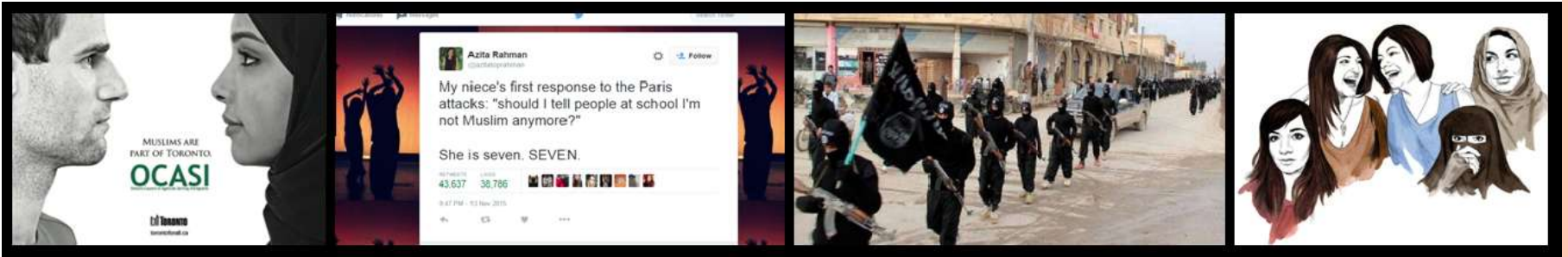




NATIONAL  
COUNCIL  
OF CANADIAN  
MUSLIMS



# Countering Islamophobia through advocacy and public education

ccrwebinars  
online workshops



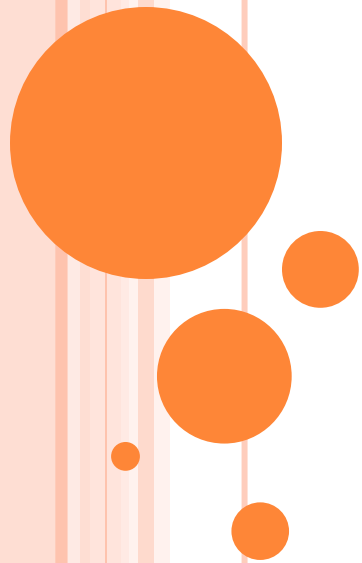
HELLO  
my name is

@AmiraElghawaby  
@nccm

# AGENDA

Overview of Common Myths of Islam  
Impacts in our communities  
Public Campaigns Against Hate  
Countering Media Narratives  
Civic engagement  
Resources

**IF YOU LEAVE WITH ONLY 2 THOUGHTS?**



Educate Yourself

&

Don't be afraid  
to ask



# How can we start countering hatred or ignorance?





# DEFINITION OF ISLAMOPHOBIA

Islamophobia is close-minded prejudice against or hatred of Islam and Muslims.



- Islamophobic acts are directed at Islam or Muslims in general.
- Anti-Muslim discrimination is directed at a specific individual, institution or group of individuals.
- An Islamophobe is an individual who holds a closed-minded view of Islam and promotes prejudice against or hatred of Muslims.





