

Anti-Muslim hate crime 2012

ENGAGE submission

to the Office for Democratic Institutions
and Human Rights (ODIHR) 2012 report,
“Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region:
Incidents and Responses”

April 2013



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Introduction

This report contains details of incidents of anti-Muslim hate crimes which have been reported in local and national media in the UK and which form part of our regular monitoring of such incidents by cataloguing them on our website (www.iengage.org.uk).

These incidents are presented under the following categories:

1. Assaults or attacks on persons of Muslim background
2. Attacks on Muslim property or institutions
3. Verbal abuse on persons who are, or suspected of being, of the Muslim faith

Incidents in some cases inevitably cross over into the other categories, for example where individuals have been subjected to verbal abuse in the course of an attack on a place of worship.

A total of 111 incidents are outlined in this report with almost half (41%) constituting verbal abuse and anti-Muslim hate speech. The incidents collated here show a marked increase from the numbers reported in our 2011 submission. In 2011, we noted a total of 76 incidents across the three categories. In 2012, this figure has risen to 111.

It is important to state here that our documentation relies exclusively on reports in local and national media and websites dedicated to documenting anti-Muslim hate crime and Islamophobia and is therefore not exhaustive or comprehensive. The actual figures for anti-Muslim hate crimes in the UK for 2012, based on official figures for the year 2010 – 2011, is suspected to be far greater. With continuing concerns over the low level of official reporting of anti-Muslim hate crime, and the fact that police forces do not disaggregate data adequately to capture those crimes which are defined by anti-Muslim bias, what we present here is a mere fraction of all anti-Muslim hate crimes occurring in the UK.

We do not possess figures for the single police force that records Islamophobia as a distinct category of hate crime, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), for the year 2012. The official figures from the MPS have yet to be released.

A section is added after the categories of hate crime involving persons, property or institutions and verbal abuse and comprises of statements, comments or interventions by those holding public office, and

media commentary which serves to reinforce negative stereotypes of Muslims. Anti-Muslim public discourse details how these statements subsequently can, and are, used by far right parties and extremists to deride Islamic beliefs and practices.

There are a number of notable events which occurred in 2012 which also inform the backdrop against which statistics on anti-Muslim hate crimes in the UK ought to be assessed. These include the local and mayoral elections in May and the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in November 2012. As in previous years, the elections have resulted in the dissemination of anti-Muslim material and speech. These are dealt with in the section on verbal abuse and anti-Muslim hate speech and in the section on anti-Muslim public discourse.

The security agenda and counter-terrorism policy and powers have continued to influence and shape public and political discourse on British Muslims. This has been salient in respect of attempts by the British Government to extradite suspected terrorism suspects and deport others with assurances. We deal with this in the section on anti-Muslim public discourse. High profile legal cases on sex grooming and child exploitation have also contributed to anti-Muslim public discourse and this also is dealt with in that section. Such statements and interventions can also fuel anti-Muslim prejudice creating an environment congenial to hate crimes with the biased motivation being religion.

Another factor that has had significant impact on incidents of anti-Muslim hatred are the demonstrations that have continued to be organised by the English Defence League and the Scottish Defence League in towns and cities in the UK. Indeed, recording incidents at the time of, or around, such demonstrations reflects their potency in fomenting hate crimes and establishes a direct causal relationship in specific instances between hate crimes and far right social movements.

A further development in 2012 which does not form part of this submission but does reflect changing circumstances affecting British Muslims concerns the rising number of organized protests and petitions to local councils over mosque building or planning applications.

A final section concludes with positive developments which are cause for optimism in tackling anti-Muslim hate crime and hate speech in the UK.

Recording hate crime

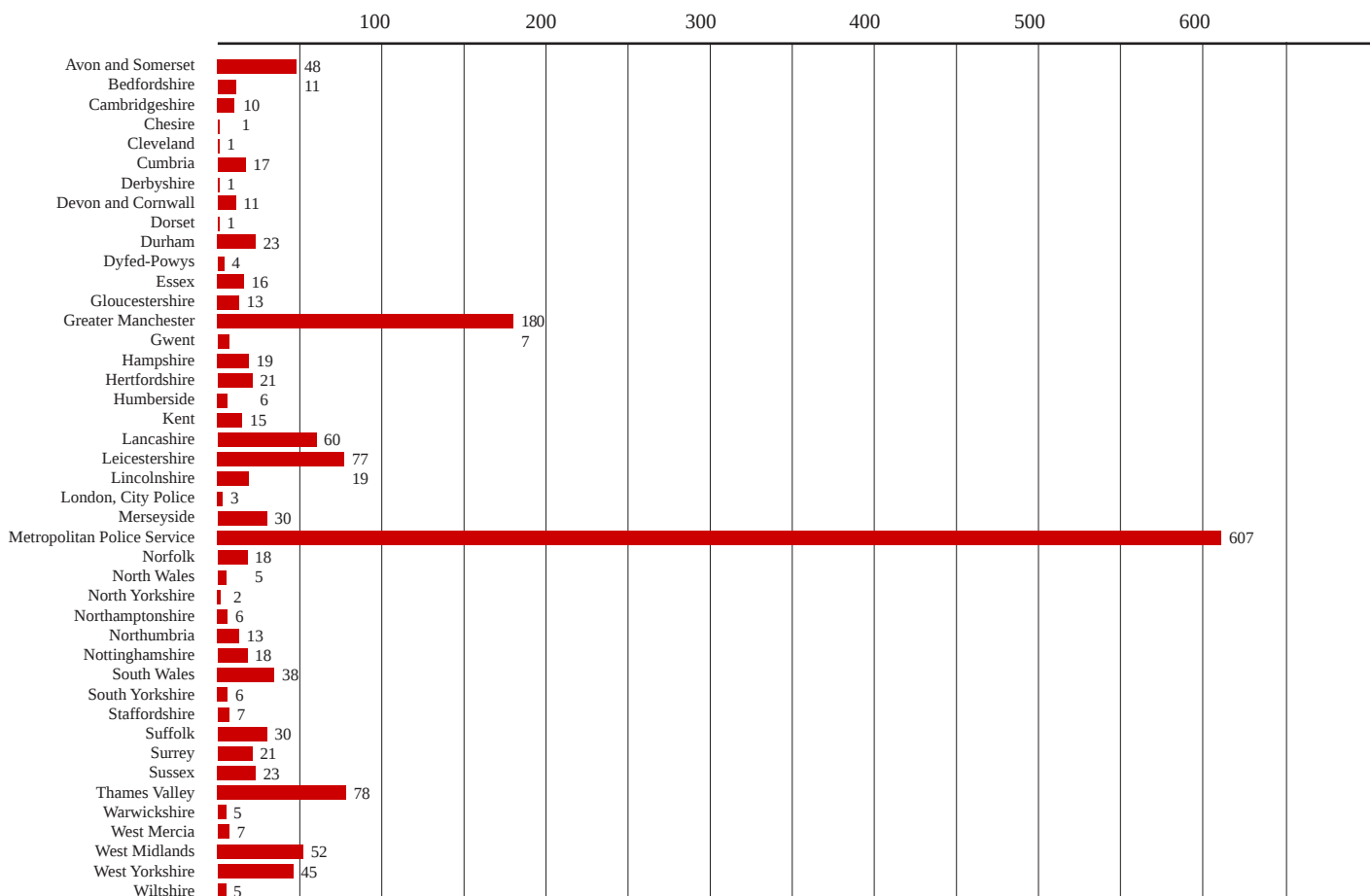
The persistence of anti-Muslim or Islamophobic hate crime is obscured by ineffective recording practices by the police. The bar chart below displays the total instances of religious hate crime in all police force areas in England and Wales. Because police forces (except London's Metropolitan Police Service) do not record anti-Muslim or hate crimes under a separate crime flag, it is impossible to discern the level of hate crime directed at Muslims in the UK.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) identifies the number of anti-Semitic hate crimes as a subtotal within the faith or religion category. This level of detail is not currently captured in relation to other race and faith groups. It is paramount that all religions and faith communities be treated equally and that statistics are disaggregated to disclose the number of hate crimes affecting Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, and other faiths too.

Religious hate crime in police force areas

Home Office: "Hate crimes, England and Wales 2011/12"

Religious hate crime is most prevalent in urban areas in the United Kingdom, with an emphasis on Manchester and Greater London. Both regions are home to some of the largest Muslim constituencies in Britain. However, based on current recording practices, it is impossible to gauge the proportion of hate crime against Muslims.



Islamophobia in Greater London
MPS/MSF, 2011

The Metropolitan Police Service records anti-Muslim hate crime under a separate crime flag, helping us understand persistence of anti-Muslim crime.

401

Islamophobia offences
(incidents that can be prosecuted)



395

Islamophobic incidents
(non-prosecutable instances of anti-Muslim hatred)



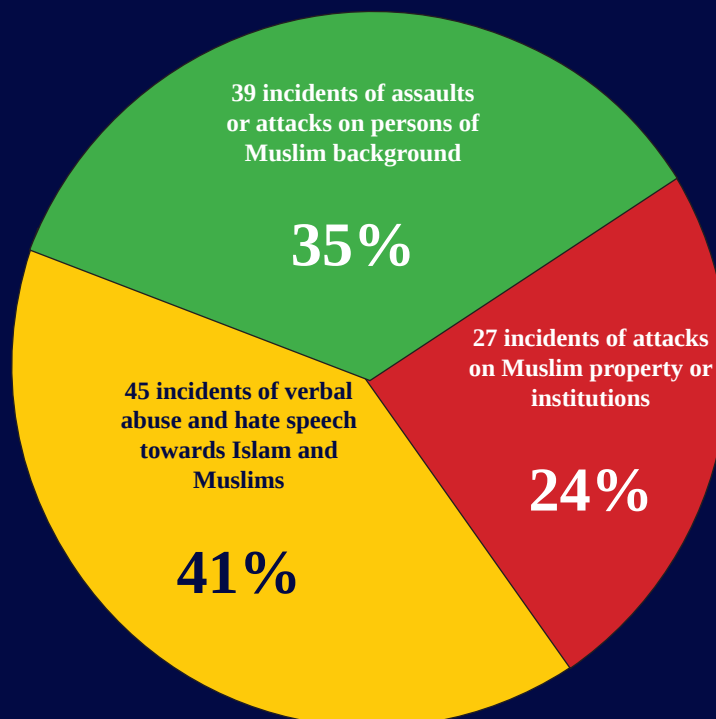
A pig's head was left at the entrance of Thurnby Lodge, Leicester, on Boxing Day (26 December 2012) while the building was being used by a local Muslim community as a prayer hall while waiting for an application to convert the building to an Islamic centre.

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Incidents of anti-Muslim hate crime in the UK

1. Assaults or attacks on persons of Muslim background
2. Attacks on Muslim property and institutions
3. Verbal abuse and hate speech

This report covers 111 incidents of anti-Muslim hate crime in the United Kingdom. The pie chart below details the incident type and proportion of the total, based on the three categories: assaults on persons, attacks on property or institutions and verbal abuse or anti-Muslim hate speech.



1. Assaults or attacks on persons of Muslim background

- 1.1 An 11 year old schoolgirl was set upon by a gang of girls as she waited for a bus. According to the police report, the gang “kicked the victim in the leg, pulled her rucksack from her, pushed her to the floor, used make-up to draw on her face and racially abused her”.

Police recorded the incident as a ‘racially aggravated assault’ although according to Detective Constable Egan of Surrey Police: “It would seem that suspects targeted the victim for no reason other than because she was wearing a headscarf.”¹

- 1.2 A 44 year old man, Mitchell Tutty, was given a conditional discharge after standing trial on charges of racially aggravated harassment and using threatening behavior. The man had accused a young Muslim male of ‘planning bombs’ while racially abusing him on the street. He also tried to grab the man’s mobile phone.

The incident occurred on October 25th 2011 and the trial concluded in January 2012. Tutty was given a conditional discharge sentence to continue psychiatric treatment.²

- 1.3. A man was sentenced to 9 years imprisonment after being found guilty of assault by beating and aggravated burglary. Daniel Smith broke into his Muslim neighbour’s property and hurled racist insults and English Defence League slogans before threatening to kill residents while brandishing a knife.³

- 1.4 A 22 year old man was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment after admitting affray and racially aggravated assault causing actual bodily harm following an attack on a taxi driver.

Lee Preston punched Mohammed Rashid in the face, leaving him with two black eyes, and dragged him along the floor causing bruising to Mr Rashid’s shoulders.⁴

- 1.5 Two men were found guilty of racially aggravated assault and criminal damage after attacking Muslim taxi driver, Muhammad Hussain, and damaging his taxi. Shaun Burns and Callum Tennant shouted racist words at Mr Hussain, spat at him, punched him and grabbed him around the neck as he drove them in his taxi. They threatened to “take him down a side street and kill him”.

Burns was found guilty of racially aggravated common assault and criminal damage. His girlfriend, Bryanne-Serrita Langham, pleaded guilty to criminal damage. Tennant was found guilty of racially aggravated assault and criminal damage to the taxi.

