

# ISLAMOPHOBIA

## MEDIA & CULTURE

Islamophobia in the mainstream media has created barriers and mistrust between the Muslim community and the media.<sup>[1]</sup> Better representation of Muslims working in the media can help address negative stereotypes and provide positive role models to encourage more Muslims to enter the industry.

**A report by the Centre for Media Monitoring (last quarter of 2018)<sup>[2]</sup> found that:**

**59%** of all articles associated Muslims with negative behaviour.

**37%** of articles in right-leaning and religious publications were categorised with the most negative rating of “very biased”.

**Over a third** of all articles misrepresented or generalised Muslims.

**Terrorism was the most common theme.**

The 2022 book *Covering Muslims: American Newspapers in Comparative Perspective* tracked the tone of hundreds of thousands of articles over the decades. They found an overwhelmingly negative coverage, not only in the United States but also in the UK, Canada and Australia.<sup>[3]</sup>

### Negative news mentioning Muslims or Islam, by country

A review of 528,444 news articles mentioning Muslims or Islam over 30 years found the proportion that were negative was nearly the same in the U.S., U.K., Canada and Australia.



Articles are from 1996 to 2016 from a range of newspapers

Chart: The Conversation/CC-BY-ND • Source: Erik Bleich and Maurits van der Veen

Your stories and coverage of IAM can provide an opportunity to recognise the positive contributions that Muslims make to society. Reporting fair and balanced stories about Muslims can help tackle Islamophobia in the media and wider cultural spaces.

To support IAM and write a story, please contact [info@islamophobia-awareness.org](mailto:info@islamophobia-awareness.org)



1. <https://www.media-diversity.org/muslim-journalists-in-the-uk-struggle-to-make-their-voices-heard/>.
2. Centre for Media Monitoring, 2018 <https://mcb.org.uk/initiatives/media-monitoring/>
3. Bleich, E. and Maurits Van Der Veen, A. (2022), 'Covering Muslims, American Newspapers in Comparative Perspective,' Oxford University Press