# Common Myths



Muslims = monolith



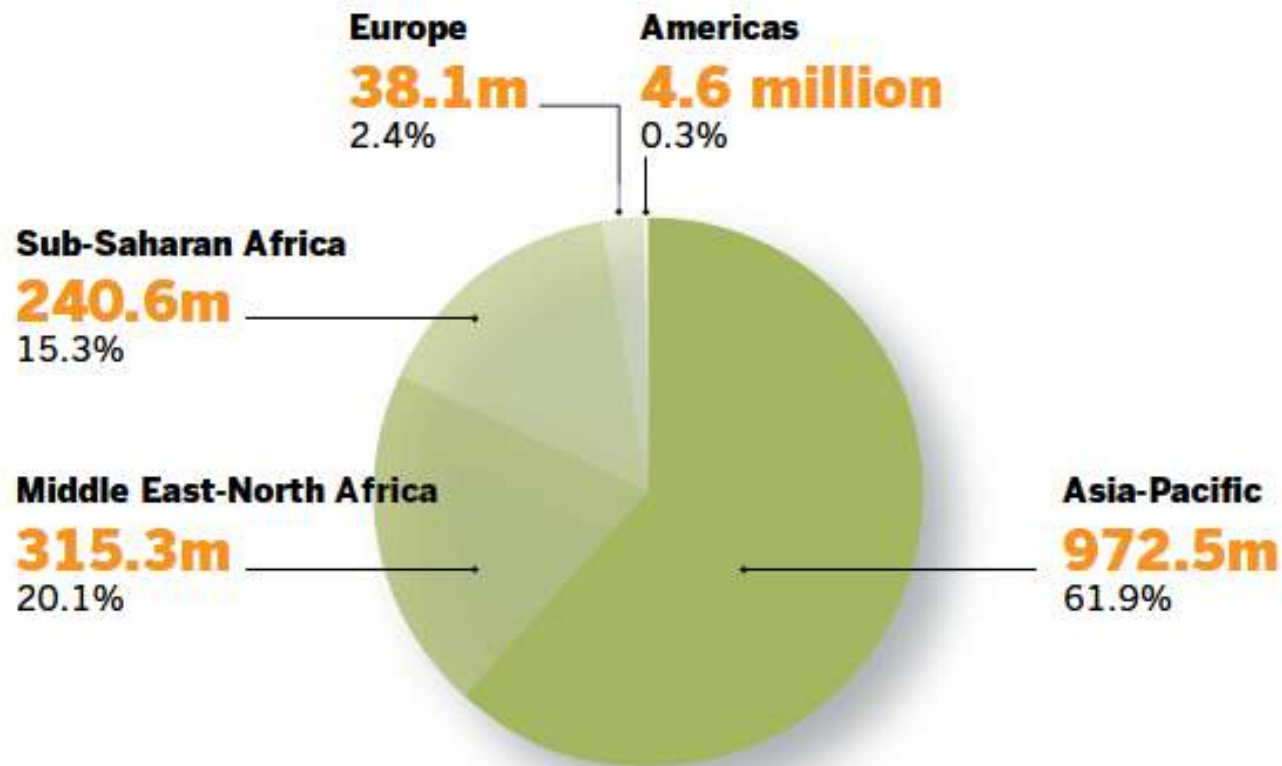


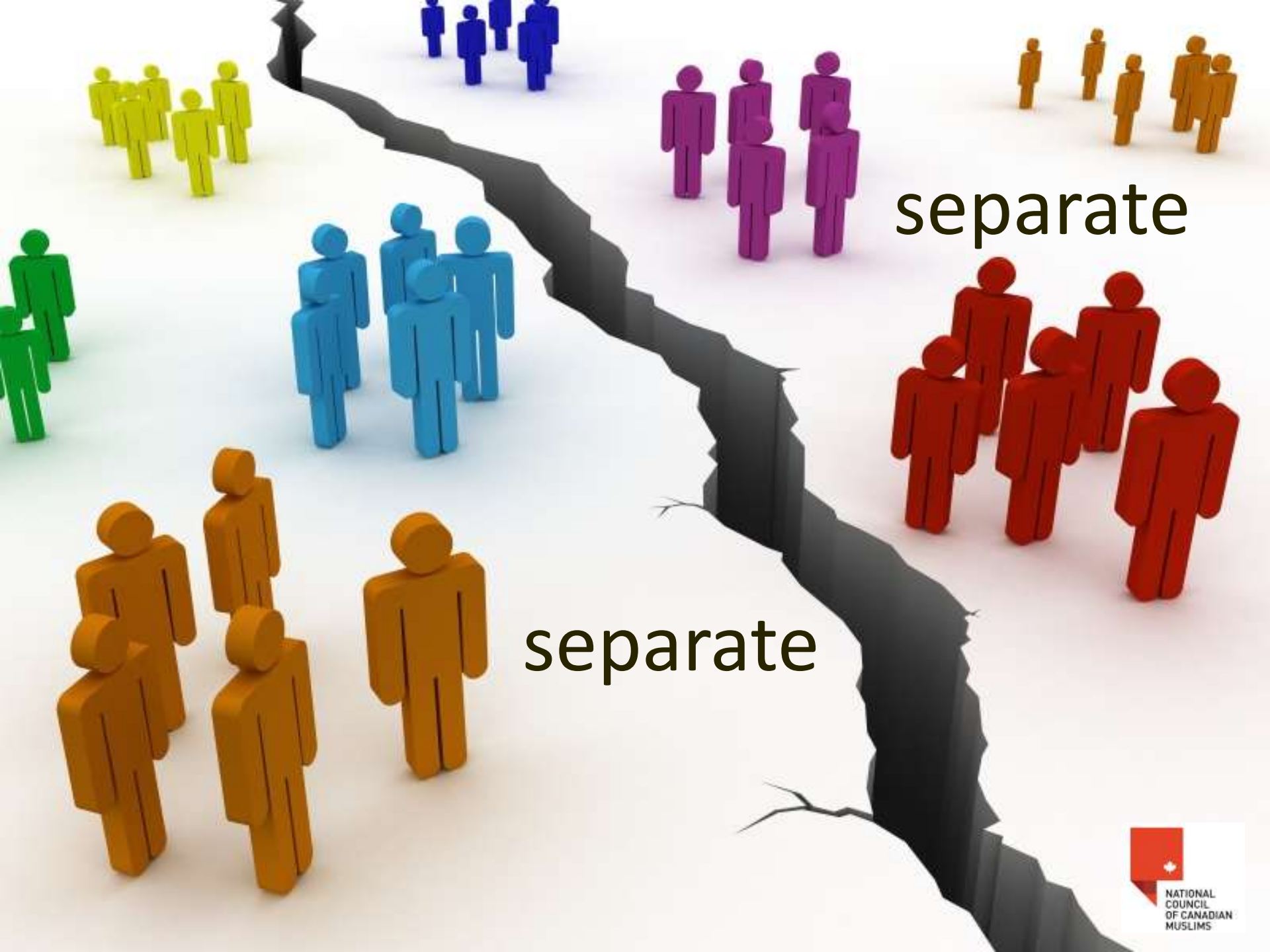


Muslims come from as many backgrounds (including race, cultures, ethnicities) as people from other faith groups and also vary in how they choose to manifest their faith....

“You never know what you’re going to get”

# MUSLIMS AROUND THE WORLD





separate

separate

Paris

# Paris moves to sue Fox News for false reporting on Muslim 'no-go zones'

City council approves lawsuit against 'bloopers factory' Fox News for incorrectly reporting in wake of Charlie Hebdo attack that some city areas ban non-Muslims

Tom McCarthy in New York

@TeeMcSee

Thursday 12 February 2015 22.55 GMT



This article is 1 year old

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**"When I heard this frankly I choked on my porridge and I thought it must be April Fools' Day. This guy's clearly a complete idiot."**

- Former PM David Cameron commenting on Steven Emerson's similar assertions about England







inferior



**Richard Dawkins** ✓

@RichardDawkins



Following

Yes yes, there are indeed good Catholics (and good Muslims) all over the world. They're the ones who don't take their religion seriously.