Tennant was given a community order, five month curfew and 200 hours unpaid work and ordered to pay £130 compensation and £50 costs.

Langham pleaded guilty to criminal damage to a taxi and making off without paying the £4.50 fare and was ordered to pay £84.50 compensation, a £100 fine, a £15 victim surcharge and £40 costs.

Burns escaped a prison sentence after exploiting a legal loophole. He was subsequently handed another suspended term, 16 weeks suspended for a year, with 100 hours unpaid work, £350 costs and £520 compensation.⁵

- 1.6 Two Saudi nationals, both women and both observing face veils, studying at a language school in Norwich were verbally abused in Norwich town centre with one person shouting out ‘Bomb’ at them, and another saying “You are in England now, take it off’.”⁶

- 1.7 A man admitted racially aggravated threatening behavior after he subjected a Muslim male to racist taunts

1 BBC News, 19 Jan 2013

2 Cumbria News and Star, 28 January 2012

3 Dewsbury Reporter, 27 January 2012 and Dewsbury Reporter, 6 July 2012

4 Derby Telegraph, 30 January 2012

5 Lancashire Evening Post, 23 March 2012 and Lancashire Evening Post, 20 July 2012.

6 Norwich Evening News 24, 23 March 2012

outside Dewsbury bus station. David Lee Matthews shouted racist abuse at Mohammed Imran saying “*I am racist and proud of it.*”⁷ Matthews was sentenced to 26 weeks imprisonment suspended for 12 months.⁸

- 1.8 Four men were sentenced for attacking two Asian teenagers in Dewsbury. One of the men struck an Asian teenager with a stick while another wounded one with a knife. Three of the men were sentenced to young offenders’ institutes while the fourth, to prison for 18 months. The men have been linked to the far right social movement, the English Defence League.

Melvin Watts, 19, was sentenced to five years in a young offenders’ institute for wounding with intent and possessing an offensive weapon.

Josh Foster, 18, was sentenced to 15 months in a young offenders’ institute for wounding and racially aggravated assault.

Dale Oakley, 21, was sent to prison for 18 months for wounding and racially aggravated assault.

Jordan Williams, 18, was sent to a young offenders’ institute for 18 months for wounding, racially aggravated assault and possessing an offensive weapon.⁹

- 1.9 A Muslim taxi driver was subjected to racist verbal abuse and punched by an actress whose fare he picked up. Lauren Socha, an award winning actress called Sakander Iqbal “*P***, “a dirty b*****”* and told him “*You’re Asian, f*** off back to where you came from.*” Socha was sentenced to four months in prison, suspended for 12 months after pleading guilty to racially aggravated assault by beating.¹⁰

- 1.10 Two men, Stefan Davis and Kelvin Barratt, were sentenced to 10 months in prison and barred from coming within 200 metres of an Asian owned newsagent shop after they subjected the owners to a torrent of racist abuse.

One of the men asked “*what religion are you?*” to which the shop owner replied “*what does that matter?*”

He replied: “*Because I’m EDL (English Defence League)*”.

The men admitted racially aggravated harassment and using threatening words or behaviour. Barratt also pleaded guilty to possessing a knife.¹¹

- 1.11 A man who forcibly removed the face veil from a Muslim woman in a Solihull shopping centre was given a suspended sentence and asked to pay the victim compensation.

Ian Brazier admitted racially aggravated assault after he pulled the face veil from Farhana Chughtai’s head and tugged at her hair. He was ordered to pay £100 compensation and was handed a six-week sentence, suspended for 18 months.¹²

- 1.12 A man who racially abused a Muslim couple before attacking them with a scaffold pole threatening to kill them was given an indeterminate prison sentence and detained for treatment at Broadmoor (a psychiatric hospital). Keith Nelson was sentenced to minimum of two years for each of the racially aggravated offences committed, to serve concurrently.

Nelson abused the Muslim couple telling them to “*go back home*”. He later followed the couple to their car before hitting the vehicle with a scaffold pole. He struck the Muslim male saying “*I am going to kill you*”. Nelson had to be restrained by police officers with a Taser.¹³

- 1.13 A man with previous convictions for racially aggravated offences attacked and verbally abused two Muslims as he tried to force his way into a mosque in Northampton.

Nigel Marshall pleaded guilty to two racially-aggravated assaults and a racially-aggravated public order offence. He was sentenced to 51 weeks’ imprisonment, suspended for two years, with nine months’ alcohol treatment and a five-month 7pm to 7am curfew. He must also attend 24 anger management sessions and

7 *Huddersfield Daily Examiner*, 14 April 2012

8 *Huddersfield Daily Examiner*, 26 September 2012

9 *Dewsbury Reporter*, 30 March 2012

10 *The Independent*, 2 May 2012

11 *Nottingham Post*, 24 August 2012

12 *BBC News*, 4 July 2012 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-18703021>]

13 *Exeter Express and Echo*, 17 May 2012

was handed a five-year restraining order banning him from the mosque, going with 100 yards of it or from contacting the two men he attacked.¹⁴

- 1.14 An English Defence League member who assaulted a Muslim during a demonstration in Barking, east London fracturing his jaw was sentenced to 3 months for the offence which was not prosecuted as racially aggravated.

The English Defence League demonstration took place on 18 June 2011 in which two brothers, Mohammed and Aftab, were set upon by a gang of protestors.

The anti-racism group, Hope Not Hate, provided photographic evidence of the assault on one of the brothers resulting in EDL supporter, Steven Crispin, receiving the 3 month sentence. The decision not to prosecute the crime as racially aggravated is somewhat surprising given the time and location of the attack. Hope Not Hate related that an assurance was given by Scotland Yard that the report would be tagged as racially aggravated, something which failed to materialise.¹⁵

- 1.15 A drunken woman verbally and physically attacked two Muslim women in South Shields, Tyneside, mistaking them for Afghanis and telling them “*you are from Afghanistan – you are not in Afghanistan now*”.

Michelle Eager tried to pull off Zakir Mohammed’s religious headgear before spitting at her and then hit her 24-year-old niece, Atif Khan, in the face. She also pretended her son had been wounded in Afghanistan.

Eager admitted two charges of racially aggravated assault and was sentenced to 9 months imprisonment.¹⁶

- 1.16 A Polish woman subjected two Muslim women to a torrent of verbal abuse before attempting to pull the headscarf off one of them on a train in Yorkshire.

Beata Jopek abused Hana Farah and Ithil Ibrahim on the train saying “*go back to your own country*” and “*Take that f***** thing off, a white person wouldn’t do what you are doing*”.

She was given a three-month jail term suspended for 12 months and 120 hours of unpaid community work and her partner, Maciej Matysniak was given a 12-month community order with 80 hours of unpaid work.¹⁷

- 1.17 A driver had racial insults shouted at him and suffered £200 damages to his car during an English Defence League demonstration in Sunderland. Police believed the attack to be racially motivated. No further details are available on progress of the case.¹⁸

- 1.18 A man was jailed for brandishing a knife at Muslims outside a mosque and threatening them saying “*Where’s Allah to protect you now?*”.

The Crown Prosecution Service, interestingly, did not prosecute the crime as religiously aggravated claiming Jonathan Russell was “*commenting generally*”.

The judge, Elizabeth Roscoe, expressed surprise at the CPS decision stating “*It’s remarkable that it wasn’t racially-aggravated. This was just outside a mosque.*”

Russell was jailed for 50 weeks.¹⁹

- 1.19 A pregnant woman who verbally abused an Asian man in a Manchester square before repeatedly kicking him in the head pleaded guilty to one charge of racially aggravated assault occasioning bodily harm.

Amanda Lowe was caught on CCTV kicking Khuram Nisar while her young children sat by watching. She shouted “*f***** Paki*” and “*terrorist*” at Nisar before attacking him. She was handed a 12 month community order.²⁰

- 1.20 A 21 year old man pleaded guilty to acting in a racially aggravated manner after he shouted racist abuse at a Muslim woman following a minor dispute on a beach.

14 *Northampton Chronicle*, 29 June 2012

15 *Hope Not Hate*, 18 July 2012 [available at: <http://www.hopenothate.org.uk/news/article/2364/hope-not-hate-secure-edl-conviction>]

16 *The Shields Gazette*, 10 May 2012

17 *Daily Mail*, 16 August 2012

18 *BBC News*, 10 October 2012 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-19897167>]

19 *Leicester Mercury*, 16 October 2012

20 *BBC News*, 26 October 2012 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-20104542>] and *The Mirror*, 31 October 2012

Lewis Goram was kicking about a football on a beach with friends when a dispute arose with Rubina Mi after the football landed near her. Goram called Mi a “P****” and told her “*Get back to your own f***** country*”.

Goram was fined £200.²¹

- 1.21 A 16 year old Muslim girl was punched to the floor in a violent attack in Plaistow as she approached the tube station.

Michael Ayoade struck the girl from behind with a single punch knocking her to the ground and leaving her unconscious.

Police released CCTV footage and Ayoade was subsequently caught and tried for assault occasioning actual bodily harm. He was sentenced to four years’ imprisonment.²²

- 1.22 Seven men stood trial in December 2012 for offences committed during an English Defence League demonstration in Cleakheaton, West Yorkshire in March 2012 at which an Asian man was assaulted.

Robert Collington was given a 12 month jail sentence for violent disorder and causing racially aggravated fear of violence.

Kevin Docherty was sentenced to 18 months for violent disorder and racially aggravated criminal damage.

Mark Peel was given 12 months and 12 months for violent disorder; David Lawler was jailed for 13 months for the same offence.

Steven Woodhead was sentenced to four months for racially aggravated common assault.

Ben Phelps was sentenced to 10 months in a young offenders institution for violent disorder and Bradley Allsop was reprimanded with a 12 month youth rehabilitation order and 120 hours unpaid work for violent disorder.²³

- 1.23 A man hurled racist abuse and threw a sword at three Muslim men as they escaped a fire at their residence and waited for fire services to arrive.

The three men, Mahmut Turk, Emre Sezen and Yusuf Akhaya escaped their burning flat and waited outside for emergency services to respond to their call. Grant Robertson from his first floor window shouted down abuse at the men and threw a sword at them.

Robertson shouted “*I will kill you all*” and “*Muslim bastards*” at the men.

Robertson told police when arrested, “*I threw my sword out the window at them, I wish it got them in the throat.*”

He pleaded guilty to a charge of acting in a racially aggravated manner and a charge of assault against the three men and was sentenced to 23 months imprisonment.²⁴

- 1.24 A man was found guilty of a religiously-aggravated offence after he verbally abused a Muslim taxi driver in Daventry, Northamptonshire. Charles Dickie shouted insults against Islam and Muslims at taxi driver Sultna Ahmed. When arrested by police Dickie said: “*I’m not racist. I don’t like Muslims.*”

In court, Facebook posts by Dickie were used by the prosecution to prove Dickie’s biased motive, including the post: “*EDL kill the paki twats*”

Dickie ‘refused’ to attend the court hearing but was found guilty of the offence.²⁵

- 1.25 Nine men were banned from a football club in Barking and Dagenham following an incident where Bangladeshi schoolchildren were racially abused during a visit to the grounds.

The visit involving 300 schoolchildren was organized by the Bangladeshi Football Association in March

21 *The Scottish Sun*, 8 November 2012

22 *Daily Mail*, 20 November 2012 and *BBC News*, 25 February 2013 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-21571440>]

23 *Yorkshire Post*, 21 March 2012 and *Dewsbury Reporter*, 15 January 2013

24 *BBC News*, 17 December 2012 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-2075622>]

25 *Northampton Chronicle*, 6 March 2012

2012 and occurred on the day the club held its anti-racism day.

