

YouGov / Centre for Social Cohesion Survey Results

Sample Size: 632 Muslim students and 831 Non-Muslim students

Fieldwork: 22nd January - 14th February 2008

	Muslim students							Non-Muslim students			
	Total	Male	Female	British	Partially British	Not British	Sunni	Shi'a	Total	Male	Female
All Muslim students	632	297	335	390	125	80	501	62	831	354	439
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Are you a member of your university's Islamic Society?

Yes	25	24	25	26	26	21	27	28
No	65	64	66	65	64	71	64	63
Not applicable – my university doesn't have an Islamic Society	10	12	9	9	9	8	9	9

Are you a member of any religious societies at your university?

Yes	6	7	6
No	93	92	93
Not applicable – my university doesn't have any religious societies	1	1	2

And how active would you say you are in that society?

[only those in Islamic/ religious Society]

I'm a committee member of my Islamic Society	8	7	9	5	14	15	7	15	20	17	23
Very active – I go to all of the meetings and events	10	12	9	13	7	0	9	23	14	17	12
Fairly active – I go to most of the meetings and events	27	25	29	20	39	31	26	31	22	30	15
Not very active – I go to some meetings and events but not many	33	30	36	37	25	39	33	23	34	26	39
Not at all active – I'm a member but I never attend meetings or events	21	25	17	24	14	15	23	8	10	9	12
Not sure	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

From what you know about your university's Islamic Society, which, if any, of the following statements do you generally agree with? [Please tick all that apply.]

The Islamic Society is an important voice for Muslim students at my university	42	43	41	45	41	36	45	33	58	65	54
The Islamic Society is really just a chance for Muslims to get together	36	32	39	37	35	36	36	28	56	48	62
The Islamic Society tends to promote interfaith activities (e.g. between Muslims Jews Hindus and Sikhs etc.)	34	35	34	34	40	33	35	39	28	39	19
Some Muslims within the Islamic Society have very different understandings of Islam	22	21	23	20	26	21	19	35	30	39	23
There is some debate within the Society about the kind of ideas the Islamic Society should promote	13	15	12	13	16	12	13	17	24	26	23
The Islamic Society tends to discourage interfaith activities (i.e. between Muslims Jews Hindus and Sikhs etc.)	3	6	2	3	5	5	3	2	4	4	4
None of these	22	21	22	19	18	25	20	26	4	4	4

Muslim students								Non-Muslim students		
Total	Male	Female	British	Partially British	Not British	Sunni	Shi'a	Total	Male	Female
632	297	335	390	125	80	501	62	831	354	439
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

All Muslim students

Do you tend to think of Islam as a religion or a way of life?

A religion	13	13	14	13	15	16	11	17
A way of life	30	33	28	34	23	23	30	28
Both	52	48	55	50	59	54	54	50
Not sure	5	6	4	3	3	7	4	4

How often if at all do you visit the campus prayer room at your university?

At least once a day	17	20	15	17	14	21	19	11
Between two and five times a week	10	8	11	11	8	12	10	9
About once or twice a week	8	12	5	7	10	8	7	15
About once or twice a month	6	9	3	7	4	3	6	4
Less than once a month	8	8	8	8	8	13	9	11
I have never visited the campus prayer room	35	27	42	37	41	31	33	35
Not applicable – my campus doesn't have a prayer room	16	15	16	14	16	12	15	15

And how often if at all do you attend Friday prayer?

I always attend Friday prayer	26	40	15	28	15	34	30	7
I nearly always attend Friday prayer	16	22	11	17	14	16	17	15
I occasionally attend Friday prayer	16	19	14	15	23	15	15	24
I rarely attend Friday prayer	14	12	16	14	21	10	14	13
I never attend Friday prayer	27	8	44	27	27	25	24	41

Which if any of the following statements comes closer to your view?