RETWEETS

719

LIKES

619



10:29 AM - 18 Oct 2013



Let's face it: The world has an Islamic problem

THE SECRET EVERY  
DOCTOR KNOWS

POWER WOMEN  
OF THE CIA

VOLCKER ON  
THE FED FRENZY

ARNOLD'S DOOMED  
COMEBACK

SEPTEMBER 24, 2012  
**Newsweek**

# MUSLIM RAGE



**HOW I SURVIVED IT  
HOW WE CAN END IT**  
BY AYAAN HIRSI ALI



violent

deceptive

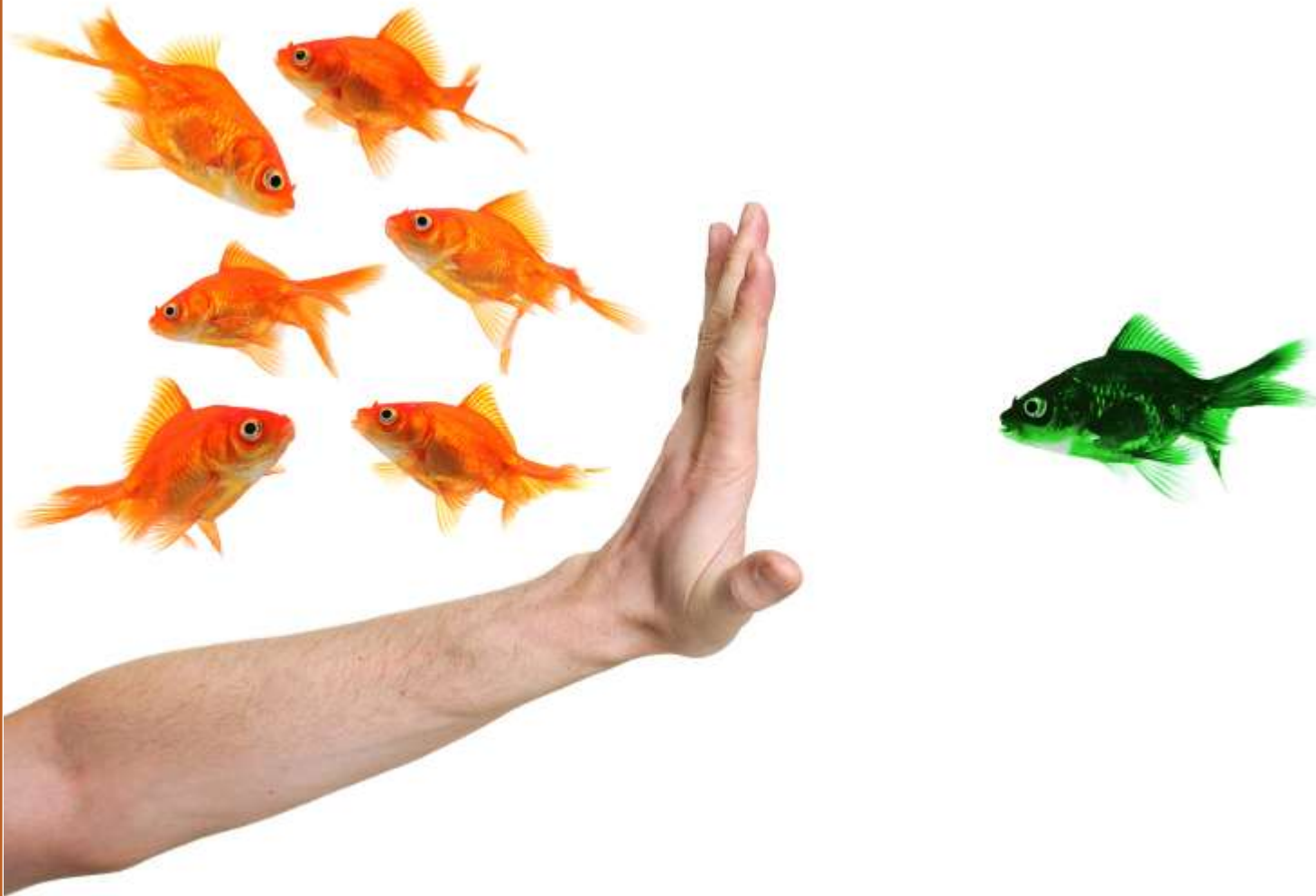




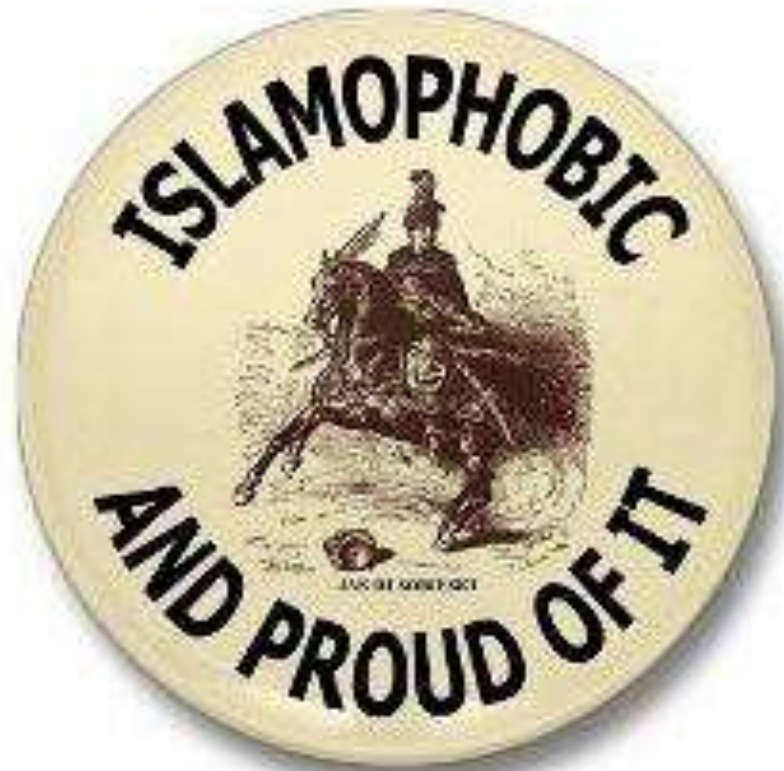
rejection  
of criticism



# discrimination is justified



normal





2016  
CAGLE CARTOONS.COM



MUSLIMS ARE COMING...THE MUSLIMS ARE COMING...!"



NOT ALL BUT A  
SIGNIFICANT SHARE OF  
MEDIA COVERAGE OF  
ISLAM REPORTED AS  
NEGATIVE

## Furor erupts over refugee bullying story in Halifax

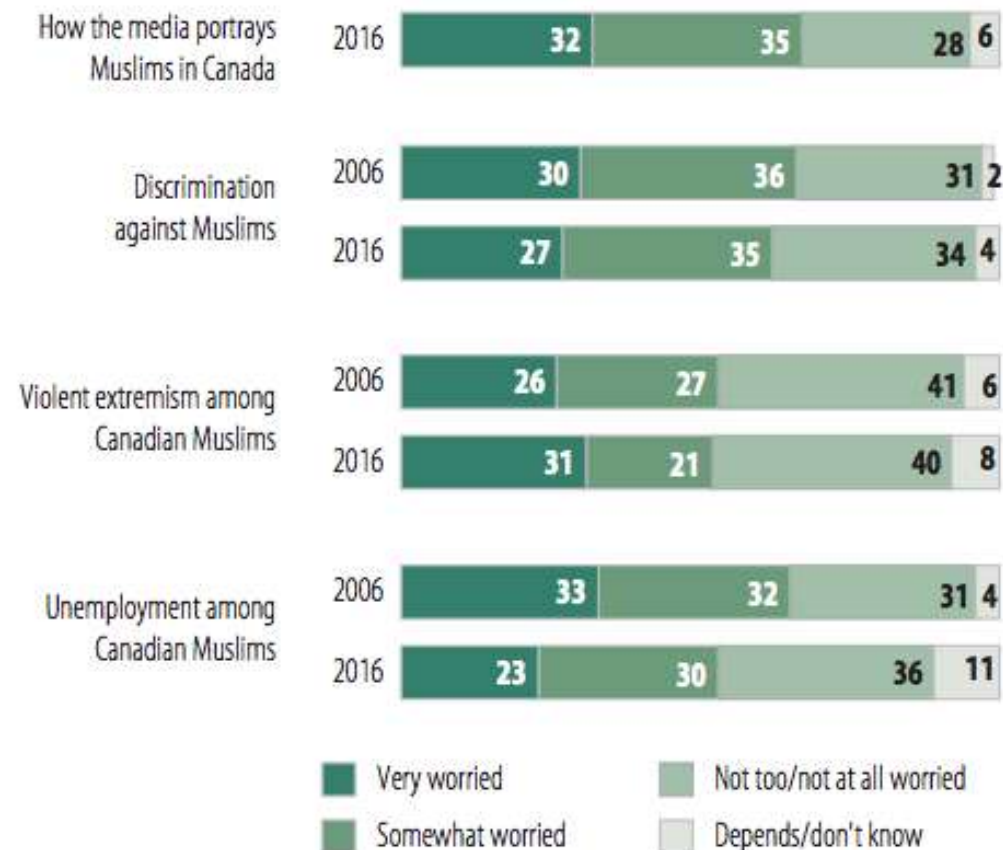


“The story lays bare the worst of the worst xenophobia in our city and our province. It lacks all proportion. Balance eludes it, start to finish.