Nine men were sent letters banning them from attending football matches on the premises. Dagenham and Redbridge assisted police in investigating whether any of those people identified as engaging in public disorder and racial abuse should also face criminal proceedings.²⁶

- 1.26 A Muslim restaurant worker was racially abused and physically assaulted by a 24 year old man in Plymouth. Adam Bowman pleaded guilty to racially aggravated assault causing actual bodily harm after causing injuries to Wajahat Hafeez consisting of a bruised nose, a swollen and cut inside lip and two wobbly teeth. Bowman was sentenced to two years' imprisonment.²⁷
- 1.27 Two females swore racist abuse at a Muslim woman and her five months' pregnant friend before attempting to remove her headscarf and steal her mobile phone. Eileen Kennedy, 28, and her 15 year old accomplice pleaded guilty to racially aggravated assault of Umaimi Musa. Musa was left with a bruised left cheek, a grazed knee and a sore neck as a result of the assault. Kennedy and the unnamed teenager repeatedly punched Musa on her head and body, pulled her headscarf off her head and robbed her of her mobile phone. Kennedy was jailed for two years and six days.²⁸ Her niece, Paige Bain, was sentenced two years and eight months in detention.²⁹
- 1.28 A Muslim teenager was subjected to a racist attack when a gang of girls pushed her to the ground and took turns at kicking her in the head. Alisha Khan said her ordeal began with Facebook taunts including a post calling her a "P*** B****". In March 2012, a gang of up to ten girls attacked her. Passersby intervened to help Alisha who was left with injuries to her arm. No further details are available on identification and apprehension of the girls involved in the racist attack.³⁰
- 1.29 Two men pleaded guilty to culpable homicide after a takeaway delivery driver died from injuries sustained from a physical assault. John Auld came to the aid of Kopas takeaway owner, Brahim Hamouda, when the two assailants Steven Archibald, 37, and Michael Sutherland, 31, attacked him. The pair set upon Hamouda punching and kicking him. When Auld intervened, the pair punched him, kicked him in the head and struck his head against a window. Auld collapsed and died at the scene.³¹ Archibald, was jailed for five years and three months and Sutherland, jailed for six years.³²
- 1.30 A man who shouted racial slurs and assaulted at a Pakistani takeaway worker was fined £450.³³ Mark Feasey, in a drunken state, abused Mohammed Shikari and assaulted him at the Azaad takeaway in Blairgowrie after one of his companions was told to leave the premises. Feasey called staff members "black b*****s", before punching Shikari in the face.³⁴
- 1.31 An Algerian man was assaulted and racially abused while waiting on his bicycle at a zebra crossing in Plymouth city centre. Police appealed for witnesses to the attack.³⁵
- 1.32 An Iraqi man was left hospitalised with a broken leg after being brutally attacked by two people while walking in Plymouth city centre.

26 *Barking and Dagenham Post*, 8 March 2012

27 *Plymouth Herald* 8 May 2012 and 15 September 2012.

28 *BBC News*, 31 December 2012 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-20877162>]

29 *Daily Mail*, 22 January 2013

30 *Digital Journal*, 20 March 2012 [available at: <http://digitaljournal.com/article/321513>]

31 *Daily Record*, 6 March 2012.

32 *BBC News*, 15 February 2013 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-21472993>]

33 *The Courier*, 27 November 2012

34 *The Courier*, 18 July 2012

35 *Plymouth Herald*, 1 June 2012

The man was racially abused and beaten leaving him with a broken leg and stitches to a cut near his left eye. The attack was being treated by police as racially motivated.

Two men were arrested on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm with intent.³⁶

Andrew Mason, 22, pleaded guilty to racially-aggravated malicious wounding.

Martin McCafferty, 26, admitted causing grievous bodily harm but denied a charge of racially-aggravated malicious wounding, a plea which was accepted by the Crown Prosecution Service. Both men are due to be sentenced on 3 May 2013.³⁷

- 1.33 A 25 year old man with a history of racial abuse was sentenced to 30 months for racially-aggravated assault causing actual bodily harm after he launched an unprovoked attack against Sudanese, Saleh Rashid, in Plymouth in March 2011.

Moon spat at Rashid before tackling him to the ground and kicking him repeatedly. Moon's co-defendant, Aghdas Pye, was given a 12-month suspended sentence.³⁸

- 1.34 A Pakistani refugee was abused and assaulted as he walked with his sister in Glasgow.

A young man shouted at Shahid Khan asking "*Are you responsible for trafficking women in this area?*" He then head-butted Khan and told him "*Go back to your own country*".

Passersby intervened and came to Khan's aid. Police were studying CCTV footage and seeking information from witnesses to the incident.

No further information is available in relation with this incident although Glasgow Constabulary have stated that they have identified the attacker.³⁹

- 1.35 A Pakistani asylum family were moved to alternative accommodation after being targeted in a race hate attack.

Iffat Shaheen, her husband Zavir Hussain, and their three-year-old daughter Aroosha were left terrified after racist thugs hurled missiles at their home smashing windows. A Sri Lankan family housed in the same block of flats had a window on their property smashed in the same week.

Shaheen said, "*It was my daughter's bedroom window that was smashed first, but luckily the glass did not reach her.*"

"However, when they smashed ours we were covered in glass because we sleep near the window.

"God saved us that night, because they could have killed us."

South Yorkshire police were investigating the report. No further information is available in relation to this incident. Officers are said to be pursuing a number of positive leads.⁴⁰

- 1.36 Sunderland University student, Usman Chaudhry, reported the torching of his car to police as a suspected arson attack following racial tensions in the Millfield area of the city sparked by planning approval being granted to a mosque by the local council.

The Millfield mosque site attracted protests by the BNP. Chaudhry's was one of two car attacks on the same night with another incident occurring in the next street. Chaudhry told the local paper, "*Both cars are owned by Muslims and Asians.*"

"There was a big protest against the mosque. I'm friendly with everybody in the street so everybody knows I'm a Muslim."

Police were not dealing with a biased motive for the attack.⁴¹

³⁶ *Plymouth Herald*, 25 February 2012

³⁷ *Plymouth Herald*, 20 March 2013

³⁸ *Plymouth Herald*, 17 February, 2012

³⁹ *Evening Times*, 1 November 2012

⁴⁰ *The Star*, 11 July 2012

⁴¹ *Sunderland Echo*, 12 September 2012

- 1.37 Police were investigating a racist motive when delivery driver, Mohammed Saleem Khan, was found slumped over his wheel with a stab wound in his neck.⁴²
- James Brabbs was charged with the murder of Khan in December 2012. He is due to appear in court in 2013.⁴³
- 1.38 A mother of two who racially abused and assaulted a man in Manchester city centre while her young daughters looked on was spared jail for the sake of her children.
- Amanda Lowe, 26, shouted at Khuram Nisar, “*You’re a terrorist, don’t come near me, I’m worried you’ll blow me up*” and “*Go back to Pakistan*”. As her boyfriend punched Nisar to the ground, Lowe stamped on his head repeatedly.
- Amanda Lowe admitted racially aggravated assault occasioning bodily harm. She was handed a 12-month jail sentence, suspended for two years, and a two-year supervision order.⁴⁴
- 1.39 A woman who joined in offensive chanting as part of an EDL protest in Dewsbury town centre in June 2012 was found guilty of threatening behaviour and assaulting two police officers.
- Karen Marsden took part in the demonstration against alleged Muslim paedophiles and approached an Asian man with a leaflet, hitting out at him.
- Marsden was sentenced to an 18-month community order with a supervision requirement. She was ordered to pay £260 towards costs of £620. Magistrates rejected an application for an anti-social behaviour order.⁴⁵

42 *Daily Mail*, 24 September 2012

43 *Northern Echo*, 17 December 2012

44 *Daily Mail*, 1 November 2012

45 *Huddersfield Daily Examiner*, 23 February 2013



*Lauren Socha (left), star of Channel 4's television series 'Misfits,' told taxi driver Sakander Iqbal (right) to "f*** off back to where you came from" and punched him.*

Socha plead guilty to racially aggravated assault by beating.

see page 7

2. Attacks on Muslim property and institutions

- 2.1 A disused pub in Lynn, west Norfolk, was the target of racially aggravated criminal damage after the word ‘oink, oink’ and three pig’s heads were spray painted onto its outside wall.

The incident occurred as the West Norfolk Islamic Association submitted plans to the local council to convert the former pub into a prayer hall and Islamic community centre.⁴⁶

A 44 year old man, Michael Curtis, was charged with religiously aggravated harassment.⁴⁷ The case was subsequently dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service citing “insufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction in this case”.⁴⁸

- 2.2 A man verbally abused and violently assaulted a number of people during a rant at a chip shop in Anfield, Liverpool.

Ryan Doran called a member of staff at the International Fish and Chip Bar “n*****” and “P****” going on to assault several people with punches and karate kicks.

Doran was found guilty of murder after Wayne Mitchell, one of his victims died as a result of injury to the head.⁴⁹

- 2.3 Three men pleaded guilty to a public order offence, which involved racially or religiously aggravated fear of violence, after being arrested following an arson attack on a mosque in Haywards Heath, West Sussex.

James Everley, 20, James Smith, 20, and Joshua Morris, 20, were sentenced to three years at a young offenders institute for charges of arson, theft of paraffin and a public order offence, which involved racially or religiously aggravated fear of violence.⁵⁰

- 2.4 A mosque in Redditch, Worcestershire was attacked for a second time when an arsonist set fire to the premises. No one was injured in the incident and no further information is available on arrest or charge.⁵¹

- 2.5 A Muslim businessman was verbally abused in Rochdale, Greater Manchester during disturbances that were sparked by the start of a trial involving nine Muslim men accused of sex-grooming offences.

Gangs of youth were involved in the altercation in which takeaway boss, Zeeshan Khokhar was verbally abused. Muslim businesses in the Rochdale area also reported damage to property as the trial got underway at Liverpool Crown Court in February 2012.⁵²

- 2.6 Three men were found guilty of the attack on Kingston mosque in November 2010.⁵³ The men were convicted by a jury of the charges, respectively, David Morris, 21, guilty of racially aggravated criminal damage; Alfie Wallace, 19, violent disorder and racially aggravated criminal damage; and Martin Pottle, 23, violent disorder and racially aggravated criminal damage.

Morris was sentenced to six months imprisonment. Wallace received 12 months in a Young Offenders Institution and Pottle was sentenced to 14 months in prison.⁵⁴

- 2.7 Police were called to the Bury Park Jamie Masjid in Luton following an arson attack on the premises. No further information is available on the ensuing police investigation.⁵⁵

46 *Lynn News*, 1 March 2012

47 *Lynn News*, 16 March 2012

48 *Lynn News*, 18 May 2012

49 *Liverpool Echo*, 27 October 2012

50 *BBC News*, 5 January 2012 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-16429338>]

51 *Redditch Standard*, 27 January 2012

52 *BBC News*, 24 February 2012 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-17149799>]

53 ENGAGE OSCE Submission (2011) – incident reference 2.15 pg. 9.

54 ‘Three men convicted for attack on Kingston Mosque’, *CPS press release*, 2 April 2012 and *Kingston Guardian*, 27 April 2012

55 *Luton Today*, 4 April 2012

- 2.8 A mosque in Llanelli, south Wales was attacked for a third time when in February 2012 its windows were smashed. The mosque has previously been targeted in attacks occurring in June 2002 and September 2011.⁵⁶
- Following the incidents in 2011 and 2012, CCTV was added to the premises in February 2013.⁵⁷
- 2.9 An Islamic centre in Hale, Altrincham was targeted in a series of attacks with bricks and coping stones thrown at the building smashing windows on four separate occasions. No further information is available on arrests or charges for the incidents.⁵⁸
- 2.10 A mosque in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, was vandalized with racist slogans sprayed onto its walls. An 18 year old was arrested in connection with the incident. Police were also seeking information on a second man suspected in being involved in relation to the incident.⁵⁹
- 2.11 An Islamic centre in Horley, Surrey, was vandalized with eggs and alcohol thrown at the building and offensive graffiti sprayed onto its front door.
- Vandals sprayed the word ‘pedo’ (mis-spelling of ‘paedo’) on the door of the Gatwick Bangladeshi Islamic Community Association as Muslims performed the late night Ramadan prayers inside. No further information is available in relation to arrests or charges.⁶⁰
- 2.12 An English Defence League leader in Bristol, Mickey Bayliss, was arrested in November 2012 in relation to incidents of racist graffiti sprayed onto mosques and a Sikh Temple in the Redfield and Bedminster areas of the city.
- Bayliss was released on bail after being arrested. He was released from bail in April 2013 and police have renewed their appeal for witnesses in relation with this incident.⁶¹
- 2.13 A Muslim taxi driver found his car set alight as he performed the early morning prayers at the Aaliya Mosque, Sheffield.
- Mohammed Joydu Miah parked his car while he went to perform prayers when teenagers knocked on the door of the mosque shouting ‘fire! fire!’. His claim was investigated by South Yorkshire Police. No further information is available on arrests or charges in relation to the incident.⁶²
- 2.14 A former soldier who tied a pig’s head to the railing of Masjidul Falah mosque in Cheltenham and vandalised the building with racist graffiti was sentenced to four months imprisonment.
- Simon Parkes, 45, admitted charges of racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage and a public order offence. The incident occurred in November 2010. Parkes claimed to have committed the acts in retaliation for poppy-burning by a fringe Muslim group on Armistice Day.⁶³
- 2.15 A man was sentenced to nine months after pleading guilty to charges of taking revenge and racially aggravated public disorder after he returned to a cafe and abused its Muslim workers for the imprisonment of his girlfriend for her part in a racist attack committed on the premises months before.
- Gavin Mossop’s girlfriend was sentenced in February 2012, along with 10 other people, for abusing employees at the Manhattan Cafe in Carlisle. A month after his girlfriend was jailed, Mossop returned to the cafe and abused a worker. Mossop is alleged to have threatened to “burn the place down” and “cut people” in the shop.⁶⁴
- 2.16 A pig’s head was found outside a mosque in Newbury, Berkshire in October 2012.⁶⁵ Police reviewed CCTV footage to identify the culprit(s). Rory Rowbottom was charged with racially aggravated harassment and a section 4 public order offence in December 2012 and sentenced to 3 months imprisonment in January 2013

⁵⁶ *Islamophobia Watch*, 9 April 2012.