Islam is a religion whilst Islamism is a political ideology	36	35	36	38	36	33	36	50	41	42	41
They are both part of the same thing – politics is a big part of Islam	16	18	14	14	17	25	16	20	21	27	16
Neither of these	22	21	23	24	20	23	23	4	11	13	11
Not sure	27	26	28	24	27	20	26	26	26	18	33

How supportive if at all would you be of the establishment of an Islamic political party to represent the views of Muslims at Parliament in Westminster?

Very supportive	28	32	25	28	30	25	31	24	5	6	4
Fairly supportive	26	24	27	27	25	33	25	28	18	16	21
Not very supportive	14	14	14	15	16	10	13	17	26	24	26
Not at all supportive	10	10	11	10	9	15	8	20	35	44	28
Not sure	22	21	23	20	21	18	23	11	17	11	21

	Muslim students							Non-Muslim students			
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	All Muslim students	632	297	335	390	125	80	501	62	831	354
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

And how supportive if at all would you be of the official introduction of Shari'ah Law into British law for Muslims in Britain?

Very supportive	21	22	20	20	19	33	22	20	0	1	0
Fairly supportive	19	16	22	19	21	23	20	20	4	4	3
Not very supportive	16	19	13	19	14	12	15	24	15	11	17
Not at all supportive	21	21	21	23	22	16	19	24	61	73	52
Not sure	23	22	24	20	25	16	24	13	20	11	27

How different would you say your perception of Islam is compared to that of your parents?

Very different	11	6	14	13	8	3	11	11
Fairly different	22	23	22	22	27	23	23	17
Not very different	30	32	28	30	33	31	30	37
Not at all different	9	8	10	9	10	5	9	11
It's about the same	19	18	19	18	19	26	19	15
Not applicable – my parents are not Muslim / I have no parents	3	3	3	3	2	5	3	2
Not sure	7	10	4	5	1	7	7	7

And how would you describe that difference?

[only those who differed]

My parents are MUCH more strict Muslims than I am	40	45	35	39	43	31	39	46
My parents are SLIGHTLY more strict Muslims than I am	33	32	34	34	38	25	33	46
My parents are SLIGHTLY more liberal Muslims than I am	14	9	17	13	5	31	14	8
My parents are MUCH more liberal Muslims than I am	4	7	1	4	3	6	4	0
Not sure	10	7	12	11	11	6	10	0

Muslim students								Non-Muslim students		
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632	297	335	390	125	80	501	62	831	354	439
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

All Muslim students

Thinking more about different perceptions of Islam, do you agree or disagree with the following statements...?

Sunni Muslims are not true believers in Islam

[non-Sunni only]

Strongly agree	6	11	2	7	7	4	0	11
Tend to agree	9	16	5	11	0	16	0	9
Tend to disagree	16	21	13	9	24	24	0	13
Strongly disagree	40	39	40	50	31	40	0	50
Not sure	29	14	40	24	38	16	0	17

Shia'a Muslims are not true believers in Islam

[non-Shia'a only]

Strongly agree	11	14	8	12	9	9	12	0
Tend to agree	19	19	19	20	26	7	20	0
Tend to disagree	19	20	19	20	19	24	21	0
Strongly disagree	24	23	25	22	23	44	23	0
Not sure	27	25	29	26	24	15	26	0

Sunni Muslims do not follow the Qu'ran and the Sunnah as understood by the pious predecessors

[non-Sunni only]

Strongly agree	3	7	0	4	3	0	0	4
Tend to agree	17	23	13	26	7	16	0	17
Tend to disagree	13	14	13	11	17	16	0	15
Strongly disagree	32	32	31	30	24	44	0	39
Not sure	36	25	44	28	48	24	0	24

Shia'a Muslims do not follow the Qu'ran and the Sunnah as understood by the pious predecessors

[non-Shia'a only]

Strongly agree	14	19	11	15	12	15	15	0
Tend to agree	25	25	24	28	24	15	26	0
Tend to disagree	16	15	18	15	17	22	17	0
Strongly disagree	14	14	14	12	16	28	13	0
Not sure	31	27	34	30	30	20	29	0

Do you consider Sufism to be...?