Journalists and citizen journalists alike have a responsibility to recognize and manage the great power they hold. That didn’t happen, here. Not even close.”

*- Lezlie Lowe, Columnist*

## Concern about issues facing Muslims in Canada



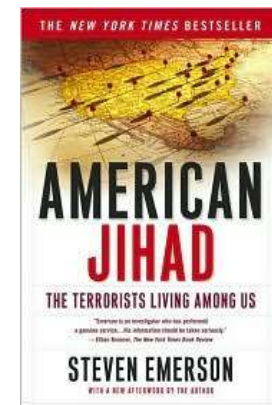
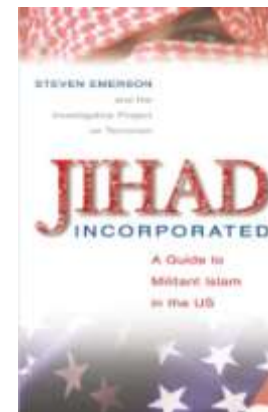
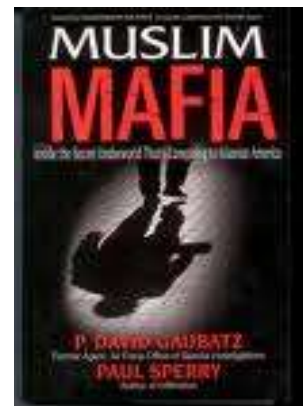
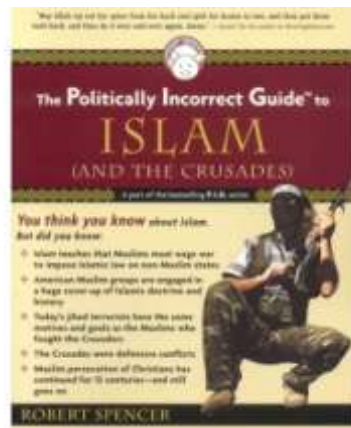
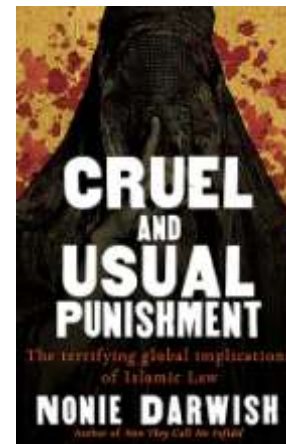
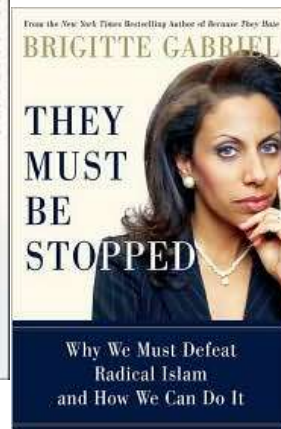
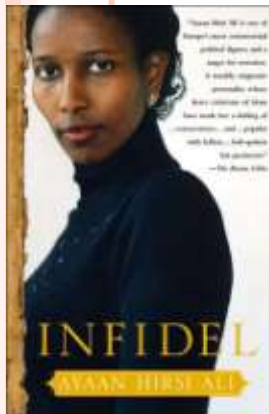
Q.25,d,e,f,h

Please tell me how worried you are about each of the following issues related to Muslims living in Canada. Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not at all worried about...?





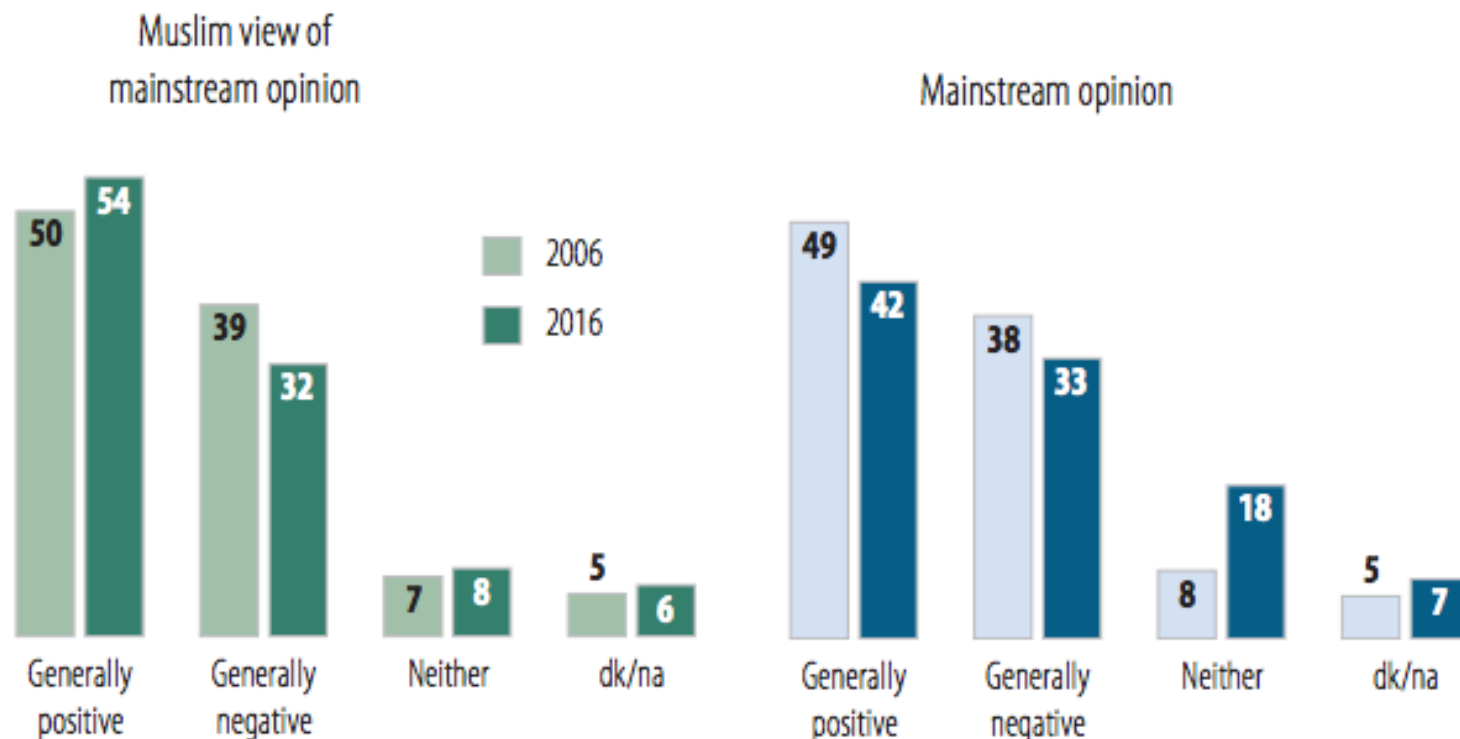
# THE ISLAMOPHOBIA INDUSTRY



**\$42.6 million spent between 2001 – 2009**

**- Fear Inc.: The Roots of the Islamophobia Network in America**

## Canadian mainstream opinion of the religion of Islam



Q.22/FC Q.7

*Do you think Canadians' impression of the religion of Islam is generally positive or generally negative?*



# Negative perceptions of Islam are negatively impacting perceptions of Syrian refugees.

“There is an **epidemic of Islamophobia** in Ontario. Only a third (32%) of Ontarians have a positive impression of the religion and more than half (55%) feel its mainstream doctrines promote violence (an anomaly compared to other religions).