⁵⁷ *Llanelli Star*, February 27, 2013.

⁵⁸ *Messenger Newspapers*, 25 April 2012

⁵⁹ *Wakefield Express*, 23 May 2012

⁶⁰ *Gatwick & Horley Mirror*, 9 August 2012

⁶¹ *Bristol Post*, 18 April 2013

⁶² *Sheffield Star*, 8 August 2012

⁶³ *BBC News*, 30 August 2012 [available at:<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-19423334>]

⁶⁴ *News and Star*, 14 August 2012

⁶⁵ *Newbury Today*, 23 October 2012

after pleading guilty to the charges.⁶⁶

- 2.17 An attack on a mosque in Darlington was being investigated by police as racially or religiously aggravated after a firework was pushed through the letterbox.

The Jamia Mosque in Darlington suffered minimal damage. CCTV showed two hooded adult males arrive at the mosque before one pushed a lit firework through the letterbox. Police were studying the footage to assist with inquiries. No further details are available on arrests or charges in relation to the incident.⁶⁷

- 2.18 A 19 year old woman was charged with racially aggravated criminal damage after a mosque in Woking, Berkshire was defaced with graffiti.⁶⁸

The words 'Saddam Hussein', 'Osama bin Laden' and 'EDL' were spray painted onto the walls of the Shah Jahan mosque in Woking in November 2012.

Teenager, Laura Woodward, admitted four counts of racially and religiously aggravated criminal damage and two of criminal damage. She sentenced to a 12-month community order plus 100 hours of unpaid work. Woodward was ordered to pay damages of £100 to the mosque and £400 for the damaged door.⁶⁹

- 2.19 A Muslim family in Bingham, Nottingham, were left a cross wrapped in ham on their doorstep in November 2012.⁷⁰

Murad Alam recounted the incidents of racist abuse experienced by his family and his decision to move to a safer area in an interview with BBC Asian Network. Incidents involved racist abuse while walking in the street and the words 'FUK ALLAH' sprayed onto the driveway of the family's home.⁷¹

The family's ordeal led to the Deputy Mayor of Bingham, Francis Purdue-Horan, calling for a meeting with local officials to investigate claims of systematic racist abuse.⁷²

Police were also investigating two further incidents in Bingham: racist graffiti sprawled on the walls of the Signor Pepper restaurant and bricks thrown through the windows of a neighbouring Indian restaurant.⁷³

- 2.20 A pig's head was left at the entrance of a disused Scouts Hut in Thurnby Lodge, Leicestershire on Boxing Day 2012.

The building was being used as a prayer hall by the local Muslim community while its application to convert the Scouts Hut into an Islamic centre was being reviewed by the local council. The building attracted considerable opposition from within the local community and outside, with the leader of the British National Party, Nick Griffin, parachuting in and addressing protestors.⁷⁴

Liam Ferrar, 24, admitted a charge of intent to cause harassment, alarm or distress and was given a 12-week suspended jail sentence.⁷⁵

- 2.21 A 16 year old was arrested on suspicion of a religiously aggravated public order offence after pieces of ham were thrown at a mosque in Crawley, West Sussex.

Police were called to the Broadfield Mosque in Crawley and were also investigating claims of a disturbance following the hate crime incident. No further information is available on arrest or charges in relation to the incident.⁷⁶

- 2.22 Two women were charged with religiously aggravated common assault after attacking a kebab shop employee in Plymouth in August 2011.⁷⁷

66 *BBC News*, 23 January 2013 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-21163501>]

67 *Darlington and Stockton Times*, 22 October 2012

68 *BBC News*, 15 November 2012 [available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-surrey-20342983>]

69 *Surrey Advertiser*, 11 March 2013

70 *Nottingham Post*, 23 November, 2012

71 *Nottingham Post*, 23 November, 2012

72 *BBC News*, 3 February 2013 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-21313815>]

73 *Daily Mail*, 10 December 2012

74 *BBC News*, 10 September 2012 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-19541248>]

75 *BBC News*, 18 February 2013 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-21498593>]

76 *The Independent*, 27 November 2012

77 *Plymouth Herald*, 4 January 2012

The women, both of whom had been attending an English Defence League meeting prior to the assault, were jailed in February 2013.

Hayley Wells was handed a three-month prison sentence suspended for two years under probation supervision. She was ordered to perform 200 hours unpaid work and pay the victim £100 in compensation.

Kelly Watterson was given a 12-month community order under probation supervision with 150 hours unpaid work. She was ordered to pay £100 in compensation to the victim.⁷⁸

- 2.23 A community centre in Preston was vandalised with racist graffiti causing extensive damage to private property.

The Hamaara Centre, run by the Preston Muslim Forum, was spray painted with Nazi swastikas and racist graffiti. Police were studying CCTV footage. No further details are available on arrests or charges in relation to the incident.⁷⁹

- 2.24 A Bangladeshi restaurant in Crewkerne, Somerset was the target of a racial incident in April 2012.

The Bengal Fusion restaurant had windows smashed and racist abuse hurled at workers during the incident. Police arriving on the scene initially arrested members of the owner, Shah Alom's family.

Four men were arrested in connection with the incident. Three were held on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm and one man on suspicion of racially aggravated affray. All four were bailed pending further inquiries. No further details are available on charges in relation to the incident.⁸⁰

- 2.25 A security guard and English Defence League activist was sacked from his position at Tesco Metro in Kensington, Liverpool after he left pork scratchings outside the supermarket to deter Muslim shoppers from visiting referring to the stunt as an "*anti-Islamic protection system*".

Kurtis Cawley was suspended by security firm Advanced Security UK Ltd when the allegations came to light as it carried out an investigation into racist posts allegedly placed on social media sites. Cawley masquerading as Kyle Huyton was alleged to have written racist posts including:

*"Never mind the 17-foot banner sayen were closed, the P****s, and gooks walkin' in sayen 'we no understand.'*

*"They're understanding, 'get the f*** out the shop were f***** closed, read the f***** sign, alright!"*⁸¹

- 2.26 A 23 year old racially abused two taxi drivers and smashed the window of the taxi he was travelling in after a dispute over the fare.

Jamie Takle pleaded guilty to three counts of racially aggravated harassment, one of racially aggravated criminal damage and one of harassment. When asked by police officers when apprehended how the drivers felt at being verbally abused, Takle responded "To be honest I vote BNP – what does that tell you? They should all go back to their own country."

Takle received a suspended sentence and a tagging order.⁸²

- 2.27 A man who launched a drunken attack on a mosque after watching a news report about the desecration of Commonwealth graves in Libya was sentenced to complete 80 hours unpaid work, pay £100 compensation and pay £150 costs.

Barry Stanbury, 42, was caught on CCTV cameras wandering around the Exeter Mosque before a window was smashed. Stanbury denied a charge of racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage but was found guilty.⁸³

78 *Plymouth Herald*, 23 February 2013

79 *Lancashire Evening Post*, 28 May 2012

80 *Western Gazette*, 5 April 2012

81 *Liverpool Echo*, 18 February 2012

82 *Bristol Evening Post*, 9 March 2012

83 *Exeter Express and Echo*, 1 November 2012



Jacqueline Woodhouse drunkenly hurls abuse at Pakistani passengers on London Underground's Central Line.

“I shall punch you in the f** face. Pakistani f***** losers. Ninety per cent of you are f***** illegal. I wouldn't mind if you loved our country.***

I used to live in England, now I live in the United Nations.”

see page 20



The Alam family in Bingham, Nottingham quit the city after Islamophobes left a cross wrapped in ham on their doorstep and later painted 'FUCK ALLAH' on the driveway of the family's home.

see page 16

3. Verbal abuse and hate speech

- 3.1 A Turkish restaurant owner in Southport was subjected to verbal abuse by a drunken chef who demanded the owner call him a taxi after a late night out.

Darryl Moore told Erhan Yazgan, *“I hate you and I hate Islamic people”*.

Moore was convicted and handed a four month suspended sentence. He was ordered to pay £840 in court costs and complete a “promoting human dignity” programme.⁸⁴

- 3.2 A woman who subjected passengers on a tube line to a barrage of racist abuse was jailed for 21 weeks. Footage, uploaded onto YouTube, shows the woman abuse Pakistani passengers in a seven minute, expletive riven rant. The woman is heard addressing Asian passengers on the carriage saying:

*“ foreign s**theads”*.

*“Where do you come from? F***** like, f***** all over the world”*.

*“I’d like to know if any of you are f***** illegal”*.

*“I shall punch you in the f***** face. Pakistani f***** losers. Ninety per cent of you are f***** illegal. I wouldn’t mind if you loved our country.”*

*“I used to live in England, now I live in the United Nations.”*⁸⁵

Jacqueline Woodhouse, 42, admitted racially aggravated intentional harassment and causing harassment alarm and distress and was handed a custodial sentence after it emerged at trial that she had been fined for an identical rant on another train line in 2008.

Woodhouse was also given an anti-social behaviour order banning her from travelling on the Underground or the Docklands Light Railway while drunk for five years.⁸⁶

- 3.3 The website, Political Scrapbook, related anti-Muslim remarks made by a Liberal Democrat councillor standing in the Redcar and Cleveland Newcomen Ward by-election in January 2012.

Dave Stones posted a comment on Facebook about Park51, the proposed Islamic centre at Ground Zero in New York, saying:

“Regarding the mosque being built near ground zero. I say let them build it. But then, across the street we should put a topless bar called “You Mecca Me Hot” ... and next to that a pork rib restaurant ... Then we’ll see who’s tolerant.”

Stones lost the election.⁸⁷

- 3.4 A self-confessed BNP and English Defence League supporter was sentenced to 12 months for displaying religiously aggravated hate material in the window of his ground floor flat.

Conway placed 17 posters in his window which prosecutors described as *“undoubtedly offensive to the Islamic faith”*.⁸⁸

- 3.5 A youth team manager was suspended pending investigation after racist posts made on Facebook were brought to the attention on Hampshire Football Association by Havant & Waterlooville Youth FC.⁸⁹

Steve Clarke denied posting the racist comments but was found guilty at trial. Hampshire Football Association suspended him from all football and football-related activities for two years.⁹⁰

⁸⁴ *Southport Visitor*, 1 March 2012

⁸⁵ *London Evening Standard*, 6 February 2012

⁸⁶ *Daily Mail*, 30 May 2012

⁸⁷ *Political Scrapbook*, 5 January 2012 (available at: <http://politicalscrapbook.net/2012/01/lib-dem-anti-islam-candidate/>)

⁸⁸ *Gainsborough Target*, 9 March 2012

⁸⁹ *Portsmouth News*, 4 April 2012

⁹⁰ *Portsmouth News*, 22 May 2012

3.6 The British National Party produced a leaflet for the 2012 local election in Pendle, where BNP candidate Adam Grant was standing for re-election. The leaflet featured a funeral procession in the town and asked whether the photo depicted an event in Pakistan, Somalia, Iran or Saudi Arabia. The leaflet cited a quote from Enoch Powell: *“It’s like watching a nation busily engaged in heaping up its own funeral pyre”* and a quote from former British PM, Winston Churchill: *“The Appeaser feeds the crocodile hoping one day it will not eat him”*.

A further statement featured at the bottom of the leaflet in bold: *“Islam has nothing beneficial to offer Britain and Western civilization.”*⁹¹

3.7 Five men suspected of involvement in the far right groups English Defence League and North West Infidels were arrested by North East Counter Terrorism Unit officers on suspicion of “publishing or distributing written material which may stir up racial hatred”. The men were arrested after abusive messages appeared on a social media site connected with the North West Infidels group.⁹² Some of these are reproduced below:

“I’ll smash their fucking black brains”

“we are going to be your worst nightmare”

“somalian twats”

“think this militant might have a wander into town and attack a racist”

“agadoo doo doo kill a paki gas a jew”.

The five men were all released without charge after the Crown Prosecution Service decided no further action would be taken.⁹³

3.8 A member of the English Defence League Norwich Division posted a picture of himself on Facebook, sniper in hand boasting of his firearm prowess. The comments below the photo appear to encourage shooting Muslims. One of the comments reads:

“Hope you got plenty of muzzies in your sights, mate!”

The EDL Norwich Division member, Sam Burgess, attended training courses to be part of the security team for the 2012 London Olympics.⁹⁴

3.9 A former soldier and English Defence League supporter was questioned by police in April 2012 on suspicion of assault and possessing racially inflammatory material after messages he posted on Facebook were revealed.

Kenny Holden posted abusive messages towards Muslims on his Facebook page and the threat ‘*GIVE ME A GUN AN AL DO YOU ALL OSLO STYLE*’.⁹⁵

When arrested Holden asked police officers *“if it was because he didn’t like Muslims.”*

Holden pleaded guilty to two counts of sending an offensive message by a public communication network and was handed a 12-month community order with supervision.

