country because the public and government pressure to cover their heads to even get a job in the Government, or walk comfortably down the street without being harassed, was overwhelming.
[*The Guardian*]

February 2017

How young Muslim women are driving a modest fashion revolution

Last weekend more than 3,000 people, most of them young, Muslim women, streamed into London's Saatchi Gallery for a fashion event unlike any other.

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] Please don't use that word "modest" there is nothing immodest about normal clothing, or for that matter the human body (male and female). Articles like this enable 15th century attitudes to women.
[The Guardian]

December 2016

No Police Scotland officers are wearing hijab

In November, BBC Scotland asked the force how many officers were wearing the hijab as part of their uniform. In response to the freedom of information request, Police Scotland said it did not hold the information. It added that six hijabs were brought into their uniform stock in September and three had been issued.
[BBC]

Sorry, Louise Casey, but Muslim women are held back by discrimination

[POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] *"This is particularly true for visibly Muslim women like me who wear the hijab"*

And there it is. Perhaps employers don't want to hire people who let their religion dominate their lives so much and that's not just about Muslims, as I suspect that many visibly devoutly religious people would have the same issues.
[The Guardian]

November 2016

Like many Muslims, I am outraged when I see women wearing the full veil on British streets

Saudi Arabia and other rich, conservative Arab nations began to spread more fanatical doctrines. London, the world's most dynamic and mixed city, is the centre of British Salafism, an ultra-conservative current within Sunni Islam, and Wahabism, a form of Salafism originating in Saudi Arabia. Salafism is believed to be the fastest growing Islamic faction in the UK.
[inews.co.uk]

Why do so many Muslim women find it hard to integrate in Britain? - Ahead of a crucial report, we report on the battle faced by Britain's most excluded demographic

For five years Haniya had been striving to secure a job in digital marketing. It seemed not to matter that the 28-year-old had the qualifications, the aptitude, the ambition. Friends watched her confidence drain away. Haniya considered removing her hijab, the Islamic headscarf. Burying the fact she was a Muslim became the final option.
[The Guardian]

2.4 Sharia

March

Anti-Sharia proposals will do little to integrate isolated communities

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] As Vladimir Putin has put it so nicely: "If minorities prefer Sharia Law, we advise them to go to those places where that is the state law. Russia does not need minorities. Minorities need Russia, and we will not grant them special privileges, or change our laws to fit their desires, no matter how loud they shout "discrimination". Perhaps our government should take some advice, regardless of its source.

[2ND] Countries where Sharia applies are places where people flee from; secular countries are where they flee to, and once allowed to settle show no inclination to leave for anywhere Sharia compliant. Why on earth import elements of such a system into our relatively attractive and successful society?
[*The Times*]

Justin Welby's stance on sharia law is a welcome relief

This isn't to say, of course, that Muslims, mosques and halal food are not all welcome in Britain—diversity makes us richer. But law is another matter. Reconciling any two legal frameworks within a single country is problematic; and sharia remains particularly incompatible with the Judaeo-Christian tradition our own legal system has been built on.
[*The Spectator*]

February

Hallelujah! Welby takes a stand against Sharia

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] About time someone has spoken out on the obvious.

[2ND] This stance is most laudable and I am only sad that you do not have the support and action of our elected politicians. People of all political and religious persuasions are GREATLY concerned at what they see happening with Moslems in this country
[*The Times*]

Archbishop of Canterbury says Islamic rules are incompatible with Britain's laws which have Christian values

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT 7852 votes] I'm shocked he is right for a change.

[2ND] Good for him, about time people stood up to be counted, liberal PC will be the death of western culture and civilisation.

[3RD] Have been saying this for years.

[4TH] We all know that, just tell the Muppets in government and those limps in Labour. Perhaps then our laws will be enforced and sharia outlawed.
[*Daily Mail*]

The Guardian view on sharia councils: shedding some light

.... to recognise the reality of sharia councils operating here is the first step towards limiting any harm that they can do. That should start with more funding for legal aid for those who want to access justice and a closer look at how legally compliant these bodies are in matters of arbitration.

[POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] Articles like the above just underline the scale of the disastrous failure of Islamic integration into British society.

[ANOTHER] Tragic to see the Guardian pussyfooting like this. It's founders must be turning in their graves.

[*The Guardian*]

Register Islamic marriages under civil law, sharia review says ♦

Muslim women's groups have accused the councils of being discriminatory and regressive. Some councils pressure women to stay in abusive marriages and ignore their rights under British legal systems, they allege.

[*The Guardian*]

December 2017

Why are British Muslim marriages unprotected by law?

.... "I fought for seven years through solicitors with my husband's family, but in the end, we didn't get a penny. They got nothing and I got nothing because my husband didn't make a will," she told Al Jazeera.

[*Al Jazeera English*]

How best to help women caught between different kinds of family law

In no other country have so many "sharia councils" sprung up to adjudicate the affairs of Muslim people, especially women who are trapped in unhappy marriages and want a religious divorce. in the event of a breakdown the financially vulnerable partner, usually female, has few entitlements.

[*The Economist*]

November 2017

No one talks about the fact that in sharia courts, British Muslim women have fewer rights than women in Islamic countries ♦

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] '*Her faith taught her that she was an equal human being who was worthy of respect.*'

Really?! Islam teaches that women must do what men tell them because men pay the bills. Islam teaches that a woman's evidence in court is worth only half that of a man. Islam teaches that a woman is like a man's field - tilth, in Arabic - and that like his 'field', her husband can 'go upon her' whenever he wishes.

[*The Independent*]

New Channel 4 survey reveals The Truth About Muslim Marriage

.... two thirds of Muslim women married in Britain are not in legally recognised marriages, as they have not had a civil ceremony alongside their Nikah religious ceremony.

Many of these women are unaware that they therefore do not have the same rights and protections afforded to couples who are married in the eyes of the law.

The survey also explored attitudes towards polygamy, finding that the vast majority of women questioned did not wish to be in a polygamous relationship, and more than a third of those who were in such a relationship had not agreed to it.

[*Channel Four*]

Six in 10 Muslim wives not legally married ♦

They have had a nikah marriage but 61% failed to go through a separate civil ceremony, recognised by the family courts.

[*The Times*]

May 2017

Marriage laws are failing vulnerable Muslim women

Divorce can be a costly and messy business, unless you are a Muslim man married under Islamic law. In that case, you can simply utter the word talaq (divorce) three times and the marriage is over.

The problem is that some Islamic marriages are not legally binding in the UK, usually because the marriage has not been registered through a civil ceremony. In effect, this means the married couple are treated under the law as cohabitees.

[*The Times*]

April 2017

The women who sleep with a stranger to save their marriage ♦

A number of online services are charging "divorced" Muslim women thousands of pounds to take part in "halala" Islamic marriages, a BBC investigation has found. Women pay to marry, have sex with and then divorce a stranger, so they can get back with their first husbands.

[*BBC*]

March 2017

Muslim women urged to register their marriage at Bradford event

Women in unregistered marriages are left without rights in a British court of law, in the case of divorce and unregistered marriages are steadily rising in the Muslim community.

[*ITV*]

Inside Britain's sharia councils: hardline and anti-women – or a dignified way to divorce? ♦

Even marital rape can be ignored. "Women who have been through FGM might not make that clear [to their new husbands], but they might say they don't want to have sex. One woman was told it was her duty – and she should pray while her husband has sex with her – basically while he raped her."

[*The Guardian*]

February 2017

Strong backing in Lords for Bill to curb Sharia courts

It comes after persistent concerns that women are suffering because of sharia courts which back polygamy and discriminate against women.

[*The Christian Institute*]

December 2016

Sharia courts pose a growing threat to women's rights

.... Despite all efforts to repackage and rebrand the courts, including by Islamic feminists, Sharia courts represent a concerted attempt by Islamists to normalise the denial of women's rights in the family and gain further influence.

[*The Freethinker*]

The Sharia debate in the UK: who will listen to our voices? ♦

.... We know from personal experiences that many religious bodies such as Sharia Councils are presided over by hard line or fundamentalist clerics who are intolerant of the very idea that women should be in control of their own bodies and minds.

[*openDemocracy*]

Sharia courts have no place in UK family law. Listen to women who know

We oppose any religious body – whether presided over by men or women – that seeks to rule over us.” So say more than 300 mostly Muslim women, but also others from different faiths who have been abused in their personal lives.

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] Lets be honest. Sharia law has no place in civilised society.

[*The Guardian*]

November 2016

Sharia court told rape victim to RETURN to her attacker husband

The mother-of-two, calling herself Lubna, revealed that she had been beaten, robbed and raped by her estranged husband despite being the British courts banning him from approaching her and which had also awarded her custody of their children.

But family pressure persuaded the British-Pakistani to try and obtain an Islamic divorce in a Sharia court.

Expecting to be treated sympathetically, Lubna said she felt violated when she was instead told to return to her violent husband.

[*Daily Express*]

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

.... 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.

[*Daily Mail*]

One woman's brush with Sharia courts in the UK: "It ruined my life forever" ♦

“My daughter and I appeared before the Sharia court at Regent's Park mosque in London. They were not interested in anything we had to say, the whole process was shocking.”

[*openDemocracy*]

2.5 Halal

April

February

Iain Dale Demands End To Non-Stun Religious Slaughter

Iain Dale has demanded the end to non-stun religious slaughter during a testy exchange with the former president of the Halal Food Authority.

The row broke out after Britain's biggest farming body warned that the rise in religious slaughter risks jeopardising Britain's high animal welfare standards. The epic interview, which lasted almost 10 minutes, sparked a massive reaction from LBC listeners.

[LBC]

Britons are unknowingly eating Halal meat that is being sold without a label, says top vet

Britons are inadvertently eating meat from animals slaughtered while they are still conscious, a top vet has warned.

[Daily Mail]

Food labels set to show if animals were not stunned

John Fishwick, president of the British Veterinary Association, said that non-stun slaughter should be banned — but while it was still permitted, the meat should be clearly labelled.

[POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] Just ban it, it is disgusting and inappropriate in our society.

[The Times]

The number of sheep slaughtered in Britain without being stunned first has doubled

[Farming Online]

January

County council backs down over decision to ban unstunned halal meat in schools

[Lancashire Telegraph]

Unstunned meat widespread in UK supermarkets, NSS research reveals

[National Secular Society]

December 2017

Halal school meals ban could be challenged in court

Councillors in Lancashire voted in October that in future any halal meat served in schools must be butchered from pre-stunned animals, with the exception of poultry. The county council has now revealed that it has been served with legal papers from the Lancashire Council of Mosques which effectively puts it on notice that a judicial review could go ahead unless the matter is resolved.

[Burnley Express]

November 2017

Clacton MP calls for halal meat to be banned from schools

[POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] Totally agree! Does this mean all our children are subjected to eating Halal meat. If so its its a disgrace and must be stopped.

[ANOTHER] Halal should be banned in this country full stop. I think it's disgusting!
[*The Clacton and Frinton Gazette*]

'Boycott school meals' call in Lancashire halal meat row

Calls have been made for a boycott of school meals in Lancashire after councillors voted to ban unstunned halal meat from its kitchens.
[*BBC*]

October 2017

It isn't just halal slaughter that Britain needs to make more humane

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] "*The Qur'an only requires that an animal be alive at the time its throat is cut; it makes no reference to stunning.*"

The central issue here is that it's an incredibly bad idea to take advice from a text written 1400 years ago during a time of profound ignorance. To grow is to learn and move on. To subscribe as a thinking adult to a set of dogmas that rejects this simply won't allow a rational debate on any subject.
[*The Guardian*]

Council faces Muslim boycott of school meals after banning 'abhorrent' halal beef and lamb from unstunned animals

Abdul Qureshi, chairman of Lancashire Council of Mosques, had said last month that Muslims would boycott school meals if the council banned non-stunned meat.

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT 2131 votes] Well done councils ...well done!!
[*Daily Mail*]

September 2017

Parents outraged after New Addington primary school proposes only serving halal meat

[*Croydon Advertiser*]

It is time to stop cruel animal slaughter in the name of religion

What would happen to me – or you for that matter – if we dragged a lamb into the garden and, with a sharp knife, hacked through the skin, sinews, arteries of its throat and then left it to bleed to death?

The chances are that we would go to prison for animal cruelty. British law is quite strict about this.
[*DevonLive*]

Concern over rise in animals killed without stunning

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] Our Government should ban non-stun slaughter. Simple as that. No religious exemptions. Also ban import of meat from non-stun slaughter.

[2ND] It is quite ridiculous that religion is allowed to interfere in the law on humane slaughter - as the BVA says, the exemption from pre-slaughter stunning should be abolished.

[*The Times*]

July 2017

Halal logos fail to tell shoppers whether animals were stunned

Meat from lambs that have had their throats cut without first being stunned is to gain an official "quality standard mark", without customers being told of their painful deaths.

Vets and animal welfare groups have criticised the plans by the Agriculture & Horticulture Development Board (AHDB), saying that shoppers should be aware of whether animals were rendered insensible before slaughter.

[*The Times*]

May 2017

Pub apology after Muslim customer was wrongly served pork in side dish

"My friend said I should check what I was eating so I asked the waitress and at first she had no idea. Then she came back and said she was really, really sorry because it was pork."

"I had food in my mouth and I spat it out and went to the toilet, where I was sick. I felt degraded."

[*Birmingham Mail*]

March 2017

Sandwell Hospital halal kitchen plan criticised

A former patient's daughter has hit out at Sandwell Hospital's plans to create a separate halal kitchen. The 50-year-old said: "This kitchen would just be a diversion of resources they should not be doing. I don't agree with it at all."

[*Express & Star*]

February 2017

Halal meat: How is it prepared and is it cruel to animals?

The British Veterinary Association calls for all animals to be effectively stunned before slaughter, while the Farm Animal Welfare Council says cutting an animal's throat is "such a massive injury [that it] would result in very significant pain and distress in the period before insensibility supervenes".

[*The Week*]

November 2016

Bradford family hit out over flu vaccination

A MUSLIM father has made a formal complaint to the NHS after claiming his daughter and niece were given flu vaccinations containing synthesised pork products without the family's knowledge.

[*Telegraph & Argus*]

3.0 What the Papers Say - Muslim World

May

1 dead, 41 hurt as suicide bombers hit Indonesian churches

[AP]

Saudi Arabia 'will not end gender segregation' in public spaces

Saudi authorities have backtracked on plans to end gender segregation in public places and mandatory prayer-time closures for businesses as a part of a sweeping modernisation drive.

[The New Arab]

Atheist blogger arrested in Egypt for anti-Islam criticism

[The New Arab]

First female Afghan pilot granted asylum in US

[The National]

April

Pakistan's Ahmadi community releases damning persecution report

"The preparation of separate electoral lists being prepared specifically for the Ahmadis in Pakistan is the worst kind of discrimination," they said. [Reuters]

Women take to the streets of Iran without the veil as they show support for woman who was viciously beaten by 'morality police'

[Daily Mail]

Video of Iran 'morality police' wrestling with woman sparks outrage

Shocking video footage of a young woman being wrestled to the floor by Iranian "morality police" because her hijab was loose has sparked outrage after it was posted online.

[The Guardian]

Christians claim they are being forced out of Pakistani city by Isil violence

The jihadist militant group has said it carried out two gun attacks that have killed six Christians in Quetta this month so far, and also bombed a church in the city shortly before Christmas.

[The Telegraph]

How Pakistani school textbooks mould its students' skewed worldview

The books state, quite simply, that the Pakistan ideology is Islam this material in the textbooks violates the constitutional provision that non-Muslims do not need to study Islam. In addition, defining the Pakistani identity solely in the form of Islam excludes non-Muslims from that identity.

[Quartz]

Iraqi courts seeking out atheists for prosecution

.... they are being pursued for "holding seminars during social gatherings to promote the idea of the nonexistence of God and to spread and popularize atheism."

[*Al-Monitor*]

March

Poor minorities are usually the target of Pakistan's blasphemy laws

.... Once accused of blasphemy it is normally assumed that the victim has to die. If he is a non-Muslim and found innocent he can expect to spend a lifetime in jail. This applies to Christians, the most downtrodden and deprived population in Punjab.

[*The Indian Express*]

Turkish Government Official: "Europe Will be Muslim"

.... "the Muslim population will outnumber the Christian population in Europe. This... has increased the nationalistic, xenophobic and anti-Islam rhetoric there. Hence, marginal, small parties have started to get large numbers of votes... But there is no remedy for it. Europe will be Muslim. We will be effective there, Allah willing. I am sure of that."

[*Gatestone Institute/CNN Turk*]

Young dancing girls end career of Tehran's mayor

The mayor, Mohammad Ali Najafi, attended a celebration last week There he encountered six girls dancing in traditional costumes and throwing the rose petals in honour of a female saint. There is a ban on dancing in public, however, for women in the Islamic republic. Girls older than age 9 are regarded as women by clerics, who resist any change in social norms.

[*The Irish Times*]

Blasphemy laws against Christians in Pakistan highlighted at UN

[*Christian Today*]

Pro-equality groups aspire for more dialogue on fair inheritance

Calls for equality between men and women in inheritance have arisen once again in Egypt, after protests continued in Tunisia by a number of women's organisations to demand equality with men in inheritance rights.

[*The Daily News Egypt*]

Pakistan activists say court ruling on declaring religion threatens minorities

Rights activists in Pakistan expressed concern over a court ruling that would require people to declare their religion on all official documents, saying it could lead to the persecution of minorities, particularly adherents of the Ahmadi faith.

[*CBC/Radio-Canada*]

Iran jails woman for removing headscarf in public

[*BBC*]

Iranian woman who removed headscarf jailed for two years

[*The Guardian*]

'No dancing': Saudi concert edict stirs ridicule

A "No dancing or swaying" instruction on tickets to Egyptian pop sensation Tamer Hosny's upcoming concert in Saudi Arabia has triggered an avalanche of mockery and ridicule on social media.

[*Agence France-Presse*]

February

Tortured Pakistani Christian 'leapt from window' to escape police

Sajid Masih, 24, was summoned for allegedly posting blasphemous material on Facebook.