Based on the Qu'ran and the Sunnah	19	21	18	20	14	30	20	26
NOT based on the Qu'ran or the Sunnah	18	19	16	18	14	21	17	15
Neither of these	9	10	9	8	11	15	9	13
Not sure	54	50	57	53	60	34	55	46

	Muslim students							Non-Muslim students			
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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Do you consider Sufism to be...?

An ancient Islamic practice	21	21	20	22	21	21	22	20
Developed under Greek and Hindu influences	10	12	9	11	9	8	10	4
Both of these	6	7	4	5	4	10	6	0
Neither of these	11	12	10	9	14	20	10	13
Not sure	53	48	57	53	53	41	52	63

Do you think it is generally acceptable or generally unacceptable for Muslims to want to interpret the Shari'ah depending on time and place?

Generally acceptable	39	37	40	38	42	44	37	54
Generally unacceptable	25	24	26	25	26	33	26	17
Not sure	36	39	34	37	32	23	37	28

And does Islam tend to allow or tend to prohibit this kind of interpretation of the Shari'ah?

Tends to allow it	24	27	21	25	22	25	24	30
Tends to prohibit it	16	17	16	15	21	21	16	20
The Qu'ran makes no reference to it	10	9	11	10	10	12	10	7
Not sure	50	47	53	50	47	43	51	44

Are there any parts of Shari'ah Law (for example punishments like stoning or lashing etc.) that you think should be modernised for use in Britain?

Yes some parts should be modernised for use in Britain	34	33	35	36	32	39	32	54
No Shari'ah Law is sacred and should stay as it is	32	36	29	33	37	33	36	13
Not sure	34	31	36	32	31	28	33	33

And what about Shari'ah Law more generally: should it be modernised for use in places like Saudi Arabia?

Yes Shari'ah Law should be modernised for use in places like Saudi Arabia	35	34	35	37	36	33	32	46
No Shari'ah Law is sacred and should stay as it is in Muslim countries	38	40	35	38	43	38	42	20
Not sure	28	26	30	26	21	30	26	35

	Muslim students								Non-Muslim students		
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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

To what extent if at all do you consider yourself to be 'British'?

I am British	62	63	61	100	0	0	67	48	76	73	78
I consider myself partially British and partially something else	21	16	25	0	100	0	19	30	16	17	15
I am not British	12	14	10	0	0	100	9	15	5	7	4
Not sure	5	7	4	0	0	0	5	7	3	3	4

Do you think it possible to be both Muslim and British equally?

Yes it is possible to be both equally	78	74	81	87	68	71	78	80
No this is difficult – being British comes first	3	3	3	3	5	2	3	7
No this is difficult – being Muslim comes first	12	16	10	8	22	23	13	11
Not sure	7	8	6	3	6	5	7	2

And thinking about your future would it be your preference to marry someone who is British someone who is NOT British or would it make no difference to you either way?

It would make no difference to me either way	47	52	42	48	43	54	45	65
I would prefer to marry someone who is British	25	20	29	31	25	3	27	17
I would prefer to marry someone who is NOT British	4	3	5	2	5	13	3	2
Not applicable – I am already married to some who is British	8	7	9	9	9	3	9	4
Not applicable – I am already married to some who is NOT British	7	6	8	5	9	15	7	4
Not applicable – I don't intend to marry	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	0
Not sure	7	10	5	3	7	8	7	7

To what extent if at all do you think Islam is compatible with the Western notion of democracy?