These sentiments are echoed with Syrian refugees in Ontario where acceptance often coincides with acceptance of Islam.”

- *Mass Minority & OCASI Report June 2016*

# ripple



Police officers block the access to Maelbeek metro station in Brussels on March 22, 2016 after a series of apparently co-ordinated explosions ripped through Brussels airport and a metro train, killing at least 14 people in the airport and 20 people in the metro in the latest attacks to target Europe. Security was tightened across the jittery continent and transport links paralysed after the bombings that Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel branded "blind, violent and cowardly." *PHILIPPE HUGUEN / AFP/GETTY IMAGES*



SHARE

The Brussels bombings prove the Muslim community is unable to fully integrate into the Western democratic worldview.



ADJUST

The Western democratic world has invited and welcomed these people into their countries, given these people housing, medical care, welfare, education, jobs and in response, the Muslims both bomb and kill innocents and protect the killers from detection by authorities.



COMMENT

The Muslims are not "politically correct" and resist any attempt at assimilation into their adoptive countries.

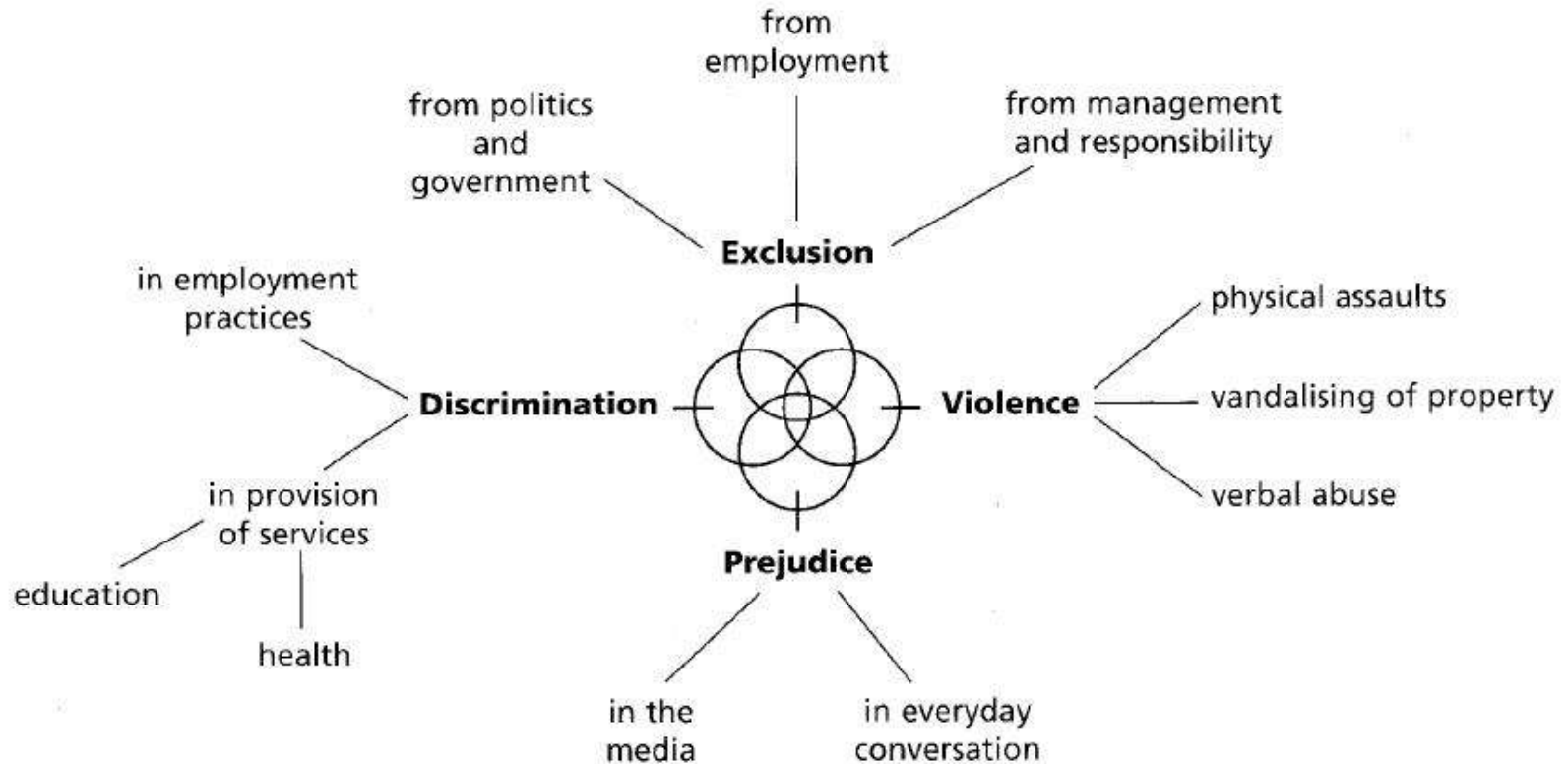
Time to rid the Western world of this infection.

*KAYE HAYES, Windsor*



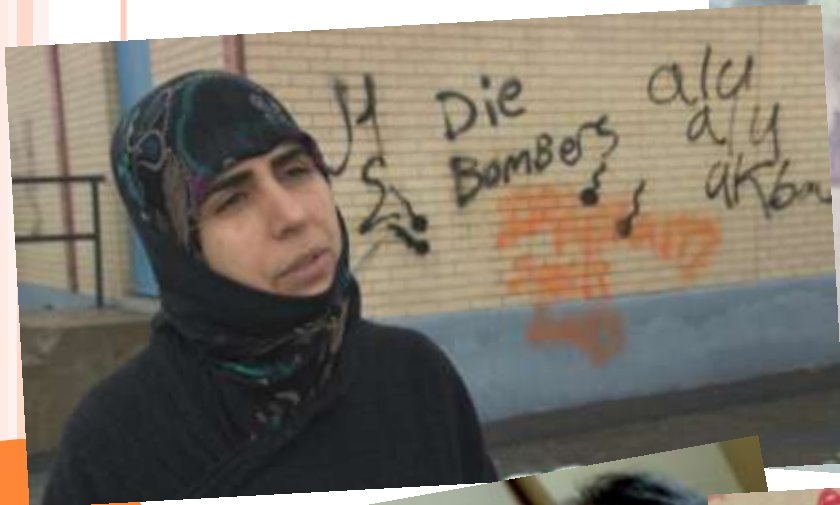
PRINT

### Box 8: Islamophobia, a visual summary



Source: *Islamophobia: a challenge for us all*, 1997, Runnymede Trust

# WHERE WE ARE



NATIONAL  
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OF CANADIAN  
MUSLIMS