[The Times]

Malaysian Federal Court refuses four people their right to affirm Christian identity

[World Watch Monitor]

800 Christian families flee city after blasphemy claim triggers riots

Hundreds of believers have fled rioting in Pakistan's second-largest city after a local Christian man was accused of insulting the Islamic prophet Muhammad.

[Premier Christian Radio]

Will Morocco's new law protect women from violence?

.... The law, however, does not explicitly outlaw marital rape or spousal violence and does not provide a precise definition of domestic violence. the law includes positive provisions, but leaves women at risk of being abused in a marriage.

[Al Jazeera English]

Pakistan court convicts 31 over campus lynching of student falsely accused of blasphemy

One person was sentenced to death and 30 others were imprisoned over the brutal campus lynching of a university student who was falsely accused of blasphemy in Pakistan.

[The Telegraph]

Iranian women defiant against compulsory hijab

A new wave of protests against the compulsory wearing of hijab has spread across Iran, resulting in the arrests of dozens of women. The government has accused the protesters of being under the influence of drugs.

[Deutsche Welle]

Tehran hijab protest: Iranian police arrest 29 women

Although women in Iran have fought against the hijab for nearly four decades, the new wave of protests has grabbed more attention and sparked a debate rarely seen before over personal freedoms.

[The Guardian]

January

Algeria: New Trials Shake Ahmadi Minority

Algerian authorities have stepped up trials of members of the Ahmadiyya religious minority on charges related to the exercise of their religion. Sentences range from fines to a year in prison.

[Human Rights Watch]

Baha'i Man Sentenced to Public Execution in Yemen. His Crime? Practicing His Faith

[The Wire]

Saudi female football fan: 'We wanted to enter stadiums and we did'

A woman who helped to organise Saudi Arabia's first football match allowing female spectators has told the BBC it was a "great and surreal" experience.
[BBC]

Egypt tackles 'security threat' from musicians

As Saudi Arabia relaxes its rules against cinemas and women drivers, Egypt now looks set to inherit the coveted title of Arab country with the most absurd restrictions. Having made little progress in combating an Islamist insurgency, the Sisi regime has turned its attention to the "threat" posed by atheists, gay people and – increasingly – musicians.
[al-bab.com]

Egyptian Parliament considers outlawing atheism ♦

Shortly before New Year's Day, the Egyptian Parliament considered enacting a law that would make it illegal to profess no belief in God. It is already against Egyptian law to "insult" or "defame" religion, and blasphemy arrests are on the rise. A conviction can bring up to five years in prison.
[USA TODAY]

U.S. places Pakistan on watch list for religious freedom violations

[Reuters]

Turkish child marriage religious document sparks anger ♦

.... the directorate of religious affairs said that, under Islamic law, girls as young as nine could marry. The comments by the Diyanet prompted an outpouring of anger on social media from Turkish women's groups. The directorate insisted it was only defining points of Islamic law.
[BBC]

Islamic anti-vaxxers undermine efforts to prevent diphtheria outbreak in Indonesia

.... some hardline Muslim clerics who claim immunisations are un-Islamic. One of their justifications is that vaccinations are developed using products from "haram" animals like pigs and dogs.
[ABC News Online]

December 2017

Atheist mother loses custody of children in Egypt

A court in Egypt has separated a mother from her two children because she is an atheist.
[al-bab.com]

Egypt: Gunman targets Coptic Christians in church and shop

Nine people have been killed in two attacks on Coptic Christians in Helwan district, south of Cairo, Egypt's interior ministry has said.
[BBC]

Egypt lawmaker moves to criminalise atheism

An Egyptian lawmaker has announced plans to criminalise disbelief in God amid growing moral panic in the country. "The phenomenon is being promoted in society as freedom of belief when this is totally wrong," Hamroush said.
[The New Arab]

Crowds attack Coptic Church in Egypt ♦

The incident took place at the Prince Tawadros church in Giza, 100 kilometers (60 miles) outside Cairo, following Friday prayers at a nearby mosque. Demonstrators gathered outside the church building in the afternoon and stormed it, chanting hostile slogans and calling for the church's demolition.

[*Deutsche Welle*]

Islamists threaten to crack down on Muslims wearing Santa hats in fatwa against Christmas

The Indonesian police have appealed to Islamic hardliners not to raid businesses to check whether Muslim employees were being forced to wear Santa Claus hats or other Christmas outfits over the festive season.

[*The Telegraph*]

Islamic preacher in Turkey says men without beards may cause 'indecent thoughts' ♦

An Islamic preacher in Turkey has drawn a backlash after suggesting that clean-shaven men sometimes "cannot be distinguished from women" and can cause "indecent thoughts."

[*Hürriyet Daily News*]

Iranian media in tailspin over female British diplomat's lack of headscarf

One of the UK's top diplomats has caused a stir on a recent trip to Tehran after it appeared the Iranian Foreign Minister had told her to put a headscarf on. Ms Pierce is also photographed in talks without wearing the scarf on her head. In what appears to be a different meeting, she is wearing a different, orange headscarf.

[*The Independent*]

Triple talaq: India considers jail for 'instant divorce'

Husbands who attempt "instant divorce" could be sentenced to three years in prison under draft legislation being considered in India. The traditional practice involves a Muslim man saying "talaq" (divorce) three times - in any form, including email or text message. It was declared unconstitutional by India's Supreme Court in August, but officials say it has continued since.

[*BBC*]

November 2017

Egypt shows again that Muslims have most to fear from extremist Islamists ♦

.... The primary target of radical Islamist groups is, and always has been, other Muslims. Muslims are the principal victims – and Muslims, more than any other group, are the ones who are fighting them more than anyone else.

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] *"Muslims should be embraced by the West"*

Perhaps this should be the other way round. Muslims should embrace the West. Adapt to Western society integrate into it take on its values and behaviours.

[3RD] Western civilisation should hold islam in contempt as it is incompatible with democracy, freedom, equality and tolerance.

[5TH] *"Muslims have most to fear from Islamists"* Then do something about it. The cancer is in Islam, nowhere near the majority of peaceful Islam, but that hard line Islamic teachings which are a conveyor belt to violent Islamism that too many ignore. It needs to be cut out, fought against at every turn, given no quarter.

[*The Guardian*]

Pakistan army called on to stop 'blasphemy' clashes in Islamabad

Pakistan's government has called for troops to be deployed in the capital, Islamabad, after violence broke out during protests by Islamists.

[*BBC*]

Atheism is unconstitutional, says Malaysian deputy minister

[*Today Online*]

Pakistani police clash with protesters at anti-blasphemy sit-in

Pakistani police have clashed with protesters and arrested dozens in an attempt to disperse an anti-blasphemy sit-in staged by a hardline cleric, which has blocked a main entrance to Islamabad for a week, choking traffic and putting the capital on near lockdown.

[*The Guardian*]

Nine-year-old girls in Iraq could be forced to marry under new Muslim laws ♦

The bill includes provisions that would legalise marital rape and child marriage and ban Muslims from marrying non-Muslims.

[*International Business Times*]

Bangladeshi village burned down after 'Prophet Mohammed insulted' in resident's Facebook post

One person was killed and five injured as police retaliated.

[*The Independent*]

Egyptian TV presenter who spoke about single motherhood jailed for 'outraging public decency'

An Egyptian TV presenter has been sentenced to three years in prison for discussing women having children outside wedlock on air. Doaa Salah asked if her viewers had considered having sex before marriage.

[*The Independent*]

October 2017

Kuwait-based cleric asks youths not to study maths, chemistry, zoology



.... the cleric said Darwin's 'Theory of Evolution' negated the Islamic concept of the process through which the universe came into being. Anybody who studied Darwin automatically ceases to be a Muslim, he said.

[*The Times of India*]

Why These Women Are Graduating In Secret

.... Since the Iranian revolution of 1979, the Baha'i – Iran's largest religious minority, but one that isn't recognised as such – have been banned from accessing higher education by the government of the Islamic Republic.

[*Refinery29*]

The House of Saud is still in denial

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] Actually, it's a few miles east of denial.

[2ND] I personally don't care what they do in their own borders. I don't ever want to go there. Just stop exporting Wahhabism to the rest of the World.

[5TH] Like all great lies there is a little bit of truth behind it. After promoting Islamism, funding ISIS and other Islamist groups, the Saudi's suddenly realised Jihadis were coming home. They have been worried about this for a couple of years now....hence the change in tack. There is no change in their wahhabi ideology, they are just scared of domestic terrorists.

[*The Guardian*]

I will return Saudi Arabia to moderate Islam, says crown prince

Saudi Arabia's crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, has vowed to return the country to "moderate Islam" and asked for global support to transform the hardline kingdom into an open society that empowers citizens and lures investors.

[*The Guardian*]

U.S. Commission condemns death sentence for Ahmadis

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has condemned a Pakistani court's decision to award the death penalty to three Ahmadis accused of blasphemy. The Ahmadis who were arrested in 2014 after they were accused of committing blasphemy by tearing down posters against them. "In short, Ahmadis are required to renounce their faith in order to avail themselves of important civil rights in Pakistan."

[*Rabwah Times*]

Algeria: Laws to Prevent 'Alteration' of Citizens' Religious Convictions

Algerian Minister of Religious Affairs and Endowments Mohammed Eisa warned of sectarian efforts to break the religious principles of Algerian society, pointing out that the government is planning to issue new laws posing penalties on those who try to change Algerians' religious convictions.

[*Asharq Al-Awsat*]

Three Ahmadi men sentenced to death on blasphemy charge

[*Dawn*]

Algerian Christian on hunger strike after being jailed for blasphemy

[*Christian Today*]

Marrying a non-Muslim man as a Muslim woman poses daily challenges



.... Two weeks ago, Tunisia became the only country in the Arab world to officially allow Muslim women to marry non-Muslim men, a decision that has sparked outrage in my native country, Egypt, and triggered fresh memories of my own ordeals as an "outsider", who dared cross the cultural divide and marry a westerner.

.... Shortly before midnight, after touring Damascus, we were interrupted in our hostel room by a rude wake up call – literally. An aggressive voice at the door said, "We are the night staff, we need to check your marriage certificate."

[*inews.co.uk*]

Iranian chess player to compete for US after ban for not wearing hijab

A leading Iranian chess player, barred from her country's team after refusing to wear a headscarf, will now compete for the United States.

[*The Guardian*]

Writer's detention sends a sombre message about Islam

.... Mr Akyol was approached by members of Malaysia's religious-affairs authority and told that he had done wrong by lecturing on Islam without their approval. Matters did not end there. As he was about fly back to the United States where he currently lives, Mr Akyol was detained at the behest of the religious-affairs authority and interrogated.
[*The Economist*]

September 2017

The decline of Turkish schools - Out goes evolution, in comes Islamic piety and loyalty to the regime ♦

Teaching evolution in a predominantly Muslim country where six out of ten people refer to themselves as creationists, according to a 2010 study, has never been easy. As of today it is no longer possible. A module on the life of the Prophet Muhammad will teach the same pupils that Muslims should avoid marrying atheists, and that wives should obey their husbands.
[*The Economist*]

Malaysians in a lather over laundrette for Muslims

"This laundrette only accepts Muslim customers for reasons of purity," it said. "Any inconvenience is very much regretted."
[*BBC*]

Saudi Arabian women demand laws to drive out all inequality

Saudi Arabian women have urged the government to abandon its guardianship law that gives men sweeping powers over female relatives, after it took the historic step of dropping a ban on women drivers.
[*The Times*]

Saudi Arabia driving ban on women to be lifted

[*BBC*]

Saudi Arabian authorities 'still tolerate religious hate speech', report finds

The report - titled "They Are Not Our Brothers: Hate Speech by Saudi Officials" - also found that public school textbooks contain language that "that discriminates against other forms of worship", and Shia citizens face discrimination in the legal system.
[*The Independent*]

Tunisia Leads The Muslim World On Women's Rights

The move to give women equal rights to inherit as men has drawn criticism from neighboring Muslim countries who claimed that giving women the same right to inheritance as men, would be against Islam.
[*The Huffington Post UK*]

Tunisia lifts decades-old ban on Muslim women marrying non-Muslim men ♦

The move was, however, met with strong objection from Muslim clerics.
[*International Business Times*]

Turkey's new school year: Jihad in, evolution out ♦

Turkey's schools have begun the new academic year with a controversial curriculum that leaves out the theory of evolution and brings in the concept of jihad.

[BBC]

Christian man sentenced to death in Pakistan over 'blasphemous' WhatsApp message sent to friend

[*The Independent*]

August 2017

Iraq drops chapter on evolution from school textbooks

Iraq's education ministry has quietly dropped a chapter about evolution from its biology textbooks. The ministry has so far given no explanation but the change has brought complaints and ridicule from Iraqis on social media.

[*al-bab.com*]

Saudi police detain 14-year-old boy for dancing in the street

Saudi police said on Tuesday they had detained a 14-year-old boy who was filmed dancing to the 1990s hit song Macarena at a street crossing in the coastal city of Jeddah, in a clip that was widely shared on social media.

[*The Guardian*]

Christian boy in Pakistan faces death penalty for allegedly burning Quran

[*International Business Times*]

Iranian children arrested for teaching Zumba and 'western' dance

[*The Guardian*]

Saudia Airlines warn passengers of strict dress code

Some may not be surprised to see a strict dress code on Saudi Arabian planes, since the country follows a conservative version of Sunni Islam, but others on social media think it has gone too far.

[BBC]

Atheists in Malaysia should be hunted down, minister says

"They actually don't want to be atheists but it happens because of the lack of religious education. They are misled with a new school of thought," Shahidan said.

[*The Malay Mail Online*]

A modern day dystopia

A new report from Amnesty International gives the lie to the fond notion that Iran was slowly reforming. "The unlawful arrest and torture of peaceful activists and ethnic and religious minorities remain common and widespread, and are practiced with total impunity. Cruel punishments such as flogging and amputations are carried out in public to create a climate of fear and obedience to the regime.

[*Mick Hartley*]

Algerian women defy Islamists by wearing bikinis on the beach

There is no law against bikinis in the country but women are increasingly stigmatised for wearing them and face growing pressure to switch to burkinis, the Islamic swimwear that covers the entire body.

[*The Times*]

'We will not be stopped!' Women protest against Erdogan regime after spike in attacks

It follows harrowing footage of a woman named Asena Melisa Saglam, who was targeted and attacked on an Istanbul bus for wearing shorts during Ramadan. The city has seen a spike in attacks against women for their choice of clothing.

[*Daily Express*]

Baghdad churches close as Iraq's Christians continue to leave

As Iraq descended into sectarian conflict between Sunni and Shia groups after the removal of Saddam Hussein, Christians became an easy target for both sides, ICC says.

[*Christian Today*]

July 2017

Malaysia MP: 'Denying husbands sex is abuse'

[*BBC*]

Backlash over conservative Iranian television host

Iranian state television presenter Azadeh Namdari has faced accusations of hypocrisy on social media after a video emerged showing her drinking beer and not wearing her hijab while on holiday in Switzerland.

[*BBC*]

Police arrest culprits after 5-year-old girl married to 22-year-old man

[*Dawn.com*]

Turkish MP says 'no use in teaching maths to a child who doesn't know jihad' ♦

"Jihad comes before prayer," he said. "When we look at Ottoman sultans, nearly all of them didn't even go to hajj in order not to abandon jihad." "There's no use in teaching mathematics to a child who doesn't know jihad."

[*The Independent*]

Facebook was where Pakistan could debate religion. Now it's a tool to punish 'blasphemers' ♦

Taimoor Raza, a 30-year-old Shia Muslim from a "poor but literate" family, was sentenced to death in June by an anti-terrorist court in Pakistan. His crime? Allegedly insulting the prophet Muhammad on Facebook.

[*The Guardian*]

Turkey's new school curriculum drops evolution and will teach concept of jihad

The chairman of a teachers' union has described the changes as a huge step in the wrong direction for Turkey's schools and an attempt to avoid raising "generations who ask questions".

Ismet Yilmaz, the country's education minister, said the controversial decision to exclude the theory of evolution was "because it is above the students' level and not directly relevant."

[*The Independent*]

Pakistan's secret atheists

Being an atheist in Pakistan can be life-threatening. But behind closed doors, non-believers are getting together to support one another. How do they survive in a nation where blasphemy carries a death sentence?
[BBC]

Iranian women spark debate by defying hijab rule in cars

A growing number of women in Iran are refusing to wear a hijab while driving, sparking a nationwide debate about whether a car is a private space where they can dress more freely. Obligatory wearing of the hijab has been an integral policy of the Islamic republic since the 1979 revolution but it is one the establishment has had a great deal of difficulty enforcing. Many Iranian women are already pushing the boundaries, and observers in Tehran say women who drive with their headscarves resting on their shoulders are becoming a familiar sight.
[The Guardian]

Saudi Arabia introduces physical education for schoolgirls in break from tradition

The Shura Council approved the introduction of physical education for girls in 2014, but the decision was never implemented as it faced opposition from clerics who decried it as 'Westernisation'.
[The Express Tribune]

Saudi activist jailed for driving says women 'still being treated as slaves in 2017'

Manal Al-Sharif, who spent nine days in prison for flouting the ban in Saudi Arabia on women drivers, has spoken out about her ordeal.
[The Independent]

June 2017

Former Egyptian Grand Mufti Ali Gomaa: Women Are Incapable of Becoming Heart Surgeons

It's amazing. It's peculiar. Why do you think that there are none? Because it requires great physical effort - beyond what a woman is capable of.
[MEMRI]

Secular Yemenis live in fear after student is killed in Aden

Friends suspect Abdulrahman was shot dead by Islamist militants who they say are waging a campaign of persecution against secularists accused of promoting an anti-Islam message or being atheists.
[Reuters]

Passions flare as Turkey excludes evolution from textbooks

.... the theory was not well taught anyhow: "Once the teacher asked us who believed in evolutionary theory. I raised my hand. The teacher said: 'Are you a monkey then?'" But on Facebook another commenter says: "I want to thank the government for preventing our youth to be poisoned by this rotten and absurd theory. There is nothing more natural than excluding it from the national curriculum."
[BBC]

Turkish schools to stop teaching evolution, official says

Alpaslan Durmus, who chairs the board of education, said evolution was debatable, controversial and too complicated for students. "We believe that these subjects are

beyond their [students] comprehension," said Durmus in a video published on the education ministry's website.