The probation service which prepared a report for the court recommended that Holden be placed under supervision *“so his attitudes towards Muslims could be looked at.”*⁹⁶

3.10 A leaflet (see Annex 1) posted to all households in London during the London Mayoral election in 2012 included a message of support for the BNP candidate, Carlos Cortiglia, by a ‘Revd Robert West’ which stated:

“I’m backing the British National Party because they support our traditional Christian faith. We need strong

91 *Islamophobia Watch*, 16 April 2012 [available at: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/4/16/bnp-returns-to-inciting-hatred-against-muslims-in-pendle.html>]

92 *Yorkshire Post*, 19 April 2012

93 *Northern Echo*, 21 September 2012

94 *EDL News*, 17 April 2012 [available at: <http://edlnews.co.uk/index.php/latest-news/latest-news/687-the-english-defence-league-s-olympics-security-officer-want-to-shoot-muslims>]

95 *Daily Mail*, 23 April 2012

96 *South Shields Gazette*, 3 October 2012

leadership to protect our national identity from the threat of Islam.”⁹⁷

London Assembly member, Murad Qureshi, wrote a blog about his letter of complaint to London Elects stating:

“I have asked London Elects to explain how it saw fit to sanction such Islamophobic comments.

“[These] remarks fall foul of Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, as it denotes that all persons of the Islamic faith pose a threat to the wider population. This is not only untrue, it is also detrimental to race relations between different faith communities to promote this belief.”⁹⁸

The ‘Revd’ was uncovered to be a false title. London Elects, the organisation responsible for distributing the leaflets responded to letters of complaint thus:

“We send a booklet to every voter in London ahead of the Mayor and Assembly election. Each Mayoral candidate has a legal right to have an entry in this booklet.

“The Greater London Returning Officer has to ensure that each candidate’s entry complies with election law and doesn’t break any other laws. The only responsible way for us to do this is to seek legal advice, which we did. That legal advice was that all entries complied with the law. We then checked this legal advice a leading Queens Counsel on election law, who has confirmed our position.

“The Election Addresses Order has specific rules for the material which the mini manifestos may contain. It is designed to govern political messages some of which by their nature may be distasteful to some readers. It is not intended to suppress offensive political views. It would be wholly inappropriate to go against the legal advice we received.

“It is important that voters have information from the candidates as they wish to present it, as long as it complies with the law.

“The GLRO and London Elects are independent. The inclusion of a candidate’s views in the booklet is in no way endorsement of those views by the GLRO or London Elects. The GLRO acts as a conduit for the expression of conflicting political opinions and does not endorse any of them.

“We do not make any value judgement about the contents of the booklet. As the body responsible for running the election, it would be inappropriate for us to do so, and we have no power to do so.”⁹⁹

- 3.11 Two men from Gwent, Wales received 12 months suspended sentences each for anti-Muslim comments posted on Facebook.

James Rogers, 21, wrote on Facebook:

*“What the ****? Just at Magor Services and there was a Muslim rag head praying on a mat. Makes me sick.”*

Richard Orzel, 29, in reply to Rogers’ post wrote:

*“Spit on the ****”*

To which Rogers replied he would *“kicked the **** out of him”* if there was no CCTV in operation.

Both men pleaded guilty to making offensive, indecent, obscene or menacing comments on a public electronic communications network and were handed a sentence of 28 days’ imprisonment suspended for 12 months. Each was ordered to complete 200 hours unpaid work and pay £85 court costs.¹⁰⁰

- 3.12 British National Party candidate for the 2012 Coventry City Council elections posted a series of anti-Muslim comments on his Facebook page.

John Hurren posted comments such as:

⁹⁷ London Elects, online, available at: <http://www.londonelects.org.uk/mayoral-candidate-carlos-cortiglia>. See Annex 1 for a copy of the leaflet.

⁹⁸ *London Elects sanctions islamophobic material*, 26 April 2012 [available at: <http://blog.muradqureshi.com/london-elects-permits-islamophobic-material/>]

⁹⁹ Response received by email from Terrence Hartman, Administrator, London Elects. 1 May 2012.

¹⁰⁰ *South Wales Argus*, 21 June 2012

“Paki’s and Muslims will see this as a green light to move into Oldham and take over. Don’t say we didn’t warn you.”

“We sent him toilet rolls with pictures of Mohamed on them. When he wipes his arse, he gets to colour them in. lol.”

“Something permanent is needed. I think the deportation of ALL muslims with financial aid NOW, or with NO help if they take longer than a year to leave. Them if they havent left in 18 months, by FORCE. Enough is enough”

“Islam is a mental illness. Is it curable? Discuss.”¹⁰¹

No further information is available on arrest of charge in relation to this incident.

- 3.13 British National Party candidate for the local council election in Lincolnshire was arrested on suspicion of producing material inciting racial hatred after messages posted on his Facebook page were revealed.

Dean Lowther, BNP candidate for the Bracebridge ward, is reported to have posted comments including one picturing Muslim women with words ‘heading our way’ and will claim benefits for their children from ‘our race traitor Government’.¹⁰²

Mr Lowther was released without charge in August 2012 with police pursuing no further action.¹⁰³

- 3.14 A UK Independence Party candidate for the Dore and Totley ward in Sheffield was stripped of his candidacy after he posted on his blog remarks supportive of Anders Behring Breivik.

Steve Moxon called the Qur’an “a fascist book” and wrote that Anders Breivik’s thesis on Islam and political correctness was accurate.¹⁰⁴

UKIP stripped Mr Moxon of candidacy stating:

“We note that Steve Moxon has not condoned the actions of the maniac Breivik.

“However, he has made a number of remarks on subjects such as the Breivik manifesto and Islam that are at odds with UKIP policy and perspective.

“As a consequence we have today suspended him as a UKIP council candidate.”¹⁰⁵

- 3.15 Dr Julia Gasper, UK Independence Party candidate for Oxford City Council elections in 2012 referred to the Qur’an as “a fascist book”. In emails seen by Political Scrapbook, Gasper wrote:

“Why is it any more wrong to assert that the Koran is a fascist book than to assert that Mein Kampf is a fascist book? The Koran is a lot more explicit in advocating hate and murder than Mein Kampf is.”

“Words like “demonization” are just self-deception. They are being used to persuade you to keep your eyes shut. In fact, the apologists for Islam are really very similar to Holocaust deniers.”¹⁰⁶

Gasper resigned as Chair of UKIP Oxford Branch in January 2013.¹⁰⁷

- 3.16 A British businessmen entering border control at Manchester airport abused a Muslim immigration officer serving at a passport control counter.

Anthony Holt, 65, pointed at Sayima Mohammed, an immigration official, saying:

“I don’t want to be seen by that. I don’t want to be seen by any Muslim in a position of authority. I want to be seen by someone who’s English. This is England. This is my country. I’m not into all this Islam.”

101 *Islamophobia Watch*, 30 April 2012 [available at: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/4/30/bnp-candidate-posts-racist-facebook-comments-about-muslims-a.html>]

102 *Lincolnshire Echo*, 12 April 2012

103 *Lincolnshire Echo*, 16 August 2012

104 *BBC News*, 1 May 2012 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-17911131>]

105 *Candidate suspension*, UK Independence Party Sheffield Branch [available at: <http://www.ukipsheffield.co.uk/2012/05/suspension-of-candidate/>]

106 *UKIP candidate: ‘Koran is worse than Adolf Hitler’s Mein Kampf’*, Political Scrapbook, 1 May 2012 [available at: <http://politicalscrapbook.net/2012/05/ukip-julia-gasper-compares-quran-koran-mein-kampf/>]

107 *The Oxford Times*, 23 January 2013

Police were called to the airport and when approaching Holt, he told them: *“That’s Islam. I’m not going to that. This is my country.”*

In a police interview, Holt told the officers, *“The problem I have is with Islam as a whole. It’s threat to the British population and the British way of life. I wanted to take a stand.”*

Holt pleaded guilty to using religiously aggravated threatening words or behaviour. He was ordered to pay £100 compensation and a £145 fine.¹⁰⁸

3.17 A man who posted comments on Facebook inciting others to riot was jailed for 3 years.

Mitchell Stancombe, 21, was found guilty of encouraging and assisting people to commit violent disorder after posting comments on Facebook saying:

“When are we going to start the Southampton riots then?”

When told by a friend to shut up, Stancombe replied,

“LOL – do a few coppers in.”

Stancombe also posted anti-Muslim comments in his posts.

Sentencing Stancombe at Southampton crown court, Judge Gary Burrell, said his was a *“deterrent sentence to demonstrate this type of conduct will not be tolerated by the courts”*.¹⁰⁹

3.18 A man posted a threatening comment on Facebook concerning a local news report about a former pub being turned into a mosque.

Luke Janzen in a discussion on the social media site about The Falcon pub, in Bury St Edmunds, being converted into a mosque wrote:

*“If there’s going to be a mosque in Bury then the f*****’s going to be burned down.”*

Janzen pleaded guilty to sending an offensive message by public communication network and received a 12 month community order, with 14 hours unpaid work, and ordered to pay costs of £85.¹¹⁰

3.19 A 73 year old grandmother who engaged in a vile campaign of abuse against politicians who handed an Anti-Social Behaviour Order banning her from posting or delivering anything that contains words or pictures that are foul and abusive or likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress.¹¹¹

Margaret Walker sent letters and leaflets over a five year period including ones abusing Muslims and Jews. In one of her leaflets (see Annex 2) she refers to:

“Muslim Foreign Perverts, raping and abusing our English children”.¹¹²

3.20 Three men were arrested on suspicion of committing racially aggravated public order offences at an English Defence League demonstration against a planned mosque in Chelmsford.

EDL members were heard to chant *“You burn our poppy, we burn your mosque”* as well as shout racial slurs during the protest.

No further details are available on charges brought against the three men.¹¹³

3.21 A Scottish Defence League supporter who posted a succession of racist comments on his Facebook page was charged with a public order offence and handed a community service sentence.

Raymond Strachan, 21, was convicted of breaching the 1986 Public Order Act, after police were alerted to the comments on his Facebook page inciting racial hatred. The comments dated back to July 2011 and

108 *Manchester Evening News*, 2 June 2012

109 *The Guardian*, 21 June 2012

110 *Bury Free Press*, 8 June 2012

111 *Portsmouth News*, 30 June 2012

112 *Islamophobia Watch*, 24 June 2012 [available at: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/6/24/bnp-finds-a-new-cause-celebre-a-racist-cranks-right-to-free.html>] See Annex 2 for a copy of the letter.

113 *Essex Chronicle*, 26 July 2012

continued to January 2012.

Strachan was ordered by the court to complete 200 hours of community service.¹¹⁴

- 3.22 A 21 year old man was arrested on suspicion of a racially aggravated public order offence during a National Front protest in Swansea. The protest was organised in relation to a case at Swansea crown court involving Muslim defendants charged with sexual crimes.

South Wales confiscated banners and posters from the South Wales National Front.

No further information is available on charges or prosecution in relation to the incident.¹¹⁵

- 3.23 A member of the English Defence League posted threats on his Facebook page plotting a 'lethal', 'secret firework display' in a mosque and targeting Muslims who run a bookstall in Barking.

Danny Holmes posted the comments:

"theres a muslim stall in barking market and everytime i try their tops on and read their books they ask me to leave cant wait to tuesday the fucking lots getting trashed watch his space theres a ginger convert hes getting it too"

and

"who wants to come to a secret firework display its gonna be lethal its so secret even the mosque im doing it at doesnt know its gonna be a surprise".

The comments were reported to the Metropolitan Police according to EDL News.¹¹⁶

- 3.24 A 44 year old man was arrested by police on suspicion of inciting racial hatred after he posted comments on his Facebook page praising Anders Behring Breivik.

Philip Horn wrote:

"Well done Anders Breivik. I take my hat off to you sir.

*"You proved you were not insane and that you are just one of many like myself who wish their country to return to the way it was before it was invaded by the Muslim population. Respect to you."*¹¹⁷

In an interview filmed by The Sun newspaper, Horn admitted, *"I am a racist to a certain extent. Of course it's wrong to kill children, but if he had to do it that way to get his point across, so be it."*¹¹⁸

No further information is available on charges brought in relation to the incident.

- 3.25 Police were alerted to a BNP leaflet being circulated in Bedfordshire titled "Racist Muslim Paedophilia".

The leaflet contained information linking Islam and Muslims to child sex grooming. The leaflet was reported by a local resident and former parliamentary candidate, Linda Jack, to the police for breaching incitement to racial hatred legislation but Bedfordshire Police found no basis for criminal prosecution. A spokesperson for the police force said of the leaflet and the decision to take no action:

"The BNP is a properly constituted political group and while some people find their literature distasteful and/or offensive, it does not actually transgress the law. It should also be remembered that the Human Rights Act provides all with a right to express their views in a lawful manner.

*"The leaflet was taken away by a member of the Local Policing Team and was shown to the Community Cohesion Officer, and both deemed it not to break the law."*¹¹⁹

- 3.26 A man who made calls to police claiming bomb threats in mosques in Southampton was handed a suspended

114 STV, 17 July 2012 [available at: <http://news.stv.tv/scotland/111304-sdl-member-posted-racist-messages-on-facebook-as-he-promoted-group/>]

115 South Wales Evening Post, 9 July 2012

116 EDL News, 9 July 2012

117 Daily Mail, 31 August 2012

118 The Sun, 27 August 2012

119 Luton On Sunday, 12 August 2012

jail sentence.