Very compatible	29	34	26	33	18	33	31	26	4	6	3
Fairly compatible	39	37	40	39	43	46	38	39	30	29	31
Fairly incompatible	8	7	10	8	12	3	7	15	31	33	27
Very incompatible	5	6	4	4	7	8	5	4	20	21	18
Not sure	19	17	21	15	21	10	19	15	16	11	21

And how compatible if at all do you think Islam is with the separation of religion and government?

Very compatible	18	23	15	23	11	15	20	15	3	3	2
Fairly compatible	25	24	26	25	35	23	24	33	17	18	17
Fairly incompatible	18	14	20	19	12	23	17	15	30	32	26
Very incompatible	10	11	8	8	12	13	10	11	26	30	23
Not sure	29	27	31	25	29	26	29	26	25	17	31

	Muslim students								Non-Muslim students		
	Total	Male	Female	British	Partially British	Not British	Sunni	Shi'a	Total	Male	Female
	All Muslim students	632	297	335	390	125	80	501	62	831	354
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

How supportive if at all would you be of the introduction of a worldwide Caliphate based on Shari'ah Law?

Very supportive	15	16	15	16	13	20	18	7
Fairly supportive	18	20	16	18	16	26	17	22
Not very supportive	12	11	14	14	11	10	12	17
Not at all supportive	13	15	12	12	16	18	11	20
Not sure	41	39	44	40	43	26	43	35

Thinking about your university friends which of the following statements comes closest to describing your social group?

Most of my friends at university are Muslim, because I have more in common with them than I do with non-Muslims	8	9	7	8	9	7	9	7
Some of my friends at university are Muslim, but I have friends from all sorts of different backgrounds	37	37	38	38	40	41	40	28
Very few of my friends at university are Muslim; there aren't many Muslims at my university	4	3	4	4	2	7	5	0
Very few of my friends at university are Muslim; I find I have more in common with non-Muslims	5	6	6	6	6	5	5	2
Religion is not an issue when I choose my friends at university	38	35	41	40	40	38	34	57
Not sure	8	12	4	5	4	3	7	7

Thinking about your university friends, which of the following statements comes closest to describing your social group?

Culturally my university friends and I probably quite similar	42	39	45
I have friends at university from all sorts of different backgrounds	55	58	52
Not sure	3	3	3

How supportive if at all would you be if a Muslim friend of yours decided they wanted to leave Islam?

Very supportive	10	6	13	9	11	13	8	15
Fairly supportive	15	16	15	16	18	13	14	20
Fairly unsupportive	22	19	23	22	22	23	22	20
Very unsupportive	29	28	30	28	31	31	32	15
Not sure	25	31	20	25	18	20	24	30

What should happen to a person who decides to leave Islam?

They should be punished in accordance with Shari'ah Law	6	8	4	7	4	10	6	11
They should be encouraged to rethink their decision by Muslim elders and people that care about them	45	42	48	48	43	48	49	26
Nothing should happen to them – it's their own choice	36	34	39	35	43	36	32	50
Not sure	12	16	10	10	10	7	13	13

	Muslim students								Non-Muslim students		
	Total	Male	Female	British	Partially British	Not British	Sunni	Shi'a	Total	Male	Female
	All Muslim students	632	297	335	390	125	80	501	62	831	354
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Is it your understanding of Shari'ah Law that a person who leaves Islam should be killed?

[only those who specified 'punished in accordance with Shari'ah']

Yes this is my understanding	50	40	67	41	50	83	57	40
No this is not my understanding	34	45	17	41	25	17	30	40
Not sure	16	15	17	18	25	0	13	20

How important to Islam do you think it is that Muslim women wear the hijab?

Very important	30	26	34	30	30	33	33	28	18	17	19
Fairly important	29	30	28	32	26	28	29	26	36	33	39
Not very important	19	20	18	18	25	15	17	30	21	24	18
Not at all important	12	11	14	12	13	18	11	7	11	15	8
Not sure	10	13	7	7	7	7	10	9	14	11	16

Which of the following statements comes closer to your view?

