

Redirecting the Misguided Prejudice Associated with Islam

Forum: Human Rights Council

Student Officer: Ye Won Cha, Head President

Introduction

Stereotypes against Muslims have evolved and gained a striking increase of momentum under the conditions of the "war on terror"—the global economic crisis, and challenges related to religious and cultural diversity management. Having strong negative emotions towards Islam is also called Islamophobia: fearing Muslims with terrorism and extremism or portrays Muslim communities as a threat to national identity. A wealth of data detailing public opinions displayed by people from multiple countries would state Muslims as monolithic groups whose culture is incompatible with human rights and democracy. The global society's misconception against Muslims comes from the minority's terrorist attacks, especially the most remarkable being the nine-eleven attack, where firm believers sacrificed themselves to harm innocent lives. Anti-Muslim groups have also begun on their anniversaries of such attacks, burning down mosques, community centers, and Muslim families' homes, as well as attacks against women wearing hijabs.

Background

ISIS, Al Qaeda, Boko Haram, is a group that people would have heard at least once in their lifetime. They are an extreme Islamic group, causing terrorism around the world. On September 11th, 2001, the Islamic extremist group hijacked four airplanes into the Twin Tower, Pentagon, and Shanksville, all of which are important buildings located in the United States of America. A split-second plane crash created a death toll



The Twin Tower burning down after two plane crash

surpassing 3000 people, especially from the Twin Tower, which automatically generated extreme hatred towards Muslims. The issue was portrayed worldwide, and the people of the United States of America were shocked by the violent action that one can commit to their faith.

Since the 9-11 incident, the majority views Islam and its believers as violent, cruel, brutal, vicious, savage, and aggressive; they describe Islam merely with negatively connotated words and immediately assume that they are terrorists. Protest movements purposed for exiling Muslims out of the country (anti-Muslims) took place in various countries, especially the terror

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attack victims shouting for Islamophobia. With the risings of anti-Muslim protest, certain countries have banned Mosques' construction in European countries as they found the establishment' disturbing.' Hate crimes (violence, discrimination, harassment, or online abuse) and prejudice against Muslims are no-doubt a significant problem regardless of the country's population. To foster inclusivity in society, it is crucial to let the society realize its wrongdoings and that the current stage of action is bringing exclusivity.

International Actions

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Muslim communities across the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) region are the victims of rhetoric that often associate them with terrorism and extremism or portray Muslim as monolithic communities whose religion and culture are



Anti-Muslims fostering for the banishment of Islamic constructions

incompatible with the concepts of human rights and democracy—"a threat to national identity. "

From Spain to France, people feel prejudice against Muslims regardless of the size of the country's economy, its Muslim community, the religious, racial, or ethnic social makeup, historical relations with the south and the Muslim world, or even the refugee policy after 2015. The German Muslim community (4.7 million people or 5.7% of the population) is more than 200 times larger than Poland's (about 20,000 or 0.05). German GDP is seven

times larger, and the country is much more religiously diverse. Perhaps the best indicator to showcase differences in the Syrian refugees' policy that the two countries adopted in 2015. Germany's Willkommenskultur stood in stark contrast to Poland's staunch refusal to take any.

European Union

In 2015, the European Union created the position of the Coordinator on combating anti-Muslim hatred. Tommaso Chiamparino, the Coordinator, works to ensure a holistic response across the Commission services to fight anti-Muslim hatred, teach and educate in employment and non-discrimination.

The EU has straightforward rules in combating certain forms of expressions of racism and xenophobia, employing criminal law, prohibiting public discrimination based on race, color, ethnicity, and religion. The law includes:

- Establishes minimum standards on the rights and protections to all victims of crime.
- Establishes legislation in the area of non-discrimination, notably the Race Equality Directive prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin in several walks of life
- Prohibits discrimination in the field of employment, created by the Employment Equality Directives.

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The Union created a Code of conduct to fight illegal hate speech online aimed squarely at Muslims. Signing the Code forces the person to commit to reviewing the majority of valid notifications.

Places of High Concerns

Germany

Racism in Germany occurs significantly frequently under the guise of anti-Muslim prejudice. 52% of the participants in early 2019 perceived Islam as a threat to the individuals. This perception is no surprise as it remained stable at a high level for more than a decade. According to German police statistics, the number of crimes classified as Islamophobia rose by 4.4% in 2019. Repeated or foiled attacks on refugee centers and mosques are becoming a danger to Germany's national security, killing nine people in Hanau in February as the most blatant example. In Germany, far-right racism focuses on the question of whether Muslims or other minorities can be "Germans." Many German Muslims have grown up in this social climate – questioned continuously and forced to justify their religion.