Timothy Bingham was charged with making hoax bomb threats against mosques in Southampton.¹²⁰

He was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment, suspended for two years, ordered to complete 100 hours unpaid work and given a six month curfew in January 2013.¹²¹

- 3.27 Six men linked to the English Defence League were convicted of religiously aggravated harassment and using threatening words or behaviour to cause harassment alarm or distress and ordered to pay a total of £6000 in fines.

The men were charged for unleashing a torrent of religious abuse at Middlesbrough railway station in December 2010.

One of the men, Jak Beasley, when asked in the police interview to describe ‘an Islamic person’, he responded “*Scum*”.

Jak Beasley, 23, was fined £455 and ordered to pay £515 costs.

Ross Williams, 23, was fined £420 and ordered to pay £515 costs.

Christopher Caswell, 32, was fined £455 and ordered to pay £515 costs.

Paul Ross, 48, was fined £525 and ordered to pay £515 costs.

Dean Spence, 23, was fined £455 and ordered to pay £515 costs.

Shaun Bunting, 33, was fined £420 and ordered to pay £515 costs.¹²²

Three of the men appealed the convictions accepting a public order offence without the racial element and appealed against the fines imposed by the court. The appeal was not challenged by the prosecution because a crucial witness had since emigrated to New Zealand.

Jak Beasley, Christopher Caswell and Dean Spence had their £455 fines reduced to £185 and costs reduced from £515 to £250.¹²³

- 3.28 A man was charged with two counts of causing religiously aggravated harassment, another two of racially aggravated harassment and a charge of sending an indecent message after posting anti-Muslim and anti-Pakistani messages on his Twitter page.¹²⁴

Ricky Davies, 20, posted the comments after watching a television documentary about Muslim extremism. Some of his comments included the following:

“excited to start another race war on here tonight now i all of #facebook are migrating over so they can join in! #Muslim Scum #paki DIE DIE”.

*“i wish all #muslims would leave the #UK and fuck off back to the desert where they belong the dirty goat fucking child raping pedophile scum”.*¹²⁵

He pleaded guilty to charges brought under the 2003 Communications Act and was handed an eight-week prison sentence, suspended for 12 months, with a supervision requirement for 12 months. He was also ordered to do 150 hours of unpaid work and pay £85 costs.¹²⁶

- 3.29 Police launched an investigation into racial abuse on social media sites after comments appeared in relation to news about plans to build a Muslim centre in Hereford.

The Hereford Masjid Fundraising Campaign Facebook page, since suspended, attracted a message calling the

120 *BBC News*, 14 August 2012 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-19242699>]

121 *BBC News*, 24 January 2013 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-21182605>]

122 *Evening Gazette*, 15 September 2012

123 *Evening Gazette*, 25 January 2013

124 *South Wales Evening Post*, 14 September 2012

125 *Islamophobia Watch*, 19 September 2012

126 *South Wales Evening Post*, 29 January 2013

group ‘vermin’ and threatening to contaminate any land earmarked as a potential site.¹²⁷

No further details are available on charges in relation to this incident.

- 3.30 A BNP member and former local councillor, Michael Coleman, received a suspended jail sentence for posting racist material online.

Coleman, a former councillor on Stoke on Trent council, was convicted on two counts racially aggravated harassment for two articles appearing on his website on 8 August 2011 and 8 March 2012.

Coleman was sentenced to eight months suspended for 12 months and ordered to carry out 240 hours of unpaid work.¹²⁸

- 3.31 A man who pleaded guilty to racist abuse of a Muslim police officer was fined and ordered to pay compensation to the victim.

David Hammond abused PC Junaid Farooq after Farooq was called to a domestic incident at Hammond’s home.

Hammond said to PC Farooq “*all you Muslims just fly planes into buildings*” and asked him, “*where are you from? I am English from Vikings, where are you from?*”.

Hammond admitted abusing PC Farooq and was ordered to pay a £180 fine and £100 in compensation.¹²⁹

- 3.32 An English Defence League member in Carlisle posted messages on Facebook inciting people to criminal damage of an Indian restaurant in the city which was at the centre of a sex abuse scandal.

Alan Clarke posted comments on Facebook saying:

“Just remember this, curry lovers of Carlisle – if you get your takeaway from Spice of India, you are funding this sick [person’s] habit of grooming young girls and worse. And if anyone feels the need to smash the place up, I won’t stop you. Ha ha!”

“The place needs petrol bombed.”

Clarke lost his job at Cumberland Infirmary after being charged and was sentenced to a 12- month jail term, suspended for two years; 200 hours unpaid work; and an electronically monitored night-time curfew for six months.¹³⁰

- 3.33 Leicestershire county council investigated a standards breach by independent councillor, Graham Partner, for a New Year message that was derogatory of Muslims.¹³¹

Partner, a former BNP councillor, circulated the message which included the paragraph:

“Every terrorist atrocity, every blood-soaked massacre is justified by reference to imagined grievances. But the greatest persecutors of other faiths are Muslim, themselves. The response from the Western church leaders is deafening silence, afraid to accept that their ideological paradise of multi-cultural, multi-faith, left-wing society is nothing more than a fantasy.”

In his defence, Partner argued the paragraph was taken the Daily Express newspaper columnist, Leo McKinstry.¹³²

Partner was found to have breached the code of conduct on two counts by showing disrespect to others and bringing the authority into disrepute. He was censured “*in the strongest possible terms*” and recommended to undertake equality training by the county council standards sub-committee.¹³³

¹²⁷ *Hereford Times*, 20 September 2012

¹²⁸ *BBC News*, 28 September 2012 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-stoke-staffordshire-19755336>]

¹²⁹ *Hemsworth & South Elmsall Express*, 3 October 2012

¹³⁰ *News & Star*, 27 October 2012

¹³¹ *Leicester Mercury*, 6 April 2012

¹³² ‘Why does Dr Rowan Williams never stand up for Christianity?’ *Daily Express*, 27 December 2010

¹³³ *Leicester Mercury*, 28 June 2012

The county council admitted it was powerless to enforce the standards committee's recommendation that Partner undergo equality training because the standards regime was abolished in the summer and replaced with a party political standards regime. Partner, as an independent councillor, belongs to no party.¹³⁴

- 3.34 A man was charged with causing religiously aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress, by demonstrating hostility based on membership of a particular religious group after he ripped up a copy of a Qur'an at a bookstall in Leicester city centre and told the stall holders "*Your religion is a load of b****s.*"¹³⁵

Peter James Crawford, an atheist, defended his actions as the legitimate expression of free speech.

The trial ended with no jury consensus and the Crown Prosecution Service decided against a retrial. Crawford was released on bail on condition that he not go within half a mile of the Clock Tower in Leicester city centre on Saturday afternoons.¹³⁶

- 3.35 A man who racially abused three Muslim schoolgirls was given a 12 week jail sentence, suspended for a year, and ordered to compensate his victims with the sum of £100 each at the rate of £10 per fortnight.

Jamie Stopp admitted three counts of racially aggravated harassment for shouting 'England till I die' and other abuse at the girls causing them to seek safety in a nearby shop.¹³⁷

- 3.36 The owner of Cafe Rumi in Cheadle, Zia Karim, and his staff were subjected to a tirade of racial abuse by a former member of the BNP and his neighbour.

Robert Greensmith and Leanne Reilly shouted "*White is right, get out of our country*" and "*There ain't no black in the Union Jack*", respectively. They also waved a Union Jack in front of the cafe and takeaway.

Both admitted causing racially aggravated harassment, alarm or distress and were handed 12-month community orders, ordered to carry out 100 hours of unpaid work and ordered to pay £51 costs each.¹³⁸

- 3.37 A father and his five year old daughter were left terrified while awaiting treatment in a doctor's surgery in Poplar when a waiting room patient shouted racial abuse and threatened to "slice" them up.

Dulu Miah asked Jamie Isitt to stop kicking the back of his five year old daughter's chair when Isitt called him a "*f***ing P****" and a "*c****", saying "*I'm going to slice you up, I will go back to prison again for you, you b****d.*"

Isitt then called a friend on his mobile saying "*I have got some P**i here in the surgery. Are you guys coming? I'm going to slice him up.*"

Isitt admitted racially aggravated assault and was sentenced to 14 months imprisonment.¹³⁹

- 3.38 A teenager subject to a youth rehabilitation order breached it after hurling racist abuse at a care home worker in Burnley. The 15 year old who boasted "*I like being a racist*" pleaded guilty to using racially-aggravated threatening or insulting behaviour and criminal damage. He was sentenced to a renewed 12-month youth rehabilitation order and imposed a six-week curfew between 8pm and 7am.¹⁴⁰

- 3.39 An Iranian bar owner in Weymouth was abused and threatened on social media sites after rumours circulated that he has banned people wearing poppies from his establishment. Parviz Marseh was told "*go back to your own country*" in one Facebook post while another user posted a message threatening to petrol bomb the establishment with Marseh in it. Dorset police launched an investigation into the incident.¹⁴¹

- 3.40 A Muslim cafe worker at York station was racially abused by a former soldier who then assaulted a British Transport Police officer who intervened.

Malcolm Swift asked Abit Hussain his nationality and when Hussain replied "*British*", Swift swore at him

134 *Leicester Mercury*, 14 December 2012

135 *Leicester Mercury*, 20 December 2012

136 *Leicester Mercury*, 22 December 2012

137 *Burton Mail*, 7 November 2012

138 *The Sentinel*, 26 November 2012

139 *The Docklands and East London Advertiser*, 15 November 2012

140 *Lancashire Telegraph*, 26 November 2012

141 *Dorset Echo*, 14 November 2012

and started complaining that immigrants were taking British jobs.

Swift pleaded guilty to racist abuse and causing actual bodily harm.

He was handed a nine-month prison sentence, suspended for 12 months on condition that he complete 12-month supervision order.¹⁴²

- 3.41 Three men who attended an EDL rally in Walsall in September 2012 were prosecuted for public order offences.

Kyle Kirkbride, 24 and Peter Jelley, 24 both admitted threatening behaviour.

Kirkbride made rude hand gestures to Asian men. He was given a £280 fine and told to pay £85 costs and £15 victim surcharge.

Jelley was sentenced to 20 weeks in custody, suspended by a year, and given a Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Order.

John Sharpe admitted a charge of racially aggravated harassment for making racist remarks to a police officer. He was ordered to pay a £100 fine, £150 compensation, £85 costs and £15 victim surcharge.¹⁴³

- 3.42 Chelsea Lambie, 16, shouted verbal abuse at shop manager Shafqat Mahmood at his store calling him a “Paki b*****d” and telling him to “go back to his own country”. When Mahmood retreated inside his shop, Lambie followed him and continued to hurl abuse. She also pushed Mr Mahmood and warned him he would get his throat cut. When Mr Mahmood threatened to call the police, Lambie called him a “black b*****d”, lashed out at him and tried to kick him. She damaged shop property before fleeing.

Lambie admitted behaving in a threatening and abusive manner, likely to cause fear and alarm, by uttering threats of violence and making racist remarks, as well as assaulting Mr Mahmood and pushing a National Lottery machine from the counter.

Lambie was fined, a total of £375, to be paid at a rate of £10 per week.¹⁴⁴

- 3.43 Gary Milsom, leader of the English Defence League’s Thanet division, organised the harassment of worshippers at a mosque in his home town of Margate. Milsom’s racism was exposed by a Gazette reporter who attended an EDL meeting in Margate at which “dirty Pakis” were denounced along with “dirty Muslims”.¹⁴⁵

Milsom was fined £150 and sentenced to 120 hours community service after being found guilty of common assault and resisting a police officer.¹⁴⁶

- 3.44 Five arrests were made during an EDL demonstration outside Dewsbury Town Hall in June 2012 of which some relate to anti-Muslim hate crimes.

Gary Wellings, 20, was convicted of using threatening words or behaviour to cause harassment, alarm or distress.

Two other men were released on police bail. One was arrested on suspicion of criminal damage and the other for possessing an offensive weapon.¹⁴⁷

- 3.45 A man was arrested during an English Defence League protest in Norwich for using threatening words or behaviour.