[*The Guardian*]

The wounded victims of Sri Lanka's child marriage law

In Sri Lanka the legal marriage age is 18, but under a decades-old community law, much younger Muslim girls can get married. As calls grow for this law to be amended, BBC Sinhala's Saroj Pathirana meets one young girl forced to marry against her will.

[*BBC*]

Iran bans Zumba classes for being 'un-Islamic'

[*The Independent*]

Ten years in jail and 1,000 lashes: why we must defend Saudi blogger Raif Badawi ♦

It was the fifth anniversary yesterday of the arrest of the Saudi blogger Raif Badawi, whose supposed crime was to argue for secularism, democracy and human rights.

[*The Guardian*]

'We will break every bone': Islamist leaders threaten Bangladeshi lawyer

Human rights groups have warned about the safety of a prominent Bangladeshi lawyer after Islamist leaders threatened to "break every bone" in her body for defending the installation of a Lady Justice statue outside the country's supreme court.

[*The Guardian*]

'Facebook blasphemer' given death penalty ♦

Taimoor Raza was convicted after allegedly posting remarks about the Prophet Muhammad, his wives and companions within the site's comments.

[*BBC*]

'They said girls don't ride bikes': Iranian women defy cycling fatwa ♦

.... the city's bike share system is one of the best, with staffed sheds and cheerful blue bikes, there's still one problem: women are not allowed to rent them.

[*The Guardian*]

Pakistan: man sentenced to death for blasphemy on Facebook

[*The Guardian*]

Saudi Women Are Going to Jail for Driving Cars, Fleeing Abusers

How would you like to remain legally a child your entire life, banned from moving about without male supervision or a chaperone, thrown in jail for driving a car or running away from an abusive man?

[*Newsweek*]

Christian preachers' disappearance in Malaysia stokes fears of crackdown on religious minorities

[*The Guardian*]

Christian Pakistani sewage worker dies after doctors refuse to touch him on Ramadan fast

[*Christian Today*]

'Law Against Child Marriage In Conflict With Muslim Personal Law'

"Prevention of child marriage act is a secular law. But the Muslim personal law says once a girl attains puberty, she is ready for marriage. Nowadays, a girl attains puberty at the age of 11," the judge said, pointing that such situations arose in case of personal laws of other religions too.

[*NDTV*]

May 2017

Greek goddess statue removed in Bangladesh after Islamist outcry

Workers have begun to dismantle the statue of a Greek goddess from Bangladesh's Supreme Court complex, after an outcry from Islamists. The sculpture of Themis - the goddess of justice - wearing a sari was less than six months old, but Islamist groups demanded its removal by Friday.

[*BBC*]

The cradle of religious intolerance

Saudi Arabia neither recognizes nor protects religious freedom. It also cares little about keeping non-Muslims free from fear, violence and hatred. But, then again, come to think of it, in some ways, that's also true of the Islamic State.

[*The Washington Post*]

Unmarried Mali couple stoned to death for violating 'Islamic law

"The Islamists dug two holes where they put the man and the woman who lived maritally without being married," said a local official. "They were stoned to death."

[*The Telegraph*]

Isis: The Origins of Violence – a brave documentary that will start many a fight

While visiting sites of Isis atrocities that have not yet been made safe, he was required to address the philosophical question of whether Islamic doctrine contains a strain of thought that can be used to justify extreme violence and even genocide.

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] Violence in the cause of Islam has a long history. The problem has been that many people in the West have been too busy trying to make excuses for Islam and its violent history (you know, Islam means peace or "etymologically related" to peace stuff), and it becomes almost disturbing how inventive they can be trying to sidestep the issue of Islamic violence.

[*The Guardian*]

Secular and religious leaders fail to stand up for a Christian politician

Indonesia is a Muslim-majority nation known for religious tolerance, but a blasphemy conviction Tuesday shows the growing power of Islamists and the timidity of opponents.

[*Wall Street Journal*]

People who smoke, eat openly during Ramazan face 3-month imprisonment

[*The Express Tribune*]

Indonesia's courts have opened the door to fear and religious extremism ♦

The Jakarta court that sentenced governor Basuki "Ahok" Purnama to two years' imprisonment for blasphemy against Islam has sent a chilling message to non-Muslims in

Indonesia. How could religious freedom slowly decline in Indonesia? And how could political Islam shape the country?

[*The Guardian*]

Blasphemy laws around the world

Saudi Arabia is infamous for the severity of its laws on blasphemy, which is punishable by death. In 2013, human rights activist Raif Badawi was found guilty of insulting Islam in blog posts that criticised the country's religious police and hardline Wahhabi ideology. He was sentenced to 1000 lashes.

[*The Week*]

Jakarta governor Ahok sentenced to two years in prison for blasphemy

[*The Guardian*]

Pakistan rejects bill seeking to raise minimum age for marriage for girls, terms it 'un-Islamic'

Pakistani lawmakers have unanimously rejected a bill aimed at increasing the minimum age for marriage of a girl from 16 to 18 years, terming the proposed amendment as "un-Islamic".

[*FirstPost*]

Indonesia hard-liners call for jailing of Christian governor

Thousands of conservative Muslims took to the streets of the Indonesian capital to call for the jailing of its minority Christian governor who is on trial on charges of blaspheming the Quran.

[*Associated Press*]

Boy, 10, killed in attempted blasphemy lynching in Pakistan ♦

A 10-year-old boy has been killed and five other people wounded after a mob attacked a police station in an attempt to lynch a Hindu man charged with blasphemy in south-west Pakistan, officials said.

[*The Guardian*]

April 2017

Jordan: No more pardons for rapists who marry their victims

In some Arab countries, men who rape a woman but then marry her are protected from prosecution. But legislative changes approved by parliament in Jordan are making this a thing of the past.

[*Deutsche Welle*]

Former member of Iranian women's football team 'banned from sport' after being photographed without veil

[*The Independent*]

Saudi Arabia, one of the world's worst places to be a woman, has just been put on the UN commission to promote gender equality

[*The Independent*]

Man 'sentenced to death for atheism' in Saudi Arabia ♦

He reportedly lost an Appeals Court case, and a Supreme Court ruled against him earlier this week.

[*The Independent*]

Why doesn't Pakistan reform its blasphemy laws?

Nineteen people are currently on death row for blasphemy. Members of Pakistan's beleaguered Christian minority are used as targets by hate-mongering mullahs and others.

[*The Economist*]

'They will kill me': Saudi woman fleeing to Australia forced back to kingdom

Arranged marriages are the norm in Saudi Arabia, where a "guardianship" system requires a male family member, usually the father, husband or brother, to grant permission for a woman's study, travel and other activities.

[*AFP*]

Pakistan student killed over 'blasphemy' on university campus

A university student in Pakistan accused of blasphemy against Islam has been killed by a mob of fellow students on campus, police say. Many students have been arrested after the brutal attack in the northern city of Mardan, and the campus has been closed. Reports suggest that two young men were accused of posting offensive content on Facebook. One survived with injuries.

[*BBC*]

Women barred from Tehran marathon defy rules to complete their own race instead

.... female participants were dismayed to be told in an email from organisers three weeks ago that they would actually not be allowed to take part, as men and women cannot participate in sports together in the conservative country.

[*The Independent*]

Tunisia sentences British DJ for Muslim prayer remix

A Tunisian court has sentenced a British DJ to a year in jail after he played a dance remix of the Muslim call to prayer.

[*BBC*]

Malaysian MP says girls as young as NINE are ready for marriage and rape victims should wed their attackers to help them 'turn over a new leaf'

[*Daily Mail*]

Girls as young as nine ready for marriage, says Malaysian MP ♦

"They reach puberty at the age of nine or 12. And at that time, their body is already akin to them being 18 years old. So physically and spiritually, it is not a barrier for the girl to marry." He also said there was "nothing wrong" with a rape victim marrying her rapist, as she would then not face a "bleak future".

[*The Straits Times*]

March 2017

Iranian man sentenced to death for 'insulting Islam' through messaging app ♦

Human rights groups fighting to save Sina Dehghan from hanging for messages he sent as a teenager. A 21-year-old man has been sentenced to death by Iranian authorities for "insulting Islam" through messages he sent on an instant messenger app.

[*The Independent*]

Pakistan asks Facebook to help fight blasphemy

Facebook has agreed to send a team to Pakistan to address reservations about content on the social media site, according to the interior ministry. Blasphemy is a highly sensitive and incendiary issue in Pakistan. Critics say blasphemy laws, which allow the death penalty in some cases, are often misused to oppress minorities.

[BBC]

Pakistan to offer extra college credits to girls who cover their faces

Female students would be required to wear the Hijab, and as an incentive, the Department of Education will allocate 5 extra attendance credits to those who have less than 65% attendance.

[Rabwah Times]

Saudi Arabia launches girls' council - without any girls

[BBC]

Iran Sentences American Citizen, Wife to Death for "Holding Mixed Parties" With Alcohol

A dual American-Iranian citizen and his wife have been sentenced to death by an Iranian court after being convicted of founding a "cult" and "holding mixed parties" that involved serving alcohol, the Financial Times reported Sunday.

[TheTower.org]

Indonesia imprisons leaders of 'deviant' religious group on blasphemy charges

A court in Indonesia has found three leaders of the religious minority group, known as Gafatar, guilty of blasphemy and sentenced them to multiple years in prison.

[International Business Times]

Hardline Islam and Saudi money are spreading across the Indian Ocean and into Asia

But beneath the radar of tourists, a dark force is spreading across parts of south and south-east Asia that is threatening social cohesion and peaceful coexistence: the rise of Islamism.

[The Telegraph]

Freedom of expression vs. defamation of religions: Protecting individuals or protecting religions?

Freedom of expression does not justify in any way whatsoever the defamation of religions." The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), an intergovernmental umbrella organisation of 57 Muslim-majority states Instead, the OIC's ambition is to outlaw a particular form of speech, which violates Islamic censorship norms, thus bolstering authoritarian states and religious orthodoxy rather than protecting individual freedom and rights.

[London School of Economics]

February 2017

As Christians flee in Sinai, a look at Egypt's sectarian problem

Since the end of January at least seven people have been attacked and killed in the provincial capital, El Arish. Five were shot, one was beheaded, and one burnt to death. Other Christians in the area say they have received threats by mobile phone and "death lists" have been circulated online. A video issued last week by a local IS affiliate vowed

to step up attacks, describing the Christians as "infidels" empowering the West against Muslims.

[*al-bab.com*]

Comics and music shows in Saudi Arabia draw rebuke from clerics

[*Reuters*]

Why does a Nigerian Muslim leader want to restrict polygamy?

"They end up producing 20 children, not educating them, leaving them on the streets, and they end up as thugs and terrorists." It was a brave statement that anyone who has visited the north will find hard to deny.

[*BBC*]

Pakistan capital bans Valentine's Day

A court in Pakistan has banned public celebrations of Valentine's Day in the capital, Islamabad, on the grounds that it is not part of Muslim culture. The Islamabad High Court's order prohibits all Valentine's Day festivities in government offices and public spaces with immediate effect.

[*BBC*]

Pakistan bans Valentine's Day for being unIslamic

Pakistan has become the latest country to ban Valentine's Day. It has prohibited all public celebrations and any media coverage because the celebration is not part of Muslim traditions. The ruling was handed down by the Islamabad High Court, following an unsuccessful attempt to ban the festival last year.

[*The Independent*]

Turkey's new curriculum: More Erdoğan, more Islam

.... secular-leaning Turks were enraged at the plan to remove classes on evolution and the country's founding fathers, accusing the government of injecting education with its conservative-religious ideology.

[*POLITICO*]

Christian OAP charged with blasphemy in Pakistan

Pakistan ranks as the fourth worst country in the world when it comes to the persecution of Christians, according Open Doors.

[*Premier Christian Radio*]

Egyptian religious council rejects reform to law allowing men to verbally divorce their wives ♦

The top Islamic authority in Egypt, which must be consulted on all constitutional matters, has unanimously rejected a proposed reform to end Muslim men's ability to divorce their wives without going through a court of law.

[*The Independent*]

Bangladesh's secular activists concerned about textbook changes

For instance, poems and stories penned by non-Muslim writers have been removed, and the pictures of girls in traditional clothes have been replaced with the ones in Islamic attire.

[*Deutsche Welle*]

Iranian woman to be blinded in 'retribution' punishment for acid attack

An Iranian woman is to be blinded in one eye as punishment for an acid attack that left her victim without sight, according to reports. The woman, who has not been named,

threw acid in the face of her victim, identified as Sima, two years ago in the city of Dehdasht, Iranian news agency Tasnim reported.
[*International Business Times*]

Indonesian woman endures 26 lashes for having sex outside marriage

Harrowing images have emerged of an Indonesian woman crying and burying her head in her hands after being caned by a religious officer for breaching Sharia law.
[*The Independent*]

Apostasy death penalty case blogger 'in limbo'

A Mauritanian court will re-examine the case of a young blogger, Mohamed Cheikh Ould M'khaitir, who is facing execution following his death sentence for "apostasy" – the abandonment of Islam.
[*International Business Times*]

January 2017

Pakistan bans religious TV host Aamir Liaquat Hussain over blasphemy allegations

Pakistan's television regulator has banned a well-known talkshow host for hate speech, after he hosted shows accusing liberal activists and others of blasphemy, an inflammatory allegation that could put their lives at risk.
[*The Guardian*]

Rising influence of Islam in schools alarms Bangladeshi secularists

Bangladesh's Education Ministry was preparing to print the 2017 editions of its standard Bengali textbooks when a group of conservative Islamic religious scholars demanded the removal of 17 poems and stories they deemed "atheistic".
[*The Age*]

Shariah Law Imposed in Mali As Islamist Extremists Ban Baptisms and Christian Weddings

[*Christian Today*]

Iran: Wave of floggings, amputations and other vicious punishments

Hundreds are routinely flogged in Iran each year, sometimes in public. In the most recent flogging case a journalist was lashed 40 times after a court found him guilty of inaccurately reporting the number of motorcycles confiscated by police in the city. "The authorities' prolific use of corporal punishment, including flogging, amputation and blinding, throughout 2016 highlights the inhumanity of a justice system that legalizes brutality.
[*Amnesty International*]

Female bodybuilder is thrown in jail in Iran for posting 'un-Islamic' photographs of her workouts online

An Iranian bodybuilder has been arrested after publishing selfie of her muscles on social media which were deemed to be 'nude'.
[*Daily Mail*]

Attack highlights widening chasm in Turkish lifestyles

.... A woman wearing shorts was recently beaten on a public bus; a party in a record shop during Ramadan was attacked by local Islamists; and pro-government newspapers blast out headlines against secularism or leftists.
[*BBC*]

Yemeni who questioned Qur'an "science" survives assassination attempt

His book, "Critique of Scientific Inimitability" has been featured at book fairs in several Arabic countries, including Yemen. It looks critically at claims that the Qur'an is a "scientific miracle" – claims which are also included in the Yemeni school curriculum.
[*al-bab.com*]

Saudi Arabia's top religious authority says ban on pop concerts and movies must stay to stop mixing of the sexes

Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdulaziz Al al-Sheikh said attending such events could be harmful and corrupting as they encourage the mixing of the sexes.
[*Daily Mail*]

Saudi Arabia's religious authority says cinemas, song concerts harmful

The comments by Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdulaziz Al al-Sheikh, published on his website, said cinemas and round-the-clock entertainment could open the door to "atheistic or rotten" foreign films and encourage the mixing of the sexes.
[*Reuters*]

India divorce: How 'triple talaq' destroys lives

A practice in India that allows Muslim men to divorce their wives in an instant is facing fierce opposition.
[*BBC*]

Yemeni woman who campaigned for female literacy shot dead

Amat al-Aleem al-Asbahi, who worked to improve female literacy in the war-torn country, was killed on 25 December by two motorcycle riders as she walked on a busy street in the city centre.
[*The Independent*]

Christmas message leads to death threats in Pakistan

A Christmas message calling for prayers for those charged under Pakistan's blasphemy laws has led to death threats against the son of a provincial governor killed five years ago for criticising the same laws.
[*Reuters*]

December 2016

Saudi Arabia jails man for saying men shouldn't control women

He was arrested while putting up posters in mosques in Al-Hasa district calling for an end to the globally unique system that subjects women in the ultra-conservative kingdom to male control. During questioning, police found out that the man was also behind a wide online campaign to end the guardianship, the paper said.
[*Agence France-Presse*]

The Saudi Arabian party video that shocked the Middle East and led to numerous arrests!

The youngsters have been accused of not only going to a "mixed" party — where men and women mingle freely — but also consuming alcohol.
[*International Business Times*]

Asia Bibi: Christmas in a prison cell

.... This will be the seventh consecutive Christmas mother-of-five Asia Bibi will spend in solitary confinement within the Islamic Republic of Pakistan - a country that has what the United Nations describes as "one of the worst situations in the world for religious freedom".