Women should wear the hijab – female modesty is an important part of Islam	31	30	31	30	30	38	34	26
It is up to the individual Muslim woman as to whether or not she chooses to wear the hijab	61	58	64	65	64	59	59	65
Not sure	8	12	5	5	6	3	8	9

In your understanding how acceptable is it for men and women to associate freely in Muslim society?

Very acceptable	17	16	18	16	23	21	16	20	8	9	7
Fairly acceptable	31	32	30	32	27	28	29	46	21	22	21
Not very acceptable	30	26	34	30	38	33	31	20	46	43	48
Not at all acceptable	10	10	10	11	5	12	12	2	14	16	13
Not sure	12	17	9	11	8	7	13	13	10	10	11

From your understanding of Islam are men and women considered equal in the eyes of Allah?

Yes they are	69	71	67	71	64	80	71	63	11	11	12
Yes except one or two issues	17	15	19	19	18	8	18	17	15	15	15
No not really	5	2	7	4	6	8	4	9	36	35	35
No not at all	2	3	2	2	4	2	2	4	25	27	24
Not sure	7	9	6	4	9	2	7	7	13	12	14

	Muslim students								Non-Muslim students		
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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

And in your experience of Islam in your local community are men and women treated equally?

Yes they are	31	37	26	32	30	33	31	39	9	10	8
Yes except on one or two issues	27	24	29	25	28	39	26	33	23	26	20
No not really	25	19	31	29	24	20	26	20	40	38	42
No not at all	8	8	8	8	10	5	8	4	16	16	16
Not sure	9	11	7	6	8	3	9	4	12	9	14

Do you believe that men and women *should* be treated equally?

Yes they should	89	88	91	92	93	90	90	91
No they should not	5	4	5	5	5	7	4	4
Not sure	6	8	4	3	3	3	6	4

Is it ever justifiable to kill in the name of religion?

Yes in order to preserve and promote that religion	4	3	4	4	2	5	4	2	1	1	0
Yes but only if that religion is under attack	28	32	24	28	30	28	29	30	1	3	0
No it is never justifiable	53	46	59	53	64	56	52	54	94	92	97
Not sure	15	19	13	15	4	12	16	13	4	5	3

Would geography make a difference to your previous answer?

Yes, as it is not justifiable to kill in non-Muslim lands	27	26	27	29	18	25	28	27
No, geography would make no difference	56	57	56	54	65	55	53	67
Not sure	17	18	17	17	18	20	20	7

To what extent do you agree or disagree that Muslims serving in the British armed forces should have the right to opt out of the army if they are required to fight in Muslim countries?

Strongly agree	36	39	33	36	39	39	38	28	3	3	3
Tend to agree	21	20	22	24	16	21	20	28	15	11	17
Tend to disagree	9	8	9	10	9	0	9	9	29	27	31
Strongly disagree	10	10	10	9	11	13	8	9	42	53	34
Not sure	25	24	27	21	26	26	24	26	11	6	15

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

And to what extent do you agree or disagree that NON-Muslims serving in the British armed forces should have the right to opt out of the army if they are required to fight in certain areas?

Strongly agree	29	32	26	30	29	28	30	24	3	3	3
Tend to agree	23	22	25	25	22	28	24	24	15	11	18
Tend to disagree	10	9	10	11	11	2	10	13	31	26	35
Strongly disagree	9	11	8	9	9	10	8	7	40	52	31
Not sure	29	27	32	25	28	33	28	33	11	7	14

How has Britain's involvement with the war in Iraq affected the amount of respect you have for the British government?

My respect has increased	3	2	3	3	1	2	2	9	2	3	2
My respect has decreased	66	67	64	70	64	64	68	54	53	50	55
No change I respected the British government anyway	10	9	11	8	14	13	8	15	17	22	13
No change I didn't respect the British government anyway	8	7	9	9	10	5	9	7	16	17	16
Not sure	14	15	13	11	10	16	13	15	11	8	13

And how has the British public's reaction to the war in Iraq affected the amount of respect you have for British SOCIETY?