# Calgary Muslim women fearing terrorism backlash

'It's different now for a lady to wear a hijab. She needs courage,' says local Muslim woman

CBC News Posted: Jan 20, 2015 7:31 PM MT | Last Updated: Jan 21, 2015 1:57 PM MT



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## Hijab sparks harrassment at West Island Emploi-Québec office, woman says

Quebec to investigate after Aisha Forsythe files complaint against counsellor, CBC News Montreal has learned

CBC News Posted: Jan 29, 2015 5:00 AM ET | Last Updated: Jan 29, 2015 10:51 PM ET



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ISLAM HORS DE CHEZ MOI



 QUÉBEC IDENTITAIRE



# Statistics & Spikes

## Overall

**5%** of criminal incidents measured by the GSS were considered by the victim as having been motivated by hate. **This corresponds to approximately 300,000 incidents.**

## Reporting to police

**About one-third (34%) were reported to police.** This proportion is similar to non-hate crimes (31% have been reported to police). Doesn't mean the hate motivation was reported and doesn't mean the police recorded the incident as being hate-motivated.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General social survey, 2014

CANADA

April 13, 2016 9:26 am

Updated: April 13, 2016 5:02 pm

# Hate crimes against Muslim-Canadians more than doubled in 3 years

By Anna Mehler Paperny

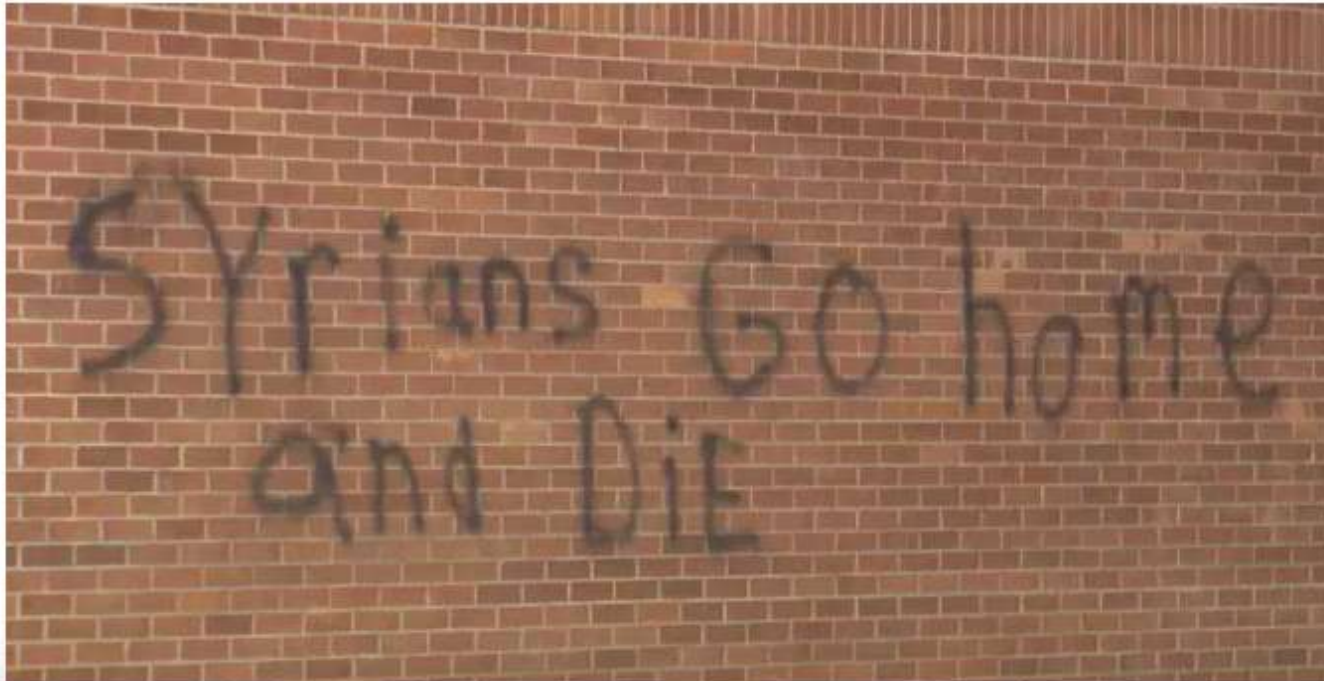
f Facebook 5.7k

t Twitter

✉ Email

🖨 Print

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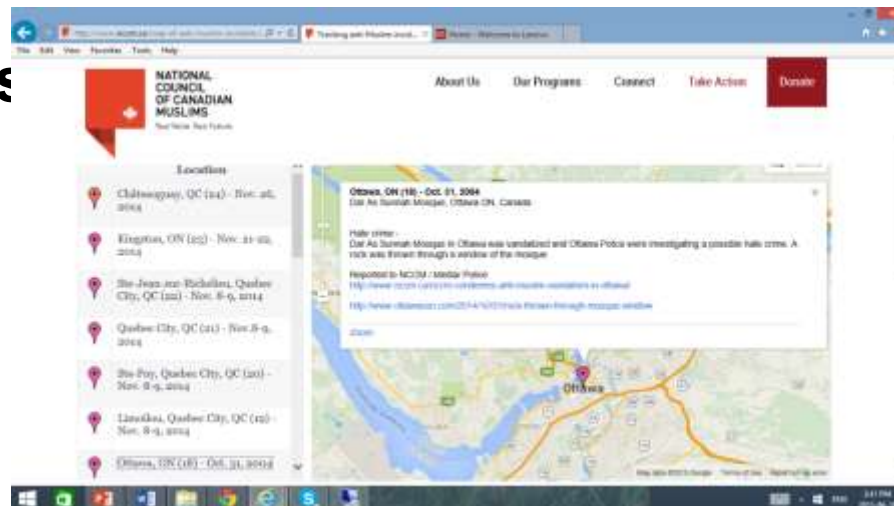