A member of the Christian minority, just 1.6% of the population, 45-year-old Asia Bibi was jailed after being found guilty of breaching Pakistan's strict blasphemy laws.
[BBC]

Egypt's Copts between terror and discrimination ♦

As Copts examine the position they are in, they're caught between a state that is not willing to treat them as equals or protect their most sacred sites, and radicals who are willing to kill them on an Islamic holiday to deliver a strong message that they are viewed as infidels and their murder glorified.
[openDemocracy]

Maid arrested for giving birth to illegitimate baby

Soon after the baby's birth, the hospital contacted police to inform them that an unmarried woman had given birth on their premises. The police said the hospital should have informed them immediately. "They should not accept such cases of unmarried pregnant women," police said.
[Gulf News]

Afghan gunmen kill five women airport guards

The women worked as security guards at a Kandahar airport, searching luggage and female passengers. They had received death threats from people opposed to women in the workforce.
[Deutsche Welle]

Saudi Arabia to 'inoculate' children against Westernisation, atheism and liberalism

They were listed as threats to "ideological security", ahead of the danger from extremist groups including Isis and al-Qaeda and sectarianism.
[The Independent]

Pakistan's abuse of the Ahmadis makes Donald Trump's Muslim ban look tame - The Pakistani state has established an apartheid system for a religious minority ♦

In fact, to add insult to injury, it is a legal requirement for every Pakistani – who wants to renew or apply for a new passport – to declare that Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was an impostor prophet and anyone who follows him is a non-Muslim.
[International Business Times]

Al-Azhar head: Western modernity 'not best' for Muslim women

The head of al-Azhar, Egypt's top Islamic authority, said on Monday that the Western concept of modernity is not the "best example" for Muslim women to follow.
[The New Arab]

'Rebel' Saudi Arabia woman who posted photo without head scarf is arrested

Saudi police have arrested a young woman who tweeted a picture of herself outdoors without the body-length robes and head scarf that women in the kingdom are required to wear.
[The Guardian]

Triple talaq: Indian court calls instant divorce system 'cruel' and 'most demeaning'

A top Indian court has scorned the practice of "triple talaq" in the country calling it "cruel" and "most demeaning". The Allahabad High Court said the instant divorce system prevalent among some Indian Muslims is "unconstitutional".
[*International Business Times*]

Instagram models incarcerated in Iran

Iran has jailed 12 fashion bloggers and social media models for up to six years for spreading a "Western-style culture of nudity" designed to corrupt Muslims.
[*9news*]

Muslims turn out in force against Christian governor Ahok - Huge crowds descend on Jakarta to demand the Indonesian capital's governor be arrested for insulting Islam

[*The Guardian*]

Saudi woman faced death threats after being pictured not wearing a hijab or abaya

Social media users in Saudi Arabia rushed to the defence of a woman who faced death threats for being pictured in public without an abaya or hijab. Some Twitter users reacted with outrage after the emergence of the image allegedly taken in capital city Riyadh, with one person demanding: "Kill her and throw her corpse to the dogs".
[*The Independent*]

November 2016

Saudi Woman Without Hijab Attacked: Execution Called For By Conservative Muslim Twitter Users

[*International Business Times*]

Iranian filmmaker starts sentence

Iranian filmmaker Keywan Karimi, sentenced to 223 lashes and a year in jail for a film he made about graffiti, started his prison sentence in Tehran on Wednesday, his French producer said.
[*Your Middle East*]

Indonesia's blasphemy laws

.... this month police formally declared the country's most prominent Christian politician, Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, the governor (in effect, mayor) of Jakarta, to be a suspect in a blasphemy case. If convicted, Mr Purnama, known as Ahok, faces up to five years in prison.
[*The Economist*]

Shocking Rise In Religious Persecution Fuelled By 'Islamist Hyper-Extremism' ♦

Out of the 11 countries that had worsening levels of persecution, "nine were under extreme pressure from Islamist violence", the report found. And out of the 11 countries with consistent levels of persecution, seven faced huge problems relating to Islamism both from non-state militant groups and state-sponsored oppression.
[*Christian Today*]

Women and vulnerable people are paying for Turkey's authoritarianism

Under the proposal put forward last week, men convicted of sex with an underage girl before 11 November this year would be pardoned if they married their victim, as long as the act was committed without "force, threat or any other restriction on consent".

[*The Guardian*]

11 Christian Television Stations Shut Down in Pakistan; 6 Operators Arrested

[*Christian Today*]

Turkey withdraws child rape bill after street protests

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim has withdrawn a bill that pardons men convicted of sex with underage girls if they have married them.

[*BBC*]

Saudi court sentences poet to death for renouncing Islam

A Saudi court on Tuesday ordered the execution of Ashraf Fayadh, who has curated art shows in Jeddah and at the Venice Biennale. The poet, who said he did not have legal representation, was given 30 days to appeal against the ruling.

[*The Guardian*]

Fury in Turkey over bill overturning child sex offences if men in question marry victim

A BILL IN Turkey that would overturn men's convictions for child sex assault if they married their victim has provoked fury with critics accusing the government of encouraging rape of minors with the proposals.

[*TheJournal.ie*]

Lashes for drinking communion wine: Iran's persecution of Christians continues

Four Christians have been sentenced to 80 lashes each for drinking communion wine, and the prison sentences of six other Christians have been upheld, as a new UN report slams Iran's human rights record.

[*Barnabas Fund*]

Christians sentenced to 80 lashes by Sharia court for drinking communion wine

It is not illegal for Christians to drink alcohol in Iran but under Islamic law, Muslims are forbidden from drinking and it is illegal for Muslims to convert. The trio's conversion from Islam to Christianity is not recognised by Iranian authorities who subscribe to Sharia law.

[*Daily Express*]

Jakarta's Christian governor to face blasphemy trial over Islam insult claim

The police announcement follows mounting pressure by religious hardliners who earlier this month initiated mass protests across the country to demand the popular figure be arrested and charged with insulting Islam.

[*The Guardian*]

Mob calls for death of Mauritanian 'apostate'

Two days after the article appeared Ould Mkhaitir was arrested and has been in jail ever since. His family reportedly disowned him, his marriage was dissolved on grounds of

apostasy and his lawyer abandoned him. A Mauritanian businessman also offered a substantial reward for anyone who succeeded in killing him.

[*al-bab.com*]

One dead, seven injured after massive Islamist march on Jakarta

A massive protest against alleged blasphemy by a Christian politician turned violent last night.

[*Metro.co.uk*]

Jakarta mayor's Koran joke sparks huge Muslim protest

Tens of thousands of fundamentalist Muslims gathered in the Indonesian capital Jakarta this morning to demand the arrest of its Christian governor for joking about the Koran.

[*The Times*]

Woman is caned in public for standing too close to boyfriend

Marlina bin Abdul Rahman grimaced as she endured the beating in front of a crowd in the city of Banda Aceh for the offence of khalwat. Under Sharia, unmarried men and women are forbidden from being alone together.

[*The Times*]

4.0 What the Papers Say - Western World

Reports and articles concerning face covering and hijabs are collected together at the end of this section.

4.1 General

May

16 Guards Are Needed to Protect a German Imam Who Fights for Gender Equality ♦

.... the Istanbul-born feminist really painted a bull's-eye on herself when she started the Ibn Rushd-Goethe mosque in the German capital. It's a place of worship where men and women pray in the same space. Burqas and niqabs are strongly discouraged, headscarves are optional, and women often lead in prayer. [Patheos]

Saudi-financed Belgian mosques teach hatred of Jews, gays

[France24]

April

MPs call for answers on mosque funding following Kuwait charity claim

.... the mosque in The Hague has received money from a Kuwait group which is on a US terror list. "There must come an end to the foreign financing of radical versions of Islam here in the Netherlands".

[DutchNews]

French Jews 'face ethnic cleansing by Islamists'

"French Jews are 25 times more at risk of being attacked than their Muslim counterparts," it adds. "Ten per cent of the Jewish citizens of the Paris region have recently been forced to move because they were no longer secure in certain council estates. This is a quiet ethnic cleansing."

[The Times]

Algerian woman denied French citizenship over handshake ♦

The woman said her "religious beliefs" prevented her from shaking the hand of the male official in the citizenship ceremony. In Islamic teaching, handshakes between unrelated men and women are usually prohibited.

[BBC]

'Change your Western mentality or I'll get another wife': Australian Muslim women are being trapped in abusive relationships as Sharia imams refuse to divorce them from their husbands ♦

[Daily Mail Australia]

'Islam shouldn't culturally shape Germany'

Islam "doesn't culturally shape our country" and "it should not" be culturally influential in Germany. "No Islamic country on earth has developed a comparable democratic culture like the ones we know in Christian countries."

[Deutsche Welle]

Outrage at Irish visit by hate preacher who praised Bin Laden

[EXTRA.ie]

Belgian Islamic Party Announces '100 Per Cent Islamic State' as End Goal

[Breitbart London]

Number of Salafists in Germany has doubled in past five years

[Deutsche Welle]

Swedish court sentences parents for trying to force girl, 13, into marriage

[The Local]

Why are so many left-wing progressives silent about Islam's totalitarian tendencies?

As a lifelong feminist, and firmly on the political Left, I am appalled at so-called progressives that capitulate to Islamist men, and make an exception for Islam as a religion – when being (rightly) critical of Judaism and Catholicism. What is behind this hypocrisy? From where I am standing it is simple: the fear of being labelled 'Islamophobic'.

[UnHerd.com]

March

France Expels Moroccan Imam Accused of Legitimizing Jihad

[Morocco World News]

Anti-Islam PVV wins city council seats in 30 municipalities

[NL Times]

Islam does not belong to Germany, says new minister

"The Muslims who live among us naturally belong to Germany... That of course does not mean that we should, out of a false consideration for others, give up our traditions and customs. "Muslims need to live with us, not next to us or against us."

[BBC]

Sweden's Social Democrats Pledge to Ban Religious Schools

"In our schools, teachers and principals should make the decisions, not priests or imams," Minister for Upper Secondary School and Adult Education and Training Anna Ekstrom said at a press conference in Stockholm.

[Bloomberg]

Teacher at Islamic school in France jailed for shaving off pupil's blonde tints

[The Local]

University of Auckland fires senior academic who tried to shake female Muslim student's hand

[Newshub]

Angela Merkel admits there ARE 'no-go' areas in Germany that 'nobody dares' to enter

[Daily Mail]

February

Swiss Islamic Council Justifies Female Genital Mutilation

The Islamic Central Council of Switzerland (IZRS) has defended the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM), claiming that Islamic law justifies the practice. IZRS Secretary-General Ferah Uluca said that while the paper justifies the practice, it does not call on Muslims to perform it as a duty. Uluca said it is up to each parent to decide, but the paper does claim the practice is not harmful to the girl involved.

[Breitbart London]

Make female circumcision legal, says Muslim scholar

A leading Muslim scholar based in Ireland has said that a form of female genital mutilation should be "reasonably practised" and should not be illegal.

[The Times]

More action needed to prevent 're-education' trips abroad, says minister

Danish municipalities know of at least 130 cases in which immigrant children have suffered negatively after being sent home for re-education because their parents are afraid that they are becoming too Danish.

[The Copenhagen Post]

'Celebrating Valentine's Day is immoral': Islamic teacher slams the day of romance and says Muslim women should NEVER be referred to as a 'girlfriend'

'In Islam, a woman is known to be your mother, sister, wife and your daughter,' she said. 'She is never known to be your girlfriend.'

[Daily Mail Australia]

Muslim leader urges Macron not to meddle too much in French Islam

A leading representative of French Muslims urged Emmanuel Macron not to meddle in the organization of France's second-largest religion, days after the president said he would try to redefine relations between Islam and the state.

[Reuters]

Emmanuel Macron to propose reorganization of Islam in France

French President Emmanuel Macron wants to reorganize Islam in France to better integrate worship, fight fundamentalism and preserve "national cohesion."

[POLITICO]

January

Greece's Muslim minority hails change to limit power of sharia law

In a move described as a "historic step" by the prime minister, Alexis Tsipras, the leftist-led government announced on Tuesday that members of Greece's 120,000-strong Muslim community would be able to seek recourse in Greek courts in divorce, child custody and inheritance matters rather than take their case to Islamic jurists – a century-old legacy of legislation drafted with the collapse of the Ottoman empire.

[The Guardian]

French town's decision to ban pork-free school meals branded 'anti-Muslim'

Mr Sanchez insisted the introduction of pork-free meals was "anti-Republican" and a "provocation" because it introduced "religion into school". "We are not a four-star restaurant," he added on Twitter.

[*The Independent*]

Australian Islamic undertaker makes bizarre rant next to a body on a trolley - warning Muslims will end up dead in a fridge if they drink, have sex or even accept a party invite from non-believers

[*Daily Mail Australia*]

Muslim women speaking up against violence are silenced. We must amplify their voices

It's telling that many Muslim men deal with Islamophobia by policing the voices of Muslim women instead of addressing the legacy of patriarchal violence.

[*The Guardian*]

French hospital rejects trainee doctor due to 'religious' beard

A Paris hospital's decision to reject an Egyptian trainee doctor because of his beard has been backed by a court, which agreed that patients might have seen it as a religious symbol.

[*The Telegraph*]

December 2017

German authorities target Islamist women's network

.... the network followed a strict Salafist doctrine — from how to raise children and cooking ingredients, to how to interpret the rules of Islam and stir up hatred against so-called "non-believers."

[*Deutsche Welle*]

'It is your duty to stop it': Hardline Australian Sharia law preacher says Muslim men shouldn't allow women to get an education if it leads them to have sex outside of marriage

[*Daily Mail Australia*]

"Every Muslim is a bit of a salafist": Rotterdam mayor

[*NL Times*]

The debate about Islam should be put on hold, says Rotterdam mayor

[*DutchNews*]

Board member of anti-racism agency fired amid accusations of Islamophobic commentary

"Why? Because I dared to criticize political Islam," she wrote. "I make a distinction between those who practice Islam in peace and harmony with others, and those with an agenda to usurp democratic constitutions, demand special privileges over other creeds and who advocate the abuse of women and innocents as a supremacist entitlement.

"It is odd to be removed from a race relations foundation for my private work in criticizing this aspect of Islam, of which the latter is not a race."

[*Toronto Star*]

Religious freedom review appointee has argued for limited sharia law in Australia

Aroney is an expert on legal pluralism, law and religion who has warned that religious freedom has become a second-class right to anti-discrimination and argued that religious freedom should include a right to practise sharia law within "strictly justifiable limits imposed by the general law".

[*The Guardian*]

It's high-time liberal democracies tackled "non-violent" Islamist ideologies

They promote an "us vs. them" narrative and urge Muslims to isolate from the rest of society. This propaganda causes ghetto-mentality and polarisation, fuelling feelings of marginalisation, resentment and frustration that, with the right trigger, have the potential to translate into violence.

[*Euronews*]

November 2017

Ex-Muslims: They left Islam and now tour the US to talk about it

.... "You can find beauty within Islam itself," he tells the audience. "It's an amalgam of many, many ideas. Some are good, some bad. "A lot of them are outdated, because it was the 7th Century. It doesn't mean they're all bad. Personally speaking, one of the better things in Islam is the emphasis on charity."

[*BBC*]

Islamic 'hate preacher' to be expelled

A district court in canton Zurich has given a Muslim preacher, accused of promoting violence, an 18-month suspended prison sentence. The preacher was on trial for calling for the burning of Muslims who are not devout enough in their worship.

[*swissinfo.ch*]

Controversy over fundamentalist meeting in Genk Town Hall

Men and women had to sit apart during the meeting and youngsters were told to try and no longer listen to music as it was sinful.

[*Flanders News*]

Pakistani-American Muslims call for restrictions against 'non-Muslims'

Pakistan born Islamic cleric Rafiq Khan defined America as "The land of Infidels" at a fundraiser for his Islamic charity this Saturday. The event which was held at a Holiday Inn in Springfield, Virginia attracted over 100 participants. An exhibition stall lined with posters urged Muslim voters to not vote for "non-Muslim candidates".

[*Rabwah Times*]

Muslim Anti-Semitism Threatens France's Democracy

"In the Merah household, we were brought up with hating Jews, the hatred of everything that was not Muslim."

[*Newsweek*]

France to block Muslim street prayers in Paris suburb

French authorities will stop Muslims from praying in a street north of Paris, the country's interior minister said on Sunday, after a series of protests by lawmakers and locals over what they view as an unacceptable use of public space.

[*The Local*]

French mayor leads protest to stop Muslim worshippers praying in street

A French mayor and dozens of other MPs and elected councillors from around the Paris region sang the Marseillaise on Friday as they marched towards around 200 Muslim worshippers in a bid to stop them praying in the street.

[*The Local*]

One of the most important duties of women is to obey their husbands

In a May 31 sermon, he said that "one of the most important duties of women is to obey their husbands" and that she must obtain his permission to step out of her home or to use his money.

In a June 8 sermon, Khozaei, citing a hadith of the Prophet Muhammad, said that the wife must make herself available for sex with her husband whenever he wants, "even if she is riding a camel..."

[*Mick Hartley*]

Religion is increasingly being treated with leniency in the name of multiculturalism. How can we stop Sharia courts from threatening secular values? ♦

.... The latest manifestation of this unfortunate phenomenon took place in Canada, where the Ontario Superior Court allowed a Muslim man to walk free from the charge of marital rape because the accused followed Sharia law, under which a wife is obliged to submit to sexual intercourse at her husband's will.

[*Conatus News*]

October 2017

Complaints force university to draw up religious code of conduct

At the University of Hamburg, new rules leave it up to lecturers to decide whether the full face veil disrupts their teaching. Complaints about students praying loudly in the library and flooding bathrooms to ritually wash their feet have forced the University of Hamburg to draw up a religious code of conduct, a first for a German university.

[*Times Higher Education*]

In Belgium, arguments about Islam grow louder

.... the Great Mosque should be removed from Saudi oversight and instead placed under a panel representing Belgian Islam as a whole. Meanwhile the country's (Flemish) migration minister has declared his intention to expel the mosque's main imam on grounds that he belongs to the purist Salafi school of Islam. (Its director was expelled in similar circumstances in 2012.)

[*The Economist*]

Appeal against Dublin mosque over call to prayer 'noise pollution'

[*The Irish Times*]

September 2017

Vagueness of 'Islamophobia' is what makes it troublingly all-inclusive

.... it is part of the Islamist agenda in Canada to include in their definition criticism of Islam and Islamic practice in the West rather than simply attributing the causes of anti-Muslim sentiment in the West to "anti-Muslim bigotry".

