ISLAMOPHOBIA AWARENESS MONTH

ISLAMOPHOBIA: MEDIA & CULTURE

The presence of Islamophobia across a portion of mainstream media, including in newspapers and on social media, has not only deterred Muslims from the field, but has created barriers and a relationship of mistrust. [1]

Better representation of Muslims working in the media can help challenge negative stereotypes while providing positive role models and encouraging more Muslims to pursue careers in the industry.

WHAT DO THE STATISTICS SAY?

Studies have revealed widespread and systemic anti-Muslim bias across some areas of British media. Findings reveal concerning trends, with articles referencing Muslims or Islam disproportionately and significantly more likely to portray them negatively than positively, including through associations with negative behaviours.

With the recent rise in racism and hostility towards Muslims, *The Centre for Media Monitoring* released a report that stated almost half of the articles published about Muslims in the UK (about 20,000) contained a "high degree of bias".

***The Centre for Media Monitoring* said: "Presenting baseless claims as matters of debate normalises misinformation and fuels anti-Muslim narratives, underscoring the media's responsibility to challenge falsehoods decisively rather than inadvertently legitimising them". [2]**

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ANTI-MUSLIM MEDIA COVERAGE IN BRITAIN

The Centre For Media Monitoring conducted a study of Muslim women currently working in the media, and found that 92% said negative attitudes towards Islam and Muslims are embedded within media organisations. [3]

The *CFMM* also analysed 40,913 articles published across 30 major UK news outlets to examine media portrayals of Muslims in Britain. [4]

Their key findings include:

Nearly

50%

of all articles about Muslims in the UK (around 20,000 pieces) contained measurable bias in 2025.

70%

associated Muslims or Islam with negative aspects or behaviours by framing Muslims through themes of conflict, threat or controversy.

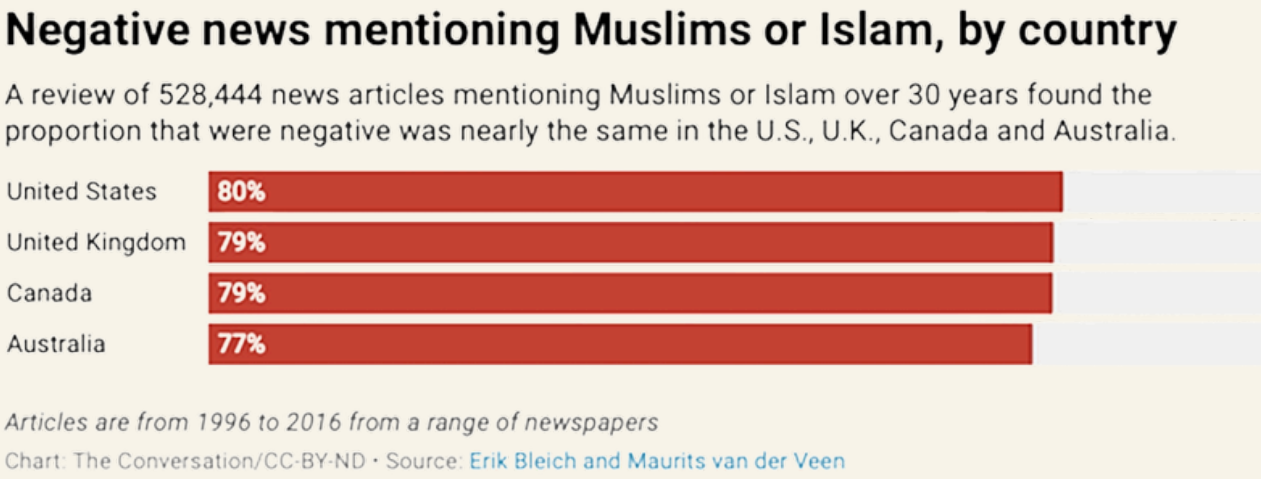
44%

of biased articles contained contextual omission, making it the most common harmful journalistic practice identified in the study.

Contextual omission = when an article leaves out important information that would help readers fully understand a story.

ANTI MUSLIM MEDIA COVERAGE, WORLDWIDE

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. [5]



Challenge anti-Muslim narratives by amplifying Muslim voices, celebrating positive stories, and letting truth and fairness shape the media.

[1] 'Muslim Journalists in the UK Struggle to Make Their Voices Heard'. Media Diversity Institute; Yasmin al-Najar (2021)
[2] *UK media biased against Muslims, says group that analysed 40,000 articles.* Al-Jazeera; Anealla Safdar (2026)
[3] Muslim Women in Media: Breaking Barriers, Bearing the Burden. Centre For Media Monitoring (2025)
[4] The State of British Media: Reporting on Muslims and Islam (2025)
[5] 'Covering Muslims, American Newspapers in Comparative Perspective,' Oxford University Press; Bleich. E. and Maurits Van Der Veen. A. (2022)