

Fundamental misunderstandings about the fastest growing faith on earth

“Thanks to a moronic, violent few I have a completely irrational fear of groups of teenagers in hoodies.

“And now, after the events of the past few weeks I'm suspicious of young Asian or Middle-Eastern men, with or without beards. Just looking like someone similar to those who bombed or tried to bomb London is enough.

There I've said it, and I hate myself for it. But, just ask yourself - would you get on a bus if you had queued next to such a guy with a rucksack? I'd like to say I would, but in truth I know I'd wait for the next bus.”

These were the words of Daily Mirror columnist Fiona Phillips (30 July 2005) and it really had an effect on me.

Firstly I thought that was the most pathetic justification for generalized views that I have ever heard.

Phillips goes on to describe an Asian man with a bag sitting like a leper on the train. No one was brave enough to take a chance on the fact that he was just like them.

Hmm... Is stereotyping built into the British psyche because there's no getting away from it?

The M Connection

Written by Emdad Rahman
Saturday, 14 June 2008 00:25 -

I am a front line worker and in my experience racism or stereotyping is either on the increase, or people feel it's acceptable.

I was born in the UK and am extremely proud and 110% loyal to the country of my birth. I will always strive to adhere to its rules and regulations. (read Amerigo Bonasera; "America has been good to me.")

For 29 years I too have played the role of a guest who has been put up by his generous host. For this I am eternally grateful.

But, I don't think non whites will ever be accepted. Remember there is a difference between acceptance and tolerance. I listened radio comments after 7/7 and it was full of some chav describing black ,purple, yellow and martian friends but he'd never been to the pub with a Muslim (or as my buddy John Dargas would say; "I've never consumed alcohol with you brother") and hence could not understand why he had no such friends. Hmm..."If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."

What's religion got to do with it?

I am a practicing Muslim and my loyalty to the British flag stems largely from the fact that my religion encourages me amongst many things to respect my host. We should never forget that at the end of the day we are all guests and grateful we should be. Which other country in the world would you be able to assemble Muslim leaders to discuss concerns with the PM.

When western citizens are kidnapped by extremists with Muslim-sounding names, the reputation of Islam is hijacked. When western citizens are murdered and executed, Islam is also being murdered and executed. When western citizens are the target of injustice, Islam is treated unjustly. Yes, the worlds not fair and I can hear you squeal "but these incidents happen in all conflicts, not just with Muslims. Look at Srebrenica."

1.48 billion Muslims worldwide have been smeared with the ghastly events of recent years.

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Nearly one in five people in the world today are Muslim. Spanning the globe over fifty countries have Muslim-majority populations, while other groups of believers are clustered in minority communities on nearly every continent.

Although Islam is often associated with the Arab world and the Middle East, fewer than 15% of Muslims are Arab.

Like it or not, White is the new black and Muslims are the new bogeymen. Grown men are crying into their con flakes. Hmm... smell the coffee man, you're a guest remember. Deal with it.

By the way amidst all this has anyone ever asked the sisterhood, the female Muslim populace of their feelings. Surely they too must be seething and have a lot to get off their chests.

It is inevitable that Muslims will continue to face hostility.

A middle aged male came out of a newsagent last Thursday and as he walked past I lip read "expletive Paki expletive off back to your expletive hole in expletive Afghanistan." As he walked off I told him that native Britons were actually pagans who were massacred by the Christians and if he checked his lineage he might be surprised. It was only when he opened his mouth did I walk away. I mean he was South African. Give me strength. It's the revenge of the springboks part 1. Hmmmm..... Pot calling kettle...

We must educate our children, more or less from birth, not only to tolerate each other but also to be grateful and to feel honoured that we live in a multicultural, multifaith country. By the way if a multi-racial and multi-cultural society is so popular, why are so many native Britons not hanging around to enjoy it, but instead, selling up and moving to parts of the country or to continental Europe that George Galloway would probably describe as being "hideously white"?

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