A military police officer stands guard near the

Poland

Poland, with only a handful of Muslims, has been the most disliked ethnicity for more than a decade. In the 2020 poll, 55% of Polish respondents said they disliked them. In most European countries, anti-Muslim prejudice prepared fertile ground for racist violence. Judging by their appearance, hate crimes happened frequently from 2016 to people who are "thought" to be Muslims. Not only is the problem rising in the society, but the strong bias against Muslims is significant across the political spectrum.

Egypt

Egypt has banned the niqab and burka in public places and government institutions. This also shows how there is a lack of respect for the Islamic culture.

The Stances of the P5 Nations

United States of America

The United States of America was a country that was heavily victimized by an ongoing terrorist attack made by Islamic believers. After the 9-11 crisis, the nation was in a panic for a while, and it remains a scar to many Americans who remember the moment. The American constitution supports the freedom of religion; however, with Muslims being the minority group,

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they have been receiving attacks from Anti-Muslim groups for about two decades.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has the greatest Muslim population in Europe, and experienced a rise in Muslim hate crime. Having Gun gestures, burning hijabs, shouting obscenities has been a normal occurrence in their daily life. The strong hatred of Islam also led England to blame every incidents (even COVID-19) to Muslims.

France

Although France's constitution legalized accepting refugees in France, many oppose the increment of refugee entrance to the country and that Islam is not compatible with French society and culture. Its anti-Islamic policy is evident from the laws and constitutional recommendations involving the ban on Muslim women's headscarves, an essential and obligatory Islamic teaching.



Anti-Refugee protest in France

China

The People's Republic of China is a nation that does not provide much tolerance in terms of religion. China's government has pushed for assimilation for every minority group residing in China into Han ethnicity. This shows that the country prefers a unified nation rather than a diverse one. A purchase of an Islamic book in China can lead to detentions and strengthened restriction and censorship.

Russian Federation

Having about ten percent of Muslims residing, Russia does not have much of a problem with Muslims, unlike those of the other P5 nations. The Russian constitution acknowledges the freedom of religion, and Russians seem to have less problem associated with extreme Muslims as they have a 'relatively' low terrorist attack.

Possible Solutions

As there are many aspects of this problem, many solutions can be proposed. Among the many problems that exist within this issue, the three of the gravest are the following:

1. Raise awareness to the public that the "extremists" who cause terror in the name of the Allah are a minority within Islam and the vast majority of Muslims consider violence a distortion of their religion.
2. Provide essential education regarding the variety of religions and emphasize respecting other societies' culture and religion.
3. Establish stronger sanctions for violent Islamic believes in restricting their continuous terrorism in countries, predominantly European nations.

It is especially necessary to raise awareness that all the aggressive happenings that people

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encounter on news channels do not represent every Muslim and that not all Islam believers are brutal and malicious. To provide such information, education should be necessary for people to realize the significance of recognizing other religions that they may not be familiar with. Of course, more solutions have to be proposed to entirely redirect the misguided prejudice associated with Islam and its believers.

Glossary

Prejudice: an unfavorable opinion towards someone or something without knowledge, thought, or reason behind; usually influenced by the general public's opinion.

Islamophobia: prejudice against the Islamic religion or Muslims generally, mostly when seen as a geopolitical force or the source of terrorism.

Terrorism: violation and intimidation caused by people, especially towards the civilians, to achieve their wants or send a message.

Terrorists: a person, usually a member of a group, who uses or advocates terrorism.

Racism: a belief or doctrine that inherent differences among the various human racial groups determine cultural or individual achievement. The idea that involves race is superiority and domination to the ones that seem inferior to the others.

Timeline

1095AD – The first crusade between Christians and Muslims.

February 26th, 1993 – World Trade Center bombed in the United States of America

September 11th, 2001 – Muslims attacked the Twin Tower with two planes.

January 2015 – The Italian government enacted the policy of "anti-mosque" with strong regional council approval.

November 10th, 2020 – The Islamic militant group beheaded fifty people in Northern Mozambique.

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