[*Toronto Sun*]

Swiss parliament will not enforce handshakes in school

The Swiss parliament has rejected a motion demanding that students in Swiss schools be required to shake their teacher's hand, regardless of religious reservations. The proposal was a direct reaction to the 2016 debate surrounding two Muslim students in canton Basel Country, who refused to shake their female teacher's hand due to their faith.
[swissinfo.ch]

Danish Prime Minister Warns of the Emergence of Muslim Parallel Societies

The Danish prime minister said that the problem has become so prevalent in Denmark that he is considering state intervention in some areas. The move is unusual for Denmark which rarely ever sees the government interfere in the operation of schools or set specific rules for housing estates, Jyllands-Posten reports.
[Breitbart London]

Jail for man who wed 14-year-old ♦

A man who married a 14-year-old girl in an Islamic ceremony in Melbourne stole her childhood, says the judge who has sent the groom to prison. But Mohammad Shakir, who shook and sobbed during his sentencing on Thursday, will spend less than a fortnight more behind bars due to time already served.
[Australian Associated Press]

Islamist extremist tells university students ex-Muslims should be KILLED under Sharia law during debate with atheist who feared for his safety

[Daily Mail]

Disturbing reality of child marriage in Australia revealed ♦

More than 50 girls as young as nine are being forced to marry older men in Australia, in exclusive documents obtained by 7 News. Australian Federal Police documents can reveal the disturbing reality of child brides in Australia.
[Yahoo7 News]

August 2017

Non-pork meals must be available for school lunch, rules French court

The decision came after a rightwing local authority stopped providing a choice for children. On Monday a Muslim organisation won its legal case against the authority at Chalon-sur-Saône in Burgundy. The court, sitting in Dijon, annulled the town hall's 2015 decision not to provide an alternative to pork in its school canteens.
[The Guardian]

One in five mosques checked for extremism in 2016

[The Brussels Times]

Libyan preacher on benefits investigated for suspected hate speech at Swiss mosque

In a sermon recorded by SRF and attributed to the Libyan, he asked Allah to "destroy the enemies of our religion, destroy the Jews, the Christians, the Hindus, the Russians and the Shiites". he has hardly worked during his time in Switzerland and has received nearly 600,000 francs in benefits over the past 13 years
[The Local]

Swiss charge Ethiopian imam with inciting violence

"In his homily in the An'Nur Mosque, he is accused among other things of calling for expelling Muslims who do not pray in the community, and even burning them and killing them in their homes if they still refuse," the prosecutors said in a statement.

[Reuters]

Muslim leader Keysar Trad wants Australian men to be allowed multiple wives – but says gay marriage is wrong because people of the same gender 'should only be friends' ♦

[Daily Mail Australia]

July 2017

California imam calls on Muslims to 'annihilate' the Jews "Liberate the Al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews"

[Conservative Review]

'Sharia law opponents are bigots': Muslim psychologist calls for Australia to introduce special laws for followers of Islam

A prominent Muslim psychologist with a practice in Sydney's west says opponents of Sharia law are bigots. Hanan Dover has told her 10,898 Facebook followers Australia needed to allow special laws for Muslims.

[Daily Mail Australia]

Austrian City Bans Pork on Kindergarten School Menus to Accommodate Muslim Children_♦

[The Christian Post]

Muslim children who missed school photo for Eid awarded €500 compensation

The Maria Montessori school hired the photographer without realising the date coincided with Eid al-Fitr, and was unable to rearrange the booking by the time the mistake came to light. The district court in The Hague decided on Monday that the school had indirectly discriminated against the two children, breaching their legal right to equal treatment.

[DutchNews]

Sheikh who angered hardline Muslims by denouncing Sharia law asks followers for \$30,000 for security guards and steel-barred windows at his home because he fears for his life

[Daily Mail Australia]

Founder of 'liberal' Berlin mosque given 24-hour police guards after deluge of death threats ♦

Worshippers of different branches of the religion, as well as homosexuals and atheists, are welcome at the mosque, which counters convention by allowing men and women to pray together. The mosque has both male and female imams and does not allow full face veils for "security reasons". Founders also believe the garments are "nothing to do with religion, but rather are a political statement".

[Evening Standard]

Woman who opened liberal Mosque in Berlin gets 24-hour protection

"Since setting up the mosque I have received so many death threats through social media that the police decided they have to protect me around the clock," Ms Ates said.

"The hostile reactions proved how necessary the project was." The mosque is open to the different branches of Islam, welcoming Shias, Sunnis, Alawites and Sufis alike, as well as homosexuals and atheists. Full face veils are seen as a political statement and not allowed for security reasons.

[*The Times*]

Muslim imam resigns as Australian Defence Force's religious adviser after senator reveals the sheikh signed a petition supporting Islamist extremist group Hizb ut-Tahrir

[*Daily Mail Australia*]

June 2017

Liberal Berlin mosque to stay open despite fatwa from Egypt

The founder of a new liberal mosque in Berlin that allows men and women to pray side by side has vowed to press on with her project even though the institution has been issued with a fatwa from Egypt and attacked by religious authorities in Turkey within a week of its opening. she had received "300 emails per day encouraging me to carry on", including from as far away as Australia and Algeria, but also "3,000 emails a day full of hate", some of them including death threats.

[*The Guardian*]

Muslim women need to challenge the patriarchy in their own faith

Embedded narratives on polygamy, wife battery and the segregation and seclusion of women prevent a robust challenge emerging in these communities. For example, the argument that men are natural leaders of the household, and that they have a stronger sexual urge than women, is used to excuse polygamy.

[*Toronto Sun*]

Turkey says liberal German mosque 'incompatible' with Islam

Turkey's religious affairs agency has expressed distaste over a new mosque in Berlin where men and women mingle freely, saying it was incompatible with the principles of Islam.

[*AFP*]

Liberal mosque in Berlin draws criticism

Men and uncovered women praying together, and presided over by a female imam on top of it? For some in the Muslim world, that's simply going too far.

[*Deutsche Welle*]

German Preacher Backs Controversial Language Lessons for Imams as Debate Over Integration Rages

He also warned that many imams who came to Germany from abroad were "directly connected with foreign religious authorities" and therefore "under foreign influence." Commentators in Germany, and elsewhere in Europe, often raise the subject of influence of imams from abroad on Muslim communities as part of the fierce debate about integration and the place of Islam in German life.

[*Newsweek*]

Muslim imam who married off a child bride, 14, to a man 20 years her senior is SPARED jail

[Daily Mail Australia]

Taboo-breaking liberal mosque opens in Berlin

With a mission to spread a liberal form of Islam, a mosque where men and women pray side by side has opened its doors in Berlin, complete with female imams.

[AFP]

Muslim 'peace march' held in Germany but turnout disappoints

...a few hundred people gathered for the demonstration Saturday, with placards such as "Together against terror" and "Hatred makes the earth hell"

[The Associated Press]

Call for legal clarity on rights of polygamous families

The comment by Mr Justice Frank Clarke was made in a ruling where the court found that the first marriage of a Muslim man who had married two women in Lebanon, as is allowed there, was a valid marriage in Irish law. The second marriage, the court ruled, could not be recognised here but that did not compel the State to "deny all legal effect to polygamous marriages in all contexts".

[THE IRISH TIMES]

'In their eyes the attackers are martyrs': Islamic sheikh claims Saudi Arabian team refused minute's silence for London terror victims because under Sharia law 'it's not a sin for a Muslim to kill a non-believer'

[Daily Mail Australia]

Muslim 'safe space' plan sparks row in Australia

A proposal by an Australian Islamic group to allow "safe spaces" for young Muslims to discuss "inflammatory" issues has sparked a row. The Islamic Council of Victoria (ICV) said such forums enabled young people's opinions to be "respectfully and intelligently debated and challenged".

[BBC]

UPS barred Muslims workers from praying at Mendota Heights facility and fired them

That manager refused to let Muslim employees pray outside of regular break times and also warned them against using trips to the bathroom to fulfill their need to pray five times a day, the suit contends. Those who didn't comply were fired, the suit alleges.

[Star Tribune]

May 2017

Shocking moment a girl, 14 'marries a Muslim man 20 years older than her in the back room of a mosque - after he paid her family for her with a gold necklace'

The Imam asks the child bride if she takes the man - who she reportedly met only a few days prior - 'to live together and live according to Islam.' She answers 'yes' and is told by the Imam that as a wife, she now has a duty to 'obey' her husband.

[Daily Mail Australia]

Mum watched as imam wed daughter, 14, to 34-year-old man: court

[The Age]

'As a wife, you have a duty to obey your husband': Muslim cleric filmed performing a 'forced marriage' of girl, 14, to a man, 34, inside a Melbourne mosque ♦

[*Australian Associated Press*]

Father can't watch daughter at Muslim netball tournament

A Muslim father is upset he isn't allowed to watch a daughter compete at an Islamic women's netball tournament.

But organisers say it's important for the girls to have a "secure environment" to play sport.

[*The NZ Herald*]

'What next, curtains around Bondi Beach?' Mark Latham slams Sydney council for putting screens around a public pool for Muslim women

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT 819 votes] This is so wrong...it's your choice to come live in Australia and should live by the moral and laws in Australia why bother leaving your country if you refuse to live by another country social values?

[2ND] This is not correct. Inflicting this type of nonsense because of a minuscule minority is ridiculous.

[*Daily Mail Australia*]

Copenhagen imam accused of calling for killing of Jews

A video of an imam appearing to call for the murder of Jews in a sermon during Friday prayers at a Copenhagen mosque has caused outrage in Denmark.

[*BBC*]

Keysar Trad, who said men should only hit women as a 'last resort', dumped as AFIC president

AFIC represents Muslims in Australia and is responsible for several Islamic schools. It also has the power to grant Halal certification.

[*ABC*]

Christian refugee converts in Germany face violent attacks

.... For example, a graffiti on one of the victims' walls reads, "It is time to kill the non-believers." Entry to the bathroom, showers or the kitchen has been restricted with the words, "The impure cannot enter," written on the doors.

[*Deutsche Welle*]

Denmark bans six 'hate preachers' from entering the country

"The government will not accept that hate preachers come to Denmark to preach hatred against Danish society and indoctrinate others to commit violence against women and children, spread ideas about an (Islamic) caliphate and in general undermine our fundamental values," Immigration Minister Inger Stojberg said.

[*Reuters*]

April 2017

Domestic violence and Islam

Most Muslims believe Islam abhors violence. So why do some say the Koran sanctions "lightly" beating your wife? An ABC News investigation into religion and domestic violence reveals the fight within Islam to stop the abuse of women and prevent imams from telling victims to stay and obey.

[ABC]

Religious schools create 'parallel societies', report claims ♦

Religious schools in Austria help create "parallel societies", a new report has claimed. Vienna has roughly 150 Muslim kindergartens and Mr Aslan believes at least a quarter have the backing of ultra-conservative groups.

[*The Independent*]

Victoria man pleads guilty to child marriage

A 34-YEAR-old man and the 14-year-old bride he illegally married have both cried in a Melbourne court as he pleaded guilty to his crime.

[*news.com.au*]

Muslim kindergartens are producing homegrown Islamists of the future and creating 'parallel societies' where children do not integrate, study warns

A row has broken out in Austria after a study suggested Islamic kindergartens in Vienna were helping to create 'parallel societies' or even produce dangerous homegrown radicals of the future. At least a quarter are backed by groups propagating arch conservative strains of Islam like Salafism, or organisations that see religion not just as a private matter but integral to politics and society.

[*AFP*]

Sheikh tells teenage girls they will go to hell if they have non-Muslim friends ♦

A fundamentalist sheikh told teenage girls at a youth night that they would go to hell if they made friends with non-Muslims. Sheikh Mohamad Doar told a group of young girls in Sydney that they needed to stop being friends with non-believers during a lecture about Islam.

[*Metro.co.uk*]

Muslim men permitted to hit wives in a soft and 'symbolic' way ♦

[*The Sydney Morning Herald*]

Germany's Schaeuble says if Muslim migrants don't like Europe, go elsewhere

Muslims who migrate to Europe should understand that there are better places for them to live if they do not want to accept the European way of life, German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble said on Wednesday.

[*Reuters*]

France shuts down another mosque for 'condoning violent jihad'

"Some of the preaching was openly hostile to France's laws and was inciting hate to other religious communities, primarily Shia Muslims and Jews."

[*The Local*]

Permitted to cover up sponsors' logos on religious grounds

Williams, a devout Muslim, last week taped up his collar to hide Bank of New Zealand logos as Islamic faith forbids financial institutions charging interest and fees on loans.

[*The Guardian*]

Imam in hiding after calling for closure of Islamic schools

"These schools do exist that are a problem and they need to be either shut down or changed completely." Fearing reprisals, the Adelaide-based Imam said he was escorted into hiding by police.
[*The Freethinker*]

Islam Has Become Toxic in the West

This judgement is coupled with the mass media and the internet showing the reality of Muslim countries across the globe; a reality hardly appealing to the majority of Westerners. Indeed, a seldom remarked fact is the magnetic appeal of the secular West to Muslim migrants, whose strong religious identity might be expected to encourage their migration to other Muslim countries.
[*Quillette*]

Germany cracks down on child marriages

Germany's cabinet Wednesday moved to ban child marriages after the recent mass refugee influx brought in many couples where one or both partners were aged under 18. ...The conservative daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung welcomed the bill, saying that "archaic practises that harm women and children have no place" in Germany.
[*AFP*]

Swedish company sued in handshaking row ♦

Sweden's discrimination ombudsman has sued a company after a woman's job interview was cut short when it became known that she would not shake hands for religious reasons.
[*The Local*]

'Adam and Eve' lesson gets teacher cast out of religious school

Kossman infuriated parents by telling their children that Adam is "not real." She noted that Judaism, Christianity and Islam share the myth, thinking it would "help build up tolerance" for other faiths. She also inadvertently showed kids a classical painting of the first couple as imagined in the Garden of Eden — nude. A group of angry parents showed up at the school the next day to complain that she "discussed Jews with them and showed them pictures of naked people,"
[*NEW YORK POST*]

March 2017

Muslim parents take kids out of Berlin nursery after discovering teacher is gay

[*The Local*]

Australian Muslim Group: Death to Those Who Leave Islam ♦

'The ruling for apostates as such in Islam is clear, that apostates attract capital punishment and we don't shy away from that,' Badar said in the presence of children. An apostate is someone who decides to leave Islam.
[*Herald Sun*]

Brussels mayor warns: All our mosques are being controlled by Salafists

THE MAYOR of Brussels has warned that all of the Belgium capital's mosques are being controlled by Salafists. And he said there has to be penalties for mosques that support Salafism, an ultra-orthodox religious-political ideology based on a belief in "physical" jihadism practised by some followers of the Sunni faith.
[*Daily Express*]

Visiting imam denounced for calling Jewish people "evil"

In the video, an imam named Muhammed Bin Musa Al Nasr, visiting from Jordan, called Jewish people "the most evil of mankind," and "human demons." He also called for Jews to be killed.

[CTV News]

Islamic group banned in German state after imam calls for killings

.... the Almadinah Islamic Culture Association was banned because the group's leading imam had, among other things, repeatedly called for the killing of infidels in his sermons.

[Belfast Telegraph]

Have 5 kids not 3, Erdogan tells Turks in Europe

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday urged Turks resident in Europe to have five children, telling the millions strong diaspora community "you are Europe's future."

[SAMAA / AFP]

The Muslim Brotherhood is creating a 'parallel social structure' in Sweden, aided by 'political elites' making it impossible to criticise Islam, government report admits

[Daily Mail]

German school bans Muslim students from praying within campus, sparks controversy

A high school in western Germany is in the midst of a controversy after banning its Muslim students from praying within the school campus, terming the action "provocative".

[International Business Times]

February 2017

'The agenda is to create a country within your country': Islamic leader warns radicals have a shocking secret plan to create a Muslim state inside Australia... funded by taxpayers

[Daily Mail Australia]

Erosion of traditional Dutch values is voters' main concern, new poll finds

The Dutch government wants all new arrivals in the country to sign an official declaration saying they uphold Dutch norms and values, which include freedom of speech, freedom of religion and equality between men and women.

[DutchNews]

Prague archbishop warns of uncontrolled migration

"The arrival of thousands of migrants from the Muslim world can basically alter our civilisation. We may not sustain the encounter primarily for demographic and cultural reasons in the course of decades," he added.

[Prague Daily Monitor]

Geert Wilders: Far-right Dutch PM frontrunner says 'Islam and freedom are not compatible'

"You see it in almost every country where it dominates. There is a total lack of freedom, civil society, rule of law, middle class; journalists, gays, apostates — they are all in trouble in those places. And we import it."

[*The Independent*]

Danish man who burned Quran charged with blasphemy

A man who filmed himself burning the Quran has become the first person to be charged under Denmark's blasphemy law in 46 years. He then posted the video on the anti-Islamic Facebook group, "Yes to freedom - no to Islam" along with the words, "Consider your neighbour: it stinks when it burns."

[*The Local*]

Teachers asked to hand out less homework and give regular breaks to Muslim students fasting for Ramadan ♦

Muslim students should be given minimal homework and provided with more breaks than their peers during the month of Ramadan, a religious guide for schools says.

[*Daily Mail Australia*]

Muslim schoolboys allowed to refuse women's handshakes ♦

At a recent awards ceremony at Hurstville Boys Campus of Georges River College, female presenters were told by one of the two principals that some students would not shake their hands because of their Muslim faith, The Australian reported.

[*news.com.au*]

Ruling parties agree on child marriage ban proposal

The major parties making up Germany's coalition government have agreed to a proposed law that would invalidate marriages involving children under 16

[*The Local*]

Muslim ghettos threaten women

Immigrants should be chosen from cultures with a track record of assimilation. Fellow crossbencher Jacqui Lambie called for Australia to follow in the footsteps of Donald Trump and ban anyone in support of Sharia law from entering Australia.

[*AAP*]

Muslim teacher wins €9,000 in Berlin discrimination case

She had lost her initial case last year as the Berlin school argued neutrality rules meant no one could wear religious symbols in schools.

[*The Local*]

Muslim conference under fire for DELETING faces of female speakers on promotional flyer

The pamphlet featured the often smiling faces of 12 male speakers, including controversial Sheikh Shady Alsuleiman and prominent community spokesman Keysar Trad. But critics were furious the faces of three female speakers - psychologist Monique Toohey, social worker Nina Trad Azam and Islamic teacher Umm Jamaal ud-Din - had been replaced with shadowy veils.

[*Daily Mail Australia*]

How long until my honest criticism of Islamism constitutes a speech crime in Canada?

The OIC wants to see the Cairo Declaration on Human rights become the template for Islamophobia policies everywhere. The Cairo Declaration asserts the superiority of Islam and defines freedom of speech according to Shariah law, which considers any criticism of Muhammad blasphemy.

[*National Post*]

January 2017

Geert Wilders doesn't threaten Dutch liberalism: he's defending it

.... one of Holland's leading newspapers, this week ran an article pointing out that Wilders and Baudet are receiving the most attention across all social media. No wonder. For years the Dutch people have been screaming into the wind.