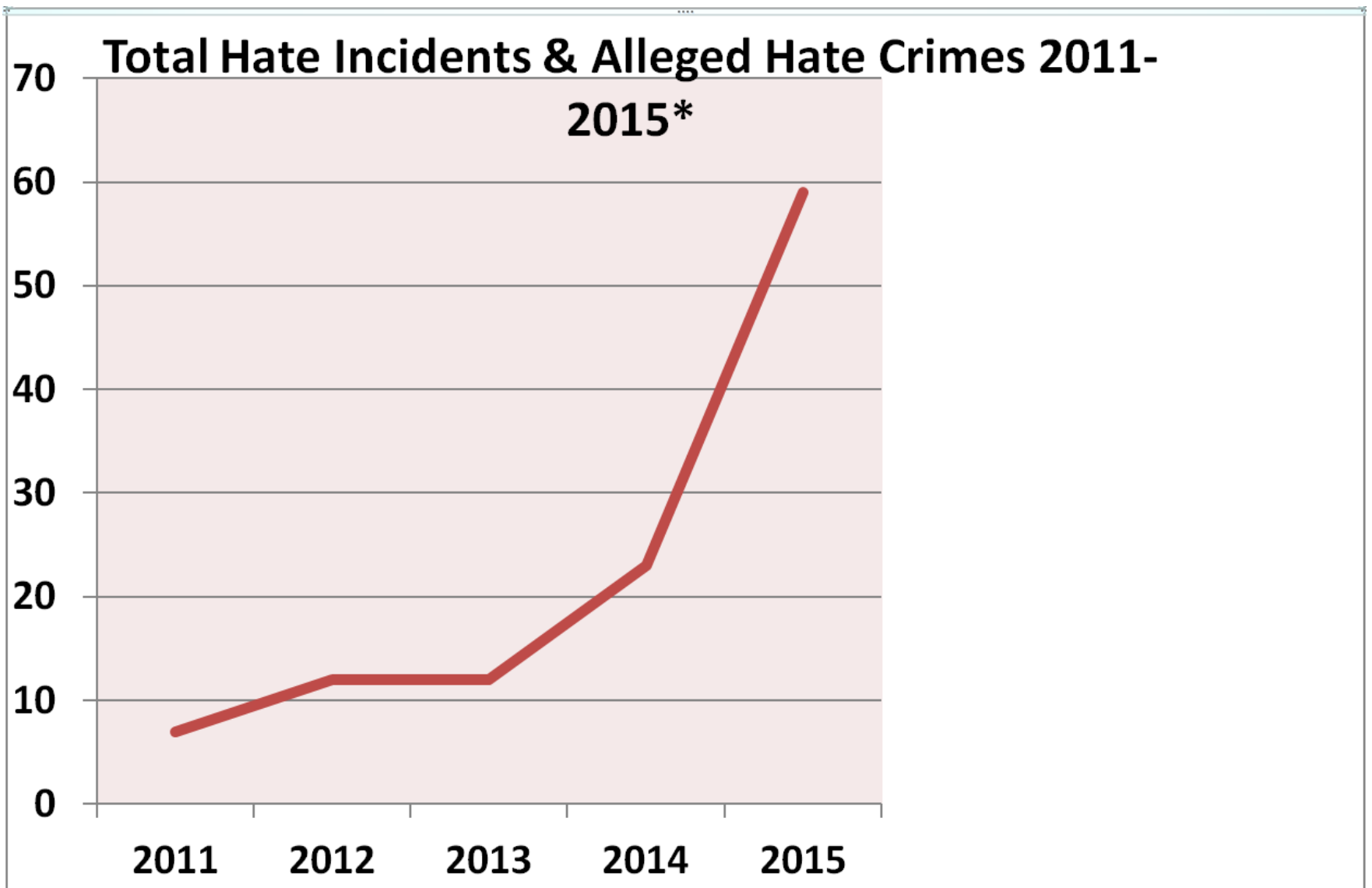
# CASE STUDY: TRAGEDY IN PARIS, FALL 2015

- Within 24 hours, reports of a firebombing of a mosque in Peterborough
- By that Monday, a mother has been beaten up on her way to picking up her children from school – in broad daylight. She is visibly Muslim, wearing the headscarf.

## NCCM's hate crimes & incidents map

- 2016 – 32
- 2015 – 61
- 2014 – 22
- 2013 – 12





*\*Based on NCCM's Hate Crimes & Incidents map, which records reports in the media, and police-reported incidents*

# TORONTO: Hate crimes down in 2015

The report, however, says that police “noted an increase” in hate crimes targeting the Muslim community, specifically during the month of November when the first of 25,000 Syrian refugees began landing in Canada.

***“This trend may be attributed to negative backlash following the attacks in Paris, France and the government’s refugee resettlement plan,” the report states.***

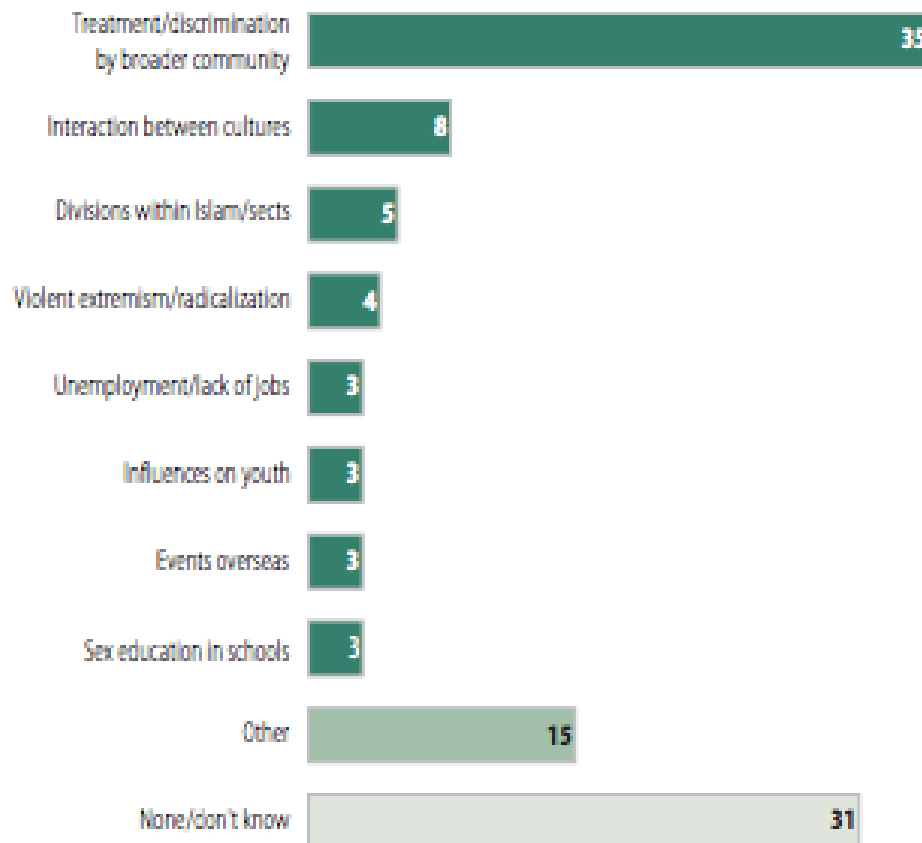
The report says that the Jewish community was the most victimized group when it came to mischief to property while the LGBTQ community was the most victimized when it came to assault occurrences and the Muslim community was the most victimized in terms of criminal harassment occurrences.”