Matthew Berryman, 28, pleaded guilty and was ordered to pay a £150 fine, a £20 victim surcharge and £85 prosecution costs.¹⁴⁸

142 *York Press*, 17 September 2012

143 *Express and Star*, 29 September 2012

144 *Paisley Daily Express*, 6 August 2012

145 *Isle of Thanet Gazette*, 28 September 2012

146 *Islamophobia Watch*, 8 January 2013 [available at: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/1/8/edls-thanet-division-leader-convicted-of-assault.html>]

147 *Dewsbury Reporter*, 15 July 2012

148 *Norwich Evening News*, 10 November 2012

4. Anti-Muslim public discourse

There have been a number of events in 2012 which have prompted concerns over pervading anti-Muslim discourse in the UK. The high profile extradition trials of Abu Hamza and other Britons, such as Babar Ahmad and Syed Talha Ahsan, have fueled much debate about security, law and Muslims in Britain. Abu Qatada and the UK Government's attempt to deport him to Jordan with assurances over his treatment and trial also heavily featured in political and media debate about the UK's obligations under the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Other legal challenges which have contributed to anti-Muslim commentary is the appeal launched at the European Court of Human Rights by Christian employees contesting employer policies on the wearing of religious symbols in the workplace. Cases which have further exacerbated anti-Muslim commentary are those involving individuals suspected of child sex exploitation. We elaborate on these below:

Security, law and Muslims

The extradition cases of five Britons including the most well known, Abu Hamza, invited much political and media debate as discussion turned to the UK's Extradition Treaty agreement with the US and ongoing concerns about security and terrorism.

Abu Hamza is the best known of the five Britons whose cases were to be considered by the European Court of Human Rights. His notoriety and the popular stereotype of the 'hook-handed' 'hate preacher' in many respects overshadowed the cases of the other men contesting extradition to the US on suspicion of involvement in terror-related activity.

Newspaper front pages, images reproduced below, were stark in their posturing, presenting the men as unwelcome residents of Britain. Much of the commentary and argument in favour of deportation was non-discriminating in its assessment of the cases against each of the men. So much so that Victoria Brittain, former associate foreign editor of *The Guardian*, wrote of the "*unpleasant exhibition of Islamophobia in the distortion and simplification of these cases, by government and media.*"¹⁴⁹

The "unpleasant exhibition of Islamophobia" was no more apparent than in the decision days later by the British Home Secretary, Theresa May, to deny the US extradition request of Gary McKinnon, a white Briton, on grounds that extradition would harm his health. McKinnon's condition, he has Asperger's Syndrome, was cited as mitigating circumstances. The decision provoked much criticism for its discriminatory element given that Syed Talha Ahsan, one of the five Muslims extradited, also suffers from the condition.¹⁵⁰

The extradition cases ran alongside another legal challenge by HM Government; the attempted deportation of Abu Qatada to Jordan. Again, media coverage was copious with commentary swaying beyond concern with the case of Abu Qatada and widening to cover British Muslims in general.

In his column in a Sunday paper, Peter Hitchens wrote of the Government's doomed attempt to deport Abu Qatada:

"The real Islamist threat to Britain and the rest of Europe comes from uncontrolled mass migration from Muslim countries. Combined with our national refusal to defend our British, Christian culture, this is rapidly creating a powerful and influential Muslim vote which will increasingly change our country.

Given a few more decades, it will have profoundly altered this country. I have long suspected that this island will be more or less Muslim within a century, and it will be the fault of this generation. It would be perfectly legitimate for a respectable, law-abiding and civilised political party to act now to prevent this."¹⁵¹

The reference to a 'powerful and influential Muslim vote' is decidedly discriminatory and gives the impression that Muslims are set apart from the rest of society. At a time when far right movements and political parties exploit anti-Islamic tropes, such as 'self-segregation' and Muslims as 'disloyal citizens', commentary of this nature is fuel to such prejudicial suppositions. The suggestion that the UK "*will be more or less Muslim within a century*" rehashes the worst mathematics of the 'Eurabia' theorists with demographic projections that have no basis in reality.

¹⁴⁹ 'Condemned by the Abu Hamza stereotype', *The Guardian*, 4 October 2012

¹⁵⁰ 'Extradition: muddled, unjust, in desperate need of reform', *Open Democracy*, 5 December 2012

¹⁵¹ Bundling bearded windbags on to jets won't solve anything, *Mail on Sunday*, 21 April 2012



Newspapers headlines discussing Abu Hamza



Newspapers headlines discussing Abu Qatada

The matter is further compounded with an invitation for a “respectable, law-abiding and civilised political party” to act – again, the inference casts Muslims as outsiders in British society and demarcates them as separate from the rest of the population.

Another dimension to the concern with legal challenges in cases involving terrorist suspects has been commentary on legal aid and the cost to the British taxpayer of financing the legal circus of trial and appeal.

Leo McKinstry in a column in the Daily Express argued, “Taxpayers have handed over a fortune in legal aid to law firms that defend notorious Muslim terror suspects.”¹⁵²

At a time of budgetary cuts, playing the ‘taxpayer funded’ card has the potential to aggravate anti-Muslim hostility. It also reinforces a discriminatory rhetoric with the inference that British Muslims do not form part of the body of British taxpayers.

152 ‘Legal aid racket is an insult to the decent majority’, *Daily Express*, 3 May 2012

'Islamification' of Britain

The appeals launched by four Christian employees against employer policies on the wearing of religious symbols in the workplace was the basis of bifurcatory coverage in the media with Christians represented as the downtrodden and Muslims as aggressive and dominant.

In his column in the Sunday paper, *The Mail on Sunday*, Peter Hitchens wrote:

*“Christianity in this country has no greater legal status than Mormonism, Buddhism, Jainism or Scientology – and rather lower status than Islam, because our Government and Establishment are scared stiff of Islam.”*¹⁵³

Neil Hamilton, in a column for the *Sunday Express* argued:

*“For nearly 2,000 years, wearing a necklace with a cross passed without adverse comment in the workplace. No one dreamt of sending the wearer home for causing offence. That was before political correctness and the Islamification of Britain.”*¹⁵⁴

Hamilton is a former Conservative government minister and a person of some authority in the public sphere. His remarks are considerably disturbing therefore for their contribution to the buttressing of inflammatory claims by far right organizations and parties on the ‘marginalisation of Christian culture’ and the ‘Islamification of Britain’.

The debate has seen some political interventions too with the British Prime Minister, David Cameron,¹⁵⁵ and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles,¹⁵⁶ speaking out in relation to the EHRC appeals.

In the case of employment discrimination, the exploitation of Christian grievances to boost anti-Muslim feeling ignores two crucial facts. First, according to a report published by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission, Muslims face higher levels of discrimination than any other religious group in Britain.¹⁵⁷

Second, juxtaposing Christian grievances against an assumed ‘Islamification’ renders the issue a zero sum game with Christian losses equated to Muslim gains. The framing of this debate in such terms negates the problems faced by all religious groups in the UK and the wider concern with seeking ‘reasonable accommodation’ of religion – all religions – in British public life.

Grooming and ‘racialised’ criminality

The trials of a number of men accused of grooming young girls for sexual exploitation has been a further backdrop to media commentary and reporting informing the level of anti-Muslim public discourse in the UK in 2012.

The trials have been the focus of protests organized by far right groups and parties such as the English Defence League and the British National Party.

In Rochdale, where nine men convicted for child exploitation came from, the EDL staged a protest following one organized outside Liverpool crown court where the case was tried.

At the Rochdale rally, EDL leader, Stephen Lennon is reported to have held up a copy of the Qur’an and said:

“This book legitimises the rape, prostitution and abuse of our daughters”.

“The reason why these men rape these children it could be because they’re perverted criminals, but It could be they’re following this manual.

*“When will the police and Politicians realise the link between this and them men raping our kids.....This is the link. Be brave enough to identify it”.*¹⁵⁸

The BNP leader, Nick Griffin, at a rally organized by the far right party, said:

153 ‘Some religions are more equal...’, *Mail on Sunday*, 9 September 2012

154 ‘We Christians are being persecuted’, *Sunday Express*, 9 September 2012

155 ‘Cameron calls for a ‘Christian fightback’ over attempts to ban wearing crosses and town hall prayers’, *Daily Mail*, 4 April 2012

156 ‘A Christian ethos strengthens our nation’, *Daily Telegraph*, 12 September 2012

157 Paul Weller. 2011. *Religious Discrimination in Britain: A review of research evidence, 2000- 2010*. (Manchester: Equality and Human Rights Commission).

158 ‘EDL in Rochdale’, *Asian Image*, 13 June 2012

“The mass street grooming of young girls from the English community is only being carried out by Muslims. All the paedophile groomers in this particular sort of crime – on the street, in gangs – are Muslims. That’s the common denominator”.¹⁵⁹

Newspaper coverage and commentary on the sex grooming trials has, similarly, been prejudicial. Melanie Phillips in a blog posted on the Daily Mail’s Right Minds blog, wrote:

*“This is about religion and culture - an unwesternised Islamic culture which holds that non-Muslims are trash and women are worthless. And so white girls are worthless trash.”*¹⁶⁰

The Times newspaper in an editorial referred to “patterns of abuse” and noted that shirking the “race” dimension to these crimes would not “*motivate the relevant Asian communities to take responsibility for crimes perpetrated in their midst*”.¹⁶¹

As outlined above, there have been cases of anti-Muslim hate crimes which have occurred as a result of coverage of these cases. Muslim organizations and individuals also reported a surge in abusive phonecalls and electronic communications during and after the trials.¹⁶²

The issue of ‘racialising’ the sex-grooming debate was raised by the Deputy Children’s Commissioner, Sue Berelowitz, in her evidence to a parliamentary select committee inquiry into Localised Sex Grooming following the publication of her report on ‘Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups’. Berelowitz singled out The Times newspaper for its reporting on the issue. She said:

“...it is deeply troubling to me that they are finding it so difficult to accept the evidence that we have, which is that people from every single ethnic group are carrying out sexual violence of this particular type against young children”.

“...[T]he single most important common denominator across all perpetrators is that they are male”.¹⁶³

This debate too attracted political attention with the MP for Keighley and Ilkley, Kris Hopkins, speaking in the Chamber of the House of Commons and referring to, “*gangs of Muslim men ... going round and raping white kids*”. Hopkins added that the problem stemmed from “*sexist behaviour by Muslim men towards women*”.¹⁶⁴

159 ‘Child sex grooming: the Asian question’, *The Independent, Special Report - Part 1*, 10 May 2012

160 ‘The Rochdale sex ring shows the horrific consequences of Britain’s ‘Islamophobia’ witch-hunt’, Right Minds blog, *Daily Mail*, 9 May 2012

161 ‘Speaking Out’, *The Times*, 21 November 2012

162 ‘Muslim leaders warn of far right exploitation of Rochdale child sex case’, *The Guardian*, 11 May 2012

163 *The Times*, 13 December 2012.

164 ‘Child Sexual Exploitation’, parliamentary debate. 13 November 2012. [Available at: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121113/debtext/121113-0002.htm#12111384001176>]

5. Positive developments

A number of important developments in 2012 have been a cause for optimism. Developments in media regulation, changes to policing structures, publication of the Government's Hate Crime Strategy and a report by the Home Affairs select committee on the Roots of Violent Radicalisation, and the waning electoral popularity of the British National Party have all contributed to some of the positive changes witnessed in 2012.

Leveson Inquiry and press regulation

The Leveson Inquiry into 'The Culture, Practice and Ethics of the Press' concluded in November 2012 with the publication of the report by Lord Justice Leveson.

The report draws on the testimony and written submission by ENGAGE to the Inquiry in the second volume, *The Press and the Public*, in the section on the media's impact on public discourse. The report states:

"...there are enough examples of careless or reckless reporting to conclude that discriminatory, sensational or unbalanced reporting in relation to ethnic minorities, immigrants and/or asylum seekers is a feature of journalistic practice in parts of the press, rather than an aberration.

"Overall, the evidence in relation to the representation of women and minorities suggests that there has been a significant tendency within the press which leads to the publication of prejudicial or pejorative references to race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or physical or mental illness of disability."

The report, among its many recommendations for improved media practice, includes the introduction of a 'third party complaints' clause which would help eradicate generic references to 'Muslims' in the British media. The absence of such a complaints clause has impeded the ability of British Muslims to contest prejudicial reporting through recourse to the industry regulator, the Press Complaints Commission.

This recommendation, and its inclusion in the Royal Charter agreement reached by the three main political parties in the Commons, we hope, will result in more accurate and responsible coverage of Islam and Muslims in the British media.

The Roots of Violent Radicalisation

The parliamentary Home Affairs select committee undertook an inquiry into 'The Roots of Violent Radicalisation' in 2011 publishing its final report in February 2012.

According to the final report, MPs found "*persuasive evidence about the potential threat from extreme far-right terrorism*" counselling the Government against "*neglecting this area of risk*" in its counter-terrorism strategy, Prevent.¹⁶⁵

The recognition of the growing problem posed by far right extremism to community relations and collective security is a welcome development. The fixation on Islam and Muslims by far right groups has attracted much academic study in recent months. The publication of the select committee report bringing this problem into focus in debates on security and cohesion has been an important intervention. It deserves to be met with the requisite political will to challenge the threat posed to Muslim communities by far right social movements and political parties.

Hate Crime strategy

The Coalition government published its strategy on tackling hate crime in March 2012, 'Challenge it, Report it, Stop it: The Government's Plan to Tackle Hate Crime'.¹⁶⁶

The strategy includes commitments to improving data collection on hate crime and updating police training to offer

¹⁶⁵ 'Roots of violent radicalisation,' 6 February 2012. (London: The Stationery Office Limited).