[*The Spectator*]

'Go away if you don't like it here,' says Dutch PM

'We feel a growing unease when people misuse our freedoms to spoil everything, when they have come to our country for freedom,' Rutte says. 'People who don't want to adapt... who attack gay people, who shout at women in short skirts or call ordinary Dutch people racist.'

[*DutchNews*]

Denmark bans marriage for under-18s after report suggests dozens of asylum seeking teens arriving with spouses

[*The Independent*]

University of Kansas maintains women's-only lunchroom for Muslims

"It is mainly used by Muslim women because it allows them a space to remove [their] hijabs and eat," said Abdoulie Njai, KU Student Senate director of diversity and inclusion.

[*The College Fix*]

Melbourne Muslim cleric charged over forced marriage of child

Imam Ibrahim Omerdic, 61, is charged with conduct that caused a minor to enter into a forced marriage at Noble Park on 29 September last year. Shakir is charged with sexual penetration of a child under the age of 16 and being a party to a forced marriage.

[*The Guardian*]

Muslim parents who lost Swiss court battle to let their daughter swim separately from boys vow to set up private schools that 'adhere to their faith'

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT 2621 votes] I am always puzzled why Muslims come to live in the West and enjoy its lifestyle and freedoms... and then try to turn it into the East. Save yourself a lot of heartache, stay where you are happy and the majority think like you.

[*Daily Mail*]

'Everyone will be Muslim because of our stupidity': Catholic leader says Europe will become an Islamic state because of the migrant crisis

[MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT 6415 votes] We know. Would you please explain it to our political classes as they cannot grasp what is happening at all.

[*Daily Mail*]

Dutch human rights institute defends bus driver hand-shake ruling

The Dutch human rights institute has rejected criticism of its recent decision about a potential bus driver refusing to shake hands with women, saying respect for religious differences is a key value in society.

[*DutchNews*]

Swiss Muslim girls must learn to swim with boys, court rules

It said authorities were justified in giving precedence to enforcing "the full school curriculum" and the children's "successful integration" into society.

The case was brought by two Swiss nationals, of Turkish origin, who refused to send their teenage daughters to the compulsory mixed lessons in the city of Basel.
[BBC]

The danger of admitting you're an atheist Muslim

You can be a lapsed Catholic. You can be a cultural Jew. You can be a Buddhist who believes more in dharma than in divinity. But being an atheist Muslim isn't so easy. In some parts of the world, it's an admission that could cost you your life.
[CBC/Radio-Canada]

'It's is not merely a religion' Secret party vowing to 'reduce Islam' soars in popularity

The mysterious Q Society is now gaining ground and support for the "Islam-critical Movement" across Australia and has decided to embrace the limelight. He said: "More people are aware, they see the problems in their backyard, their community. The public has picked up on it more with every bombing, stabbing, forced marriage and child bride."
[Daily Express]

German Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel calls for ban on Islamist mosques

In an interview with German weekly Der Spiegel, German Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel said that "Salafist mosques must be banned, communities dissolved, and the preachers should be expelled as soon as possible."
[Deutsche Welle]

December 2016

Celebrating NYE means devil is working on you: Sydney sheik

Sydney sheik Feiz Mohammed has warned Muslims they should avoid festive celebrations — including New Year's Eve and Christmas — and has attacked women's rights groups, telling Islamic women to wear hijabs. Sheik Feiz, who has a large online following with almost two million YouTube views, described non-Islamic festivals as leading to a path away from Allah.
[Australian]

Calls for an end to 'politically correct activities' after primary school children are ordered to learn how to pray at a mosque popular with radical preachers

Angry parents have demanded a primary school in Holland changes its curriculum after a video showing children learning how to pray in a mosque emerged.

Local media said the mosque in question is believed to be the Ghulzar e Madina in the city of Zwolle, which has previously been visited by radical preachers from Pakistan.
[Daily Mail]

Who funds Swiss mosques?

Swiss mosques and Muslim associations are in the spotlight after concerns by parliamentarians over the opacity of their funding and possible foreign influence.
[swissinfo.ch]

Muslim girl refuses to shake German president's hand ♦

A Muslim girl refused to shake the German president's hand while the latter visited her school after the institution drew acclaim for promoting national integration.

[*The Express Tribune*]

Regulate all mosques to stop radical preachers - Irish imam

He said the body should be supervised by the Government and provide accreditation without which imams would not be allowed to operate. The Irish Council of Imams, which he helped to found but from which he resigned last year, was not such a body, he said.

[*Independent.ie*]

Women say Muslim-majority areas in French suburbs are now NO-GO areas for females where they are banned from mixing with men and must dress conservatively

Journalists and activists for TV channel France 2 went undercover in various communities with high Islamic populations in Paris to show how conservative Muslim men are enforcing social segregation in public spaces.

[*Daily Mail*]

Saudi Arabia and Gulf states 'support Islamic extremism in Germany,' intelligence report finds

The report, by Germany's BfV domestic intelligence agency and Federal Intelligence Service (BND) reportedly accused Gulf groups of funding mosques, religious schools, hardline preachers and conversion or "dawah" groups to spread the ideology.

[*Belfast Telegraph*]

Gulf state groups are 'supporting Salafists in Germany'

The media outlets state that these organizations have helped build school facilities, mosques and sent preachers to Germany to share a fundamentalist version of Islam.

[*The Local*]

Centrelink 'ignoring Muslim polygamous relationships' as it pays spousal benefits to Islamic families with SEVERAL wives

Australian Muslim families with more than one wife are receiving spousal benefits from Centrelink, it has been claimed. Polygamous marriages, largely confined to Islamic families, are allowed to claim multiple family tax benefit payments for children living under the same roof.

[*Daily Mail Australia*]

Religious leader backs drive for cartoons for Muslim children

Sheik Shady Alsuleiman, the head of the Australian National Imams Council (ANIC), suggested parents donate to TV cartoons that support Islamic values.

The producers behind one programme idea, Barakah Hills, suggested it could be an alternative to the hugely successful Peppa Pig cartoon.

[*BBC*]

Peppa Pig Controversy As Islamic Leaders Call For Cartoon Set In Muslim Town - 'There are messages in there that turn kids into brats.'



Islamic leaders in Australia are urging Muslims to donate money to help fund an alternative to children's cartoon Peppa Pig which will be set in a "predominantly Muslim town".

[The Huffington Post UK]

German court rules Muslim girls must take part in swimming lessons

Germany's highest court has ruled that ultra-conservative Muslim girls must take part in mixed swimming classes at school, finding against an 11-year-old pupil who had argued that even wearing a burkini, or full-body swimsuit, breached Islamic dress codes.

[The Guardian]

Muslim girls must take swimming lessons alongside boys, German court rules

The country's constitutional court ruled that Muslim schoolgirls must take part in mixed swimming lessons together with boys.

If girls object on religious grounds, they can wear burkinis, the court said.

The case was brought by an 11-year-old Muslim girl of Moroccan descent living in Frankfurt, after she was given an "unsatisfactory" grade because she refused to take part in school swimming lessons.

[The Telegraph]

Angela Merkel endorses burka ban 'wherever legally possible' ♦

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has said the wearing of full-faced veils should be prohibited in the country "wherever it is legally possible".

At a meeting of her CDU party, she backed a burka ban in schools, courts and other state buildings.

[BBC]

November 2016

Row erupts after staff state store is now Muslim - and they will not be selling Christmas decorations

A huge row erupted after staff at a popular Woolworths branch said that they were now a Muslim store - and would not be selling any Christmas decorations this year.

[Daily Mirror]

Muslim cleric criticised for anti-Semitic speech

.... The comments were made by Shaykh Mohammad Anwar Sahib at the At-Taqwa mosque in Manukau earlier this month, where he also made derogatory comments about women.

[Radio New Zealand]

Germany Cracks Down on Salafists to Shield Refugees

For years, the authorities in Germany have warily monitored the swelling ranks of Salafists, followers of an ultraconservative branch of Islam who are known for aggressive proselytizing and their sympathies for the Islamic State.

[NYTimes.com]

'Pure hatred': Translator reveals how Muslim refugees want to 'Islamize' Germany

During her time at a number of centers across the country, she said she discovered Muslim refugees preaching "pure hatred" of Christians. Muslim children were told by their parents not to play with Christian kids. And she herself was told it was a sin for her to help feed and defend Christians.

[FOX News]

Quebec 'uproar' over proposed Muslim community

The issue caught fire earlier this week when the media got hold of a pitch letter Mr Warda, 68, sent to people he thought might be interested in his proposal to build a planned community on a lot of land near Montreal's south shore suburb of Brossard. It was aimed at Muslim homeowners who did not want to take out traditional mortgages because interest is banned in Islam.
[BBC]

Muslim neighbourhood plans goes against Quebec's values, premier says ♦

A plan to build a new suburb dedicated to Muslims runs counter to Quebec's values, Premier Philippe Couillard said. Couillard was reacting to a plan by a tax accountant to build up to 80 houses for Muslim families on 100 hectares of land near Brossard.
[Presse Canadienne]

Political parties slam proposal for Muslim neighbourhood near Brossard

"It's called a ghetto," Coalition Avenir Québec MNA Éric Caire said Monday. "It's not acceptable for our society to build a place reserved to religious people. Just think if we built a place reserved for white people, would that be acceptable? The answer is no."
[Montreal Gazette]

Muslim immigrant who voted FOR Trump claims the left is 'too afraid to talk about Islam'

"As a Muslim, I believe that the left has sadly lost our fight against the Islamic State by refusing to talk about the Islam in Islamic State."
[Daily Express]

Muslim police chaplain says women commit 'major sin' if they refuse to have sex with husbands ♦

Musleh Khan, the Toronto Police Force's new chaplain, held a web seminar entitled 'The Heart of The Home: The Rights and Responsibilities of A Wife', in which he also implied getting married to 9-year-old girl is permitted in Islam.

Mr Khan's comments have provoked anger in Canada and the Canadian Council of Muslim Women said his "appalling" words "really set us back".
[The Independent]

'Jewish hearts only have envy and hatred': Firebrand Sydney sheik's hateful sermon to young Muslim children during

Sheik Youssef Hasan, the leader of prayer at Quakers Hill Mosque, in Sydney's west, described Jews as having 'hearts harder than stone' during a regular Friday sermon in front of youngsters and their parents.
[Daily Mail Australia]

Court upholds denying permit to Islamic kindergarten

.... the Federal Court found that the concept for the kindergarten was missing the necessary commitment to humanistic and democratic values, which is enshrined in Switzerland's education law.
[swissinfo.ch]

Muslim Toronto Police chaplain's views troubling

He says Muslim women should obey their husbands. He even suggests a wife should make herself available and "not withhold this right from her husband without a valid excuse."
[Toronto Sun]

France closes 4 mosques for promoting 'radical ideology'

[Associated Press]

4.2 Face Covering and Hijabs - Western World

May

Berlin court bars Muslim teacher from wearing headscarf

A Muslim primary school teacher has lost her bid to overturn a law banning the wearing of religious clothing by public servants in Berlin.

The Berlin labour court judge ruled that the city-state's neutrality law for teachers, police and court officials was constitutional.

[BBC]

April

Luxembourg adopts face-concealment ban

[Luxembourg Times]

German state looks to ban headscarves for girls

A regional government in Germany has provoked national debate after it announced it was considering a ban on girls under the age of 14 wearing Islamic headscarves.

[The Telegraph]

Austria plans headscarf ban for primary school pupils

[The Local]

Proposed police uniform changes set off alarm bells in Quebec

[Toronto Star]

March

Norway presents proposal on full-face veil ban

The proposal was presented by ministers from each of the three parties in the coalition government "Even though few people wear the burqa and niqab today, there are instances of it. A national ban will make things clearer for everyone". The ban will ensure good communication in educational contexts, the minister added.

[The Local]

Germany's top court rejects full-face veiled driver's complaint

Germany's top court on Monday rejected a Muslim woman's request to suspend a ban on driving while wearing a face veil. The woman had argued that the face veil ban for drivers violated her religious freedom.

[Deutsche Welle]

Hijab Removal by New York Police Prompts Lawsuit

.... she had been detained for hours in a police holding cell in Manhattan and repeatedly told to remove a head scarf that is part of her Muslim faith, Jamilla Clark began to cry. Then, she relented: She let a New York City police officer photograph her without her hijab. As the camera flashed, Ms. Clark, 39, felt as if she were naked, she later said. Several male officers then stared at the image of her uncovered head as they stored it in a police database.

[The New York Times]

German court allows courtroom headscarf ban

[Deutsche Welle]

Muslim women win payout after New York police forced them to remove headscarves

[SBS NEWS]

February

'I felt like I was getting out of jail': What life is like for French women after removing their veils

.... Once ardent defenders of the right to wear the niqab, both women have now completely abandoned it. But the transition took place gradually and was accompanied by a growing distance from extreme Salafist ideology.

[i@inews.co.uk]

Denmark proposes ban on Islamic full-face veil in public

[France24]

January

Outrage as taxpayers fund a 'modesty' fashion exhibition promoting Islamic clothing - calling the controversial burqini 'ground-breaking'

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has been slammed for its decision to sponsor the 'modest fashion' industry including the hijab and burqa. DFAT promoted an Australian-made Islamic clothing exhibition this month, describing the invention of the burqini swimsuit as 'ground-breaking'. The taxpayer-funded department described the Islamic clothing market as 'booming' in Australia. DFAT's promotion of the industry sparked outrage from the Australian public.

[Daily Mail Australia]

Quebec's Law on Facial Veils Fuels Fierce Debate

As a Muslim teenager in her native Tunisia, Nadia El-Mabrouk never once saw a woman wearing a full-face veil. After moving to Canada, she was shocked to see her first one on the streets of Montreal.

[The Wall Street Journal]

Toronto police say hijab-cutting attack reported by girl didn't happen

.... after a "detailed investigation," Toronto Police said they have determined that the alleged assault – one that was being investigated as a hate crime – simply "did not happen. "it is not a conclusion we came to lightly."

[Globe & Mail]

SAS headscarves policy 'not discriminatory'

A uniform policy by Scandinavian airline SAS banning staff who deal directly with customers from wearing religious symbols like headscarves does not breach anti-discrimination laws, Sweden's Discrimination Ombudsman (DO) has judged.

[The Local]

Dispute over hijab in Czech school ends up at Supreme Court

The closely watched dispute between a Somali girl and a Czech secondary medical school that forbade her to wear hijab will end at the Supreme Court (NS), since she filed a petition for an appellate review in reaction to the dismissal of her lawsuit by lower-level courts, CTK has found out. In the lawsuit, the student demanded the school's apology and a compensation worth 60,000 crowns.

[Czech News Agency]

December 2017

Austrian minister's headscarf remark worry Muslims

Fassmann's interview quoted him saying "teachers should not wear a headscarf." When asked about his opinion on the headscarf ban, Fassmann said: "Yes, I have a sympathy for the secular state and find that teachers should not wear a headscarf, except religious and private school teachers."

[Anadolu Agency]

Dutch police will set aside headscarf ruling in case brought by Muslim officer

The Dutch police will set aside a ruling from the equal opportunities committee which said a Muslim officer should be able to wear a headscarf while dealing with phone reports from the public, the national force has confirmed.

[DutchNews]

Government rejects Swiss 'burka ban' initiative

.... the Federal Council recommended that voters reject the so-called "burka ban" initiative, which was handed in with enough signatures by its promoters, the rightwing Swiss People's Party, in September. The initiative wants face-covering headgear to be banned in public places all over Switzerland apart from a few exceptions, such as for health reasons.

[swissinfo.ch]

I wasn't hired because I wear a headscarf: lawsuit

The shop manager invited her in for an interview over the phone — but immediately got "hostile" when she arrived wearing the religious headwear, court papers state.

[NEW YORK POST]

November 2017

St Gallen approves conditional ban on face coverings

[The Local]

Police admin worker can wear hijab with a uniform, says human rights council

The Dutch police are wrong to ban a Muslim women officer from wearing a headscarf in a job where her contact with the public is limited, the Dutch human rights council said on Monday.

[DutchNews]

Let's hope Canadian courts see the true meaning of the niqab

.... That there are relatively few niqabs in Canada is neither here nor there as a matter of principle. It seems to me strange and hypocritical that we see no problem in repressing even infrequent messaging associated with racism. But, fearful of being perceived as Islamophobic, we won't endorse action against messaging that emblemizes gender apartheid.

[National Post]

October 2017

Headscarf row: German university lecturer 'humiliates' Muslim

Professor Gisela Müller-Brandeck-Bocquet has been accused of "discrimination" after asking everyone at the University of Würzburg lecture to take off their headwear. The professor argued this should include the Muslim woman, because the lecture hall was a secular space.

[BBC]

Quebec's niqab ban is a chance for women to embrace Western freedom

I see this as an opportunity for those women, whether they are oppressed by their husbands or have themselves chosen to cover up entirely, to embrace the equality the West offers.

[Toronto Sun]

Man accused of beating daughter who refused to wear hijab ♦

Police have charged a man for allegedly beating his teenage daughter over the course of more than a year because she refused to wear a hijab.

[CBC/Radio-Canada]

Niqab will become bigger problem in years to come

.... according to Statistics Canada, the Muslim population is going to double in 20 years to make up 7.2% of the nation, clocking in at more than 2.5 million people. Will this demographic become increasingly liberalized and integrated, less likely to cling to intolerant old country ways? Don't count on it.

[Toronto Sun]

Quebec justice minister defends new face-covering law, to release guidelines this week ♦

The bill was passed as law last week. It requires people to show their faces when they give or receive public services.

[CBC News]

Muslim police trainee asks for right to wear headscarf in uniform

Police lawyers are arguing that she can wear a headscarf in the office, but when in contact with the public, she must 'comply with uniform rules' and – the body argues – the uniform is 'neutral'. 'The police code of conduct is clear, the [woman's] employer believes,' says the release. 'Visible expressions of beliefs and opinions are not permitted.'

[DutchNews]

'I should see your face, and you should see mine,' Quebec premier says of new religious neutrality law ♦

[CBC/Radio-Canada]

Quebec just banned face veils for people receiving government services

[VICE]

Swiss to hold referendum on banning face-covering garments

Passage would put Switzerland alongside France, Austria and other European countries in prohibiting face-covering garments. The Italian-speaking Swiss region of Ticino enacted such a ban last year.

