

FAR RIGHT EXTREMISM AND

ANTI-MUSLIM HATRED

BY AKEELA AHMED

DEFINITION OF ANTI-MUSLIM HATRED

- ▶ Tell MAMA provides a working definition of anti-Muslim prejudice and defines anti-Muslim sentiments and hatred as follows:
 - ▶ *“Anti-Muslim prejudice or hatred is a certain perception of Muslims, which may be expressed as hatred or outward hostility towards Muslims. Hatred may take the form of anti-Muslim rhetoric and physical manifestations that are targeted towards Muslims (or non-Muslim individuals who are considered to be sympathetic to Muslims) and/or their property, their career progression and towards religious or social institutions within Muslim communities.”*
- ▶ Tell Mama further specify:
 - ▶ *“... that anti-Muslim prejudice can be directed towards an individual, but also towards ‘Muslims’ or ‘Muslim communities,’ as a whole. It can also take place in both on-line (virtual) and off-line (i.e. street based) environments. ”*
- ▶ Tell Mama go on to state that anti-Muslim prejudice may include:
 - ▶ *“... insults or attacks against Islam, as a means of caricaturing, stereotyping, ‘pigeon-holing’, dehumanising and promoting hate towards Muslims. These manifestations may also portray Muslims as being a homogenous community, unlike faith communities which have, for example, conservative and liberal religious interpretations and lifestyles.”*

THE HISTORY OF ISLAMOPHOBIA

- ▶ 1997 Runnymede Trust report: anti-Muslim prejudice played a particularly dramatic role in social exclusion of Muslims in the UK, and highlighted the vulnerability of Muslims to physical violence and harassment.
- ▶ Consequences of this social exclusion and this kind of violence for Muslims is that they are unable to play a full part in mainstream society.
- ▶ 20 years later holds true for today, except that data shows that the problem of anti-Muslim sentiments and hatred is getting worse.

HOW ARE THEY RELATED?

- ▶ Anti-Muslim hatred is structural and manifests in many ways' it does not arise simply from Far Right groups.
- ▶ Far Right groups exploit Anti-Muslim hatred and sentiments, which in turn is affecting society.
- ▶ Far Right leaders and extremists are more than likely to be Anti-Muslim with a deep fear of Muslims, however not all Anti-Muslim bigots are Far right extremists.





“WHAT SURPRISES ME TIME AND TIME AGAIN AS I TRAVEL AROUND THE CONSTITUENCY IS THAT WE ARE FAR MORE UNITED AND HAVE FAR MORE IN COMMON WITH EACH OTHER THAN THINGS THAT DIVIDE US”

#MOREINCOMMON

Jo Cox



MUSHIN AHMED

MOHAMMED SALEEM



RISING NUMBER OF ATTACKS

- ▶ Between 2014 and 2015 the Met Police reported that in London there was an increase of near 48% in anti-Muslim hate crimes.
- ▶ Anti-Muslim hate crimes online and offline physical attacks against individuals and mosques, spike after incidents of terrorism or political violence.
- ▶ National Police Chiefs Council, also reported a 41% jump in racist or religious abuse incidents in the month following the EU Referendum.

MUSLIM WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE TARGETED

- ▶ Tell MAMA report that women are “more likely to be attacked in comparison to Muslim men, both in the virtual world and in the physical world.”
- ▶ British Muslims who are visibly identifiable as Muslim are also more likely to be attacked, especially women who wear the hijab or niqab.
- ▶ University of Cambridge research: non-white Muslim women appear far more likely to suffer discrimination on the street than their female white, non-Muslim counterparts.

SOCIAL EXCLUSION & DISCRIMINATION

- ▶ Demos report: discrimination, or anti-Muslim prejudice, in recruitment processes and the 'stereotype threat' posed a significant barrier which disadvantaged British Muslims in the labour market.
- ▶ Educated Muslim women were less likely to be employed compared to an educated non-Muslim woman.

PROJECTS / INITIATIVES

- ▶ Disaggregation of Anti-Muslim hate crime by Police Forces in the UK
- ▶ Funding for protection of faith institutions
- ▶ Hate Crime Action Plan
- ▶ Tell MAMA, Remembering Srebrenica
- ▶ Social Media workshops & Roadshows
- ▶ Engagement with Twitter, Facebook, IPSO, TFL, British Transport Police