¹⁶⁶ 'Challenge it, Report it, Stop it: The Government's Plan to Tackle Hate Crime.' 2012. (London: The Stationery Office Limited).

guidance on handling hate crime cases and tackling hate crime.

The strategy reflects projects to be supported by public finances on hate crime. These include victim support, educational training resources for schools and data monitoring.

The concern over data disaggregation on hate crimes remains unaddressed in the strategy with no progress in the requiring the category of 'religion' to be broken down to better identify the religious affiliation of the victim. Without disaggregation, statistics demonstrating the number of officially recorded anti-Muslim hate crimes is incomplete.

Police forces across the country currently record anti-Semitism and racist hate crimes in distinct categories. We have pushed for the introduction of the category of Islamophobia to extend this practice to cover anti-Muslim hate crimes. Islamophobia as a category of hate crime is recorded by the Metropolitan Police Service in London, but not in the 42 constabularies in the rest of England & Wales. This disparity is in need of redress if anti-Muslim hate crimes are to be identified and tackled through robust reporting and recording mechanisms.

Police and Crime Commissioners

A new position in local policing in the form of a Police and Crime Commissioner was introduced in November 2012 with the aim of making services more responsive and accountable to local communities.

ENGAGE published an election manifesto for the PCC elections containing four key pledges among them 'recording Islamophobia'.

We are currently working with elected PCCs around the country to encourage implementation of this pledge by those who committed to it pre-election and those who serve constabularies with high Muslim population density.

We are acutely aware of research which suggests that Muslims in smaller towns are more prone to anti-Muslim attacks and are actively working with all PCCs to raise awareness of the need for adequate measures to record Islamophobic incidents and offences.¹⁶⁷

Elections

The local elections in May and the PCC elections in November raised serious concerns over the participation and electoral prospects of far right political parties.

The National Front fielded the largest of number of candidates in a British election in 30 years when it put up 35 candidates in the May local elections.

The PCC elections similarly invited much interest with fears that voter apathy and ignorance about the newly created post would favour far right parties as voters stayed away from the polls.

The English Defence League co-founder, Kevin Carroll, stood for the Police and Crime Commissioner post in Bedfordshire as a candidate for the British Freedom party. He failed to get elected.

The English Democrats, which in recent years has attracted many former British National Party supporters, also ran candidates in the PCC elections, none of whom were elected.

The BNP in the local elections failed to defend its 12 seats leaving the party with negligible political presence in local councils in the UK. The failure to retain a single one of its 12 seats adds to the party's poor electoral showing in recent years.

While its political presence declines, as evidenced in successive election outcomes, the European elections in 2014 loom on the horizon. The proportional representation electoral system used for the European elections means campaigns to keep the far right out of politics will continue unabated.

¹⁶⁷ Lambert, R and J Githens-Mazer. 2011. Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim Hate Crime: UK case studies 2010. (Exeter: European Muslim Research Centre, University of Exeter).

Professional Footballers' Association six point plan on racism

The Professional Footballers' Association outlined a six point plan to tackle racism in football making specific mention of tackling Islamophobia.

There are a growing number of Muslim footballers playing for clubs in the UK and the industry has done a remarkable job in addressing the needs of its diverse players. For example, the Premier League has opted to make non-alcoholic bottles of drink available to players honoured with the title 'Man of the Match' in recognition of those players who are teetotal.

Newcastle United was reported to establish prayer facilities for its Muslim players, Papiss Cisse, Demba Ba and Hatem Ben Arfa.¹⁶⁸

Islamophobia Awareness Month

In November 2012, ENGAGE with a consortium of British Muslim organizations organized the first ever Islamophobia Awareness Month. The month was marked with a number of activities around the country raising awareness of Islamophobia ranging from discussions on media, law, security and counter-terrorism and education. The month began with an event at London Muslim Centre in East London on 8th November and in Parliament on 12th November 2012 at which the ENGAGE Islamophobia Awareness exhibition was formally launched.

The Parliament event was attended by the Rt. Hon. Simon Hughes MP, chair of the all party parliamentary group on Islamophobia, the Rt. Hon. Sir Peter Bottomley, Head of the Delegation of the United Kingdom to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and the Rt. Hon. Jack Straw, MP for Blackburn and Darwen.

The exhibition has since been displayed at Canterbury Christ Church University, South Bank University, University of Manchester Museum, the Communication Workers' Union HQ in London, London School of Economics, Birmingham Mu'ath Centre and Oxford University among other venues.

The exhibition is still currently on tour in the UK (and images of the panels are reproduced overleaf).

¹⁶⁸ 'We must embrace religion, says Newcastle boss Pardew as he considers introducing prayer room', *Mail on Sunday*, 5 May 2012

Media Portrayals of Islam & Muslims

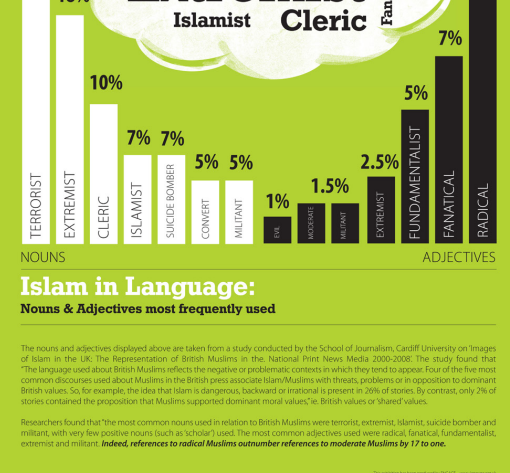
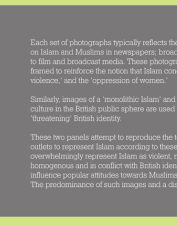
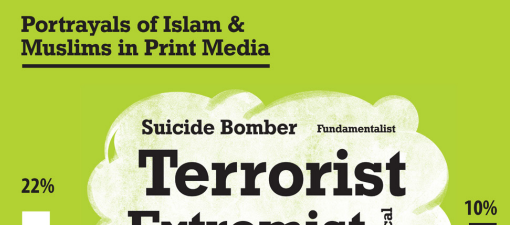
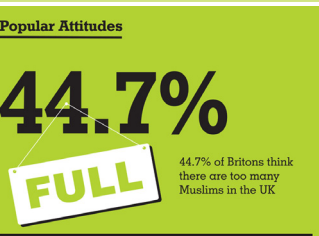


Muslims as the Other

DAILY EXPRESS Muslims tell British "Go to Hell"

The Daily Telegraph Cafe fan banned in case smell of bacon offends Muslims

Articles frequently represent British Muslims as a singular group in profound opposition to British culture and values. Instead of presenting the complexities between British values and the Muslim faith, many introductions, taboos, and even terrorism and Bin, use narratives that portray Muslims as extremist, antagonistic, and adversarial. Media discourses overwhelmingly externalize Muslims and display Islamic culture as impinging on the West and Britain. Muslims and Islam are often portrayed as an "Islamic presence" rather than as part and parcel of contemporary Britain.





visit www.BNP.org.uk

**Think commonsense
Vote BNP**

I LONDON

Dear Londoner,

I've lived in London since 1989 and I have worked for the BBC and then at the Commonwealth Office. I am of Italian descent which, I guess, makes me the most 'cosmopolitan' candidate standing for **London Mayor in 2012**.

I was outraged to find some immigrant communities refusing to respect the British people and their way of life so I joined the British National Party because I want to preserve the traditions, freedoms and identity of the country that has been so good to me and my family.

London is a diverse city and although there are some benefits, Multiculturalism has clearly led to division and confrontation instead of integration. The shocking looting and rioting last August is a prime example of this failed policy.

London needs a strong Mayor who is fair and decisive with the vision to make this great city of ours dynamic, safe and prosperous. I am that man!

Vote for me on 3rd May and together we will make London a city to be proud of again.

Carlos Cortiglia

Carlos Cortiglia
British National Party
Mayoral Candidate

Want to see Carlos take on the other mayoral candidates live on TV?
Call BBC London on 020 8743 8000 and demand that they invite the British National Party to all televised debates

First choice **X**

CORTIGLIA Carlos
British National Party

BNP

Call 0844 809 4581

BRITISH NATIONAL PARTY

People like you voting BNP:

- ✓ British people must be housed first
- ✓ No amnesty for illegal immigrants
- ✓ Build a better NHS
- ✓ Zero tolerance on crime and anti-social behaviour
- ✓ British jobs for British workers
- ✓ Abolish the Congestion Charge, CPZ and LEZ
- ✓ Reduce council tax
- ✓ Free weekend Tube and train travel

“ I support the British National Party all the way because I want to make a difference and have a no-nonsense British government that puts British people first. ”
Mike Jones, London Cabbie

“ I'm backing the British National Party because they support our traditional Christian faith. We need strong leadership to protect our national identity from the threat of Islam. ” **Reverend Robert West**

“ We always vote for the British National Party because we want streets that are safe to walk on. We want to see local bobbies on the beat and we want to feel part of a caring British community again. ”
Penny McCulley, Pensioner

British National Party – London

London 2011

f

QR Code

ANOTHER ENGLISH CHILD MURDER IN BLACKPOOL COVERED UP. MISSING GIRLS. THOUSANDS RAPED & ABUSED BY FOREIGN RACIST MUSLIM PERVERTS IN POST WAR YEARS BENT C.P.S. MUSLIM.

VICTORY OVER EVIL SWALLOWED HUMAN KEBABS

ENGLISH CHILD
GIAL AGE 14 YR

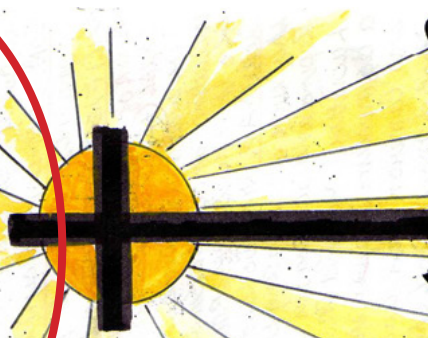
IN DICKSON STREET BLACKPOOL.

MUSLIM PAEDOPHILE MURDERING RAPIST-GO FREE WITH 200 THOUSAND EACH OF OUR TAX. KAREN DOWNES (MOTHER) TELLS HER MOVING...

TERRIBLE STORY. VIEW VIDEO BRITISH NATIONAL PARTY (GROOMING) WEBSITE. IT IS EVERY DECENT PERSON'S DUTY TO SUPPORT CAMPAIGN.

THE HABITUAL LIAR CAMERON IS DELIBERATELY FLOODING ENGLAND WITH THESE VILE RACIST MONSTERS, PART OF HIS AND DEMS' LABOUR MURDEROUS SCHEME OF CULTURAL GENOCIDE AND ANNIHILATION OF THE ENGLISH INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, TO FULL INTEGRATION OF THE EU, THEN FINALLY THE GROTESQUE NEW WORLD ORDER. SUPPORTED BY THE POISONOUS MORSE BGC-CORRUPT POLICE-LAW-ALL MEDIA AND TELEGRAPH AND CROWN, THEY WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO SUPPRESS AND DESTROY THIS CAMPAIGN. THERE WILL BE NO 26 PAGE ORG PREAD OF FEARZIED HATE. BY THE ODIOUS RACIST DAILY MAIL 'A MARROR' AS IN NEW YEAR 2012, ESPECIALLY PREPARED AND DESIGNED, AND BACKED BY THE FOREIGN CRIMINAL TORY ZIONIST ESTABLISHMENT-

FOR 10 YEARS MR. N. GRIFFIN STROVE TO BRING THE HEINOUS CRIMES OF FOREIGN RACIST MUSLIM PERVERTS AGAINST ENGLISH CHILDREN TO THE OPEN. THE BBC USED EVERY FILTHY DISGRACEFUL BROADCASTING PROGRAMMA SICK TRICK TO STOP HIM. WITH THE HIZZING RACIST VITROL OF JEW JACK STRAIN. MR. CHURCHMAN HYPOCRITES - NEWSPAPER EDITORS OWNERS AND THEIR LACKEYS, ALL TRYING THEIR SICK EVIL ENGLISH CHILD HATING VILE DAMNEDEST TO JAIL HIM. MR GRIFFIN WAS ARRESTED & TRIED TWICE - AND STILL THE SYSTEMATIC TERRIBLE RAPE & ABUSE OF OUR BELOVED ENGLISH CHILDREN CONTINUED, BUT THE MOUTH SPENING VILE PACK OF VILE RACIST EVIL BAYING-HOUNDS COULD NOT BREAK THE MANS INDOMITABLE ENGLISH GUTS & COURAGE. HE UFTED THE HD OF EVIL - NOW VIEW THE HORROR -



JOIN US TODAY, JUSTICE FOR PAIGE AND CHARLENE AND THOUSANDS MORE ENGLISH CHILDREN BRUTALLY AND CRIMINALLY RAPED & ABUSED BY THE STATE.