[Associated Press]

Women forced to remove the veil on day one of Austrian burqa ban

The measures, similar to those in other European Union countries such as France, also apply to visitors even though large numbers of Arab tourists holiday in the Alpine

country. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has previously indicated her support for a similar law in Germany.

[*The Telegraph*]

September 2017

Austria: Government warns Muslim women to show faces in public or be fined

Under the new "integration" policy, anyone wearing clothes that obscure their face in public can be fined €150 (£132) and must remove the offending garment "on the spot" if ordered by police. Those who refuse can be taken to a police station. Austria's parliament approved the ban in May despite protests from Muslim groups and opposition from lawyers and the country's own president. The Anti-Face-Veiling Act will prohibit face coverings in all public places and buildings, including courts, schools, and transport.

[*The Independent*]

Girl loses appeal after school bars her from wearing hijab

A Somali girl who was barred from wearing a hijab at a Prague secondary school has lost an appeal in which she was seeking an apology and CZK 60,000 in compensation from the institution. The plaintiff had argued that wearing the veil was an expression of her religious conviction. However, a Municipal Court judge said that the school, which prepares students for a career in medicine, had to remain a "neutral environment".

[*Radio Prague*]

August 2017

Luxembourg law foresees partial ban of face veils in public spaces

[*Luxemburger Wort*]

Lower Saxony set to ban Islamic face veils in schools

The case of a Muslim pupil refusing to remove her niqab triggered debate in Lower Saxony. Now a new law may mean that full-face Islamic veils will no longer be allowed in state schools.

[*The Local*]

June 2017

Muslim girls aged NINE take part in Sydney hijab ceremony to symbolise maturity - with Islamic sheikh slamming it as step toward Sharia law

'I confirm that according to Islamic jurisprudence, a Muslim girl reaches the stage of maturity at eight to nine years of age,' he said.

[*Daily Mail Australia*]

Norway to ban full-face veil in nurseries, schools and universities

Norway is proposing a ban on the Muslim full face veil and other face-covering clothing because it says it hinders communication between pupils and teachers.

[*BBC*]

Austria to ban burqas from October

[*AFP*]

May 2017

No change to headscarf ban, Dutch police chief says

Police uniform rules will not be changed to allow Muslim police officers to wear headscarves, police chief Erik Akerboom has told staff, the AD reported on Friday. Akerboom said in a message on the police intranet system he had been shocked by the reactions the idea – first floated by Amsterdam’s police chief – had generated. [DutchNews.nl]

Austrian parliament passes burqa ban as part of new migrant law

Starting in October, police will be charging fines from people who wear clothes that obstruct their facial features. The 150-euro (\$166) fine would also apply to women wearing burqas and niqabs at universities, courts, or in public transport. [Deutsche Welle]

Council was right to cut niqab-wearer’s welfare benefits

A Muslim woman who refused to remove her niqab while undergoing training to find a job rightfully had her benefits cut by 30%, the highest Dutch administrative court said on Tuesday. [DutchNews]

April 2017

Swedish woman shocked at SAS uniform policy banning headscarves

A Swedish woman has explained her shock at being told during a job interview with Scandinavian airline SAS that she would have to take off her headscarf if she wanted the position. [The Local]

US Muslim teen wins right to box in hijab

A Muslim teen boxer from Minnesota who hopes to one day compete in the Olympics has won a fight to wear a hijab during matches in the US. Amaiya Zafar will also be allowed to cover her arms and legs in accordance with her religious beliefs while competing in her first sanctioned match this month in Minneapolis under a USA Boxing exemption. [SBS]

Awkward moment Malcolm Turnbull repeatedly refuses to say women who wear headscarves are integrated into Australian society

[Daily Mail Australia]

DF wants to ban religious headwear in the public sector

Despite encompassing the entire religious spectrum of headwear, Henriksen was quick to admit that the party was using the law proposal to specifically target Muslim headwear and notable Islamic symbols in the public sphere. [The Copenhagen Post]

European Parliament’s biggest political group calls for EU-wide ban on Islamic face veils

Speaking to the German media following the passage of the resolution, Manfred Weber, the group’s leader in the European Parliament, said: “We want a total ban of face covering in the EU.” [The Independent]

Hijab allowed for university, city police officers

Both UW-Madison and city police say they would permit their officers to wear hijabs while on duty, a move that sets them apart from other departments around the country

that either do not allow officers to wear religious head coverings or do not have a clear policy on the matter.

[*The Daily Cardinal*]

March 2017

Row after Norway Muslim group appoints spokeswoman in full-face veil



A Muslim organisation in Norway has been criticised for hiring a communications officer who wears a full-face veil, or niqab. The culture minister, Muslim MPs and other Muslim organisations have condemned the Islamic Council of Norway's move.

[*BBC*]

'Backlash' against ruling allowing hijab ban in workplace



A Muslim leader has said there would be "a backlash" against a new European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruling allowing employers to ban staff from wearing hijabs and other religious symbols in the workplace.

[*Independent.ie*]

European court rules employers can ban women from wearing Islamic headscarves and religious symbols

[*The Independent*]

Italian region bans women in face veils from entering hospitals

The northern region of Liguria on Tuesday announced plans to ban the Islamic face veil from hospitals and other public institutions, in a bid to "defend women's freedom".

[*The Local*]

Austrian govt criticizes headscarf advice for Muslim women

Austrian government officials are criticizing a recommendation by the country's Islamic leaders that Muslim women wear a headscarf with the onset of puberty.

[*Associated Press*]

February 2017

Germany's Bavaria to ban full-face veil

The German state of Bavaria has announced plans to ban the full-face veil in government workplaces, schools, universities and while driving. "Communication happens not only via language but also looks, facial expressions and gestures," said state Interior Minister Joachim Herrmann.

[*BBC*]

January 2017

Dentist must pay 29k for allegedly ordering Muslim woman assistant to not wear hijab at work

[*Cook County Record*]

Muslim full face veil to be banned in public places in Austria

[POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] When will the UK have the courage to do this. Those coverings are offensive!!

[ANOTHER] Muslim face covering are provocative - and they know it.

[*The Independent*]

The state and the veil

The atmosphere in some heavily immigrant suburbs can curb freedom by making it hard not to wear the veil, argues Nadia Ould-Kaci, who co-runs a group called Women of Aubervilliers against the Veil. In recent years, she says, the spread of the veil in her district has reached "worrying" proportions. Girls of North African origin who do not wear it are insulted by being told that "God is ashamed of you."

[*The Economist*]

Czech court dismisses hijab ban complaint against school

A court in the Czech Republic dismissed a complaint Friday brought by a Somali woman who had accused a nursing school of discriminating against her by telling her she couldn't wear a hijab.

[*Associated Press*]

Court rejects Muslim teacher's discrimination case over headscarf ♦

An Osnabrück court on Wednesday dismissed a complaint filed by a Muslim woman seeking compensation for discrimination and damages after she was not allowed to teach due to her headscarf in the state of Lower Saxony, according to Spiegel.

[*The Local*]

Burka 'not part of our culture' but no plans for ban

WA Premier Colin Barnett has ruled out any attempt to ban Muslims from wearing burkas, but has said he would prefer "that type of clothing" was not worn in Australia.

[*ABC*]

Malcolm Turnbull says Australia must put 'safety first' when asked about burqa ban

"We don't tell people how to dress in Australia. But, where it's important that people's identity be plain, their faces shouldn't be covered."

[*The Guardian*]

Austrian minister calls for headscarf ban for public servants

Austria's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Integration Sebastian Kurz said on Friday he wanted to ban public servants, including school teachers, from wearing the Islamic headscarf.

[*Reuters*]

The hijab and niqab are rooted in patriarchy

Many who support wearing the hijab believe it is a matter of choice. Yet in this context such an interpretation is simplistic, because the "choice" is made only within a very restrictive environment that promotes a certain type of orthodoxy interwoven with hellfire theology. I reject the notion that it is a freely made choice.

[*Toronto Sun*]

Convicted Norwegian hairdresser: 'The hijab is like an Isis flag'

The Gulating Court of Appeal on Tuesday heard the appeal of a Norwegian hairdresser who was convicted of discrimination for denying service to a Muslim client wearing a headscarf.

[*The Local*]

December 2016

Judge refuses testimony from woman in veil

New South Wales District Court judge Audrey Balla would not allow Moutia Elzahed into the witness box in a civil case because she would not take off her veil, News Corp reported.

[*The New Daily*]

November 2016

Dutch parliament approves partial burqa ban in public places

MPs in the Netherlands have voted overwhelmingly in favour of a ban on wearing face-covering Islamic veils in some public places, including schools, hospitals, government buildings and on public transport. The rule – which will outlaw all face coverings including ski-masks and helmets – was approved by 132 members of the 150-seat house.

[*The Independent*]

Montreal woman asked to remove hijab in court appeals judge's refusal to clarify rules

Marengo contended the courtroom was a secular space and compared the hijab to a hat and sunglasses, which would not normally be allowed in a courtroom.

[*CBC/Radio-Canada*]

5.0 Minority Muslim Voices

April

'I raised my voice because secularism was under threat'

I have seen other women's lives too. How they are oppressed because of anti-women tradition, culture, customs and religion.

.... Islam has been largely exempted from the critical scrutiny that was applied to other religions. I believe Islam has to go through the enlightenment process other religions have gone through by questioning inhuman, irrational, unscientific aspects of religion. [SUNDAY GUARDIAN LIVE] [Read more](#)

Islamophobia: the conversation killer

Rizvi believes the left and right conflate Islamic ideology and Muslim identity. "The word Islamophobia doesn't make that distinction either. The reason the Muslim Brotherhood like the term so much and use it so much is because it actually takes the pain that genuine victims of Muslim hate go through. They take that pain and exploit it for the political purpose of stifling criticism of Islam."

[Newsroom NZ] [Read more](#)

Only Free Speech Can Stop Radical Islam

Islam desperately needs a revaluation.... We must candidly and honestly admit verses in our scripture have given doctrinal legitimacy to violent extremism and our failure to recognize this fact and educate the community on the contextual realities has legitimized the violence.

[The Daily Caller] [Read more](#)

March

'They don't want you to criticize Islam': Controversial speaker talks about combating 'Islamism'

.... there have been over 500 years of stagnation of Islamic thought. This period has seen the rise of political Islam—the belief that Muslim-majority countries should be governed based on Sharia or Islamic law.

[The Chronicle] [Read more](#)

February

The enemy of all that is modern

Sayyid Al-Qemany is an Egyptian writer and intellectual whose work emphasises the importance of secular critical thinking. He believes, for instance, that the Koran should be subject to scholarly study as a historical document.

In 2009 he received Egypt's highest cultural award, the State Award of Merit Prize for achievement in the field of the social sciences - a decision which didn't go down too well with the Muslim establishment:

"Just imagine a religion that a thousand years ago stopped adding anything, stopped changing, stopped renewing itself. Therefore the way Muslims think is at complete odds with our times, because they think according to the logic of a thousand years ago. Mankind has evolved and the sciences have progressed in a way that no one could have anticipated. The Muslims find it impossible to grasp and understand this great progress. [...]"

"Al-Azhar refused to accuse ISIS of heresy for a very simple reason. If it had done so, ISIS would have said: "Everything we know we learned from you".... "It is the source of terrorism. Al-Azhar is the enemy of all that is modern."

[Mick Hartley] [Read more](#)

Muslim women speaking up against violence are silenced. We must amplify their voices

Casting Muslim women activists as villains who air the dirty laundry of communities by speaking publicly against injustices speaks to this twisted hierarchy of issues that positions Islamophobia over and above the need to address patriarchal oppressions

[The Guardian] [Read more](#)

I didn't want to wear my hijab, and don't believe very young girls should wear them today

.... I feel uncomfortable every time I see well-meaning people defending parents' right to send young girls to school wearing the hijab

[The Guardian] [Read more](#)

UK mosques must make space for women – not turn us away

.... Of the 1,975 mosques in Britain, 28% do not offer facilities for women, and up to 50% of all South Asian-run mosques do not accommodate them. When mosques do offer it, the access is restricted, and often does not even include a prayer space, but rather a teaching space, such as a girls' madrasa.

[2ND MOST POPULAR READER'S COMMENT] About time we had journalistic scrutiny of this deep inequality and sexism in the very infrastructure of the faith, my former faith.

.... In fact I would go so far as to say that most Mosques, the small ones in ordinary residential homes and unused spaces above shops, are pretty much a law unto themselves and I am afraid extremist preaching has happened, a lot.

[The Guardian]

December 2017

'Politically correct' rules push people to extremism, says Islamic scholar

A leading critic of religious extremism today claimed excessive political correctness may push some people towards hate-filled views. He said open discussions were the key to fighting extremism among young people - and he urged against a retreat to "safe spaces" as seen at some university campuses. An outspoken critic of Islamist extremism, he has previously received death threats for advocating evolution within the religion.

[Evening Standard] [Read more](#)

'Islam brought me nothing but pain and hardship': Iranian child bride who was beaten by her husband and then forced to give up her children to flee to Australia slams harsh Muslim regime

A Muslim child bride who fled to Australia has told how she was beaten and abused by her husband, claiming her religion caused her 'nothing but pain'. At the age of just 16 the Iranian woman was forced by her father to marry a man who was a decade older. She says she didn't want to, but Islam left her with 'no rights'.

[Daily Mail Australia] [Read more](#)

October 2017

Progressive Muslims deplore the lack of support from the left in the debate over Islam

Speaking on behalf of the Collective of Secular and Progressive Muslims, which he founded Ferradi took up the pen to defend the right to speak.

"Rather than making heard our voices which condemn Islamism, defend women's rights and approve the precious principles of laicity, newspapers of the left prefer to privilege community organizations such as the Collective against Islamophobia in France (CCIF)," "the Party of Indigenous of the Republic" or even the "feminist and Muslim" organization Lallab, he lamented.

[*La Croix internationale*] [Read more](#)

Scots Muslim writer who lives under fatwa calls for burka ban

A SCOTTISH Muslim writer who has received death threats for repeatedly criticising Islamic doctrine wants women to be banned from wearing the "oppressive" burqa.

[*Sunday Herald*] [Read more](#)

Brave Muslim lawyer who dared to speak out about misogyny in his own community is banned from making a keynote speech

[*The Mail On Sunday*] [Read more](#)

September 2017

Top Indonesian Muslim Scholar Says Stop Pretending That Orthodox Islam and Violence Aren't Linked

Western politicians should stop pretending that extremism and terrorism have nothing to do with Islam. There is a clear relationship between fundamentalism, terrorism, and the basic assumptions of Islamic orthodoxy. So long as we lack consensus regarding this matter, we cannot gain victory over fundamentalist violence within Islam.

[*TIME*] [Read more](#)

August 2017

Burkas are political symbols not Islamic ones, Muslim scholar says

"The burka is not Islamic," she told the Religion and Ethics Report. "It's a tradition that comes from the heart of Saudi Arabia."

[*ABC*] [Read more](#)

June 2017

Muslim women reject sexism in fight to be heard

After the relationship became violent, she said it took her two years to be granted an Islamic divorce. "I put the blame on the doorsteps of the mosques. All these men, sitting on chairs, acting in judgment. I went around all the Sharia courts — I remember sitting crying in front of the imams after all the beatings and black eyes — but all they wanted was money.

[*The Times*] [Read more](#)

Muslim women need to challenge the patriarchy in their own faith

.. I stated plainly that certain narratives, especially within the orthodox segments of Muslim society, must be challenged by Muslim women themselves....

.... the argument that men are natural leaders of the household, and that they have a stronger sexual urge than women, is used to excuse polygamy. Many traditional Muslim

homes embrace such explanations, along with a related religious sanction for beating wives. The religious justification thwarts any challenge to such outrages.

[*Toronto Sun*] [Read more](#)

Koran 'needs new interpretation' to help fight terror

Mamadou Bocoum, a prison chaplain says new editions of the Koran should be introduced to mosques, schools and jails with footnotes for verses discussing jihad and martyrdom. He said that deeming terrorists "non-Muslim" because of their barbarism overlooked the twisted justification they sought from scripture for their actions.

"I am not asking for a new Koran, I am asking for interpretations, mainly regarding those verses that can be difficult and have a different meaning when taken out of context," he said.

[*The Times*] [Read more](#)

Muslims today face a deep malaise. We must confront it

.... I'm tired of seeing my faith trapped in a cancerous cycle of terror, reduced to a vapid discussion of veils, burqas and burkinis, and held back by an obsessive fixation with fatwas.

An imam who condemns music because it might turn young people into apes and pigs is simply an aberration to Muslim theology. We have far more important questions in need of urgent answers. Questions that should haunt our present and perturb our daily existence as adherents of this faith.

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

Muslim Reformers Versus Islam Apologists: A Brief Field Guide

.... I'm really tired of apologists trying to pretend there isn't a problem within the Muslim world. There can be no doubt that both Islamic terrorism and Islamofascism inspired by regressive interpretations of Islam are huge problems worldwide.

This isn't a battle between East and West.... This is a struggle between those fighting for human rights and humanitarian values, and those who favour regressive values and theocracy.

When a Saudi woman is caned because her hijab slipped, a gay man stoned to death by an angry crowd, a blogger imprisoned for life for stating he is an atheist, a young man forced into hiding because of death threats for 'liking' a Facebook post, an Indonesian woman caned for standing too close to her boyfriend in public, or a 'blasphemer' who allegedly said something rude about the prophet killed by a mob and the killer later lionised and celebrated – none of that is a response to the West.

[*Conatus News*] [Read more](#)

Muslims should take to Facebook to condemn extremism, retired police chief suggests

.... the public no longer believe Imams when they condemn terror attacks, a former police chief has said. Mak Chishty, who retired last week as Britain's most senior Muslim police officer, said people have "had enough" following the London Bridge attacks, adding that it was time to stop "skirting around the issues" and have some "very difficult conversations".

Issuing a "call to action" to all British Muslims, he urged them to launch a social media blitz to let the rest of the country know how strongly they feel about extremism.

[*The Telegraph*] [Read more](#)

Muslim women tackle 'toxic masculinity'

Challenging the government and fellow Muslims after attacks in London and Manchester killed 35 people, they call for recognition of the "link between violence against women and other forms of hate".