***Toronto police have been releasing an annual report on hate crime statistics since 1993.***





## Most important issues facing Muslims in your local community today



Q.17

*What do you believe are the most important issues facing Muslims in your local community today?*

## Most important issues facing Muslims in your local community today

# Global Events impact us on different levels



A common feeling



**Azita Rahman**

@azitatoprahman



Follow

My niece's first response to the Paris attacks: "should I tell people at school I'm not Muslim anymore?"

She is seven. SEVEN.

RETWEETS

43,637

LIKES

38,786



9:47 PM - 13 Nov 2015



Reply to @azitatoprahman



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# Trump's Education Legacy: A Rise in School Bullying? New Teacher Survey Shows Election's Dark Impact



SHARE



TWEET



“According to reports from around the nation, Muslim students regularly endure being called ISIS, terrorist or bomber. These opinions are expressed boldly and often. Even in schools where such behavior isn’t tolerated, current events discussions often become uncomfortable for teachers and Muslim students.”



- Southern Law Poverty Centre

# HELPING STUDENTS DEAL WITH TRAUMA RELATED TO GEOPOLITICAL VIOLENCE & ISLAMOPHOBIA



## A GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS



National Council of Canadian Muslims



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# COMMUNITY IMPACTS & POLICE RESPONSES

Letter sent by Ottawa Muslim community leaders on community email networks

\* \* \*

## Update on Community Safety (November 20, 2015)

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

In light of recent events, we are unfortunately witnessing a rise in anti-Muslim and anti-minority sentiment in Canada. As a result, we recommend increased vigilance while maintaining regular activities.

***Ottawa Police Chief Charles Bordeleau first reached out to faith and community leaders, including imams and management of mosques, on Saturday, November 14 - the day after the Paris attacks. In the message, he reiterated his commitment to ensure the safety of all communities in the city.***



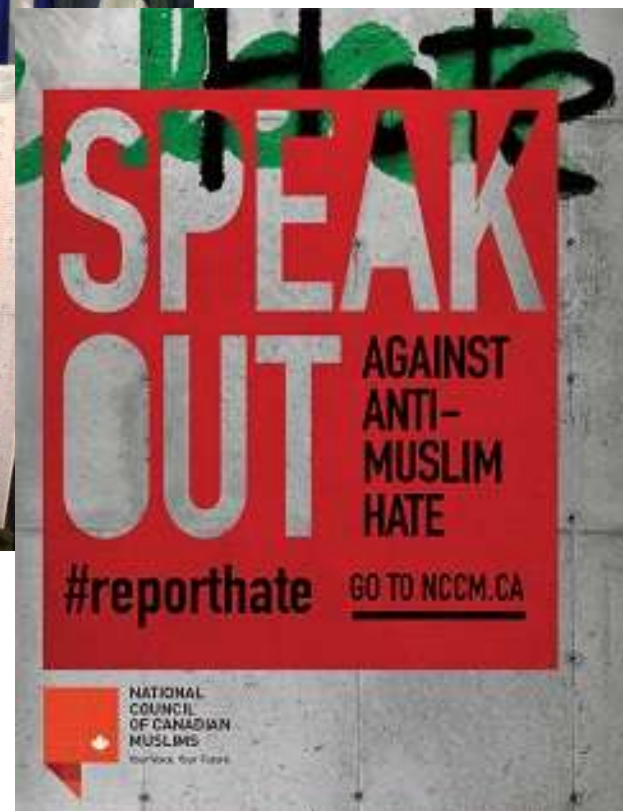
**“Inclusion is the key to public safety.”**  
– Staff Sgt. David Zackrias, OPS

## Political Statements:

- Quebec National Assembly passed unanimous motion condemning Islamophobia in October, 2015
- The Liberal Party of Canada adopted a resolution at its May national convention also opposing Islamophobia and undertaking to find solutions
- A petition, sponsored by MP Frank Baylis, Pierrefonds-Dollard, is currently circulating calling on the federal government to condemn all forms of Islamophobia – citizens are asked to add their names to it.



# PUBLIC CAMPAIGNS AGAINST HATE











**CANADA  
FOR ALL**  
UNITY THROUGH DIVERSITY.





CHARTRE POUR  
COMMUNAUTÉS  
ACCUEILLANTES



CHARTER FOR  
INCLUSIVE  
COMMUNITIES





# MEDIA COVERAGE



Role of Elected Officials & Community Leaders



POSITIVE STORIES SHOULD BE SHARED



# The Star now says 'Daesh' instead of 'the Islamic State' or ISIS

"These people are a huge multinational gang of killers and rapists — they have no legitimacy as a state and this name change helps emphasize that," said the Toronto Star's editor-in-chief Michael Cooke.



# DIVERSITY AS A STRENGTH



**Ottawa children's choir performing Muslim song becomes an Internet hit**

# POPULAR CULTURE





# SYRIAN REFUGEES RAISE FUNDS FOR FORT MCMURRAY



## NEXT STEPS

- Continued community engagement
- Community Education
- Reaching out to elected officials
- Training for front-line officers
- Providing Resources



# Canadian Values



- Empathy
- Acceptance
- Learning
- Understanding
- Respect
- Fundamental freedoms
- Equality





© 2016 National Council of Canadian Muslims

# RESOURCES

- **Survey of Muslims in Canada, 2016, The Environics Institute**
- **NCCM Guides on Islamic Religious Practices, My Rights at Work, Community Safety Guide (online and for order)**
- **NCCM/ ISSA: Helping Students Cope with Geopolitical Trauma and Islamophobia Handbook (for order)**
- **Runnymede Trust - Islamophobia: a challenge for us all**
- **Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance and Discrimination Against Muslims, OSCE**
- **The Bouchard-Taylor Report on Cultural and Religious Accommodation, Gerard Bouchard & Charles Taylor**
- **Smearcasting: How Islamophobes spread fear, bigotry and misinformation, FAIR**
- **Fear, Inc., Centre for American Progress**
- **Canadian Human Rights Commission & provincial commissions**

# Books

- ❑ ***The Islamophobia Industry: How the Right Manufactures Fear of Muslims*, Nathan Lean**
- ❑ ***The Myth of the Muslim Tide*, Doug Saunders**
- ❑ ***Islamophobia: the ideological campaign against Muslims*, Stephen Sheehi**
- ❑ ***Islamophobia and the politics of empire*, Deepa Kumar**
- ❑ ***Who Speaks for Islam: what a billion Muslims really think*, John Esposito & Dalia Mogahed**
- ❑ ***Unlikely Utopia*, Michael Adams**
- ❑ ***Islamophobia: Making Muslims the Enemy*, Peter Gottschalk & Gabriel Greenberg**
- ❑ ***Islamophobia: The Challenge of Pluralism in the 21st Century*, John Esposito**

## Other Online resources:

❑ [www.nccm.ca](http://www.nccm.ca)

❑ <https://petitions.parl.gc.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-411>

❑ [www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org)

❑ <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/islamophobia.pdf>

❑ [www.loonwatch.com](http://www.loonwatch.com)