My respect has increased	30	32	27	32	27	26	30	39	14	15	12
My respect has decreased	20	20	19	18	22	31	20	17	28	32	24
No change I respected British society anyway	26	24	28	29	24	20	26	22	27	28	27
No change I didn't respect British society anyway	3	2	4	2	9	2	3	4	10	11	9
Not sure	21	21	22	19	19	21	22	17	22	15	28

Now thinking about Judaism and Zionism...

How similar do you consider the concepts of Judaism and Zionism to be?

Very similar	6	7	4	8	3	3	7	2
Fairly similar	18	14	22	18	21	25	17	24
Not very similar	16	19	13	19	10	13	17	7
Not at all similar	15	19	12	14	15	23	14	26
Not sure	45	41	49	42	51	36	45	41

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Which of the following statements comes closer to your view?

Judaism is a religion whilst Zionism is a political ideology	34	41	28	35	35	36	35	35
They are both part of the same thing – Judaism and Zionist politics are fundamentally entwined	13	14	13	15	12	12	14	15
Neither of these	6	5	7	5	6	7	4	13
Not sure	47	41	53	45	47	46	47	37

How much respect do you have for Jewish people generally?

A lot of respect	16	18	15	18	14	15	15	15	9	10	9
A little respect	4	6	2	4	3	7	3	7	4	5	3
The same amount of respect as I have for anyone else	59	53	64	61	63	57	61	61	81	76	84
Not very much respect	4	4	4	4	5	7	4	4	3	4	1
No respect at all	3	4	2	3	6	2	3	2	1	1	1
Not sure	14	15	13	11	9	13	14	11	2	2	2
I am Jewish									1	1	1

How much respect do you have for Muslims generally?

I am a Muslim									0	0	0
A lot of respect									8	7	9
A little respect									5	7	4
The same amount of respect as I have for anyone else									75	73	77
Not very much respect									7	9	6
No respect at all									2	3	1
Not sure									3	2	3

Thinking more about respect for others...

How much respect do you have for atheists?

A lot of respect	6	6	7	7	7	7	6	9	8	9	6
A little respect	3	4	2	3	3	5	2	4	2	3	1
The same amount of respect as I have for anyone else	66	63	70	69	69	64	68	65	56	52	59
Not very much respect	6	5	8	7	7	5	7	4	2	3	1
No respect at all	5	6	4	4	8	5	5	4	0	0	1
Not sure	13	16	11	11	8	15	13	13	4	3	4
I am an atheist									28	30	28

	Muslim students							Non-Muslim students			
	Total	Male	Female	British	Partially British	Not British	Sunni	Shi'a	Total	Male	Female
	All Muslim students	632	297	335	390	125	80	501	62	831	354
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

And what about homosexuals?

A lot of respect	5	5	6	7	4	3	5	4	11	9	2
A little respect	4	6	3	3	5	8	3	<i>11</i>	2	4	13
The same amount of respect as I have for anyone else	53	43	61	56	56	49	53	<i>50</i>	77	72	1
Not very much respect	14	16	13	14	16	15	16	9	3	3	80
No respect at all	11	16	6	8	14	15	10	<i>17</i>	1	1	2
Not sure	13	14	11	12	6	10	12	9	1	2	1
I am gay / lesbian									5	9	1

You may have heard a while ago about Gillian Gibbons the British teacher in Sudan who was sent to prison for 15 days after naming a teddy-bear 'Mohammed'. Do you think her punishment was...?

Too harsh	65	60	70	72	61	53	65	70
Not harsh enough	5	8	3	4	5	12	4	13
About right	11	11	12	8	24	12	12	13
Not sure	19	21	16	16	10	25	20	4

Figures in italics relate to subsamples of less than 100 and should be regarded with caution