[*The Sunday Times*] [Read more](#)

'Australia needs to stop worrying about Islamophobia': Muslim psychiatrist says 'moderate' activists downplaying Islam's links to terrorism are fuelling extremism in teenagers

Tanveer Ahmed, a cultural Muslim who moved to Australia when he was six, says the national broadcaster's obsession with perceived Islamophobia was often counterproductive. 'It keeps feeding the message that none of it is their fault, that the West is in fact against them.

[*Daily Mail Australia*] [Read more](#)

May 2017

World's largest Muslim youth organisation calls for re-examination of Islamic text

The world's largest Muslim youth organisation - the youth wing of Indonesia's largest Muslim organisation called for a re-examination of Islamic text to adapt it to modern civilisation.

.... "A wide discrepancy now exists between the structure of Islamic orthodoxy and the context of Muslims' actual reality.... "(This is) due to immense changes that have occurred since the teachings of orthodox Islam, which became largely ossified towards the end of the medieval era."

"Civil discord, acts of terrorism, rebellion and outright warfare - all pursued in the name of Islam - will continue to plague Muslims and threaten humanity at large, until these issues are openly acknowledged and resolved,".

[*Channel NewsAsia*] [Read more](#)

The British broadcaster brave enough to discuss Islamic violence

.... their most important inspiration is a version of Islam whose roots can be traced to the origins of the religion, its foundational texts and the behaviour of Mohammed.

[*The Spectator*] [Read more](#)

April 2017

Muslim group in Oxford supports UKIP's proposal to ban the burka

.... Imam of the Oxford Islamic Congregation, said: "By banning the burka, Britain would belatedly follow the courageous lead of France, Belgium, Bulgaria, Morocco, Chad, Niger and other nations in outlawing this hideous tribal rag that has nothing to do with Islam, but only besmirches the Holy Qur'an.

"Instead of the liberal pandering to burgeoning Muslim extremism in the UK – which champions facial concealment as a religious requirement and 'personal choice' – the British public should be advised that there is no obligation for female facial coverings in Islam's divine scripture.

[*Oxford Mail*] [Read more](#)

'We don't want burkas and mosques on every corner': Controversial Muslim leader says the 'entire religion of Islam needs a review'

A controversial imam has called for a 'review' of Islam in Australia and demanded that Muslims respect freedom of speech and democracy.

'My father made the choice ... to come to Australia because it is a non-Muslim country,' he said. 'Now, if we knew that after 30 years, we were going to have burqas running around, mosques being erected in every corner, and people proposing sharia law against democracy in this country, we would not have come.'

[*Daily Mail Australia*] [Read more](#)

March 2017

The battle for the soul of British Islam

.... Ghobash's book is part memoir and part instructional guide to the liberal values he would like to see flourish in conservative Islamic societies. He gives special prominence to educated imams, higher education and a greater tolerance of antithetical views.

.... Much of the security and free movement enjoyed by Ghobash's generation has disappeared in his lifetime. He offers some social statistics that are symptomatic of the decay.

While Ghobash presents Islam as a guiding set of principles, he concedes that its interpretation, put into the wrong hands, is open to abuse.

[*New Statesman*] [Read more](#)

January 2017

A Muslim Reformer Speaks Out About His Battle Against Islamism And PC

.... In a nod to Martin Luther nailing his 99 theses to the door of the All Saint's Church in Wittenberg, Germany in 1517, several MRM members then taped their principles to the door of the Islamic Center of Washington DC.

[*The Federalist*] [Read more](#)

Expert says Islam is unsustainable in its current form

Ednan Aslan, 57, a professor for Islamic religious education at the University of Vienna

.... said that in Islam too little is being questioned and too much simply taken for granted. He warned: "Islam, as it is now, is not sustainable," and said he wanted to "reshape the face" of his religion. Aslan said that Islam is "out of touch with the present" in the way it is currently taught.

[*The Local*] [Read more](#)

Taslina Nasreen says no Islamic country can be 'secular' until Islam learns to accept 'criticism'

.... the author said Islamic society needed to be more tolerant towards criticism to make progress. "It is necessary for Islamic society to be tolerant and accept criticism without which they cannot progress. Uniform Civil Code is urgently required for empowering people with human rights," she said.

[*DNA*] [Read more](#)

December 2016

Sharia courts have no place in UK family law. Listen to women who know

We oppose any religious body – whether presided over by men or women – that seeks to rule over us.” So say more than 300 mostly Muslim women, but also others from different faiths who have been abused in their personal lives.

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

Regulate all mosques to stop radical preachers - Irish imam

A leading Irish imam has called for the Government to regulate Islamic affairs in Ireland to prevent unqualified imams radicalising Muslims. Dr Al-Qadri, who runs a mosque in Cloness, Dublin, also said although the Government monitored individuals it suspected of having extremist links, it also needed to have a strategy to monitor levels of radicalisation and an initiative to promote integration.

[*Independent.ie*] [Read more](#)

I despair of the British Muslims who choose to live under a virtual apartheid

This isolationist trend feeds on itself: Muslims, especially women and children, are encouraged to withdraw from the rest of society, to keep themselves 'unsullied'. They are taught that they are 'superior' because they are destined for heaven while the 'kuffars' (the unbelievers) are not.

[*Daily Mail*] [Read more](#)

'The toxic trio of the Hadith, Sharia law, and Fatwas have infected Islam', says Imam

A leading Imam has claimed "the toxic trio of the Hadith, Sharia law, and Fatwas" have contributed to a "voluntary segregation" between British Muslims and the rest of society. This follows a report by Dame Louise Casey which said that a degree of the UK's Muslim population voluntarily isolate themselves from society.

.... welcomed the idea of a legally-binding plan for integration, saying that unless the issue of voluntary segregation is "tackled forthrightly and robustly, we're looking at a totally bifurcated society, which is what all extremists want."

[*talkRADIO*] [Read more](#)

November 2016

Like many Muslims, I am outraged when I see women wearing the full veil on British streets

Saudi Arabia and other rich, conservative Arab nations began to spread more fanatical doctrines. London, the world's most dynamic and mixed city, is the centre of British Salafism, an ultra-conservative current within Sunni Islam, and Wahabism, a form of Salafism originating in Saudi Arabia. Salafism is believed to be the fastest growing Islamic faction in the UK.

[*inews.co.uk*] [Read more](#)

Muslim Times ed says 'I was brought up with BURKA but now ABHOR it as symbol of terror'

.... insisting that the understanding of sacred text is frozen puts the most fundamental belief of religion at risk. "When any religious person claims that a sacred text is 'dead' - in that the understanding of its meaning is fixed forever - they are directly at odds with their own idea of a living, active God.

"Each one of the Muslims, whether conservative or liberal, young or old, man or woman, actually has seen many examples in their lives that the Holy Koran is to be interpreted in the context of time, whether he or she fully realises it or acknowledges it or not."

[*Daily Express*] [Read more](#)

British Muslim publishes 'true' Koran reading

A British Muslim living under a fatwa is risking further security fears by publishing a new translation of the Koran which he claims establishes its true position on contentious issues such as the use of violence and women's attire.

.... the original interpretation of the Koran does not justify violence against non-Muslims, domestic violence or polygamy; nor does it require women to cover their faces.

"Strictures regarding how women should dress and behave, the demonising of homosexuality, widespread practice of polygamy, the ritual of slaughtering animals for food and a ban on alcohol consumption are not justified according to the strict word of the Koran," he said.

[*The Times*] [Read more](#)

Exiled writer Nasreen fears for Bangladesh's future

Having herself been the subject of fatwas and forced into exile by fundamentalist critics of her writing, Taslima Nasreen despairs at the wave of assassinations of secular bloggers in her native Bangladesh.

[*Malay Mail Online*] [Read more](#)

6.0 Surveys

A regular survey of surveys, polls, and studies, can be found at [Islam Surveyed](#) This Chapter is a selection of particularly important and recent surveys from that source. A study of earlier surveys is available [here](#).

6.1 British Muslims

The Truth about Muslim Marriage

Channel 4, ICM, November 2017

- About 6 in 10 Muslim women who have had traditional Islamic weddings in Britain are not legally married. They have had a nikah marriage but 61% failed to go through a separate civil ceremony recognised by the family courts.
- Only one in eight (12.5%) of the women questioned said that their Imam had advised them on what is required to be married in the eyes of British law.
- Just over one in ten (10%+) of those questioned were in a polygamous relationship. And more than a third of those (37%) had not agreed to it. [Read more](#)

The Casey Review: a year-long study of community cohesion in Britain

December, 2016

- As a nation we are becoming ever more diverse, increasingly integrated, and more at ease with that difference too. Yet some communities are becoming more segregated at the same time. Too many people in this country have been living parallel lives, refusing to integrate, as politicians ducked the controversial issues of social integration for fear of being called racist.
- Progress integrating Britain's myriad Muslim communities has been slow, complicated by the arrival of new "first generation in every generation" foreign wives who often don't speak English, and a growing "sense of identification" among UK Muslims "with the plight of the 'Ummah', or global Muslim community."
- This retreat and retrenchment can sometimes go hand in hand with deeply regressive religious and cultural practices, especially when it comes to women. These practices are preventing women from playing a full part in society, contrary to our common British values, institutions and indeed, in some cases, our laws. [Read more](#) [Read more](#)

Unsettled Belonging: Britain's Muslim communities

Policy Exchange, ICM, December 2016 [Sample of 3000 British Muslims and a number of focus groups across the UK]

- Muslims hold concerns on the NHS and the economy (among other political issues) that are normal among the rest of the population, but on specific issues there are marked differences between British Muslims and the general public.
- Just over half of British Muslims said they wanted to "fully integrate" (53%), and 37% said they wanted to integrate "on most things" with separation in some areas, such as schooling and laws.

- 6% sought a “separate Islamic life as far as possible” and 1% wanted a “fully separate Islamic area in Britain.
- 43% said they supported “the introduction of Sharia Law” and just 22% were opposed.
- 16% of British Muslims “strongly support” the “introduction of aspects of Sharia law into Britain”
- 40 per cent were in favour of gender-segregated classrooms, while a further 44 per cent thought schools should force girls to wear traditional Islamic dress
- 31% of Muslims thought the United States government was behind the 9/11 terror attacks and 7% blamed Jews while just 4% believed al Qaeda was responsible [Read more](#) [Read more](#)

A Question of Identity and Equality in Multicultural Britain

Opinium Research, May 2016

- A third (33%) of Muslim adults in the UK say they do not feel “part of British culture”
- British Muslims are more than twice as likely as Hindus and more than 40% more likely than Sikhs to feel excluded from society.
- Almost three quarters (72%) of White Britons the country in which they live in is the single most important part of their identity. However, for many minorities there are other layers which affect their sense of identity, as half consider their religion or ethnicity as the most important part of their identity compared to only 10% of White Britons.
- What it means to be British and what makes them proud differs in many ways depending upon your background. [Read more](#)

What do British Muslims really think?

Channel 4, ICM, April 2016 [Sample of 1000 Muslims across Great Britain]

- At the top-line level, the survey suggests that a mainstream British Muslim majority have similar values and attitudes to the wider British public such as a feeling of belonging to Britain.

But looking deeper into the results, a chasm develops between Muslims and the wider population on issues such as gender equality, homosexuality and issues relating to freedom of expression and the use of violence.

- NEARLY one in four (25%) British Muslims would support Sharia law replacing UK law in some areas of the country
- A third (33%) of those polled said it was acceptable for a British Muslim to keep more than one wife.
- 39% said wives should always obey their husbands.
- Nearly half (50%) said it was unacceptable for a gay or lesbian person to teach their child, with the majority also opposing gay marriage.

- One in three (33%) refuse to completely condemn STONING to death in adultery cases
- One in three (33%) refuse to condemn acts of violence against people who mock Mohammed
- 35% of British Muslims "agreed" with the suggestion that Jewish people have too much power in Britain – compared to just 9% in the national average. [Read more](#)

Compatibility of British Society and Islam

Sky News, Survation, April 2015 [Sample of 1,001 respondents who identified as Muslim]

- Nearly one in five (16%) British Muslims believe British values are not compatible with Islam. [This is in line with the findings of a survey for the BBC in February]
- Four in 10 (39%) British Muslims believe the police and MI5 contribute to the radicalisation of young Muslims.
- One in five (20%) have some sympathy with young Muslims who leave the UK to join fighters in Syria. [Read more. See p12](#)

Muslim Poll

BBC Radio 4, ComRes, February 2015 [1000 Muslims]

- One in five (20%) British Muslims believe British liberal society can never be compatible with Islam.
- More than one in four (27%) had some sympathy with the killers of the Charlie Hebdo staff. One in 10 (10%) believe those who publish images of the Prophet Mohammed deserve to be attacked.
- And, one in 10 (10%) are sympathetic towards people who want to fight against western interests.
- Nearly one in five (17%) believe it is appropriate that Muslims who convert to other religions are cut off by their family. [Read more. See p17](#)

Britishness and Identity Assimilation among the UK's Minority and Majority ethnic groups

Understanding Society - University of Essex, December 2013

- Nearly half (44%) of Britain's ethnic minority people say they identify as strongly with their ethnic group (and by implication with the values of that group's culture) as they identify with Britain.
- Of the rest 22% are separate; they hold entirely to their original culture. 21% are marginalised; they have lost their original culture but have taken nothing from British culture.
- Only 13% are assimilated. They strongly identify only with Britain and there is less potential for a clash with the values of their ethnic group. [Read more. See p24](#)

6.2 Other Muslims

Radicalisation in France

National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), April 2018 [Sample of 7,000 students]

- 11% of respondents overall adhere to religious fundamentalism, which rises to 32% among Muslim youths.
- Muslim students, in particular, were the most tolerant of violence committed in the name of religion.
- It is the effect of the religion of Islam, rather than simply social factors that drive radicalisation among them. [Read more](#)

Radical Islamists Actually Have Extensive Knowledge of Islam

Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and University of Vienna, August 2017

- Radical Islamists have an extensive knowledge of Islam despite mainstream claims that radical Islamists have little understanding of their own religion.
- Islamic theological teachers and the content, norms and values of Islamic doctrine play a critical role in individuals' radicalization. [Read more](#)

International Men and Gender Equality Survey

May 2017 [Sample of nearly 10,000 in Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Palestine]

- Only one in four (25%) men in the Arab world supports equality for women and most still believe a woman's primary role is at home.
- Nearly three-fifths (60%) of Egyptian men agree with honour killing in some circumstances.
- As few as 7% of unmarried Egyptian men said they have no problem with marrying someone of a different religion
- 62% of Moroccan men said a woman should tolerate violence to keep the family together and 38% agreed "there are times when a woman deserves to be beaten". [Read more](#) [Read more](#)

Just under 30 percent of French Muslims reject secular laws

Institut Montaigne, Ifop , September 2016 [Survey of 1029 people]

- When asked if they considered the Islamic legal and moral code of sharia to be more important than the French Republic's laws, 29% of respondents answered "yes."
- Around one in four (25%) French Muslims mostly young people, support an ultra-conservative form of Islam, including the wearing of the full-face veil. [Read more](#)

Half of Turkish Germans hold Islam above state law

Integration and Religion from the viewpoint of Turkish Germans in Germany by the University of Münster, June 2016 [Sample of 1,200 immigrants]

- 47% said that "following the tenets of my religion is more important to me than the laws of the land in which I live."
- 20% said that the threat which the West poses to Islam justified violence. Seven percent said violence was a justifiable means of spreading Islam.
- One in three (33%) agreed that "Muslims should strive to return to a societal order like that in the time of Muhammad." [Read more](#)

Opinions on ISIS in Muslim majority countries - a Majority of Pakistanis have no opinion

Pew Research Center, November 2015

- In 11 Muslim majority countries including Jordan, Malaysia, Indonesia and Lebanon, the majority held strong opinions against ISIS with a very small minority in some cases showing support for ISIS and similarly small numbers expressing no opinion about the militant group.
- However, in Pakistan, only 28% had an unfavorable view of ISIS, and a majority (62%) had no opinion on the extremist group while 9% even showed support for the group. [Read more](#)

Danish Muslims want the law to be based on the Quran

Jyllands-Posten, October 2015

- 40% of Denmark's Muslims believe that Danish law, at least to some extent, should be based on the Quran.
- A majority of Danish Muslims rejected the notion that Islam needs to undergo a reformation or modernization in order to fit in to Western society. Some 35% of respondents want a modernization while 52% said none was needed. [Read more](#)

Six Country Immigrant Integration Comparative Survey

WZB - Berlin Social Science Center, December 2013

- Islamic fundamentalism is widespread in Europe.

(Fundamentalism is defined as the return to eternal and unchangeable rules laid down in the past; the rules allow only one interpretation and are binding for all believers; and they have priority over secular laws.)

- Two thirds (65%) of Muslim Turkish and Moroccan immigrants believe religious rules are more important to them than the laws of the country in which they live. [Read more.](#)
[See p90](#)

University of Kirikkale and Happy Kids Association

April 2013 [Survey conducted in seven cities among 3500 men]

- One in three (34%) Turkish men believe violence against women is "occasionally necessary". [Read more.](#) [See p66](#)

The World's Muslims: Religion, Politics and Society

Pew Research Center, April 2013

- On average, seven in 10 (70%) Muslims in each country in the greater part of the Muslim world, favour making Sharia the Law of the Land.
- Of these, 58% favour whippings or cutting off the hands of thieves and robbers, 60% (42% of all Muslims) favour stoning as a punishment for adultery, and 53% (37% of all Muslims) favour the death penalty for apostasy.
- 18% of all Muslims say suicide bombing attacks against civilians in defence of Islam can be often/sometimes justified.
- Nearly half (44%) believe in creationism; humans and other living things have always existed in their present form. [Read more. See p67](#)

The Daily Life of Young Muslims in Germany

German Interior Ministry, March 2012

- More than one in five (22%) Muslims in Germany are against integration.
- Among those who are not German citizens this rises to nearly half (48%) who clearly reject German majority culture.
- Among the 14 to 32-year-olds a subgroup of religious extremists holds anti-western views and are reportedly prepared to use violence. This group amounts to about 15% of Muslims with German citizenship and about 24% for Muslims who are not German. [Read more. See p93](#)