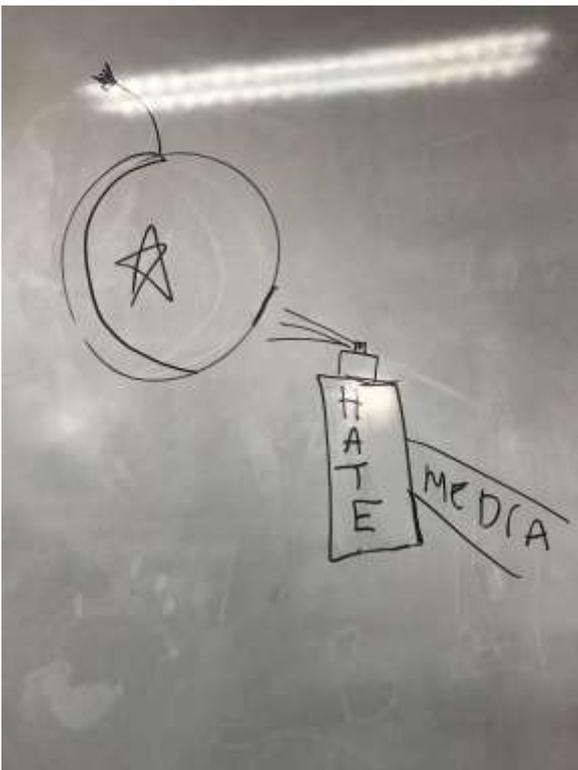# ISLAMOPHOBIA? Are terrorist groups all to blame?

Do you believe Islamophobia is at large because of so called" Islamic State"? Do you believe that "IS" influence people's judgement on other communities? DO you believe that there has been racial prejudice against the muslim community because of "IS"? Well IS isn't necessarily responsible? Islamophobia is the dislike or prejudice against Islam or Muslims, especially as a political force. Islamophobia has been on the rise ever since the 9/11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. The subsequent rise in Terrorist attacks have dominated the western world with fear after their ludicrous ideologies of faith. One terrorist group in particular is the notorious jihadi terror group known as" IS". They first emerged onto the terror scene after the Iraq-US war in 2003. Today they are performing terrorist plots against the western world. Key examples of this is the Paris attack, the London bombings and the Berlin Christmas Market attack.

After the London bombings in 2005, Muslims were at blame for terrorism. Although the tiny number of extremist muslims who carried out these attacks, the media targeted the whole muslim community. There were violent outbursts against muslims throughout the UK, mostly in London. They consisted of verbal abuse, physical attacks and scrutiny upon their religious beliefs. A 26 year old male muslim, recalls the commotion caused at the time when he was attending secondary school." I remember my class mates screaming i'm going to blow up a mosque and I am going to kill a muslim in the school hallways. Me and my sister were so scared that someone was going to hurt us after we watched the news in class even though it had nothing to do with us.." This shows the power of the media and how you can spread fear without using violence." I remember them showing the ruins of buses and people in ambulances and people shouting Muslims should die."

In 2015 there were 174 reported incidents of anti-Muslim violence and vandalism, including: 12 murders; 29 physical assaults; 50 threats against persons or institutions; among other incidents. Anti-Muslim violence remained significantly higher in 2015 than pre- 9/11 levels with Muslims approximately 6 to 9 times more likely to suffer such attacks. But, how and why has islamophobia escalated so quickly?The media has the power to simplify complex situation often propagating fear instead of understanding. A key example of the media misinterpreting the facts is the Daily Star Sundays article on" UK mosques fundraising for terror". It was judged as significantly misleading and it caused a lot of commotion between the Muslim and Non-Muslim community.

Not all newspapers necessarily hold biased, politically inaccurate views on particular faiths. Some broadcasting corporations like the BBC have unbiased, non political opinions.

Poor media has encouraged the word "terrorist" to become synonymous with Muslims. Today, the word terrorist portrays an image of a radicalised muslim holding a gun among the western community. The media is known to exaggerate the truth and form stereotypes and clichés. They are the main source for world news therefore people are highly influenced by their opinion.

In the last year islamophobia has increased by 70% .Although there has been an increase in terrorist groups and attacks, we still have to think about who delivers our news ?How do we know about situations occurring all across the globe. The media can manipulate what the story is so don't assume that is what happened exactly. A Muslim school girl told us " I think that the media are partially responsible for the rise islamophobia and that although there are terrorist groups like Islamic state performing these attacks across the globe, it's the manner of how information is said that creates people's judgement."The media today has made many young muslims feel disincluded among the non-muslim society. This has to change.

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